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October 22, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



Honeycutt to retire

Page 20

Volume 91, Number 22

October 22, 1992

COVER STORY

Where the AK-47 rules

Page 18

Churches approach Halloween with evangelism

Page 6

Harmony Association celebrates 25th

Page 14

Arkansas continues relief efforts

Page 16



ABN Digest

Breakthrough project targets 14,000 churches in third phase

NASHVILLE (BP)—More than 3,000 churches have begun customized growth projects through Great Commission Breakthrough, but that number is expected to swell to 14,000 by September 1995, according to planners at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Great Commission Breakthrough provides individualized growth planning, training and consultation focused on developing the Sunday school, said Art Burcham, manager of the church growth projects section in the church growth-Sunday school division. During the pilot and training phases, 2,250 consultants have been trained, Burcham said.

SBC Cooperative Program ends year slightly below budget

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts finished fiscal year 1991-92 slightly below budget needs as well as below the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Chapman said the funds received by the Executive Committee for 1991-92 totaled \$138,234,734 compared to the budget goal of \$140,710,282 or 98.24 percent of the budget goal. The 1991-92 receipts also are 1.40 percent or \$1,965,659 below the previous year's receipts of \$140,200,394.

The September 1992 receipts totaled \$10,392,118 compared to that month in 1991 of \$10,800,923 or a decrease of \$408,804 (3.78 percent). The monthly basic operating budget requirement for that fiscal year was \$11,725,856.

A brighter spot in the year's report was designated gifts received by the Executive Committee. For the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, designated gifts totaled \$127,916,369 compared to the previous year of \$124,181,625 or a 3.01 percent increase.

Summer missionaries report increased professions of faith

ATLANTA (BP)—The number of professions of faith reported by Southern Baptist summer missionaries has exceeded last year's total by more than 480. Home Mission Board statistics will not be final until Jan. 1. However, summer missionaries reported 3,528 professions of faith before Sept. 15. That compares to 3,044 in 1991.

Gregory resignation 'firm' from First Baptist, Dallas

DALLAS (BP)—First Baptist Church of Dallas, the Southern Baptist Convention's largest congregation, will begin searching for a new pastor, according to a church spokesman, after an Oct. 7 meeting between Joel Gregory, who unexpectedly resigned the pulpit a week earlier, and two deacon officials.

"He (Gregory) did not ask that his resignation be reconsidered, nor did the deacon leadership ask Dr. Gregory to reconsider or return as pastor," said church spokesman Ron Harris in a press release about the Oct. 7 meeting with Gregory and his wife, Linda, and Bo Sexton, chairman of First Baptist's deacons, and David Wicker, vice chairman.

SBC, BJC agree to discuss \$300,000 in disputed funds

WASHINGTON (BP)—The fate of a \$300,000 building fund will hang in limbo while representatives from the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs engage in talks aiming to sidestep a court spectacle. During their annual meeting Oct. 5 in Washington, BJC members agreed to postpone deciding how to recover the money from the SBC—or whether to try. They also voted to allow their executive committee to accept or reject the outcome of any dialogue with the SBC about the money.

BSSB names Florida man to ethnic ministry post

NASHVILLE (BP)—Ramon Martinez has been employed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to coordinate church development work among ethnic groups.

Martinez, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's ethnic education department since 1983, will become ethnic and black coordinator for the board Nov. 15. He is a native of Cuba.

In his new role, Martinez will coordinate the work of three sections: Hispanic church development, language church development (which includes Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese and several other language groups) and black church development.

Cover Story

(BP) photo / Joe Clark



Where AK-47 rules 18

A Somali mother and her deaf-mute child join thousands of other refugees from Somalia crowding an isolated camp in Mandera, Kenya. Southern Baptist missionaries and Kenyan Baptists are helping meet needs of the refugees, who have fled a country being destroyed by civil war, anarchy, and starvation.

Also inside

Speak Up

You'll Be Glad to Know.....4

Faith at Work

Churches approach Halloween.....6

Local & State

Arkansas All Over.....8

Grannis celebrates 100.....9

Newport First 100th.....10

College Digest.....13

Harmony celebrates 75th.....14

Arkansas continues relief efforts.....16

Nation

Honeycutt announces retirement.....20

Lessons.....21-22

World

FMB search reportedly narrowed.....23

Escaping the grip of war.....24

Next issue: Nov. 5

Who is Trennis Henderson?

by Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for," declares one of my favorite inspirational posters.

Change is seldom easy. It often generates more questions than answers. It's safer to stay in the harbor.

As Christians, however, we all know the overwhelming sense of peace that comes from seeking and following God's will — even when that means tremendous change.

Accepting the unanimous call of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* board of directors, I have joined Arkansas Baptists on a new and exciting voyage as editor of this publication. It means uprooting my family and leaving behind the familiar and comfortable, but it also means launching a new ministry endeavor in response to God's clear direction and leadership.

I know our readers may have many questions: Who is Trennis Henderson and what are his qualifications? Will he represent our views? How will the *Newsmagazine* change under his leadership?

First of all, I am a Christian journalist by calling and by choice. Both words — "Christian" and "journalist" — are essential in describing my personal and professional pilgrimage.

As a Christian, I joyfully proclaim my personal faith in Jesus Christ. He has been my Savior and Lord for more than 25 years, constantly proving Himself as "a friend who sticketh closer than a brother."

My faith in Christ is nurtured and strengthened by my love for God's Holy Word. Article 1 of the Baptist Faith and Message statement eloquently describes the Bible as "a per-



fect treasure of divine instruction." It is the Bible which revealed to me God's grace and love and which continues to provide daily counsel and encouragement.

As a journalist, I am committed to objective, balanced, fair reporting. Those three terms may appear synonymous at first glance, but each one plays a distinct role in professional journalism.

Objectivity involves factual reporting without injecting the reporter's personal bias. Balance requires openly reporting diverse views. Fairness includes personalizing Christ's instruction in Luke 6:31 to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The one place in the *Newsmagazine* where the editor's personal views should take precedence is on this page. My job description provides the editor "freedom to express his views in the editorial columns of the paper concerning matters of importance to Baptists." Just as I am committed to professional journalistic standards, I am equally committed to editorial freedom and to the importance of a fully informed constituency.

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* must not and will not represent only one faction or viewpoint. For the *Newsmagazine* to effectively serve any

Arkansas Baptists, it must fairly serve all Arkansas Baptists. That is my pledge to you.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good for the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers," Ephesians 4:29 urges. I have sought to live daily by that principle during a decade of serving as managing editor of Missouri Baptists' *Word & Way*. I will continue that effort here

For the Newsmagazine to effectively serve any Arkansas Baptists, it must fairly serve all Arkansas Baptists.

in Arkansas.

Is it possible for a Southern Baptist journalist to produce objective, balanced, fair news reports? Yes. Will I always succeed? No. I know I will occasionally fall short of my goals. I invite your input, whether words of encouragement or words of correction offered in Christian love.

Please pray for me, for the *Newsmagazine* staff and for God's work among Arkansas Baptists. Together, we can sail out of the safety of the harbor and strive to become all God intends.

Arkansas Baptist

Trennis Henderson.....Editor
 Millie Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
 Paige Cooper.....Operations Manager

Colleen Backus.....Production Manager
 Diane Fowler.....Production Artist (part-time)
 Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D.Editor Emeritus

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

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

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

There is an urgency that I feel about several matters that I would like to address at length. The best that I can do is highlight them briefly.



First, our annual convention is very near at hand. The four sessions are on Nov. 10-11 with related meetings conducted on Nov. 9. Great attendance is essential to a growing and healthy convention.

Second, the general election is near at hand. Every election seems to trumpet the call for Christians to be prepared to cast votes consistent with their spiritual beliefs. If your beliefs do not affect your behavior in the voting booth, your beliefs are shoddy. Register to vote! Vote! Vote the mind of Christ!

Third, praise God for our collective efforts in Disaster Relief. Southern Baptists have reached a new high in public appreciation as our Baptist Men's Disaster Relief units have done so much in the aftermath of hurricane Andrew. Our Arkansas Baptist men did their part. Our hats are off to you. Join us in prayer that funds could be found to replace our 1967 bus. It is about to become the disaster.

