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### October 21, 1993

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 21

October 21, 1993



Serving  
Others  
in  
Christ's  
Name



**Royal Ambassador Week • Nov. 7-13**

# Arkansan to help coordinate witness training for women

Women in 32 state Baptist conventions and Canada have formed a network for coordinators to teach Lifestyle Witness for Women. Brenda Woodard, a member of Immanuel Church of Rogers, is serving as the volunteer coordinator for Arkansas.

Lifestyle Witnessing for Women, written by Esther Burroughs of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism section, is a three-to-six-hour seminar to equip women to share their faith in Jesus. The material is based on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman and her witness to the community.

Woodard will teach the material and train others to teach it across the state. She is serving with the encouragement of Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and his associate, Paul McClung.

Woodard said one of her goals for the program is "to have at least one woman in each of our 42 associations trained and equipped to share this program with other women."

Woodard, the widow of Roy Woodard who died in 1991 while serving as pastor of First Church of Centerpoint, also will lead sessions on Women in Evangelism at the 1994 ABCS Evangelism Conference Jan. 24-25 at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. She will provide additional information on Women in Evangelism in a display booth at the Nov. 9-10 state convention to be held at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.



Woodard

"I requested Woodard to serve with Malvie Giles of Magnolia as a co-leader of women's conferences at our state evangelism conference because of her affiliation with the Home Mission Board," Shell said. "It is my hope that all women attending the conference will participate, equipping themselves to share the gospel message with other women across our state."

Along with her volunteer work with the HMB and ABCS, Woodard is a member of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists in Arkansas and serves as special events coordinator for the women's ministry of Immanuel Church of Rogers. She also teaches seminars, leads women's retreats and is a frequent banquet speaker. Her most recent speaking engagements have been in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas churches.

"I currently am developing a ministry to pastors' wives," Woodard said. "It is the rule, not the exception, wherever I go that these wives come to me saying, 'I am ready to quit.' Because of my 24 years of experience as a pastor's wife, I know that pastors' wives have not only the hurts of other women, but many more. Therefore, my desire is to minister to them and provide a listening ear."

She is the mother of two children, Brian Woodard of Longview, Texas, a semi-pro football player and music evangelist, and Belinda David of Bentonville, a cable company customer service representative.

## Cover Story



### Royal Ambassador Week

Southern Baptists will celebrate Royal Ambassador Week Nov. 7-13. According to Tim Seanor, national Royal Ambassador director for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, "Developing meaningful relationships through involvement in missions projects and missions education is the heart of the RA program for boys in grades 1-9."

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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# 'Here's Hope' preparation under way

State steering committee studies plans for 1995 evangelism emphasis

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"We're involved in something greater than any one of us or all of us together," Clarence Shell told members of the "Here's Hope" state steering committee. "The only hope will be if God breathes His dynamic spiritual power upon this."

The 24-member steering committee met Oct. 4 at the Baptist Building in Little Rock for an organizational and orientation meeting in preparation for Southern Baptists' 1995 "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" emphasis.

Shell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, explained that national planning for the emphasis began in 1990 at the conclusion of Southern Baptists' previous "Here's Hope" evangelistic effort. Highlights of the 1995 emphasis will include a statewide media campaign, a three-week "People Search" emphasis, 60 days of personal witnessing and a series of Harvest Simultaneous Revivals in local churches in March and April.

The steering committee includes a 12-member coordinating council composed of Executive Board staff members and a 12-member advisory council composed of Arkansas Baptist ministers and laypeople. The committee is responsible for coordinating statewide preparation in such areas as media, counselor training, soul-winning training and prayer.

Recalling that Arkansas Baptists reported a 15 percent increase in baptisms during the 1990 simultaneous revivals, Shell said the 1995 effort "could be the greatest evangelistic movement we've ever been involved in."

Describing "successful" evangelism as "the cooperative sharing of the good news of hope without concern over who gets the credit," he emphasized, "God blesses a unified, simultaneous effort.

"I'm very expectant in what God will do. The heart of God is to win people to salvation," noted Shell, who served as chairman of the national steering committee's evangelistic prospect discovery and cultivation committee.

Shell said the 1995 emphasis will feature a twofold focus. "Here's Hope: Jesus Cares for You" will be the theme for statewide media efforts aimed at unsaved and unchurched individuals. "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now" will be geared toward local church members, encouraging them to become personally involved in



## Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now.

### HERE'S HOPE STATE STEERING COMMITTEE

Emphasis	Coordinating Council	Advisory Council
Counselor Training/Follow-Up	Bob Holley	Randy Maxwell
SBC Coordinator/Enlistment	Jimmie Sheffield	Sonny Simpson
Media/Publicity	Clarence Shell	Hud Lowry
Evangelistic Prospect Discovery and Cultivation	Freddie Pike	Don Cooper
Soul-Winning Training	Paul McClung	Ledell Bailey
Youth/Children	Randy Brantley	Ronnie Brock
Black Southern Baptists	Jack Ramsey	John Veasey, Jr.
Prayer	Monica Keathley	David Newberry
National Baptists	Jack Kwok	W.W. Walker
Vocational Evangelists	Ed Hinkson	Johnny Jackson
Music	Glen Ennes	Bruce Rodrick
Baptist Student Union	David James	Diane O'Connell

witnessing and discipleship efforts.

Part of the work of the state steering committee will be to help train associational steering committees which will then train local church committees. The training for associational leaders will be held Dec. 9-10 during the 1993 state evangelism workshop at Camp Paron. Shell said Richard Harris and Howard Ramsey, the original "Here's Hope" national chairmen when planning began in 1990, will be the featured speakers.

Following the training of associational steering committees, Shell said local churches should begin "Here's Hope" preparation in the fall of 1994. He encouraged churches "to make a definite commitment to participate in the 'Here's Hope' process, including the 60 days of witnessing and the local church revivals."

Shell said the witnessing emphasis, planned for Jan. 9-March 9, 1995, "will be the first time in Southern Baptist

Convention life that we have set aside a time for personal evangelistic witnessing" as part of a simultaneous revival emphasis.

He said an added benefit will be the opportunity for "a great many laypeople to be trained in sharing their faith by using the Roman Road" witnessing technique. The plan calls for directors of missions to train pastors in the Roman Road outline, a series of passages from Romans which highlight repentance and salvation. Pastors, in turn, will be encouraged to train their church members in the technique.

As the 1995 "Here's Hope" emphasis officially gets under way, "everything that happens is actually going to happen in the local church," Shell emphasized. He added that state convention and associational workers "are only involved to help the churches do the job God has called them to do.... There are a lot of people out there who need to know our Lord."

## YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

Overlooking the old Military Road traveled by some on the Trail of Tears, and by others as the pioneers moved from Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri to Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma, stands a small church building. From many sources it has been determined that the congregation which first made up this church was the first Baptist church organized in what is known today as Arkansas. It was accepted into the Bethel Association in 1818, a year before Arkansas was given territorial status. Some believe it may have been a mission for two or three years before it was accepted into the association.

How courageous were those early pioneers of the faith! With natural dangers to their health, hostilities from the native Americans, and the sparsely settled countryside, it was very difficult to establish a strong work on this wild frontier. But they did it. Nearly all of us are recipients of blessings because they did.

For a 10-year period it seems the church dropped out of existence. There are no records of their ministry. It is believed a strong anti-mission movement led by Hardshell or Primitive Baptists may have caused a split in the church and interrupted its ministry.

Nevertheless, they came back. The congregation, first called Salem Baptist Church, then Columbia Baptist Church, is today called Columbia Jarrett Baptist Church. From every standpoint that area would have to be viewed as Arkansas' "cradle of civilization." And Baptists were there.

What a tremendous blessing to share in their 175th anniversary service on Sept. 26, 1993! Pastor Steve Seale and the fine folk there celebrated with preaching, singing and dinner on the ground in true Baptist fashion. They, along with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Historical Commission, dedicated a monument in recognition of the historic significance of the church and the location.

Thank God for heroes of the faith who paved the way for us!

WILLIAM H. SUTTON

## The President's Corner

### Baptists - in the face of opposition



Several days ago the news media seized one of its frequent opportunities to bash Baptists. This time, the occasion stemmed from a Home Mission Board study reported by Alabama Baptists which indicated that 46 percent of people in the state were not born again and were, consequently, going to hell unless reached for Christ.

Critics were severe. Baptists were charged with taking it upon themselves to decide who would be in heaven and who in hell. Muslims, Jews and other non-Christian faiths cried discrimination. Other Protestant groups de-emphasized the salvation experience and separated themselves from the besieged Baptists.

I don't know whether the matter was handled well by the Baptists. But I believe the Alabama Baptists were obediently searching for lost people in an effort to bring them the truthful message that "you must be born again." When all of the jeering and scoffing is over, the sober words of Jesus stand forever: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

We have a faithful charge to teach an unadulterated gospel which cannot be changed to soothe the feelings of those who reject it. John 3:18 dutifully

reports, "Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

The true messenger preaching salvation only through belief in Jesus will draw fire. He, alone, is the concern of Satan. When arrested, Peter and John were not commanded by the rulers and elders not to preach. They were simply commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18). In particular they were told to take these words out of their witness: "And there is salvation in no one else for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). They refused.

Thank God for the Baptists and all believers who have been faithful to teach this truth against all opposition. It is not pleasant to be singled out as narrow, judgmental and discriminatory. May God give us loving spirits so that we are none of those. But above all else, may we pray with Peter and John "that Thy bond servants may speak Thy word with all confidence" (Acts 4:29).

**Buddy Sutton**, a Little Rock attorney and active member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Personal perspectives

"May we Baptists be obedient and diligent as a needy world calls."

—Max Alexander, retiring Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand

"Great changes in our society have created equal rights for all (religious) confessions in the nation. Christianity is a great support and a great hope."

—Vladimir Shumelka, first deputy prime minister of Russia

"Christ became an issue. People had to talk about church and faith and what to do with Christ."

—Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Church, Conway, discussing recent "Power Team" evangelistic crusade

# Reflection and direction

Time really does fly. In many ways, it seems only a few short weeks have passed since my family and I headed south from Missouri and officially became Arkansans. Yet this issue of the Newsmagazine marks the first anniversary of my ministry as editor.

It has been a good 12 months, both personally and professionally. In my daily interactions with Arkansas Baptists, the highlights have been numerous and the disappointments have been few.

Anniversaries, I suppose, are an appropriate time to pause briefly and look back on the past. They also provide an excellent opportunity to plan ahead and look expectantly toward the future. Please allow me a moment or two to do a little of both.

On the reflections side, 1992-93 has been a significant year in the life of the Newsmagazine. Financially, 1993 marks the second consecutive year of healthy fiscal growth. We are operating strongly in the black, have established a growing reserve fund with the Arkansas Baptist Foundation and soon will be completely debt-free.