Fourth, October is Cooperative Program month. Pastors have received material to help them lead the churches to observe this month. Why should such an effort be made? Because the Cooperative Program is the life blood of history's greatest Christian missions movement. Americans have been giving less and less to their churches. A 23-year trend has seen a decline to only 2.60 percent of their income being given to their churches. The worst drop was from 1985 to 1990. During that period personal income increased 11 percent, per capita giving only increased three (3) percent. Whatever happened to the biblical injunction to tithe (10 percent)?

Beside individuals keeping more of their income, churches are doing the same. The amount Southern Baptist churches pass on to missions through the Cooperative Program has declined from 10.1 percent of their total gifts in 1960 to 7.7 percent of total gifts in 1991.

For the first time in 59 years, Cooperative Program receipts have decreased for two consecutive years. Yes, you and your church need to have a Cooperative Program emphasis.

If you think the future will take care of itself, think again.

Increasing the number of missionaries serving and countries served—in the future—depends on what your church gives through the Cooperative Program.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR PRESCHOOL CHILD CARE

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

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

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Nov. 9-11, 1992. Pre-registration for babies through five year olds is necessary in order to provide quality care with a planned program for pre-schoolers. No child care will be provided for school-age children at any session. Please fill out the registration form below and mail immediately.

Note: Children will need to be picked-up during the breaks for meals. Child care will only be provided during the session listed below.

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please circle sessions needed:

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 11 Morning 8:15-11:50

Mail to: Lois Grafton, South Side Baptist Church,
 2309 Poplar Pine Bluff, AR 71601



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THE TIME HAS COME to say it bluntly: The Living Bible is the clearest and most understandable text in the English language. Thirty-seven million readers have discovered that it can change their lives. It can also change daily Bible reading from a discipline to a joy. If you don't have a copy for yourself or your children (or grandchildren), get one!

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For years I have been blessed by using The Living Bible in my teaching. It is "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

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First Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas



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Dr. Billy Graham
International Evangelist



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Herschel H. Hobbs
Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



The Living Bible puts the Word of God into the popular language of everyday life. It is in the language of the people. Only eternity will reveal the impact of The Living Bible on the spiritual life of our nation. I commend it to you as a valuable tool in Bible study.

Joel C. Gregory
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas



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Frank Pollard
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Jackson, Mississippi

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Western states call 1-800-677-7797

Churches approach Halloween with evangelism in mind

by Sarah Zimmerman

SEC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—People will have the opportunity to meet the devil this month at Life Line Baptist Church in Little Rock.

The congregation is among a growing number of churches which see Halloween as an opportunity instead of a curse, said Thad Hamilton, associate director of mass evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

"I don't believe Jesus would be hiding in a church building on Halloween," Hamilton said. "We've got to provide something positive for the community because we have the responsibility to be salt and light."

The Satan people meet at Life Line is dressed in white tails with a handful of money and keys to a Cadillac, said Leslie Willis, minister of music.

People follow this character to a room where a black light makes packing bubbles painted fluorescent orange look like hell's fiery coals. Volunteers portraying biblical characters such as the rich man who rejected Jesus and modern people who reject Christ share their testimonies.

Spectators are then led upstairs where a cross sits on the landing between floors. The pastor explains that the only way to heaven is through Calvary.

From there, the group goes to a room with plants, "streets of gold" and people singing and sharing their Christian testimonies.

Last year, Willis said 2,300 people came through the Hereafter House in four nights, and more than 100 people made professions of faith.

Life Line borrowed the idea from First Baptist Church in Bentonville. Though the Bentonville church is not doing a Hereafter House this year, church treasurer Cheryl Webb said it was one of the church's most successful evangelistic tools.

"We even heard of adults being saved a year after they went through Hereafter House," Webb said. "The best revival we ever had was about 10 days after a Hereafter House because it made such an impression."

First Baptist Church of Trussville, Ala., uses a similar approach with its "Judgment House." People who attend are introduced to two characters whose death is simulated, said Tom Hudgins, youth and music minister.

Each year the fabricated cause of death

is changed to give the event variety. Last year the people were "killed" in a fire. This year it's a car wreck.

Participants follow one of the characters to Sunday school rooms decorated to reflect the punishment of hell. From there, participants move to another room with the second character who goes to heaven.

After the heaven scene, an evangelist shares the plan of salvation. Last year 2,500 people attended "Judgment House," and 248 people made professions of faith, Hudgins said.

The event is not without critics. One year Hudgins received an anonymous letter complaining that the church went to extremes to present the gospel. He responds: "If we sit around and sing 'Precious Memories,' we're not going to reach the youth in this decade."

First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., hosts an elaborate outdoor production called the "Chilling Fields" which portrays scenes from Revelations.

Hutch Matteson, minister to students, said one of his biggest challenges this month is learning to make people disappear for the rapture scene.

After the program, people are taken to a tent where the plan of salvation is explained. Last year 10,000 people went through the "Chilling Fields" in seven days, and 600 registered professions of faith, Matteson said.

"We make use of the fact that the world celebrates Halloween, and we give them something to really celebrate," Matteson said.

Other churches prefer a different approach. Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga., for example, transforms its Sunday school classrooms into game rooms where people pin the tail on Balaam's donkey, fish for Jonah's whale and name that tune with gospel songs.

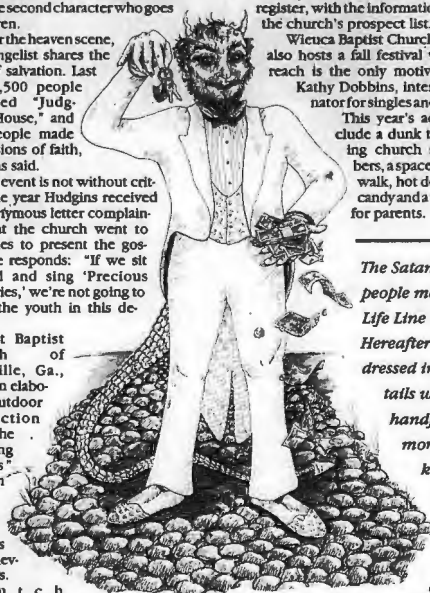
The fall festival includes a hay ride around the church property and face painting, said Billy Britt, associate pastor and education director.

Everyone who attends is asked to register, with the information added to the church's prospect list.

Wieuca Baptist Church in Atlanta also hosts a fall festival where outreach is the only motivation, said Kathy Dobbins, interim coordinator for singles and activities.

This year's activities include a dunk tank featuring church staff members, a space walk, cake walk, hot dogs, cotton candy and a resting area for parents.

The Satan that people meet at Life Line Church's Hereafter House is dressed in white tails with a handful of money and keys to a Cadillac.



"We want to let the community know we're

here and that this is a place where the whole family can come," Dobbins said. Hamilton stressed the need for a variety of approaches to Halloween activities. "If some people won't go to one kind, they'll go to another." Being unique, he said, is essential to a successful special event.

For information about using special events for an evangelistic emphasis, contact Hamilton at the Home Mission Board, (404) 898-7590 or 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

Illustration / Diane Fowler

Across the Southern Baptist Convention Families Are Telling Us They Want Affordable Medical Coverage.

Now, more than ever, the Annuity Board is committed to offering you affordable medical coverage and **NEW** options.

Here's how we are responding to your requests.

Step 1. Control Costs

There is no rate increase in the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan for the first six months of 1993. This good news is possible because of improvement in recent claims experience that allowed the Board to avoid a rate increase for the first time in several years. With your help, we are making progress.

Step 2. Offer New Medical Plans

In January the Annuity Board expands its health coverage with two **NEW catastrophic plans**. These catastrophic medical plans can help lower the cost of medical rates while still protecting pastors and church staff members against disastrous medical bills.

You can obtain information on the Catastrophic 1000 and Catastrophic 2500 plans by calling the Annuity Board's toll-free number, **1-800-262-0511**, or you may contact your state annuity representative.



Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Clayburn Bratton retired Sept. 6 as pastor of Trinity Church, Alma, following three years of service.

Steve Kelfer is serving as pastor of Old Union Church, Benton.

Roy Buckelew is serving as interim pastor of Third Church, Malvern.

Sidney Jackson of Searcy has joined the staff of Grace Church in Augusta as youth director.

Glenda Jenkins has resigned as children's and youth ministry coordinator at First Church of Glenwood.

Rick Caldwell will return to the staff of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock Nov. 1 as associate pastor.

Dave Hughey will join the staff of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock Oct. 26 as minister to youth, coming there from Pine Bluff.

Gary Ulrich has resigned as bi-vocational pastor of Calvary Church in Searcy, following nine years of service.

Bill Baldrige, pastor of First Church of Kingsland, has completed a series of 16 courses and earned the Diploma in Biblical Studies from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute, the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Rusty Branson has resigned as pastor of Humphrey Church to serve as executive director of In Step Ministries, a youth evangelistic association headquartered in Memphis, Tenn.

Joe Angel retired Oct. 1 as minister of business for Second Church of Hot Springs, following seven years of service.

James Burleson, who has been serving as part-time minister of music, joined the staff of First Church of Maumelle Sept. 28 as full-time minister of music and education.

Mark W. Walker of Smackover died Sept. 28 at age 39. His funeral services were held Oct. 1 at Maple Avenue Church in Smackover where he served as minister of music and education. Survivors are his wife, Melody Sharp Walker; a son, Marcus Warren Walker, Jr. of Winona, Miss.; a

daughter, Lisa Michelle Walker of Winona, Miss.; his mother, Estella Mae Shepherd of Fairhope, Ala.; a brother; and two sisters. Memorials may be made to the church's music fund, the American Heart Association, or the Southern Arkansas University Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team, Magnolia.

David Preston, who has been serving as youth minister and associate pastor of Maple Avenue Church in Smackover, has been called as full-time pastor.

Henry Magee is serving as pastor of Reynolds Memorial Church in Little Rock, coming there from a pastorate at First Church of Ola.

Jerry Mayer has joined the staff of First Southern Central Church, Lavaca, as minister to youth.

Ron Sanders, vice-president for development at Williams Baptist College, is serving as interim pastor of First Church, Pochontas.

Dave Reddoch is serving as pastor of First Church of Gillett, coming there from Gethsemane Church in North Little Rock where he had been serving as associate pastor.

Max Deaton of Little Rock is serving as pastor of Easterwood Mission.

Ruston Morecraft will join the staff of First Church of Marvell this month as minister of youth and music. He is a graduate of Lakeland Community College, Mattoon, Mo., and Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. He has served as a church staff member in both Missouri and Illinois. Morecraft and his wife, Libby, have two sons, Lane, and Drew.

Ila Byrd was honored Oct. 4 by South Highland Church in Little Rock in recognition of her 54 years of service as church clerk.

John Horne observed five years of service Oct. 11 as pastor of South Side Church in Fort Smith when the congregation honored him with a reception following the evening worship service.

Bernard Ford, who previously served as pastor of Mount Tabor Church, is now available to preach or serve as a pulpit supply. He may be contacted at 1013 Mineral Street, Hot Springs, AR 71901; telephone 501-623-8125.

ABR photo / Millie Gill



Ruston First Church of North Little Rock burned a \$18,000 family life center secondary note Oct. 4 as the result of a special offering collected January-September. Participating in the service were (left to right) Bob Tobey, Rickey Stone, Duwayne Thomas, and Pastor Gary Wise.

Briefly

Cedarville Church dedicated a new sanctuary, fellowship hall, and children's church facility Sept. 13. Those participating in the program were Kenneth McClendon, Woody White, Tommy Townsend and Day Spring, Pastor David Hutsell, George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Leroy Rogers, Grady Glass, and Ronnie Dye.

Dover First Church will observe homecoming Oct. 25 with an 11 a.m. worship service, noon meal, and afternoon hymn sing. Speakers will include Pastor Jeff Paxton and Former Pastor Don Hankins.

England First Church will ordain Joe Adams, Tom Anderson, Tony Frizzell, David Luebke, and Luchen Walls Jr. to the deacon ministry Oct. 25.

Bono Church, Damascus, observed its 75th anniversary Oct. 18 with a noon meal, followed by a 1:30 service that featured testimonies from former pastors and

Lecil O. Lawson, director of missions for Faulkner Association. A reception concluded activities.

Crow Mountain Church, Russellville, celebrated its first anniversary Sept. 27 by breaking ground for a 12,384 square foot building which will contain the sanctuary, education building, fellowship hall, and kitchen. Lehman Webb of Little Rock was speaker. Al Sparkman is pastor.

Havana Church ordained Associate Pastor Charles E. Bird to the ministry Sept. 27. Participating in the service were Jack McKinnon, Bob Parsley, and Bill Storts.

Grannis celebrates 100th anniversary

Grannis Church, believed to have been organized as the Mount Pleasant Missionary Church, observed 100 years of service Sept. 26-27. Even though records are very sketchy, they show the early church began as a "quarter-time church," with a

preacher coming once a month, preaching on Saturday night, Sunday morning, and Sunday night.

The Grannis Church was officially organized in 1892 with people from the missionary church, and in that same year associational records show one person was received by baptism, one by letter, and that one was excluded (in those days discipline was often swift and effective for a member believed to be demonstrating sinful practice). The church was meeting on the third Sunday of the month for worship at this time.

Membership in 1992 totals 130. James Taylor is now serving as pastor of the congregation which, in its history, has had 47 pastors and three interim pastors.

Though the Grannis Church membership has never been large, members have always been faithful in promoting Southern Baptist and Arkansas Baptist State Convention programs, including Sunday School study courses, the provision of Sunday School literature for members serving with the armed forces, Annuity benefits for pastors, and increased giving to the Cooperative Program, to associational missions, and to Arkansas Baptist Children's Home, Monticello. Records even reveal when the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine was designated as a budget item for every resident family.

The congregation has always ministered to others, including victims of tornado damage, language missions groups, and shut-ins, as well as members and pastors who had special needs.

The anniversary celebration program featured Larry Webb and Dillard Miller as speakers, and a chalk talk given by Thomas Zachary. Activities included potluck meals, recreation, Sunday School, morning worship, an ice cream fellowship, and special music.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Twin Lakes constitutes - Pastor Jamie Powell and his wife, Traci, were the first to become charter members when Twin Lakes Chapel, Hot Springs, was constituted as an autonomous Southern Baptist Church with 32 charter members Sept. 27. Gene Ellis, director of missions for Garland County Association, served as constitutional council moderator, presenting both a brief history of the chapel and the constitutional recommendation. Barry King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, the sponsoring congregation, moderated the organizational meeting that included his church's constitutional recommendation brought by Bill Heaton, the election of Powell as pastor, and the election of church officers, committees, teachers, and helpers, the adoption of a budget, and voting to petition for membership into Garland County Association, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. ABSG Executive Director Don Moore was speaker for the worship hour that included the collection of a special Cooperative Program offering, music by the Grand Avenue choir, and prayer led by Martin Collier.

Camping facilities at Pine Bluff Convention Center Nov. 9-11

On-site camping facilities will be available for messengers at the Pine Bluff Convention Center during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention on Nov. 9-11. The center has parking spaces for more than 100 recreational vehicles in a new parking area located at the back of the center. The space is equipped with water, electricity and restrooms. Reservations are to be made through the Pine Bluff Convention Center, telephone 536-7600.

Newport First 100th

by Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

Five hundred people were present Oct. 11 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of First Church in Newport, a congregation founded by 10 charter members in October 1892.

A crisp, beautiful fall day added to the celebration spirit as members and guest, prior to the worship hour, met in the church's court yard to release hundreds of birthday balloons and sing "Happy Birthday."

Though the early founders had to first meet in buildings owned by other denominations prior to building a Sunday School room in 1901, today's church property includes a sanctuary, educational building, day care center, and a recently constructed parsonage.

The Newport church has always cooperated in Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention efforts, with the first ABSC messenger being elected in the 1892 organizational meeting.

Records clearly indicate missions and evangelism have been top priorities. In its 100 years, missions, now constituted churches, were organized at Diaz, Jacksonport, Campbell Station, Southside in Newport, in the Island Community, and in north Newport.

It was reported in the centennial service that since 1950 more than 1,100 have been baptized as the result of evangelistic efforts, and that more than \$1 million has been given to mission causes.

The church today has many ministries with A. Timothy Hight, pastor, responsible for the Christian growth of the members and guests through the pulpit ministry. Doug Moore, minister of music, directs the music ministry that includes grade level children's choirs, the sanctuary choir, and a senior adult choir.