Our commitment to financial stewardship is balanced by an equal commitment to produce a quality publication for the benefit of our readers. While building needed operational reserves is essential to ensure ongoing financial stability, we do not view financial gain as an end in itself. Appropriate expenditures — such as the expansion and enhancement of our computer system earlier this year — are necessary to strengthen the Newsmagazine's quality and efficiency.

Beyond the nuts and bolts of dollars and equipment, the Newsmagazine staff also is striving to make the Newsmagazine a uniquely Arkansas publication. While keeping our readers informed about significant happenings in the Southern Baptist Convention and around the world, our first priority is to tell the story of how Arkansas Baptists are impacting our world for Christ. We hope you've noticed that emphasis throughout the year and have gained practical information and insights applicable to your own ministry setting.

A personal highlight for me throughout the year has been the opportunity to preach in churches, associational meetings and other gatherings across the state. It has given me the chance to meet hundreds of fellow Southern Baptists who are serious about the task of effective ministry. Of course, I've also met a few along the way who are discouraged and frustrated about their ability to fulfill God's call in their lives. Even that frustration, however,

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



speaks of a desire to grow and move beyond that level of discouragement.

Overall, my first year as editor has provided a constant reminder of the vital importance of personal relationships. As easy as it is to get wrapped up in day-to-day tasks, God calls each of us to a life of personal interaction with fellow believers as well as unbelievers who cross our paths each day.

As important as it is to me to produce a quality publication for Arkansas Baptists, I believe it is even more important to share the love of Christ with those around me, regardless of meetings or deadlines or countless other priorities that crowd my daily calendar. When we become too busy to reflect Christ-like attitudes in our daily interactions, it is time to reassess personal priorities and commitments.

God not only calls us to minister to those around us; He also consistently uses those around us to provide blessings and ministry in return. Among those who have been a personal blessing to me this year have been Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore and his wife Shirley. Most of you know of Shirley's ongoing battle with cancer in recent months and many of you consistently pray for her and Don. Please continue to do so.

The blessing they have provided me is the example of their unwavering faith and commitment in the face of incredible challenges. Shirley is an encouragement to me and everyone else who has visited her during her illness. Don has masterfully juggled his time at Shirley's side and his responsibilities as executive director, often sitting next to Shirley's bed with a portable computer on his lap — and consistently accomplishing more than anyone would expect from him.

I know it sounds like I'm chasing rabbits here, but it all goes back to my earlier point that personal relationships are the catalyst for all we do in ministry. Thank you, Don and Shirley, for beautifully and consistently demonstrating your commit-

ment to Christ, to Arkansas Baptists and to one another. You remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Other significant relationships during my first year as editor have included the opportunity to work alongside state convention president Buddy Sutton and Newsmagazine board president Greg Kirksey. Both are men of impeccable integrity. Arkansas Baptists have demonstrated great wisdom in placing them and other dedicated Christian men and women in vital areas of responsibility and leadership.

Obviously, it's always dangerous to begin highlighting a few individuals for recognition, but I also must express appreciation to the Newsmagazine staff and the Executive Board staff who have helped make this year of transition both positive and productive. Their talent and dedication are obvious. Thank you.

So much for reflections on the past. What about goals and dreams for the future?

One obvious goal is to continue to build on the strong foundation established during the past year. Maintaining and strengthening the Newsmagazine as a quality publication that serves as an effective ministry tool for Arkansas Baptist readers will require diligence. I remain committed to that goal.

Another goal is to heighten awareness about the Newsmagazine's ministry in an effort to strengthen circulation. I'm not interested in increased circulation merely for numbers' sake. Rather, I believe the Newsmagazine is a vital communication link which can contribute to greater ministry involvement among Arkansas Baptists on the local, associational, state and national levels.

Many people have asked if and when the Newsmagazine will return to weekly publication. I don't know. Even with our recent financial growth, the cost of weekly production and delivery remains financially prohibitive. What we are committed to do is provide Arkansas Baptists the best quality bi-weekly publication possible and continue to make fiscally sound business decisions.

I deeply appreciate the loyalty of our thousands of Arkansas Baptist subscribers. Your confidence in this ministry is continually demonstrated both by your subscriptions and your generous Cooperative Program support.

Thank you for taking time to read these words of reflection and direction. It has been a privilege to serve in your midst these past 12 months. I look forward to continued ministry among Arkansas Baptists in the days and years ahead.

## Rankin gains unanimous support for FMB changes

By Robert O'Brien  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin won unanimous approval Oct. 13 to elect a new senior vice president and change the way the board administers overseas operations.

The affirmation by FMB trustees followed Rankin's Oct. 10 installation as the 10th president of the 148-year-old board. Trustees also voted a \$185 million 1994 operating budget.

Moved by a report from Kenya about sacrificial giving by missionaries to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, trustees agreed to consider digging deeper into their own pockets to support the Christmas offering.

About 100 Kenya missionaries — or 50 family units — contributed about \$35,000 to the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions during their annual meeting in August. That's an average of \$700 per family.

Trustees also endorsed recommendations from Rankin and a joint trustee-staff committee by:

- Electing Avery T. Willis Jr., a national leader in discipleship training and former missionary, to a new post of senior vice president for overseas.

- Agreeing to consolidate a variety of board programs and services under Willis' supervision in the new overseas office.

- Approving expansion of executive vice president Don Kammerdiener's administrative duties to relate to the entire board structure.

Willis, 59, who will join the FMB staff Dec. 1, basically will administer overseas operations, overseeing 10 area directors, four vice presidents assigned to strategic administrative roles and an assistant vice president.

Willis has worked with the Baptist Sunday School Board for 15 years and currently directs its discipleship and family adult department. Previously he was a missionary in Indonesia for 14 years.

Rankin told trustees the reorganization steps will streamline decision making for more rapid response to mission needs and opportunities, place primary focus on overseas ministries, consolidate efforts that directly affect missionary work overseas under one administration, inspire vision and decentralize strategy and planning.

The function of the mission board's

top-level Global Strategy Group, which Rankin dissolved, will be filled by the 10 area directors convening twice yearly, and by other administrative procedures now evolving.

The changes will return most field administration and strategic development responsibilities to the area directors, who will relate to the board through Willis.

Rankin has asked four regional vice presidents who currently head geographic regions to accept other vice presidential roles under Willis' office.

*"We must have a heart for the Lord above all else."*

— Jerry Rankin  
President, Foreign Mission Board

Bill Bullington, now regional vice president for Africa, will become vice president for overseas services, administering programs to be consolidated under him from other FMB offices. He will serve under Willis as a liaison with area directors to meet field needs. Rankin said regional vice presidents Bill Wakefield, Lewis Myers and Sam James are considering strategic administrative assignments to:

- Mobilize Southern Baptist impact on internationals in the United States, developing international networks and ministries;

- Focus strategies on people groups in the unreached "World A" portions of the globe, develop rapid deployment teams, and head a task force on Muslim ministries; and

- Train and guide missionaries in conducting church growth studies and strategy studies overseas and give leadership to evaluation and review of missionary training and orientation.

Rankin has named Jim Furgerson, 53, adult division director at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, to head the volunteer department, effective Dec. 1. He succeeds Ron Boswell, who left the board to become pastor of Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. Rankin, who introduced Furgerson to trustees, outlined his vision to "enlarge the channels of opportunity" for volunteers globally.

"Tremendous interest for personal involvement in missions" exists among Southern Baptists, Rankin said. The board

must facilitate "the opportunity for more Southern Baptists to participate in the greatest experience in the world — having a part in sharing Christ with a lost world."

In other action at their Oct. 11-13 meeting, trustees affirmed actions of staff in promoting religious liberty throughout the world. But they declined to send letters asking for such freedom to all heads of countries currently closed to missionaries, as a motion referred to them by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston suggested.

Kammerdiener said the board affirms the concern expressed in the SBC motion, but feels such a "shotgun" approach might do more harm than good. Sometimes, he said, such a direct letter could threaten the possibility of Southern Baptist representatives working in that country.

The policy subcommittee of the trustees' administrative committee is reviewing the manuscript of a new FMB history being published in connection with the board's 1995 observance of its 150th year.

Final plans for publication of the book by church historian William R. Estep will be discussed at the trustees' Dec. 6-8 meeting. At that time they may also discuss the dedication of the book, which trustees earlier had voted to dedicate to retired FMB president R. Keith Parks and his wife, Helen Jean. Parks is now missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Trustee Roger Roberts of Kansas, in a report from the board's strategy committee, said the committee is asking the policy subcommittee to reconsider the dedication.

By contrast, during his installation as FMB president, Rankin paid tribute to Parks, who was not present, citing him as a major influence in his own missionary career.

"We love Keith and Helen Jean Parks," Rankin said. "We started our missionary career as he was our area director (in Southeast Asia) and later became our president. He's been a personal mentor and encourager, a spiritual example in my life. I regret that they could not be here tonight."

Also during the installation service, Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, knelt for a prayer of dedication before 1,000 people attending the service. They were joined on the podium by more than 20 Baptists from 11 nations who attend Richmond-area churches — representing the world Rankin will lead Southern Baptists to reach.

If Southern Baptists are to be used by God to reach the world, Rankin said, "we must have a heart for the Lord above all else."

# FMB honors 99 retiring missionaries

Six missionaries with Arkansas ties were among 99 retiring missionaries honored last week by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The 99 missionaries have served a combined total of 2,785 years in 50 countries.

FMB president Jerry Rankin, presiding over his first service honoring retirees, noted the impact they made on his own missionary career.

"As I look out among you I see many who taught me how to be a missionary," he said. "As I came to serve among you veterans, by your example and your commitment, I learned what it meant to be used of the Lord and the price that had to be paid."

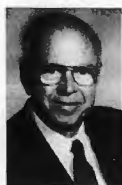
Among the Arkansans who were honored, Max and Betty Alexander were appointed missionaries to Thailand in 1961. He was a dorm parent at a hostel for missionary kids until 1966, and then was business manager for Thailand Baptist Mission in Bangkok from 1962 until 1984. At the time of his retirement, he was a church planter in Thailand.

Alexander was born in Lake City and considers Jonesboro his hometown. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He also had served as pastor of Elkins Church.

"Leaving Thailand brought a flood of mixed emotions — sad one as we left the Thai people we loved dearly and as we thought of unfinished work," Alexander noted. "May we Baptists be obedient and diligent as a needy world calls."

Mrs. Alexander, the former Betty Nickell, was born in Hazel Valley and considers Fayetteville her hometown. She attended Citadel Bible College in Ozark and received a certificate from Golden Gate Seminary. Appointed with her husband in 1961, Mrs. Alexander also served as a dorm parent for missionary kids, and spent the remainder of her missionary tenure as a church and home worker.