The education ministry is led by Bob Fielding, associate pastor, and the youth ministry is directed by Trent Griffith, the newest staff member. There are more than 150 volunteers who assist the staff with the many ministry opportunities, in-



Myrtle Gaddy, a member of Newport First Church since 1919, received special recognition from Pastor A. Timothy Hight as a part of the centennial celebration.

cluding continual evangelism training and organized visitation.

Anniversary activities included a Saturday evening concert, Sunday School, a celebration worship service, a luncheon at the local school cafeteria, and an afternoon reception. Senior adults also sponsored a memorabilia display.

Dr. Hight opened the celebration service with prayer. He also recognized guests that included former pastors Gene Crawley of Texarkana, Texas; Leslie Rihard of Owensboro, Ky.; a former staff member,

Bill Huddleston of Batesville; and Norman Lewis, director of missions for Black River Association.

Special recognition was given to Myrtle Gaddy, a member since 1919.

Jack Kwok, ABSC Director of Cooperative Ministries, was speaker. "Press Toward the Mark," was the topic of his message taken from Philippians 3:12-14. He challenged members to continue in their efforts of winning the lost to Christ.

New BSU director at Rich Mountain

Sherry Baker is the new Baptist Student Union director at Rich Mountain Community College in Mena. She is from Missouri and is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She also is currently a business professor at RMCC.

Baker and her husband Charles, have two children, Betsy and Carrie. She is treasurer of Dallas Avenue Church and serves on the Finance Committee.



Sherry Baker

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Morton Church dedicates sanctuary - Morton Church, a member of Tri-County Association, celebrated the dedication of a new sanctuary with a noteburning Oct. 4. Participating in the service were Former Pastors Charles Mays and George Fink. Igniting the note were Odena Jones, a charter member since 1936, and Pastor Ray D. Davis. Others pictured are Rose Hall, Dolly Knight, Lucille Everett, Marie Coley, Winnie McNeely, Grace Gaines, Pauline Shue, Doyle Tyer, and Gerald Meredith.



Waldron Church recognizes Plummer - First Church of Waldron observed Ivan Plummer Day Oct. 4 in recognition of his 42 years of service as chairman of deacons and 20 years of service as Sunday School director. Nelson Wilhelm, director of missions for Concord Association and a former pastor, was speaker, sharing words of appreciation for Plummer's support, work, and examples of Christian service. Pastor Randall Hogan presented Plummer, age 80, with a plaque on behalf of the congregation, and presented Mrs. Plummer with flowers and a book. Plummer, who is retiring from these positions, said, "I am not retiring from serving the Lord, I am just making room for someone else to serve in these positions of leadership."

A.B.R.E.A.*

November 9, 1992
Immanuel Baptist Church
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Theme: "Growing Churches"
Speaker: Dr. Ken Hemphill,
 Director of Church Growth,
 Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia
Schedule: 12:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
 (Banquet begins at 5:00 p.m.)
Registration fee: \$15
 (membership dues and banquet)
\$6-banquet for spouse

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Photo / Angela Lowe



PKs squeezed the fun into a retreat at Spring Lake Camp in Lonsdale.

PK '92

Thirty-five "pastors' kids" (ages 12-17), from throughout the state were present for the third annual PK Retreat held Sept. 25-26 at Spring Lake Camp, Lonsdale.

The group, representing 26 churches and 15 associations, were guests of the Administrative Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Executive Director Don Moore launched this event after receiving teenager's letter requesting a planned program for PKs.

"Pretty Crazy Weekend," was the theme for the 1992 retreat for which Jim Minton of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was speaker. Minton, a professor, counselor, father, and PK, urged the teenagers to keep their focus on Christ and to love their family, of which they were an important part.

Small group sessions, led by students Jennifer Reece; Terri Sherman, David Deahl, and Randy Varnell were also a part of the weekend, as well as music and recreational activities led by Varnell, a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Members of the ABSC PK committee

are March Gibson of Jacksonville, Pat Reece of Mayflower, and Pat Batchelor of North Little Rock and ABSC staff members Angela Lowe, 1992 coordinator, Bill Falkner, Larry Sherman, Randy Brantley, Glen Ennes, and Glen McGriff, assisted by Joyce Thomas.

Monticello home needs 'Apples' for students

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello has again begun collecting Harvest Food receipts for the 1992-93 "Apples for the Students" Program. These receipts are redeemed for computers and recreational equipment to help meet the needs of those who have been entrusted to the care of Arkansas Southern Baptists. Receipts, dated on or after Sept. 15, 1992, may be mailed to: Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, c/o Kim Bussell, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655.

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College Digest

Williams Baptist College

WBC enrollment hits 23-year high — The fall on-campus enrollment at Williams hit a 23-year high as figures reached 612, announced Jerol Swaim, WBC executive vice-president and academic dean. The college will award more than \$520,000 in various student scholarships during the 1992-93 academic year.

History professor awarded grant — Duane Bolling, WBC assistant professor of history, has been awarded a \$3,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to study the writings of James Madison. The grant will provide funding for six weeks of extensive study at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., next summer.

Fosters establish trust fund — Jake and Betty Foster of Pocahontas recently established a \$100,000 trust fund for the future needs of Williams Baptist College. The Fosters owned the IGA grocery store in Pocahontas for 10 years and are currently engaged in the poultry industry in Randolph County.

Ouachita Baptist University Enrollment shows slight increase — Ouachita Baptist University enrollment fig-

ures are up for the 1992 fall semester, according to registrar Mike Kolb. Fall enrollment is 1,296, up slightly from 1,289 students a year ago. A total of 398 freshmen have registered for class, in addition to 296 in the sophomore class, 270 in the junior class and 262 in the senior class.

Pastors' Conference — The Center for Christian Ministries at OBU is sponsoring a Pastors' Conference Oct. 29-30 with a theme surrounding the Sermon On The Mount. The conference director is Bill Steeger, the W.O. Vaught Professor of Bible and chairman of the OBU department of religion and philosophy. For more information, call 246-5599.

Ouachita River Institute — OBU has announced that its continuing water research will be expanded to include the evaluation of possible sources for the mercury contamination of the Ouachita River. The Ouachita River Institute for Freshwater Studies (ORI) has been established for the purpose of working with state agencies in analyzing both fish tissue and water samples from the river. Recent finds by the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control prompted new funding for further research. Joe Nix, the W.D. and Alice Burch Professor of Chemistry at OBU, is the director of ORI.



OBU Arts Center dedicates — A performance by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and a tribute to Harvey and Bernice Jones highlighted the October 22nd dedication of the Jones performing Arts Center at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Mrs. Bernice Jones, widow of Harvey Jones, founder and long-term president of Jones Truck Lines in Springdale, donated \$5.5 million through the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust for the construction of the performing arts center. The gift is the largest in the history of the 106-year-old institution.

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Harmony Association celebrates 75th

by Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

A vision to new growth, of new commitment, and a desire to serve in harmony launched a new era for Harmony Association when the 75th anniversary of the association was observed at the annual meeting held Oct. 12 in Hardin Church, Pine Bluff.

Edward L. Smith, pastor of First Church of Star City, was elected as moderator to guide the new era of work which will include teams going in November 1992, and January 1993, to Las Vacas, Guatemala, evangelistic preparation leading toward the "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now" simultaneous revivals, continued efforts to support local churches in their Bible teaching ministries, continued missions education through Woman's Missionary Union, the desire to have a Brotherhood director in every associational church, and the organization of both Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador units in every church. Another goal is to find a person to lead in the development of further work with the Hispanics.

Working with Smith to attain these goals will be Bill Lewis, director of missions, who at the annual meeting announced his retirement, effective May 31, 1993. Others will include Clyde Jones, pastor of East Side Church, Pine Bluff, moderator-elect; Coy Camp, pastor of Yorktown Church, Star City, vice-moderator; J. R. DeBusk, pastor of South Side Church of Pine Bluff, treasurer; Mary R. Allen, office/financial secretary and clerk; and Barbara Russell, director of church and community ministries, a part-time position subsidized by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Howard C. Clark, out-going moderator and pastor of the host church, moderated the anniversary celebration with J.D. Woodard, part-time minister of youth for Hardin Church, giving the welcome and leading in prayer. Other program highlights included congregational singing led by Bruce Rodnick and Allan McKinley and special music by McKinley. Special recognition was given to Amos Greer and Freddie Pike, former directors of missions. A review of current programs, including work in Guatemala, was given by Gordon Topping and a historical review was given by Jimmy Watson.