"The obstacle that often seemed most difficult was crossing social and cultural barriers," Mrs. Alexander recalled. "I tried Paul's tactic of being all things to all people that I might win some. During language study, God showed me many things in Thai manners and customs that I could practice in my daily contact with Thai



Max  
Alexander



Betty  
Alexander



Coy  
Sample



Vivian  
Sample



Hugh  
Smith



Kathryn  
Smith

people and gain entry into their lives."

Coy and Vivian Sample began serving in Nigeria in 1984 and retired in August 1993. He began his missionary service as a general evangelist in Port Harcourt, and was principal of the Baptist Bible College in Owerri/Obenzie from 1987 until 1993.

Sample was born in El Dorado and considers Hot Springs his hometown. He is a graduate of Southern (Williams) Baptist College in Walnut Ridge and Arkansas College in Batesville. He also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of churches in Morrifield, Warren, Batesville, Almyra and Morrilton.

"Our arrival in Nigeria marked one of the most dramatic instances of answered prayer of our missions experience," Sample said. "Just arriving in the country, we made our first trip to immigration, only to find that a new government edict required quotas from our mission. Since the Baptist mission did not have a quota, we would have to leave the country.... Prayers were made throughout Nigeria and at home... (and) eventually we had resident visas."

Mrs. Sample, the former Vivian Keith, is a native of Hot Springs. She is a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. She also taught school in Hot Springs and Morrilton. In addition to being a church and home worker while serving

in Nigeria, she taught in the Baptist Bible College in Owerri/Obenzie.

"One goal that we had hoped to see completed was a facility for training women at the Bible college. Plans had been made and approved but not implemented when we left Nigeria. But we are encouraged that the plans are still active," Mrs. Sample said.

Hugh and Kathryn Smith were appointed to service by the Foreign Mission Board in December 1963 and retired in September 1993. They served in Southern Asia/Pacific itinerant missions, Fiji, Guam, Zambia, Malaysia and Singapore. The Smiths were the first Southern Baptist missionaries to Fiji.

Smith grew up in Missouri and is a graduate of Southwest Baptist College (University) in Bolivar, Mo., Ouachita Baptist College (University) in Arkadelphia and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Affirming his call to the foreign mission field, Smith said. "It didn't seem right for me to spend my life in a heavily church area of the world when there were so many places where there were no churches at all. When the difficult times came and I questioned the worth of all this, the thought would come that if I were not here there would be no one to share the good news."

Mrs. Smith, the former Kathryn Greenfield, grew up in Missouri and is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Smith pointed out the sustaining nature of Scripture promises, especially during the difficult days surrounding the death of their son, Scott, on the field in Malaysia in 1974. "Through a tragic experience we saw friends of Scott come to Christ and the spiritual lives of others deepened," she explained, adding that God's Word "sustained me through both joys and difficulties."

Voicing a similar perspective during the recognition service held at Central Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., Rankin quoted the son of Adoniram Judson, the first Baptist foreign missionary from the United States: "If we succeed without suffering, it's because others have suffered before us. And if we suffer without success, it's so that others will succeed after us."



## Russian Baptist ceremonies continue despite upheaval

By Marty Croll

SBC Foreign Mission Board

MOSCOW (BP)—Opening ceremonies for a new five-story Russian Baptist headquarters and seminary went on as planned Oct. 5 — just hours after Russian troops beat back communist and nationalist hard-liners in a two-day street war.

Gathering for their yearly congress, Russian Baptists seemed only mildly interested in the violent events just miles away, where the traumatic birth of democracy in Russia took another twist.

Baptists, who suffered seven decades of persecution under communists and even stiffer oppression under the Russian Orthodox Church before that, are ready to get on with their work. But it's been difficult for them, and the rest of the nation, to do so under the shadow of the hard-liners who, until now, have managed to put freedom on hold.

During the last several months Baptists have joined other evangelical groups to fight a proposed measure to limit their freedom to worship and restrict foreign missionaries from helping them spread the gospel. The measure grew out of a marriage between leaders of the Orthodox Church and communist lawmakers in Parliament.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin refused to sign the law twice, and it died with his dismissal of Parliament.

### Officials affirm Russian Baptists

As the Russian Parliament building still smoldered five miles away, officials loyal to Yeltsin assured Russian Baptists that their churches will play a key role in creating a new, free society.

"We are now trying to overcome our past ideology, and we now stand before great possibilities," reported Vladimir Shumeyka, first deputy prime minister of Russia, in a prepared statement to the Baptist congress.

"Great changes in our society have created equal rights for all (religious) confessions in the nation. Christianity is a great support and a great hope," he said.

Kremlin representative Mikhailov Genrich helped open the congress of 1,000 Russian Baptists in Moscow by telling them Baptists were well-known within the government.

Russia is "becoming a civilized nation with great effort," he added. "Your contribution for spiritual revival and for social service is great."



Gleb Yakunin, a dissident Russian Orthodox priest who recently visited the U.S., is an outspoken proponent of religious freedom in Russia.

The deputy prime minister's statement, read by Genrich, promised Baptists they would "make a big contribution in ... the spiritual revival of society. We know your spiritual activity. But we know your social activity will help those who need it."

In another prepared statement, Yeltsin adviser Sergei Stankevich asked that "members of your churches ... continue to work for the benefit of our country and for democracy. I share with you hope for the revival of Russia."

The expressions of affirmation heartened Baptists, who had little success in trying to influence former government leaders.

The new constitution, being drafted by representatives outside Parliament, reportedly will establish free-market economics and the right to free thought. Both ideas threaten the ruling class in Russia, which, before the demise of the Soviet Union, controlled the nation's money supply, the government and the Russian Orthodox hierarchy.

In a letter from Gregory Komendant, president of the federation of Baptist unions in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Baptists said they were praying for Yeltsin and believing God would bring lawful peace to the nation.

In another letter to Yeltsin, the Baptist World Alliance and the European Baptist Federation said they represented 80 million Baptists in 200 countries worldwide in

ensuring him of sympathy for the bloodshed in Russia.

"We are asking God to bring a restoration of peace and well-being to Russia," the letter said. "Evangelical Christians-Baptists have always stood for democracy, freedom and justice. In this tense time we affirm our belief in the mercy of God, which will help you bring about the restoration of Russia."

Baptists hope the efforts of Orthodox Metropolitan Cyrill to help mediate an agreement between Yeltsin and the rebel lawmakers will bode well for them in the future. Cyrill, who now heads the international department of the Russian Orthodox Church, has been a friend of Baptists.

Many Orthodox clerics fear Baptists and the gains they have made since the former Soviet Union threw the doors open to religious freedom in 1990. Boris Yablakov, a Russian Baptist photographer, talked with an Orthodox priest who was demonstrating for vice president Alexander Rutskoi as violence began to break out.

The priest, claiming he and other priests are communist, said, "We're tired of opening up to the West." Some Orthodox priests carried red communist flags with Orthodox icons on them.

Gleb Yakunin, a reformist lawmaker and Orthodox priest once stripped of his parish because of his outspoken support of religious freedom under communism, said totalitarian control of the Orthodox Church and the state were closely wed.

The Orthodox Church was not only subordinated to the state "but was a branch of the state," he charged.

In conjunction with the congress, Baptists celebrated the realization of two long-held dreams: a new seminary and a new Baptist center in Moscow.

After years of broken promises by government agencies under communism, the Moscow Baptist Theological Seminary finally became official with the presentation of its first 17 students Oct. 3 and its first board of directors meeting Oct. 5.

Dedication officially took place during the Sunday evening service Oct. 3 in the Moscow Central Baptist Church. There, for many decades, Baptists uttered tearful prayers for such a school to train Baptist preachers. In the 1960s Baptists began filling the need through a correspondence course program.

Classes will meet for the first two years in the new five-story building of the Russian Baptist union. About 300 people attended the dedication ceremonies for that building, a long-time dream of Vasily Logvinenko. Congress members recognized Logvinenko, who is retiring after a long term as president of the union.

# Travelers find Russians cynical about unrest

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, AR (ABP) — Several Baptists who returned from Moscow earlier this month said they found most Russians "lackadaisical" about the political upheaval that has shaken their government.

"The people really seemed to be disinterested in what was happening at the White House," David Napier said, referring to the Russian parliament building that was the scene of a bloody showdown between supporters of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and hard-line backers of the parliament.

As many as 500 people were killed Oct. 3 when Yeltsin's forces overran the parliament's defenders, causing heavy damage to the parliament building and solidifying Yeltsin's control of the government.

Russians have watched the latest government standoff with growing cynicism, said Napier, associate pastor/administrator at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. "I found the mood of the people there was very lackadaisical. They do not

care what happens with the government. They are disinvested in it.

"They throw up their hands and say, 'Ah! We don't care. Somebody will win and life will go on.'"

Napier was one of seven Baptists who traveled to Russia and Slovakia Sept. 24-Oct. 4 to lead and participate in church-planting conferences sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance.

Randel Everett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla., said the group passed by the Russian parliament building a couple days before the worst violence hit. They saw troops guarding the building but no fighting.

The Americans found Muscovites did not share their intrigue for the governmental upheaval. "It was amazing how uninterested they were in what was happening," Everett reported.

He said most Russians, who are weathering severe economic hardships, are more concerned with finding food and adequate shelter than the latest shape of their post-communist government. "Only the politicians have the luxury of arguing about things like that," he said.

"Most (Russians) are supportive of Yeltsin, but they are pretty cynical about the whole government," Everett pointed out.

He said Baptists in Russia are more concerned about the opposition they face from the Orthodox Church, which they say is trying to block construction of non-Orthodox churches and other signs of progress among non-traditional faiths.

Both Everett and Napier said they were impressed with the evangelistic work being done by the Baptists of Eastern Europe. "Those people are on the ball and they are doing a great job," Napier said. "It was eye-opening."

The Americans participated in a church-planting conference in Bratislava, Slovakia, which attracted Baptists from Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and elsewhere.

"It was great to see Serbian and Croatian Christians worshipping together," Everett said. Sadly, however, the Croatians were forced to leave the meeting early when they heard about new bombing near their homes, he said.

## Arkansans help build church, confidence in Russia

By Mark Kelly  
Special to the Arkansas Baptist

A church building in Roslav, Russia, was unfinished after four years of on-again, off-again construction. Alan Burch, Jerry Harris and Clay Cartwright thought they were going to help finish it up.

But God had something else in mind.

The three men, members of Gentry First Church, were part of a six-man team that spent two weeks in the Russian city of 70,000 located six hours west of Moscow. They found a great deal of construction work to be done. They built a baptistry and choir loft, finished a balcony, installed a heating system and built partitions in the basement.

For all the work they did, however, the team found they had an even more important mission.

"The pastor of the Baptist church in Roslav, Ivan, was very discouraged," Burch explained. "He is 31 years old, had been working on the building for four years and was out of money and material and becoming very disheartened. And our interpreter, a young woman 26 years of age and an atheist, was not impressed with our God at all."

Through the interpreter, the pastor told Burch he was sorry that the team had so little with which to work, Burch said. The interpreter then asked Burch why their God did not provide them the needed money and material.

"I told him, through the interpreter, to answer her question and his unasked one, that God was in control, that God knew his needs before he even asked," Burch said. "I told him that we were there to work, that God Himself had sent us and that

if it were God's will for us to work on the building that He would provide the oxygen and acetylene and lumber needed or the money to purchase those items."

The pastor nodded, then walked out, sadly shaking his head, Burch said. But within two hours a man had brought the oxygen and acetylene they needed—and told them there would be no charge. Three hours after that, another man offered to trade a truckload of paneling for some extra prefab floor sections. A third man brought a load of plywood.

"Needless to say, the pastor was walking on air," Burch said. "And the incident helped our interpreter realize our God is real." During their second week in Roslav, she professed faith in Christ.

During their stay, the team also distributed medical supplies, Bibles and Sunday School literature, Burch said. They also attended the congregation's services, in which they had an opportunity to sing and preach brief sermons.

Word of their visit spread quickly by word of mouth, Burch said. The construction site was constantly besieged by visitors. Many people told them they were tired of Christian groups that came to preach and then left, he noted. They were impressed that this group came to work, not just talk.

Living conditions were pretty primitive, he recalled. Their quarters during their stay had no running water, plumbing or refrigeration. Roads and buildings were badly deteriorated. And the food markets were "a sanitation nightmare" to Burch, a USDA food inspector.

"Asking God's blessing on the food took on a whole new meaning for me," he said. "But God took care of us, and no one got sick."

## Power Team crusade in Conway reaps 200 professions of faith

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

CONWAY, AR—John Jacobs and the Power Team recently brought their high-energy evangelistic extravaganza back to Arkansas for a five-day crusade at Second Church, Conway.

The Power Team is a Dallas-based evangelism team which features athletes combining feats of strength with words of Christian testimony. They held a crusade earlier this year at Springdale First Church which led to 2,625 professions of faith in Christ.

Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Church, Conway, said an article in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* about the Springdale revival "really got my attention." Noting that church leaders had been praying for a ministry opportunity "to involve the whole church and impact the community in a meaningful way," Pillow said they made arrangements for the Power Team to visit Conway.

The result was five days of overflow crowds watching intently as Power Team members lifted flaming logs, smashed concrete blocks with their heads, snapped baseball bats in two, blew up hot water bottles until they exploded, broke out of handcuffs — and shared the gospel.

### Waging war on Satan

During one of the services, Jacobs told the crowd, "We are here in your city to wage war on the devil.... We claim this weekend as the worst weekend the devil will ever have here in Conway."

Presenting the various feats of strength as object lessons, Jacobs introduced a team member who crashed through a wall of concrete slabs. "Tougher than these walls are the walls in people's lives — lust, bitterness, hate, insecurity," Jacobs declared. "It's time for the walls to come down tonight."

Pillow reported that the crusade attracted more than 7,000 people and resulted in approximately 200 professions of faith and 400 other public decisions.

Alluding to the sometimes bizarre antics which the Power Team utilized, Pillow said, "I came to peace with the fact that I could not attempt to reach people the way they do, but that God uses different men and different methods to share the same message."

"My overall response is very positive," Pillow continued. "Hundreds of people who needed to hear the gospel had the opportunity to do so. It's the kind of stuff

we dream about being able to do."

Noting that the services "impacted our community," Pillow pointed out, "It obviously was the talk of the town. Christ became an issue. People had to talk about church and faith and what to do with Christ."

He said trained lay counselors are offering assistance to everyone who made decisions during the crusade, including one-on-one follow-up counseling for children "for as long as necessary" to ensure their decisions are sincere and to encourage ongoing spiritual growth.

Beyond the dramatic showmanship the Power Team displayed on stage, Pillow said each team member demonstrated a "genuine, humble, Christ-like spirit behind the scenes."

John Kopta, a member of the Power Team for eight years, now lives in Springdale where he also is associate pastor of Springdale Family Worship Center. "We don't want the feats of strength to be the main thing," Kopta emphasized. "That's just a tool. Our biggest muscle is our heart for Jesus.... We preach the cross of Jesus Christ."

Kopta has seen his parents and three siblings become Christians as a result of his involvement with the Power Team, including a brother who made a profession of faith during the Conway crusade.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes to see people won to the kingdom of God," Kopta declared. "When I see a life changed, that's what motivates me to do it."

Rico Constantino, the newest member of the Power Team, said ministry founder John Jacobs "wants us to be bigger spiritually than we are physically.... Our heartbeat is souls; people being saved."

Power Team member Craig Lemley acknowledged that "we get a lot of criticism for breaking bricks for Jesus." He added, however, that "the feats of strength are bait to draw people in. As Christians, even if we don't like the bait, we had better like catching the fish."

Emphasizing that Power Team members are committed to "get in the Bible every day, pray every day and tell someone about Jesus every day," Lemley pointed out, "We can't be so concerned with stained-glass windows when the world is going to hell."

Affirming the positive results of the Power Team crusade, Pillow noted, "I'm convinced God is using them.... They have given themselves to use what they have and who they are to reach people with the gospel — and that's what we all need to do."

## Discipleship meeting seeks to 'Equip the Church for Ministry'

"Equipping the Church for Ministry" will be the focus of the State Conference on Discipleship meeting at Immanuel Church in Little Rock on Oct. 25-26. Sessions begin at 1:15 and 6:50 p.m. on Monday and at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Art Criscoe, educator, author and futurist on the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak in the opening session on "Trends that Will Impact Our Ministries into the 21st Century." James P. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will speak on "Ministering to a Hurting World" in the Monday night session. Keynote speakers on Tuesday include John Holston of North Little Rock who will speak on "The Ministry of Prayer" in the morning session and Johnny Jones who will speak in the afternoon session on "LIFE Support Ministries: Reaching Out to a Hurting World." Jones is the LIFE support coordinator in the BSSB's Discipleship and Family Development division.

According to Robert Holley, director of the Arkansas Discipleship and Family Ministry department, "This conference is designed to focus on the equipping ministry of the church and the challenges and opportunities we face in the midst of a hurting and broken world. We have the finest resources for ministry we have ever had and we face the greatest needs and opportunities we have ever known. We must find ways to help our churches use these resources to impact the world around us."

A "Fresh Encounter Luncheon" is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Monday featuring a video preview of "Fresh Encounter" by Henry Blackaby. A "LIFE Support Luncheon" is offered on Tuesday at noon featuring testimonies of the LIFE Support Ministries. Luncheon reservations should be made through the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5160.

Leadership conferences will be offered during each of the four sessions for pastors, church staff, Discipleship Training leaders, associational leaders, and church/denominational secretaries.

# BSU convention asks: 'God! Where are you?'

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

"This convention will have as much effect as any that we have done," said David James, director of the Arkansas Baptist Student Union, concerning the BSU convention held at Second Church in Little Rock on Oct. 1-3. The convention's theme, "God! Where are you?", was explored by several speakers and numerous seminars.

"It's important not to assume where God is, but to go and find out where He is and adjust your life," James explained. "We had nearly 500 students participate; we work very hard at the first of the year to get students involved. The convention becomes a time to solidify those as a group so they can understand their calling — and see that is bigger than just their campus."

At the convention, two things always stand out in student evaluations, James noted. One is that fellowship is always crucial, and the Saturday night campus prayer time is also a genuine highlight.

This year, James continued, three phrases seemed to sum up the convention. "Get off the couch" was speaker Rick Caldwell's catch phrase for "letting God shake us." Caldwell is a national conference speaker and associate pastor of Ge'yer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

"God is here," explored by Henry Blackaby of the Home Mission Board's office of prayer and spiritual awakening, portrayed that God can move down and change a student's life for eternity in a weekend in a way that one will never be the same.

"Smell the roses" was the challenge by Dennis Lee, praise and worship leader from Dallas, Texas. "He was received well,



Worship leader Dennis Lee used a variety of techniques to capture students' attention during the BSU convention.

just by being profoundly simple and simply profound," James commented.

Tara Smith, state BSU president, agreed. "People were quoting lines he said — he was really tuned in to the college student's perspective." Smith, a senior at Arkansas State University, felt that "the convention as a whole was a wonderful experience.

"Through personal experience in talking with people from my campus, I know a lot of decisions were made — lifetime decisions," she said.

Seminars also played a major role in the convention, helping meet tremendous needs, James explained. "Three new

seminars were especially well received," he said. The new seminars were "Help, I'm a Single Parent," intended for non-traditional students on two-year campuses, but heavily attended by traditional students; "I can't stand the smell of this," exploring the realities of ministering to a hurting world; and "Women in Ministry," which was ranked most popular on student evaluations.

Another traditionally popular seminar in the two-part engagement seminar, focused on pre-engaged, engaged and newly married couples. "After attending the seminar, a couple from an Arkansas campus went down to pray during the altar call that evening," James said. "During that altar call, the young man took out a ring and proposed — and the young lady accepted."

Nearly all the seminars were focused on finding God in the midst of troubles, James explained. "Sometimes we don't realize that the search for God needs to be one of desperation — we need to be really desperate about finding God."

Diane Parker, an associate in the BSU department, noted, "The most significant thing was seeing the students receive a challenge — not from just one thing but from the total impact of the weekend."

Another thing that impressed Parker was the efforts of students and leaders to make the convention work. "The convention wasn't just directed out of the state office," she pointed out. "Many people, especially the state student officers, carried a lot of responsibility and did really good jobs."

Affirming the overall impact of the meeting, James concluded, "This was a powerful meeting."

## McGriff announces retirement from crisis support

Glen D. McGriff, director of the ministry of crisis support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, has announced his retirement effective March 1, 1994. McGriff has served since January 1980 as the first and only director of this ministry.

"The Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted in session for a committee to be formed to study the possibility of such a ministry," recalled ABSC executive director Don



Glen McGriff

Moore, who was state convention president when the committee was established. "Five years were spent in completing their research and formulating their recommendation. The past 14 years have proven the wisdom of their recommendation and the convention's action."

Noting that the position was established to provide personal counseling for pastors, church staff members and their families, Moore added, "Dr. McGriff has been kept busy at the task. Hundreds of people have been helped through Dr. McGriff's ministry as a counselor but also through his teaching ministry in conferences, seminars and retreats."

"I have a deep and abiding appreciation for the opportunity Arkansas Baptists have

afforded me," McGriff noted. "They are to be commended for pioneering in this area of ministry."

Prior to accepting his current position, McGriff served three years as director of Christian Endeavors Foundation, a counseling and family support ministry. Prior to that he served 25 years in pastoral ministry.