The celebration of the 75th anniversary of service of Harmony Association concluded with the recognition of newly elected officers. Bill H. Lewis, director of missions, presents a gavel to Edward L. Smith, pastor of Star City First Church, who will serve as 1992-93 moderator.

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ABSC Executive Director Don Moore, featured speaker, challenged messengers to not be satisfied with the victories of the past, but to lead God's people to future victories by: (1) teaching them to not fail the young people, (2) teaching them to obey the Lord, (3) teaching them to turn to eternal things rather than material things, and (4) teaching them to take God's blessings and spend them on things related to God rather than squandering or misusing them. Moore said, "If we do not teach these things God's people will be in trouble, if they are not already in trouble."

Cooperating with both the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, Harmony Association, currently made up of 42 churches, was organized with seven churches who had a desire for a more aggressive missions program.

Early records show a strong evangelism program that included tent revivals and the organization of new churches.

The decades of the 60s reveal the association maintained an effective ministry with National Baptists in Pine Bluff, sponsoring a seminary extension center for their pastors and laymen, as well as employing black summer missionaries to assist black churches in such areas as vacation Bible schools.

In 1964, the need for chaplains in Arkansas' penal institutions was made a matter of prayer at Harmony's Executive Board meeting. These prayers were answered in the 70s when the late Dewie Williams was

placed by the ABSC and Home Mission Board to serve as chaplain at Cummins Prison. E.A. Richmond was the first chaplain to serve at the Boys Training School.

The Decade of the 80s included the enlargement of the churches' Bible teaching programs, development of a day camp ministry, ministering to internationals, one-day-a-week counseling assistance provided by Rose Jones from Arkansas Baptist Family Ministries and Child Care Services, involvement in the Arkansas-Indiana Linkup, and dedication of a new associational office.

The decade of the 90s shows support for the Arkansas Disaster Relief program through the provisions of a disaster relief trailer to increase meal capacity; the purchase of property in Las Vacas, Guatemala, and the sending of volunteer teams to Las Vacas to remodel an "old cantina" to be used as a church.

A day camp program for youngsters in grades one-six is also a special emphasis for Harmony Association, as well as a Friendship International program that involves conversational English, Bible study, crafts, and fellowship for internationals within the association.

Note: The dates for the 1992 Arkansas Baptist State Convention are Nov. 10-11, not Nov. 17-18.

Larry Pillow Day

Larry Pillow, pastor of Conway Second Church, was honored Sept. 27 when the congregation observed Pastor Appreciation Day. The theme for the day was "10-25-50" in recognition of his 10 years of serve as pastor, of his 25 years in full-time ministry, and his 50th birthday.

Stanley Toussaint, professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, was the "surprise" guest speaker for the morning worship service. The evening program included highlights of Dr. Pillow's life and ministry. A love offering was presented to the family along with a memory album that included letters of appreciation from family members, friends, and church members.

Under Pillow's leadership the church has baptized over 300 people, average Sunday School attendance has increased from 422 to 647, and the church has completed an \$800,000 building program. Small group ministries, involving more than 350 people have also been launched. As senior pastor, Pillow supervises 10 staff members, as well as the disbursement of a more than \$700,000 budget.

Pillow serves on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. In addition, he has served as a member of the state's "Strengthening the Family" task force, Mission Advance 1987-89, and as president of the area wide Baptist Student Union committee for University of Central Arkansas BSU. Currently, he is serving as president of the Faulkner County Ministerial Alliance.



Brotherhood Golf Tournament

A record number of Baptist Men participated in the golf tournament sponsored by the Arkansas Brotherhood Department on Oct. 1 at DeGray State Park.

A beautiful day and lovely green course was brightened even more by the waving flags of the countries of the world. Each golf team represented a country where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

The tournament winners were: First place, North Little Rock Central Church; second place, Hot Springs Park Place Church; and third place, North Little Rock Central Church.

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Arkansas continues relief efforts

by Colleen Backus
Arkansas Baptist

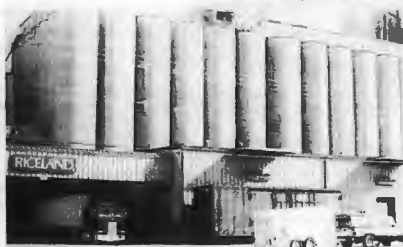
"What would we do without each other? Never has there been such an outpouring of love in the midst of hurt. You have allowed us the joy of seeing tragedy turned into triumph." These words of gratitude are from a letter jointly written by Mark Short, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention to Southern Baptists throughout the nation who have provided relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Andrew's destruction.

Arkansas Disaster Relief teams continue to be a part of the ongoing effort to provide basic needs for those affected by one of the worst natural disasters in recent memory. After returning from immediate disaster relief work in Morgan City, La. (see ABN 9/10/92, p. 17), ABSC Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober began to coordinate arrangements for teams to go to Florida. Arkansas workers did not take the state feeding unit, but are continuing to provide manpower for the Baptist feeding units already in place. "We anticipated having to feed through the last of September or maybe into October; there was a point where our Arkansas teams were preparing 15,000 to 18,000 meals at one site," Grober said. "The teams worked 12 hours a day as fast as they could to put it out so that the Red Cross could pick it up. We now anticipate having crews stay in Florida through Nov. 5. The situation just continues to be terrible."

Although coordinated through the Arkansas Brotherhood office, some groups not usually associated with disaster relief are aiding in their own fashion. Campers on Mission groups, Nailbenders and groups from individual churches have been participating in needs assessments, delivery of goods, as well as feeding efforts. More Baptist Men construction teams stand ready to assist with home re-building as soon as construction codes are solidified.

Grober also noted that some southern

ABSC Brotherhood photo / Glendon Grober



Arkansas Baptist disaster relief provided 40,000 pounds of rice to Florida's hurricane victims.

Arkansas associations who knew people in Louisiana and where the needs were conducted their own efforts in the Bayou areas. After returning from the initial Louisiana efforts, Grober found out that one of

the problems occurring was the utility companies shutting off power to livable homes if the bills were overdue. Often bills hadn't been paid because people were out of work due to the storm, so Grober sent funds contributed by Arkansas churches to aid with relief to Morgan City (La.) First Baptist Church in order to pay utility bills.

In Florida, one of the overwhelming physical needs was for rice, a dietary staple of the immigrant population hit hard by the storm. The ABSC Brotherhood Department purchased 40,000 pounds of rice and sent it to Miami at the beginning of October. Larry Roland, a disaster relief worker, gave his truck and his time to transport the rice.

Grober also purchased diapers to supplement a large contribution of baby goods collected by Little Rock Immanuel Church and shipped 10,000 diapers to Florida.

The major Arkansas disaster relief teams are scheduled to go to Florida from Oct. 16-26 and Oct. 26-Nov. 5 to help with

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continuing food distribution. Southern Baptist relief teams have prepared between two and three million meals since they started in Florida.

While disaster relief workers participate out of a sense of personal commitment, their efforts have not gone unno-

**'Countless kind acts
are abundant proof
of the great
compassion of
Southern Baptists'**

ticed. Lawton Chiles, the governor of Florida, wrote, "The very early and continuing presence of The Southern Baptist relief effort in storm ravaged South Florida has been over-whelming. The selfless gift of time and material resources has been a blessing to Andrew's helpless victims and a great inspiration to those of us charged with caring for Florida's citizens. The millions of hot meals served, the medical

assistance, hands willing to serve in any capacity and the countless kinds acts are abundant proof of the great compassion of Southern Baptists."

The pastor of Teche Baptist Church in Centerville, La., Walter Fox, states, "There is no way that Teche Baptist Church... can adequately say thanks to the Independence Baptist Association for the tremendous help.... What a testimony the generosity and love of Baptists has been to this predominantly Catholic community."

Grober has also realized some needs at home due to the magnitude of relief efforts continuing to be provided to the ravaged areas. "We need a new unit," Grober states. "The old one is worn out; it has 450,000 miles on it." Heber Springs First Church has agreed to spearhead the effort for a new unit by giving the first \$35,000 and raising the rest of the funds needed for the vehicle.