McGriff, a native of Alabama, holds degrees from Samford University, the University of Alabama and Luther Rice Seminary. He also attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Following his retirement, McGriff plans to devote his time to writing, teaching and consultation with churches and convention entities upon request.

# Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Staff changes

**Jamie Cook** of Kirby began serving Oct. 3 as minister of music and youth for First Church of Dierks where he is a member. Cook is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Sidney Hunt** began serving Sept. 19 as pastor of Harmony Church near Rector. He and his wife, Beulah, live in Corning.

**Christopher A. Perry** has accepted the call to join the staff of Central Church, Jonesboro, as minister of youth. He is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and Mid-America Seminary. Perry will move to Jonesboro from Fort Smith where he serves as minister of students at First Church. He previously served as youth minister for First Church of Tuckerman, Fisher Street Church of Jonesboro and First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Perry and his wife, Lesa, have two daughters, Rebekah Erin and Andrea Carolyn.

## People

**Richard D. Perry** was honored Sept. 11 by Berry Street Church in Springdale on his fifth anniversary of service as pastor. Perry and his wife, Valeric, have four children, Adam, Nathan, Joel and Jamie.

**Ray Duty and Debra Massey** were honored Sept. 26 by Emmanuel Church of Piggott in recognition of 20 years of service as music director and pianist. Duty is retiring from his position.

**Jim Lee**, a native of Arkansas, has been named director of development at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Lee comes to the seminary after serving since 1991 as a church administrator in Pensacola, Fla. Previously he served more than 25 years as a naval aviator, most recently as chief of defense plans for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Md. Lee and his wife, Carolyn, have two grown daughters, Melanie Stoff and Michele Parris. He is the son of Thurlo Lee, a pastor in Arkansas for more than 50 years.

**Marsha A. Ellis Smith**, a native of Malvern and an editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named associate vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She previously served for two years as associate director/Bible teacher of the

Baptist Student Union at the University of Texas at El Paso, and as an adjunct professor at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas; Texas Christian University in Fort Worth; and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as a visiting professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Zambia. Smith is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. She is married to William Smith.

## Ordinations

**East Side Church** of Fort Smith ordained Tommy Daffron, David Damron, Gene Dotson, Jon Hendrickson, Rusty Peoples, Ed Skurdahl and Brad Sullivan to the deacon ministry Sept. 26.

**Hydrick Church** ordained Joe Lowry to the deacon ministry Sept. 18.

**Camden First Church** ordained Doug Strickel to the deacon ministry Sept. 26.

**Goodwin Church** licensed Wade Wofford to the gospel ministry Aug. 22. Wofford, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, currently is teaching at Calvary Christian School in Forrest City and is working with the youth of Goodwin Church.

**Marvell First Church** ordained David Hill to the deacon ministry Oct. 3.

## Church news

**Central Church** of Bald Knob held revival services Sept. 19-22 that resulted in two professions of faith, according to pastor Claude Gibbs. Bill Lewis of Bryant was evangelist and Keith Keys directed music.

**Heber Springs First Church** held a fall revival Sept. 26-29 with William Blackburn of Fort Smith as evangelist. Minister of music Morris W. Ratley directed music. Pastor Jerry Kirkpatrick said the revival resulted in 71 professions of faith, 52 rededications and two people joining the church by statement.

**Rehobeth Church** at Moorefield celebrated its 167th anniversary Oct. 3 with a potluck luncheon and afternoon musical program. Viola Goedwin, 90, was honored as the oldest member. Bill Williamson is pastor.

**Mountain Springs Church** near Cabot held a revival Sept. 12-17 that resulted in

five professions of faith and many rededications. Bill Lewis of Bryant was evangelist and J.D. Mann directed music. Danny Petrie is pastor.

**Cotter First Church** held a dedication service Sept. 26 for its new \$25,000 Boyd-Osborn educational annex. A \$1,500 grant from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the donations of church members provided funding for the construction which was done by volunteer labor.

The faith, prayer and hard work of members were recognized by dedication speaker Don Corbett, who was pastor when construction began. Ed Powers, director of missions for White River Association, led a prayer of dedication.

Pastor Robert Brown challenged the congregation to use their new facility as a tool for the future.

Other dedication participants were Mary Nell Crownover, Jim Ross, Bernice Boyd, Phyllis Powers and Sneed Noe Collins. An open house and a fellowship hour concluded the dedication activities.

## Upcoming events

**Immanuel Church** of Magnolia will observe its 43rd anniversary and homecoming Oct. 31. Founded as a mission of Central Church of Magnolia, it was constituted in October 1950. Pastor Terry Bradshaw has coordinated celebration activities that will include Marshall Boggs, Ray Nicholas, Charles Fannin and James Lindsey as speakers. A musical concert by the Men of Calvary will follow a noon luncheon.

**East Side Church** of Fort Smith will observe its 40th anniversary Oct. 24 with a 1 p.m. program. A celebration luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m.

**South Highland Church** of Little Rock will host a gospel concert Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. Christian music artist Mark Fox will address self-esteem issues through the use of *Li'l' Markie*, a character which he created to address the sensitive issues which emotionally disable people.

**Silent Grove Church** of Springdale will celebrate its 30th anniversary Oct. 24 with special services and a dinner. Pete Petty, associate in the missions department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Burton Miley of Springdale, a retired Southern Baptist minister, will be speakers. James Criswell is pastor.

# Arkansas Baptist roots

*Columbia Jarrett traces history to state's first Baptist congregation*

By Millie Gill  
Arkansas Baptist

Columbia Jarrett Church, founded as Salem Church and believed to be the first Baptist church in Arkansas, observed its 175th anniversary Sept. 26. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Historical Commission dedicated a monument in recognition of the historic significance of the church.

Raymond Reed of Grady, chairman of the Historical Commission, said the commission placed the marker and provided one-third of its cost at the request of church members. "We considered it a privilege to commemorate the beginning of Baptist work in Arkansas," Reed noted.

Organizers of the Salem Church came from Kentucky, building their first church on the Old Military Road which later became one of the branches of the "Trail of Tears" over which many Indians were driven to Oklahoma in 1836-37. History even notes that soldiers and Indians camped on the Salem Church yard, night after night during the trek.

Many of the churches founded in Arkansas have some connection with the Salem Church either through ministers who served the church or former members who migrated throughout the state. The church, organized with 12 members, is recognized as an early influence in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention which now has a membership of more than 500,000. The state convention previously erected a marker nearby in 1954.

The actual date of the church's organization cannot be determined by records, but is celebrated as being organized in 1818. Records indicate Salem Church sent messengers that year to the annual meeting of Bethel Association in Missouri because there was no associational Baptist work in Arkansas. Salem Church was inactive for approximately 10 years as a result of a strong anti-mission effort led by some Baptists in the area.

When reorganized, Columbia Church was the name adopted because of its location in the community of Columbia. Today it is called Columbia Jarrett in honor of one of the founding fathers, William Jarrett, who gave the property on which Salem Church was built. This name change occurred in 1937 when the church moved approximately 200 yards away from the original site.

Benny and Jenny Jarrett, descendants of William Jarrett, currently are part of this



Stephen Seale (above, left), pastor of Columbia Jarrett Church, watches as church members unveil a marker recognizing the church's predecessor as "the first Baptist church constituted in Arkansas." Columbia Jarrett Church, which traces its roots to Salem Church, celebrated the congregation's 175th anniversary during services held Sept. 26.

congregation which has never been large in number, but has been described as "large in its caring for others."

"This congregation has a rich heritage of reaching out in times of crisis, helping students from Williams Baptist College and helping those with special needs," declared pastor Stephen Seale. "Today we have a membership of wonderful, committed people."

Seale, a senior at Williams Baptist College, has been pastor of Columbia Jarrett for two years. During that time the congregation has expanded its children's programs with the addition of two Sunday School classes. "We are busy planning other children's activities, as well as formulating plans for a young married adults retreat," Seale added.

"My ministry here has not been reaping a harvest, but laying a new foundation which others can build on in the future," he concluded.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was the featured speaker for the afternoon anniversary service. Cautioning members not to rest on their traditions and past accomplishments, he challenged them to make the years ahead the greatest days in the life of the congregation. Urging them to rely on God's power, he affirmed the opportunity to recapture the vision, faith, courage and sacrifice of the church's forefathers.

Other featured speakers for the anniversary celebration were H.E. Williams, president emeritus of Williams Baptist College; K.M. Startup, professor of history at Williams Baptist College; Max Gregory, director of missions for Current-Gaines Association; and Raymond Reed, Historical Commission chairman. Andy Smith provided special music. Deacons Gerald Akins and Eugene Roberts participated in the marker unveiling.

## Priority missions projects spotlight 'World A'

By Bob Stanley

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—1994 could be the year Southern Baptists help the Foreign Mission Board turn on the light of the gospel in much more of "World A" — the least evangelized parts of the globe.

The jobs are there and waiting, board officials say after giving top priority to this vast unreached area in its 1994 personnel request list.

Forty-one percent of the highest-priority requests for missionaries in 1994 seek people willing to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to World A's peoples. World A is a term mission experts coined to describe parts of the world where most people have had little or no chance to hear the gospel.

In recent years the Foreign Mission Board has pushed World A needs to the top of its priority list. Next year 30 of the 73 most urgent job requests call for people to work in World A, said Jim Riddell, associate director of the personnel selection department.

The World A emphasis already is producing results. The Foreign Mission

Board at mid-1993 had 432 missionaries targeting World A's 1.2 billion people. They represent about 11 percent of the board's 3,900-plus missionaries.

Of 212 least-evangelized "megapeoples" in World A, the board is targeting 80. This year it committed more than \$17 million of its \$183.8 budget to evangelize these groups, each of which has 1 million or more people.

Also high on the 1994 priority list are personnel for the "harvest fields" — more open countries like Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, the Philippines, Indonesia and South Korea where people are ready to respond now to the gospel.

But the 73 top personnel priorities form just a fraction of global personnel needs, Riddell emphasized. By the end of 1993, he estimates, the personnel selection department will be working with more than 550 requests.

Requests for church planters or developers make up about 50 to 60 percent of new missionary requests each year, Riddell said. Another 25 percent call for other types of church vocations such as seminary teachers and specialists to serve in the areas of religious education, music,

youth and student work.

The remainder includes requests for teachers, agriculturists, medical personnel, print and electronic media workers and other specialists to meet needs in certain countries.

As the priority needs emerge each year, Riddell enjoys looking for jobs so different or so challenging they stand out.

Among those he mentions this year:

■ A church planter/developer couple for Novosibirsk, Russia — four time zones east of Moscow. They would work alongside a religious education couple recently appointed to work in this gateway to Siberia.

■ An assignment teaching English as a second language at an institution in the Middle East. This is a repeat request, which like many in difficult Muslim areas went unfiled last year.

■ A student worker in Costa Rica, working with college and university students from a church base.

■ A couple to begin language study in Croatia — to prepare for the day they can live in Sarajevo, Bosnia, a city that this year became the bullet-riddled Beirut of Europe.



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## Baptist groups begin quake relief effort

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptists and Baptists in India have linked efforts to deliver relief assistance to victims of India's Sept. 30 earthquake, which may have killed more than 20,000 people.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has earmarked \$100,000 in relief funds for the effort, to be combined with funds from Indian Baptists.

Southern Baptist representatives with expertise in relief work and Indian culture plan to join Indian Baptists from the city of Hyderabad to survey the devastated areas. They will look for sites where they can supply long-term assistance and determine the exact amount of money needed.

"There's tremendous international interest in the situation right now, but that's likely to fade within a few weeks," explained Clyde Meador, FMB area director for southern Asia and the Pacific. "That's when we feel we can come in with a plan to offer significant help to the people."

The Foreign Mission Board already has helped send medical supplies to India. It sent about \$14,000 to the Medical Assistance Program (MAP) in Brunswick, Ga., to cover handling costs of medical supplies that arrived in India Oct. 7. The MAP shipment, worth \$458,000, was sent to the Immanuel Hospital Association, a group of hospitals working in the earthquake area.

## FMB aids Central American flood victims

EL PROGRESO, HONDURAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent about \$188,000 to assist victims of flooding caused by recent hurricanes in Honduras and Nicaragua.

About \$163,000 will go to Honduras, where at least 30 people died and about 50,000 were left homeless in floods caused by Hurricane Gert in mid-September. The money will buy food and medical care for flood victims.

Some of the disaster funds will aid the Miskito Indians living along Honduras' and Nicaragua's Miskito Coast. They got a double dose of flooding, according to Southern Baptist missionary Jim Palmer in Nicaragua. When Gert swept the region in September, they hadn't even started to recover from earlier flooding caused by Hurricane Bret in early August which left about 70,000 people homeless.

About \$20,000 in Southern Baptist aid will be channeled through CEPAD, an evangelical relief agency in Nicaragua. A plane owned by Grace Aire Medical Foundation, a Christian organization in Corpus Christi, Texas, has helped transport relief supplies. Baptist physician Terry Elder directs Grace Aire.

Some of the \$163,000 going to neighboring Honduras will provide relief among the Miskito people living there. Honduran Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries already have sent food, clothing and supplies to the area, where more than 40 Miskito Baptist congregations worship.

## HMB tentmaker program still active

ATLANTA (BP)—The Foreign Mission Board's elimination of a tentmaker administrator position has confused some Southern Baptists to mistakenly believe the Home Mission Board's program by the same name was discontinued, directors said.

"Tentmaking is on the increase at the Home Mission Board," said Bob Mills, director of the HMB's Mission Service Corps, whose department oversees volunteers serving at least one year in home missions work.

Mills' office recently hired Carl Barrington, a former pastor and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary official, to develop the tentmaker program. "We are going to continue to give it a high priority," Mills noted.

Home Mission Board tentmaking is for "people who sense the

Lord leading in two vocations," Mills said. HMB tentmakers work in such home missions programs as church planting or Christian social ministry and receive at least some support through secular employment.

The HMB tentmaking program dates back at least 40 years, although for a time it was discontinued. It was revived in 1983 and about one-third of the current 1,730 Mission Service Corps volunteers are tentmakers.

## Volunteers needed for flood relief projects

ATLANTA (BP)—Additional flooding in the Midwest has renewed the Home Mission Board's call for volunteers to help in rebuilding efforts.

Rebuilding projects will continue through next year, predicted Ray Gilliland, retired home missionary and coordinator of the Home Mission Board's disaster relief office.

Some areas flooded this summer were flooded again in September. Additional rain puts rebuilding projects on hold, so volunteers with flexible dates of service are especially needed, Gilliland said.

All volunteers do not have to be skilled in construction, but coordinators suggest having one skilled volunteer for every two or three volunteers. In addition to Iowa, Missouri and Illinois, volunteers still are needed in Florida where rebuilding after Hurricane Andrew continues.

## Europeans to move Ruschlikon seminary

KISHINEV, MOLDOVA (ABP)—The council of the European Baptist Federation has approved a comprehensive plan for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, that will move the seminary from the campus it has occupied throughout its 44-year history.

The EBF council, which represents Baptist bodies throughout the continent, voted unanimously to move the seminary to an undetermined site outside Switzerland. Two of the locations under consideration are Berlin, Germany, and Prague, in the Czech Republic.

The council's decision will anchor the seminary's academic program firmly within the European Baptist theological education system. The seminary will maintain its traditional character as a center for multicultural and international education emphasizing ministerial and missionary formation.

"We are very pleased with these decisions," said seminary president John David Hopper. "Our new location should relieve the financial and student visa problems of the past few years and establish a strategy for the coming decades."

The Ruschlikon seminary, now owned by the EBF, has been in financial distress since 1991, when the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which founded the school, withdrew all funding over theological and philosophical differences. The seminary property, on the shores of Lake Zurich, is valued in excess of \$17 million.

## HMB launches Cross Over Orlando

ATLANTA (BP)—As a result of Cross Over Orlando enlistment banquets, 58 churches have committed to participate in evangelistic events preceding the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention.

Cross Over events have been held prior to annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings since 1989. Like preceding events, the effort in Florida will include block parties, rallies and door-to-door witnessing. Last year's event in Houston resulted in 1,267 professions of faith.

Churches and individuals interested in participating in Cross Over Orlando can register by contacting Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, phone 404-898-7688.



# 'Fresh Encounter' targets spiritual revival

RIDGECREST, NC (BP)—America may soon experience a great revival and spiritual awakening, according to speakers at a recent launch meeting for "Fresh Encounter" resources.

The conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center was one of two major launches for the workbooks and videotapes on revival and spiritual awakening produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board. An earlier meeting was held at First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas.

"I am very, very convinced that God has begun movement of revival and that we're seeing things happen...that we have not seen in our lifetime," said Henry Blackaby, co-author of the material and director for prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Everywhere I look — at home, on the campuses, with high school students, with volunteers, in the agencies (of the Southern Baptist Convention) and around the world — I am seeing an increasing crescendo of the mighty, mighty working of God toward revival," Blackaby said at the meeting where 1,079 participants from 22 states registered.

Claude V. King, co-author with Blackaby, agreed. "Revival's coming.... We're already seeing that God is getting the attention of His people, and your very presence here is an indication that God is at work reviving His people in our day."

The "Fresh Encounter" series comes in two parts, King noted. The first is a six-week study detailing God's pattern for revival and spiritual awakening. The second outlines the sins of churches and what they can do to return to God.

Some of the sins of churches, King said, include church splits, unethical financial decisions, treating staff members badly, lack of concern for members who have gone astray and not attending to the poor and needy.

Avery Willis, director of the BSSB discipleship and family adult department, said: "I've been operating for a number of years on the premise that God has already promised revival."

"I'm operating out of the principle that God is going to do this worldwide....It's not just in the United States," said Willis,

who appears with Blackaby on the two "Fresh Encounter" videotapes. Willis recently was elected senior overseas vice president for the Foreign Mission Board.

Roy Edgemom, director of the BSSB discipleship and family development division, said he is seeing a great deal of pain in the lives of Christians today, including pastors and other church staff members.

"I see the agony....Everywhere I go, everywhere I turn, people are hurting....I don't think you can have (a spiritual awakening) unless there is that raw pain...when you reach down, and there's nothing else to reach for, and you can't find anything else....We need desperately the touch of God in our land as we've never needed it in our history," Edgemom emphasized. "This is the time for it."

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"Trends That Will Impact Our Ministries Into The 21st Century"
- ◆ **Monday Night**  
James P. Draper, Jr., President, BSSB  
"Ministering To A Hurting World"
- ◆ **Tuesday Morning**  
John Holston, Retired Pastor, Interim Pastor, NLR  
"The Ministry of Prayer"
- ◆ **Tuesday Afternoon**  
Johnny Jones, LIFE Support Coordinator, BSSB  
"Life Support Ministries: Reaching Out To A Hurting World"

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## SBC's Uniform Church Letter to be revised and renamed

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Changes in the Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter, to be effective in 1994, have been made to make the annual report easier to complete, result in more accurate statistics at the national level and be of greater benefit locally, according to Tom Carringer, denominational statistics specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In addition to providing a statistical report to the association, state convention and Southern Baptist Convention, Carringer told members of the SBC Coordinating Committee that the UCL will be a more effective tool for churches to measure their health, growth and progress.

To better describe the dual purposes, Carringer said the name of the Uniform Church Letter will change to "The Annual Church Profile."

As Carringer surveyed church, associational, state and SBC leaders who have church letter responsibilities, he said he repeatedly was told the appearance and number of items of information requested were intimidating to those unfamiliar with the process. As a result, some churches simply didn't complete the forms, necessitating telephone and mail follow-up at the associational or state convention level.

Respondents also asked that the UCL be reformatted with items in a more logical sequence. As a result, The Annual Church Profile will reverse the order of enrollment

figures, requesting the total first, followed by age-group breakdowns.

Confusion also has existed in churches reporting statistics on mission-type churches they sponsor. Through 1993, mission statistics are reported in the totals for sponsoring churches. Beginning with 1994, churches and mission-type churches will be reported separately and then totaled together.

Carringer said more churches and associations are using computer software to complete their church letters — approximately 30 percent in 1992 — and the number is expected to increase this year.

"Since the software has built-in error-checking capabilities, it has become the preferred method of collecting data for those churches and associations having computers," Carringer said. The result is a higher accuracy rate and lower cost.

For the future, he envisions merging denominational statistics and geodemographics information whereby a church or association could, among many things, analyze its own growth patterns and identify growth and ministry opportunities in a specific community.

He called the changes for 1994 "the beginning of a process. I believe the statistics will not only become more accurate but more meaningful on church, associational, state and denominational levels."

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## HMB trustees approve record missions budget

By Martin Kling  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Home Mission Board directors approved a record \$91.2 million budget during their fall meeting, at which president Larry Lewis urged directors and staff to lead their churches to boost support of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

Lewis issued a challenge to each director and Home Mission Board staff member to lead his or her church to increase Cooperative Program giving to at least 10 percent. His challenge echoed that given last month to the SBC Executive Committee by chairman Fred Wolfe and its chief executive Morris H. Chapman. Lewis' challenge was met with a chorus of amens.

The missions leader also challenged every Southern Baptist church saying, "We cannot meet ever-increasing spiritual needs with ever-decreasing resources."

Board members also voted to reorganize the volunteer division in response to increasing involvement of volunteers.

In the reorganization, Don Hammonds, volunteer division director with 26 years of service to the HMB, will be associate vice president for operations and volunteers in the ministry section.