Another clear priority for Grober is to shore up Arkansas disaster relief readiness. "If we had an earthquake in the middle of the day in eastern Arkansas, what happened in Florida wouldn't be a drop in the bucket," he says. "We simply have got to beef up our own state's preparedness."

Looking Ahead

October

- 21-26 Guatemala City-wide Crusade Celebration (Bhd)
- 22-25 Adult Campcraft Retreat (Bhd)
- 25 National & SBC Fellowship, El Dorado West Side Church (NB)
- 26-27 Church Secretary Conference, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (DT)
- 26-27 State Prayer Ministry Workshop, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (DT)
- 26-27 New/Inexperienced Media Conference, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (DT)
- 30-31 Associational Brotherhood Meeting, Cotter (Bhd)

November

- 1-7 RA Week (SBC)
- 2 National & SBC Fellowships, St. Paul Baptist Church, Benton (NB)
- 2 Royal Ambassador Banquet, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bhd)
- 3 State New Work Task Force Meeting (Ad)
- 6-7 Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat, Little Rock First Church (Bhd)

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BAPTISTS AID REFUGEES FROM SOMALIA

Where the AK-47 rules

by Craig Bird

SBC Foreign Mission Board

MANDERA, Kenya (BP)—"The AK-47 is the president of Somalia now," Noor declared, smiling at his own comment.

Several fellow Somali refugees laugh softly — including some scarred by blasts from the infamous Soviet assault rifle, and others who have lost wives or children, parents or friends in the blood-letting in their home country.

These days, if a Somali can't find humor in death and dying, there isn't much to smile about. The laughter may be morbid, but so is almost everything else about their situation. At least in Mandera they are out of reach of the ruling firepower.

They aren't out of the grasp of hunger and disease, however. But now they are within reach of Southern Baptist missionaries and Kenyan Baptists in a just-born effort to minister in Mandera.

Noor and 50,000 other Somali refugees live in stick-and-reed huts on the edge of Mandera, a remote Kenyan town. Less than two miles from the camp they can see the low hills of the Somali border. Ethiopia — and another camp housing 20,000 more sick, hungry refugees — lies a mile in the other direction, across the Dawa River.

The refugees poured out of Somalia last year when longtime dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted. They brought almost nothing besides their lives — and upwards of 40 refugees a day are losing even that.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the daily death rate is closer to 80,"

(FBI) photo / Randy King



Relief above recitals — Members of Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro (Ark.) decided news of starvation in Africa demanded action. At a special Wednesday night meeting, the congregation met to pray for rain in Africa and unanimously agreed to postpone plans to buy a new organ and instead donate \$100,000 to the Foreign Mission Board's world hunger and relief fund. "We're not a rich church, but we felt we needed to do more in this crisis," said Central Church pastor Rex Holt (right), who delivered the gift to Bill Buntington, the board's vice-president for mission work in Africa.

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said David Sorley, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor who has been working in Kenya's northeast province off and on since spring.

Yet another dose of bitter humor: The very rains needed to break the three-year drought in the region likely will produce more graves than planted fields.

"If the rains start on time, it will get a lot worse as the cold and wet finishes off the children and women and aged already weakened by hunger and illness," Sorley explained.

(BP) photo / Craig Bird



As a Somali refugee leader watches, Southern Baptist missionary doctor David Sorley writes a letter to clinic physicians urging them to admit a sick orphan boy.

The refugees have few animals that would benefit from new grass. And you don't hoard seed for next year when your children are starving today.

Food distribution apparently will be handled adequately by other agencies, so likely Baptist projects include:

- A therapeutic medical program focusing on children and the disabled too weak to walk to the feeding centers or stand in line for long hours. Often they are incapable of defending the food they are given. The project would send teams through the camp to locate such people and get them to a medical center. There they would be fed five times a day until they are strong enough to compete in the regular camp system.

- A latrine-building program. The biggest "bathroom" is a dry riverbed that intersects the camp. Rains wash the waste into the river - the only water source for

both the camp and the town. Sorley already has worked with an in-camp group, Somali Intellectuals for Refugees, promoting self-help projects. Southern Baptist funds paid for tools so refugees could dig 4-meter-deep toilets. The first week they dug 36. The camp needs 2,500 - before the rains come. Baptists will provide more tools, training and help.

- Help with the water supply. The UN refugee commission is rehabilitating the water system itself. So Baptists may do

things as simple as teaching the refugees to build one-family, upward-flow water filters out of concrete and sand, or as intensive as drilling boreholes.

- Education for children. "You can see the children running in packs with no supervision and nothing to do," Kista explained. "If they live here two years their social skills will be gone and they'll never go back to school. This is the critical age." Literacy and English classes also are options.

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SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Honeycutt announces retirement

by David R. Wilkinson

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told the school's trustees Oct. 12 he will retire at the end of 1993.

The surprise announcement stunned trustees and a gallery of faculty, staff and students at the opening session of the board's semi-annual meeting on the Louisville, Ky., campus.

Honeycutt, who turns 66 later this month, previously had declared his intention to serve until age 70. But he told trustees he recently "became convinced that at this juncture in our covenant life an orderly transition in the presidency would contribute positively to the seminary's mission."

He said he will retire effective Dec. 31, 1993.

Elected in 1982, Honeycutt has presided over Southern Baptists' oldest seminary during a stormy decade of denominational conflict. Although he is widely credited with steering the seminary clear of a

Southern Seminary photo / Richard Shock



Roy L. Honeycutt

major crisis, tensions have been high in recent years as conservative trustees solidified control of the board. In a "covenant" approved in 1991, faculty and trustees agreed to fill future faculty positions with "conservative evangelical scholars" in order to move the seminary in a more conservative direction.

Despite the tensions, Honeycutt stressed his decision to retire grew solely out of a "commitment to the best interests of Southern Seminary."

"The singular nature of my decision is important for friends and all who love Southern Seminary to hear clearly," he said. "No member of the board of trustees knew I was considering retirement, nor did any trustee suggest or imply such action."

Honeycutt said the decision "came at my initiative and only after most serious reflection and prayer. My conviction of God's leadership remains as firm in my retirement as does my belief in his providence which brought me to the presidency."

Although he had heart bypass surgery in 1990, Honeycutt said he continues to feel well and health considerations were not a significant factor in his decision.

Honeycutt appealed to trustees, faculty, staff and alumni to view the change of leadership as "a creative period of opportunity" for the seminary. "Southern Seminary's unique role in the work of God's kingdom is far too significant for us to offer anything but our best efforts to function effectively during the transition."



PRAYER RETREAT

Henry Blackaby

Author of "Experiencing God"

First Baptist Church, Little Rock

November 6 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

November 7 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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

Convention Uniform

God is in control

by S.D. Hacker, DOM, Rocky Bayou Association

Basic passage: 1 Kings 17:1-7; 18:1-46

Focal passage: 1 Kings 18:37-39

Central truth: God is sovereign over heaven and earth.

Where is our confidence when the odds are stacked against us? If it is in the Lord God, as Elijah's was, we can stand boldly, face challenges, and win victories for the Lord.

(1) God is in control of his servants. King Ahab and wicked Jezebel promoted Baal worship in Israel. This religion, among other aspects, embraced a fixation on possessions. God hid Elijah in the Cherith valley for three years. He was fed by the ravens and later by a woman at Zarephath (17:4). God allowed him to emerge from hiding after three years.

(2) God is in control of circumstances. Drought and famine had hit Israel. King Ahab and Obadiah, in different parts of the territory, searched for water (18:7). God caused Elijah and Obadiah to meet, just as today he causes needs, circumstances, people and places to come together. Ahab had blamed Elijah for the hardships of the past three years. When they met, he asked Elijah: "Are you he that troubleth Israel?" (18:17). Elijah sternly replied: "I have not made trouble for Israel, but you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed Baal" (18:18).

(3) God is in control of all heaven and earth. The prophets of Baal and Ashteroth failed their test on Mount Carmel (18:26-29). Elijah rebuilt an altar for an offering to God. He ordered four jars of water to be poured three times on that altar. Then he prayed for God to answer by fire. When fire consumed not only the sacrifice, but the whole altar—stone, wood, soil, and water—a worshipful confession burst from the people: "The Lord, he is the God! The Lord, he is the God!" (18:39). Now, the nation could be cleansed and the land healed. Then God sent the rain (18:45).