Elmer Goble, who has been associate director of short-term volunteers, will become director of the volunteer projects

## HMB declines to appoint CBF leader

ATLANTA (BP)—The spouse of a newly-appointed home missionary will not be considered for missionary status because of his leadership in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

That decision came during the Home Mission Board's fall board meeting.

Rebecca Waugh was appointed Oct. 13 as church and community ministries director for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association in New York City.

Bob Curtis, chairman of the board's missionary personnel committee, said Waugh met all qualifications for HMB service. "We did not see any reason either theologically or ethically for not appointing her."

Under HMB policies, missionary spouses are also appointed as home missionaries. However, Curtis, a pastor from Ballwin, Mo., reported to the board that his committee declined to consider Waugh's husband, David, because he is a member of the CBF's

national Coordinating Council.

Larry Lewis, HMB president, said he agrees with the board's position that an elected leader with the CBF should not be appointed or approved as an SBC-supported missionary.

"However, there was no logical reason not to appoint Mrs. Waugh since she has no direct involvement with CBF and has expressed strong support for the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program and our agency," Lewis explained. "She appears to be eminently qualified for the position."

Hardy Clemons, CBF moderator and a pastor from Greenville, S.C., said he was astounded by the action. "That is an awfully inconsistent attitude for a group of Baptists to have. People were not denied involvement (in the SBC) because of their involvement in Mid-America Seminary or Criswell College," Clemons stated. "This seems decidedly discriminatory to me."

department to work with volunteers serving less than four months. People serving more than four months will be assigned through the Mission Service Corps department, which Bob Mills will continue to lead.

The short-term volunteer department will be renamed the student missions department and be directed by Mike Roberson. The staff will work with high

school and college students in summer and semester missions.

At the request of the church loans committee, the board approved offering five- and seven-year adjustable rate church loans in addition to three-year adjustable rate loans already available.

The board modified terms of site loans for church property from a three-year to a seven-year balloon note.

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## CP gifts up for month, down for year

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for the 1992-93 SBC fiscal year fell 1.23 percent below the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. The decline was the third straight annual drop in CP gifts.

Total CP gifts for the fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, were \$136,539,729 compared to the previous year's total of \$138,234,734, for a decrease of \$1,695,005. The year-end totals also missed the budget requirement of \$140,200,395, coming in 2.61 percent below budget.

On the positive side, September gifts were above the month for the previous year. "It is encouraging to see the monthly Cooperative Program receipts above the previous year for the third month in a row," Chapman said. "Although the totals

for the past year are down slightly, it appears there is a positive trend which would certainly help the 1993-94 year."

Designated gifts also were up for the month of September, compared to a year ago, with \$1,725,343 received compared to 1992 September of \$1,672,470 which is a 3.16 percent increase. Total designated gifts for the 1992-93 year were \$127,036,370 compared to 1991-92 of \$127,916,369, or a 0.69 percent decrease.

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.

Adding designated and Cooperative Program gifts together for the 1992-93 year, the total of \$263,576,100 compares to the 1991-92 fiscal year of \$266,151,104 or a 0.97 percent decrease in total gifts.

## Soldier shares Christ in Somalia

By Sarah Zimmerman

SBC Home Mission Board

LANDSTUHL, GERMANY (BP)—The testimony of a soldier wounded in Somalia brought an unexpected joy for chaplain Mike Green.

Green has been deputy staff chaplain for Second General Hospital at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Germany since July 15. Soldiers wounded in Somalia were transferred there before returning to the United States.

As Green talks to soldiers, "I try to find out where they are spiritually," he said. Many of the survivors have a deep understanding of God's grace, said Green, who is endorsed by the Home Mission Board's chaplains commission.

One soldier, a Southern Baptist, was in intensive care when he told Green he led

someone to make a profession of faith while in Somalia. The soldier told Green his wounds were only temporary, but leading someone to a decision with eternal consequences made his Somalia duty worthwhile.

As a chaplain, Green is part of a team of social workers and psychiatrists who help soldiers debrief. Generally the soldiers expressed grief and sadness over their traumatic experiences in Somalia, Green said. But the soldiers were extensively trained and are recovering well emotionally, he added.

Chaplains also counseled the hospital's staff who sympathized with the soldiers' sadness, Green said.

"Only God has an objective viewpoint of everything that happens," Green said. "I can help them see that, it helps them resume a sense of normalcy."

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**Robert and Kay Cartwright**, missionaries to Burkina Faso, are in the States (address: 858 Sales Blvd., Abilene, TX 79605). Both consider Bella Vista their hometown. She is the former Kay Goodwin. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

**Ronald and Alana Greenwicz**, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 601 S. Hughes St., Little Rock, AR 72205). Both consider Monticello their hometown. She is the former Alana Ichter. They were appointed in 1983.

**Robert and Cheryl Headrick**, missionaries to Tanzania, are in the States (address: 3225 Kingsbury, Richland Hills, TX 76118). He was born in Hammond, Ind. The former Cheryl Reed, she considers northwest Arkansas her home. They were appointed in 1989.

**Ben and Berdie Hope**, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 3206 S. Harvey St., Oklahoma City, OK 73109). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Grant County and spent most of his youth in North Little Rock. She is the former Berdie Moose of Oklahoma City. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

**Michael and Janice Johnson**, missionaries to Portugal, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Urb. do Alarvesol, Lote 3-6-F, Cabeco de Moch, 8500 Portimao, Portugal). He is a native of Missouri. The former Janice McNeall, daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil, she was born in Little Rock. They were appointed in 1993.

**Howard and Marilyn Kitchens**, missionary associates to Korea, are on the field (address: Baptist Hospital, P.O. Box 76, Pusan 600-600, Korea). He was born in Little Rock. She is the former Marilyn McRae of Alabama. They were appointed in 1985.

**James and Sharon McPherson**, Baptist representatives to Chad, are on the field (address: BP 3330, Dakar, Senegal). He has lived in Texas, New Mexico and California. The former Sharon Hanson, she was born in Bentonville. They were appointed in 1973.

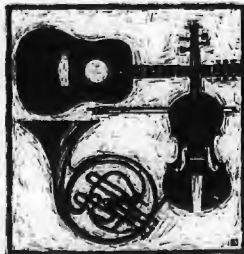
**David and Faith Posey**, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: #30 Yazoo Cir., Maumelle, AR 72113). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Crossett, and she is the former Faith Gray of Russellville. They were appointed in 1989.

**Michael and Rebecca Simpson**, missionaries to Honduras, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado 3588, Olancho, Honduras. He was born in Mena. She is the former Rebecca Tipps of Texas. They were appointed in 1992.

**James and Dena Veazey**, missionaries to Colombia, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado Aereo 2453, Armenia, Quindio, Colombia). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Monticello and considers McGehee his hometown. The former Dena Wilcox, she grew up in Indiana. They were appointed in 1992.

**Lee and Phyllis Walker**, missionaries to Chile, are on the field (address: Casilla 168-29, Santiago, Chile). Born in Texarkana, he considers Little Rock his hometown. She is the former Phyllis Orr of Louisiana. They were appointed in 1982.

**Ronald and Teresa White**, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States (address: 15 Brookview Dr., Little Rock, AR 72209). He is a native of Wynne. The former Teresa Turner, she considers Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed in 1989.



## OZARK CHRISTMAS DEC. 3-5

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## NATION

### SBCNet adds resources, offers reduced rates

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Adult Bible Book Series and youth discipleship supplements are scheduled to be added to SBCNet, the data communications network for Southern Baptists, effective with October lessons.

According to David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator, Adult Bible Book supplements will be posted on Thursdays, 10 days prior to the Sunday the material will be used.

"Instant Imagination," the monthly youth discipleship supplement on SBCNet, will become a weekly offering using the name "DiscipleLife Plus."

SBCNet also will offer a special usage credit to new subscribers from Nov. 1, 1993, through Jan. 31, 1994, resulting in a price break that makes the software kit free and pays the new subscriber \$5.

For the three-month period, the SBCNet kit, which includes software and account information on SBCNet and CompuServe, will provide a \$25 usage credit. The kit sells for \$20.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem and a membership kit distributed by the Sunday School Board. Kits may be ordered by calling 1-800-458-2772. Additional information about SBCNet and CompuServe may be obtained by calling Haywood at 1-800-325-7749, ext. 2895.

A reduction in rates for SBCNet users was announced in August, bringing user cost to a flat rate of \$7.95 monthly, plus CompuServe charges.

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## Convention Uniform

### Trading your birthright

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

Basic passage: Genesis 25:19-34

Focal passage: Genesis 25:19-34

Central truth: Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of stew. We may trade for less.

Twenty years without a child. This was the unhappy state of Isaac and his wife, Rebekah. Unhappy and unfortunate. Rebekah knew the feelings of disgrace and failure. Producing children was the primary objective of wives in the time of the patriarchs. Isaac became worried.

Twenty years without a child. Who would carry on the line? Who would be used of God to father the great nation promised to Isaac's father, Abraham? God is faithful!

Isaac prayed for Rebekah to become pregnant. It happened. The pregnancy became a problem one. She asked: Why? The answer was that she carried twins, twins who contended with each other. Is there a parallel here? How many times have we prayed for renewal, only to find a struggle beginning within us? The struggle is between good and evil. The evil contends for our devotion, especially when we have asked for help giving our devotion to good.

Rebekah's delivery date arrived and the twins were born. Two boys emerged, one with his hand on the heel of the other. That one would be named Jacob, the schemer. The firstborn was Esau.

Great care is given to describing the boys. We can almost see them on the pages of Genesis. Not only is their physical appearance described, their personalities are portrayed as well.

Esau is the one who is captive to impulse. He is the brother whose physical appetites rule his behavior. He is willing to give anything for something to eat. He is ready to exchange the entire future for fleshy satisfaction here and now.

Then there is Jacob. Treacherous and self-serving, crafty, cold-blooded, calculating...all these describe Jacob. He knows his brother well, and he uses that knowledge to betray him.

Don't quickly judge these fellows though. Jacob tricked his brother into trading his birthright for immediate worldly satisfaction. We have done similarly. The difference is that through God's grace we have retained our birthright as His children.

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## Life and Work

### Lost in the fast lane

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

Basic passage: Isaiah 58

Focal passage: Isaiah 58:1-14

Central truth: The priority of worship is to become pleasing to God.

Have you ever found yourself making such "great time" traveling, only to discover that you have forgotten where you were headed? We face the danger of cruise control religion when we climb into the vehicle of worship. In our spiritual life, we may set the standard at attendance and actions. Sometimes, the only way we can get where we need to be is to stop and ask directions.

We are lost in the fast lane when we forget that the priority of worship is for us to become pleasing to God (vv. 1-3). What is wrong with this picture (v. 2)? With such a high commitment, surely they are on the fast track to heaven.

In verse three, however, the problem is revealed. God is not responding because He is not pleased. The people are worshipping the way they want to and exploiting it for what it is worth. They think of worship as getting and doing instead of becoming pleasing to God.

Many are content to remain in a fast lane to nowhere (vv. 4-5). In Matthew 6:16-17, Jesus speaks against such a practice. The problem is that wrong motives put us in the wrong lane. We cannot exit into the presence of God while still in the lane of our own will. God wants us to realize that they are not getting anywhere when our worship is simply a routine duty.

A biblical fast is to abstain from food for a spiritual purpose. It is stopping and asking for directions, rather than just mindlessly rolling along. Isaiah serves up some fast food for those who would seek to be pleasing to God in their worship of Him (vv. 6-14).

The first stop of worship is liberation (vv. 6, 9b, 13a). The second stop of worship is motivation (vv. 7, 10a, 13b). The third stop of worship finds us activated (vv. 8, 10b, 13c). We finally arrive at our destination. God validates our worship with His presence and we delight in the Lord (vv. 9, 14).

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## Bible Book

### Misperceptions on merit

By Maurice L. Hitt, DOM, Red River Association

Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:11

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:11

Central truth: God's purposes guide His ways rather than responding to our righteousness.

Obviously some thought God was dispossessing the Canaanites because of Israel's righteousness. Three times in this passage, Moses declares that it was not the case (9:4-6). The principles in Moses' reply sound very similar to the New Testament understanding of legalism and grace.

1. God was not responding to the merit of Israel but to the wickedness of those in Canaan (9:4). He would remove the Canaanites by using a people God considered stiff-necked and stubborn. The remainder of chapter nine and half of chapter 10 provides a grocery list of evidences of the unrighteous deeds of Israel. From the golden calf at Horeb to Kadesh Barnea, Israel had provoked God. This is a reminder that all have sinned and fallen short of God's righteousness (Rom. 3:23).

2. God was not returning kindness for Israel's uprightness of heart, but keeping His promises (9:5). Our Lord is a covenant-keeping God. He is faithful to His word. God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that the land would belong to their descendants. God was being faithful, and was calling Israel to be faithful to their promises made to Him. This is a reminder that God is truthful and faithful in His word (Heb. 13:8; Isa. 40:8).

3. God was not rewarding righteousness, but simply giving a gift (9:5). Moses explains throughout the passage that God was ready to reward their unfaithfulness to the covenant by destroying Israel. Moses' intercession, Israel's confession and recommitment to the covenant were all that spared Israel. God was gracious in His forgiveness. We must be reminded that it is God's righteousness tempered by holy love and grace that allows God to bless His children (Jonah 4:2b). "By grace are ye saved through faith; not of works lest any man should boast. It is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8-9).

God does not bless us because of our righteousness. Instead only grace prevents Him from destroying us. Our merit of righteousness is as "filthy rags." Christ is our righteousness.

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## Convention Uniform

### *The web of deception*

By Robert U. Ferguson, retired,  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Basic passage: Genesis 27

Focal passage: Genesis 27:1-20

Central truth: Deception is the root of many problems.

Lies and deception have been the source from which many human problems develop. It is difficult to remember what one has told if what has been told is a deception of the actual facts. One deception demands another.

Rebekah, jealous for Jacob, her favorite second-born twin, is the source of this deception, and Esau, her first-born twin is the loser. She alerts Jacob to his father's plan to bless Esau as the heir apparent and leader of the family. Jacob, willing participant, eagerly cooperates and deceives his father into thinking he is Esau.

Isaac, old and feeble, is deceived and blesses Jacob with the family leadership, which includes the spiritual mantle from Jehovah. We must note that Jacob adds a further dimension to the deception by telling Isaac that he was able to quickly secure the game used in the meal because "the Lord, your God caused it to happen" (v. 20).

One might say that "Jacob was quite a rascal," and he was. But he was not more dishonest than people today who blame their meanness on the devil, "who made me do it," or flippantly remark, "It was God's will."

We must note that the Scriptures assign the devilish deed to Rebekah and Jacob. Evil does not arise from the earth or dumb animals. It arises from the cunning of mankind as we seek advantage over others! We fuss about sneaky politicians, and we should. But we should also fuss about sneaky church leaders when they conspire together to get advantage through devious means. How can God's work grow when the planners are less than honest? Is it permissible to act with deception when one seeks to achieve what is called "God's will"? Is it possible to be successful in such manner? My reading of history says it is not possible. The tangled web of deception drags all participants down, in time! We dare not expect God's blessings on deceptive practices.

## Life and Work

### *The lesson you teach*

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

Basic passage: Isaiah 7:1-9:7

Focal passage: Isaiah 8:18

Central truth: We teach our family about faith by the way we live out our faith.

We commit more than just ourselves when we respond to the Lord's call by saying, "Here am I." Isaiah was more than just a prophet. He was a father. In Isaiah 8:18, the prophet puts our responsibility into perspective by saying, "Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me." Our commitment of faith to serve Yahweh affects our family. It is important that we teach them about the faith by living out our faith.

In the midst of crisis (7:1-9), the Lord instructed Isaiah to teach his son about faith by including him in the situation (7:3). When crisis comes, we often try to shield our family from it, but God includes them. It is one thing to teach a king about faith (v. 9), and quite another to live it out in front of our family. The most important lesson you will teach is the life of faith your family witnesses.

Isaiah states that his family serves as "signs and symbols" in the midst of their world (8:18). Isaiah's children were walking sermons. Their very names prophesied. The Lord offered King Ahaz a confirming sign of His word. However, the king refused it (7:10-12). How often have you witnessed those who hide behind piety, refusing to read the truth of the signs? Piety that misses the point is a warning sign.

Showing your family how to read the signs and "be" the signs is also part of the most important lesson you will teach. For what does it profit a man if he teaches the whole world and yet his own family flunks?

The most important lesson you will teach comes from the most important lesson you can learn. The hope for our children is found in The Child (9:6). The sign which was offered to Ahaz (7:13-14) is still offered to all who are willing to learn the lesson. The most important lesson is that Jesus is the hope for our family.

## Bible Book

### *Covenant requirements*

By Maurice L. Hitt, DOM, Red River  
Association

Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 10:11-

11:32

Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 10:11-

11:32

Central truth: God calls His covenant people to responsible living.

Israel's righteousness had not merited the land as a gift (9:46), but God called them to live responsibly in that promised land by keeping the covenant. Moses asked a question concerning the covenant requirements from God (10:12). The answers are given throughout the passage.

1. God's covenant requirements include "to fear the Lord" and "to walk in His ways." To fear the Lord is to rightly respect and regard God. This is not a gnawing dread, but a sober respect for God. It means to take seriously God in all His attributes, words and actions. Fearing God is expressed by walking in His ways or ordering one's behavior according to our understanding of God. Behaving in a Christ-like manner indicates an attitude of deep respect for God.

2. God requires His people to love Him and to serve Him with all their heart (10:12; 11:1, 13). We love God by devoting ourselves to Him, to His priorities such as knowing, teaching and living His Word (Deut. 6:4-9). Keeping His commands and statutes (10:13; 11:1) is not promoting legalism. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). To love God is to know Him, what He desires, and to serve Him through obedience.

3. God also requires His people to cleave unto Him and to swear by His name (10:20; 11:22). To cleave to God means to cling closely and stick by Him. Certainly fellowship and close friendship is meant, along with walking near to the one who can lead and protect. To swear by His name must be seen in light of the third commandment (5:11), which prohibits empty usage of God's name. Therefore, it must be understood as speaking sincerely of God. Perhaps this verse expresses it well: "He is thy praise and He is thy God that hath done for thee these great and terrible things which thine eyes have seen" (10:21).

These three pairs of requirements indicate action and attitude are two expressions of a person's real commitment to Christ.



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## NEWS DIGEST

### Florida Baptists closing Andrew relief operations

JACKSONVILLE, FL (BP)—After a full year in operation, the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief center in Florida City is being dismantled.

The decision to shut down the operation Nov. 1 was precipitated by the depletion of financial resources and the significant reduction of volunteer laborers who have been diverted to other disaster needs in the Midwest and elsewhere.

Arrangements have been made with the Miami Baptist Association to coordinate commitments for further repair of private homes.

John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, called the response by Southern Baptists during the aftermath of the hurricane "phenomenal" both in the commitment of volunteer relief workers, donated supplies and more than \$3.2 million in financial assistance.

### Gambling opponents form new national coalition

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS (BP)—The wave of gambling fever that seems to be overtaking the country has prompted the birth of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

Anti-gambling forces from across the country gathered at the behest of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission to organize a solid front against the rush to legalize gambling in virtually all areas of the United States.

A steering committee of the new coalition will meet Nov. 1 to formalize a point of contact for other anti-gambling groups, inviting them to join the coalition, provide a clearinghouse of materials and to discuss further meetings to address different ways gambling is being pushed across the country. The coalition scheduled its next annual meeting Sept. 22-23, 1994, at Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

### Fagan to retire as head of Stewardship Commission

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—A.R. Fagan, president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission for 20 years, will retire effective Sept. 30, 1994.

As president of the Stewardship Commission he led the task force that named the denomination's "Bold Mission Thrust" emphasis and "Planned Growth in Giving." He is author of the book *What the Bible Says about Stewardship*, as well as numerous *Baptist Program* articles.

In making the announcement, Roy Moody, chairman of the Stewardship Commission, praised Fagan's leadership.

Moody said anyone wishing to suggest a nominee for Fagan's successor should send recommendations to him at 5410 W. Seventh Street, Topeka, KS 66606.

### Walker unanimously elected BJCPA general counsel

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The board of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs unanimously elected Brent Walker as general counsel Oct. 4.

Walker, BJCPA associate general counsel since 1989, will succeed Oliver Thomas, who resigned to return to his native Tennessee. Walker, 43, officially will begin his new duties Nov. 1.

"His training in both theology and law and his experience with the BJCPA prompted our board to elect him unanimously to this position by promotion without serious consideration of an extensive search process," noted BJCPA executive director James Dunn.

Walker came to the BJCPA staff after earning the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he was named the most outstanding graduate. Prior to seminary, Walker was a partner in a Florida law firm. He also holds degrees from Stetson University College of Law and the University of Florida.

### Bob Allen elected Associated Baptist Press associate

JACKSONVILLE, FL (ABP) — Bob Allen, editor of *The Baptist True Union*, has been named associate executive editor of Associated Baptist Press.

Allen, 37, has been editor of the *True Union*, newsjournal of the Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware, since 1988. He will join the staff of Associated Baptist Press Nov. 1, handling editing, writing and administrative duties.

Allen is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. During seminary he held internships at two Baptist newspapers — the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and the *Western Recorder* of Kentucky. He went to the *Baptist True Union* in 1985 as associate editor and was elected editor three years later. He and his wife, the former Vicki Johnston of Little Rock, have two children.