God is still in control. Hungering for possessions and flitting with other gods can bring drought and great loss to God's people. Can we acknowledge that God controls our land's productivity and that he can withhold the fertility of crops and the rains? Acceptance of God's sovereignty prefaces cleansing and healing.

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Life and Work

A courageous Christian

by Hess Hester, Markham Street Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Timothy 1:3-12

Focal passage: 2 Timothy 1:3-12

Central truth: God can provide the encouragement and empowerment to be a courageous Christian.

Most American Christians are unaware of the fact that over 100,000 Christians throughout the world died for their faith last year! As he writes 2 Timothy, Paul is aware of two things. First, he knows that his own martyrdom is imminent. Second, he anticipates that timid Timothy will face many of the same trials Paul had faced over the years. So, Paul seeks to galvanize the courage of his young son in the faith for the challenging days of ministry ahead.

First, in verses 1-3, Paul bolsters the courage of Timothy with a declaration of confidence in and appreciation for his faith and heritage. Think of the power of encouragement of these words in Timothy's life! Just as Job of old (Job 4:4) kept men on their feet with his words, so Paul keeps Timothy on his. And, so does every Christian possess the power to keep any other Christian going on in life and ministry. To be a courageous Christian you must have an encourager!

Second, to be a courageous Christian you must spend time alone with God. In vv. 6-7 Paul acknowledges that Timothy may not have lost all his spiritual fire, but he was going to need a lot more for what God was calling him to do. Timothy's "gift" (enablement for ministry) here has the appearance of hot coals which need to be fanned into flames. God would provide all the "fire" Timothy needed but it was up to Timothy to take the initiative to do the fanning.

Verse 7 reveals the results of such a process; Timothy's spirit of timidity would be replaced with a spirit of power (to exercise Godly authority), supernatural love, and the self-discipline any courageous Christian must have.

Third, verses 8-12 make clear that a Christian becomes courageous by knowing the extent of the power of God. Timothy is invited to join in the suffering. What an invitation! Answering such an invitation is to never be entered into lightly. Paul assures Timothy that he should not make such a decision by taking stock of his own power but of God's (over death, v.10; for service, v.11; and for protection, v.12).

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Bible Book

Lesson Title

by Randy Maxwell, pastor of South Highland Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Romans 6:1-7, 25

Focal passage: Romans 6:1-19

Central truth: Being justified by faith, through God's grace we can now obtain victory over sin. Paul shares here three instructions for attaining this victory.

Many of the Roman Christians did not really understand the Law or grace and went in one of two extremes: legalism on one hand and license on the other. Thus Paul used chapters 6, 7, and 8, to not only defend his teachings on justification but to also explain sanctification.

There are three key words in chapter 6: "know", "reckon", and "yield". Using the beautiful illustration of believer's baptism, we find two basic truths that every Christian needs to know: 1) we are now dead to sin; and 2) we no longer have to serve sin. How important it is that we understand that justification by faith is not simply a legal matter, it is a living relationship. Victory over sin begins when we realize that we are in Christ and identify with both his death and his resurrection. This "death" takes place the moment we are baptized spiritually into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. Water baptism, then, is a portrait or symbol of this experience that takes place at salvation.

Unfortunately, too many Christians are "Betweeners". They are living their Christian lives somewhere between Egypt and Canaan. They are saved, but never satisfied. They have experienced the forgiveness of the Cross, but they are not experiencing the power and glory of the Resurrection.

Yet, it is not enough to simply "know" these truths. We must also "reckon" or "apply" these truths to our own individual lives. (We need to personally count or "impute to our account" this tremendous power.) Paul didn't tell his readers to feel as if they were dead to sin or even understand it fully, but to act upon God's Word and claim it for themselves.

It is then, and only then, that we can yield our bodies as living sacrifices for his glory. This needs to continue on a daily basis as we surrender afresh to Him. Indeed, we "know" with our mind; we "reckon" with our heart; but we must "yield" volitionally with our will in order to experience his promised victory.

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Convention Uniform

God's sure judgment

by S.D. Hacker, DOM, Rocky Bayou Association

Basic passage: Amos 2:6-3:2

Focal passage: Amos 3:1-2

Central truth: False worship and greed rob God's people of moral sensitivity and bring his judgment.

(1) Judgment on Israel (2:6-8). Amos, an eighth century prophet from the mountains of the Southern Kingdom, condemned the Northern Kingdom's oppression of the poor, their corruption of the courts by bribery, and their forcing farmers to give up their tribal inheritances and to sell themselves into slavery.

The wealthy political leaders, through Baal's influence, believed that success, wealth, and possessions indicated their favor with God, and that the poor, the losers, and the slaves were sinners. Their moral behavior was a mixture of Canaanite religion (centered in a fertility cult which appealed to the sexual urges of the people) and a simulation of the worship of the God of Israel. Assuming prosperity resulted from their faithfulness in ritual and worship, they failed to realize that God will not bless anything corrupt.

(2) Grounds for God's judgment (2:6-8). "Three sins of Israel, even for God" shows the abundance of sinful activity. The poor, "cheap as a pair of shoes," were ground into the dust and denied justice and representation. Prostitution was made common and the desecration of the holy garments and the worship altar resulted from promiscuity with gods and cults found in Canaan, Egypt, and the land of the Amorites (2:9-10).

(3) Examples about coming judgment. The Amorites, though strong, could not escape judgment (2:9). Israel's 40-year wilderness wanderings reflected God's judgment (2:10). Forcing prophets to compromise and the Nazarets to mix their righteousness with wine would bring God's judgment (2:12).

(4) Amos confirms God's plan (2:13). God can do things man cannot resist. No sin can survive the weight of God's judgment (2:13). No one has enough might and skill to save the rebellious or is fast enough to outrun the impending wrath of God (2:14-15). The alarm is sounded; God's people will be judged. The depraved, righteousness forgotten, are ripe for God's discipline.

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Life and Work

Be a good soldier

by Hess Hester, Markham Street Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Tim. 2:1-3, 8-10, 14-15, 24-26

Focal passage: 2 Timothy 2

Central truth: A good soldier of Christ must be a pure.

When a person receives Christ, he immediately enlists them in his army. Paul, a general in the Lord's army, writes to his young captain Timothy, to give him specific instructions.

Paul makes clear in verses 1-10 that Christ's soldier must first have pure motives. These verses indicate that service in the Lord's army is going to involve hardships and requires great endurance (see vv. 3-6, 9, 10). Verses 8-10 reveal the three aspects of the soldier's pure motives.

In verse 8 Paul cries, "Remember Jesus Christ risen!" It's like a war cry, "Remember the Alamo!" It is for him and by him that the soldier works and suffers and endures.

Paul shares in verse 9 that a second aspect of pure motivation is the spread of the Gospel. This must take place no matter what the cost is to the soldier. This goes hand-in-hand with the third aspect found in verse 10; that there are people out there whom God has specifically chosen to be brought to Christ by no one else but that particular soldier.

Second, a good soldier must have pure doctrine (vv. 14-18). He knows what he believes and can instantly recognize what is false. Thousands of Southern Baptists fall prey to the subtle seduction of cults and the health and wealth gurus because of a failure to be able to "accurately handle the word of truth" (v. 15b). We must not overlook the fact that a good soldier also must embody the truth (v. 15a).

Third, General Paul instructs Captain Timothy that good soldiers also must have pure hearts (vv. 20-23). They do not compromise with the world but have strong convictions about what behaviors are appropriate. They stay clear of the ones that are not (vv. 21-22). They know that unbelievers are turned off by "holier-than-thou" hearts but that they are drawn to pure hearts.

Finally, a good soldier must have pure service. (vv. 24-26). The most effective service is pure service. It will be ultimately acknowledged and evoke the quickest response even from those in opposition.

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Bible Book

A Christian's declaration

by Randy Maxwell, pastor, South Highland Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Romans 8:1-39

Focal passage: Romans 8:1-39

Central truth: The eighth chapter of Romans is the Christian's "Declaration of Independence" for Paul clearly declares four spiritual freedoms we enjoy in Christ.

On January 6, 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress on the state of the War in Europe. As he closed his address, he stated that he looked forward to a world founded upon four essential freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. These words are still remembered, even though their ideals have not yet been realized in this world.

Paul was declaring similar ideals that are not simply dreams, but reality because of our union in Christ. We enter this great chapter "under no condemnation" and leave it with "no separation". What a glorious salvation our Lord has provided for those who in faith will trust Him as Savior.

Through Christ we have Freedom From Judgment—No Condemnation. In Adam, we are all condemned, but in Christ Jesus, there is now no condemnation. Paul does not say there is now no sin, for we all still fail and make mistakes. We have to be honest and say that we still sin. Yet, the Law can no longer condemn us because Jesus vicariously took our place.

Through Christ we also have Freedom From Defeat—No Obligation. We are no longer obligated to the old nature. Each Christian can and should have victory. This occurs when we not only possess the Holy Spirit in our lives, but we truly allow the Holy Spirit to possess and control us.

We also discover the Freedom From Discouragement—No Frustration. Within this section, Paul deals with the very real problems of suffering and pain. We see why believers need not faint during times of trials because we know through experience that God is at work in all circumstances (vs. 28) and that he has a perfect plan (vs. 29). In that plan, God has two purposes: our good and his glory. Ultimately, he desires to make us like Jesus.

Paul concluded this tremendous chapter by declaring our Freedom From Fear—No Separation. There is no separation because we have experienced the perfect love of God. What wonderful security!

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News service says FMB search narrowed to 2

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The committee charged with seeking a new president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, according to Associated Baptist Press, has narrowed its choices to two former missionaries.

The search "has been narrowed," ABP asserted Oct. 6, to Don Kammerdiener, 56, FMB executive vice president, and Avery Willis, 58, director of the Sunday School Board's discipleship and family adult department.

However, ABP also wrote "the nine-member committee has not limited itself to those two and may eventually go another direction, committee sources said."

ABP said two search committee members "confirmed the selection of Kammerdiener and Willis on the condition of anonymity."

Kammerdiener refused to comment to ABP on its report.

Willis was quoted by ABP as saying he could offer "a fresh look at what we are doing" in foreign missions. ABP added: "Willis said he is in agreement with the trustees' current bent and would favor some more changes in the FMB."

Kammerdiener has been an FMB administrator since 1980 and is a former

missionary in South America. Willis, a former 14-year missionary in Indonesia, pioneered the MasterLife discipleship program widely used among Southern Baptists.

According to ABP, "the committee's short list" of candidates was Kammerdiener, Willis and four large-church pastors: Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist in the Memphis area and former three-term SBC president; John Bisagno of First Baptist in Houston; Jim Henry of First Baptist in Orlando, Fla.; and Tom Elliff of First Southern Baptist in Del City, Okla.

One search committee member, Hoyt Savage, an FMB trustee from Nevada, was quoted as denying a rumor that Rogers had declined an offer of the job from the committee. Savage also was quoted as saying search committee chairman Joel Gregory, who recently resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, had ruled himself "out of the picture" early in the process.

European Baptists OK statement on work with mission board

HODDESDON, England (BP)—European Baptists have approved an agreement that restores a working relationship with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The executive council of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) voted almost unanimously during its annual meeting

Sept. 28-Oct. 1 near London to accept the "Hamburg Agreement." That ended a year-long break in fellowship following the Foreign Mission Board's defunding of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

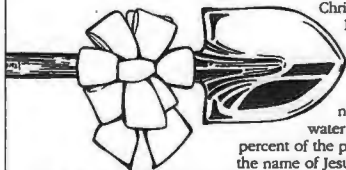
In accepting the agreement, about 100 council members from 38 European Baptist unions were trying to assure that the board does not break future agreements as they said it did in the defunding. Despite the positive vote, fallout from the defunding was apparent at the meeting.

EBF leaders also voted to partner with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the group of moderate Southern Baptists who have objected to what they perceive is a "fundamentalist takeover" of the Southern Baptist Convention. This was the first major meeting in Europe which representatives from both the FMB and CBF have attended.

Ironically, one of the seminary's new trustees approved by the council for next year will be Keith Parker, who now directs CBF work in Europe. Parker left the Foreign Mission Board earlier this year as a protest against what he said was a plan by FMB trustees to impose a global theological agenda, a charge later denied by trustees.

In the discussions at Hamburg, FMB trustee chairman John Jackson told European Baptists repeatedly that trustees do not have a global theological agenda to impose on others. The agreement said the mission board's principal objective "continues to be evangelism which results in indigenous Baptist churches."

This Christmas, help break new ground.



Because of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Mike Krahwinkel is able to work as an agricultural evangelist in villages of Mali's Kenieba region where there's neither enough food nor water — and where 99 percent of the people have never heard the name of Jesus.

Through Southern Baptist hunger gifts, Mike provides shovels to dig trenches for irrigation so that the people can have hope for physical water, while he shares the Living Water with them.

Pray with Mike that Malian Christians will be burdened to take the gospel to neighboring villages and to win and disciple new believers.



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WORLD

Escaping the grip of war

by Mike Creswell

SBC Foreign Mission Board

(BP) photo / Rodney Armstrong

MEDINAT AS'SHAAB, Yemen (BP)—Bedria first encountered the bloody grip of war in June 1990 when her home in Somalia was destroyed. Two of her children were nowhere to be found — and assumed dead.

Now a refugee living in the sprawling tent city of Medinat As'Shaab in neighboring Yemen, Bedria has chosen to help some of the thousands of others in the camp. Bedria's camp is one of several refugee areas where Southern Baptists work in Yemen.

Her story is remarkable not because she is a Somali who escaped horror but because she sees triumph despite it. While she aches for two children killed and one separated from her, Bedria nonetheless is thankful.

"One man I met the other day had lost his entire family in the war — seven children! I'm indeed blessed by God to have two of my four children still alive."

In Somalia, her husband of seven years blamed her for her children's deaths. Twenty-three years old and pregnant with her fourth child, she had taken her oldest daughter, Fatma, to run an errand with her and left the two younger ones at home.

"He kept asking me, 'Why didn't you take all the children with you?'" she said.

That was the beginning of sorrow. Bedria's marriage soon broke apart. Six months later, as a single parent, she gave birth again. The civil war advanced. Having put her teaching profession behind her, she trained for seven months in medical relief work under a French doctor. She started work at a hospital in Magadiscio, filling a gap left by fleeing doctors.

In May of this year, Bedria heard of a cargo ship from Pakistan carrying refugees to Yemen, just across the Gulf of Aden where the Red Sea empties into the Indian Ocean. It cost \$100 per adult and \$20 per child. She left her youngest child with her mother and took Fatma, 5.

"More than once the captain assured us his ship had already been given permission to land in Yemen," Bedria related. Overloaded with 3,500 Somalis, it sailed eight days before reaching the Yemeni port of Mukalla. It was promptly denied permission to dock.

By this time, Bedria, Fatma and fellow passengers had run out of water. They headed for the Yemeni port city of Aden.

Ten days at sea had depleted food as well as water. Children began dying. Each ill-fused body was carried to the feet of the



The luminous smiles of Somali refugee Bedria and her daughter, Fatma, belie the tragedy and danger they have endured.

captain. The passengers started drinking salt water, mixing it with lemon juice, to stay alive.

Port authorities in Aden were no more receptive than those in Mukalla.

Fifteen days out from Somalia, 120 people had died. The rest were desperate. They decided they would run the ship as close to shore as it would go. As others made the four-story-high jump into the water, Bedria and her daughter hung back.

Four days later, tied together, the two let themselves fall into the shallow water below. Bedria broke the surface and smashed onto the gravel sea floor, but escaped with cuts and bruises. Fatma, on the other hand, was knocked unconscious. Her little body filled up with salt water.

Like other survivors, Bedria and Fatma settled at the shore, the abandoned ship looming in the background. Until United Nations tents arrived, they used ship parts on which they had floated ashore to provide shelter from the sun.

For seven days Fatma said nothing, her recovery in question. Finally she came around. Now she's a healthy 6-year-old.

Bedria helps distribute milk to fellow refugees at Medinat As-Shaab, a refugee settlement where officials relocated her and the others in September.

She waits expectantly for the day of peace in Somalia when she can be reunited with her mother, daughter and homeland.