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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 22

November 3, 1994

1894



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ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S
100

*Celebrating a Century of Caring
Dedicated to a Future of Sharing*

100
HOMES & FAMILY MINISTRIES



1994

Happy Birthday!

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries celebrates its 100th year of caring for needy children and youth. For more on their history and continuing ministry, see pages 12-19.

Supreme Court strikes third gambling proposal from ballot

Gambling-opponents claimed victory over proposed gambling amendments Oct. 20 as the Arkansas Supreme Court dropped the last remaining proposal from the Nov. 8 state ballot.

The Supreme Court decided in a 5-2 vote to drop Amendment 5, proposing a casino in West Memphis, from the ballot.

Amendment 5 followed Amendments 3 and 4, struck from the ballot Oct. 14 by the Supreme Court because the ballot titles, or descriptions, were termed "misleading." Amendment 3 proposed the legalization of charitable bingo and Amendment 4 proposed the legalization of a state lottery and casino gambling at two Arkansas race-tracks.

According to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, the Supreme Court struck the remaining proposed amendment for not disclosing:

- that a designated site already had been chosen for the casino;
- all of the powers of a proposed Casino Gaming Commission; and
- the gambling activities that would occur at proposed training schools for casino employees.

The amendment was removed because of a petition filed by the Christian Civic Action Committee. Larry Page, CCAC executive director, said the defeat is a "victory for Arkansas voters much more than it was a victory for us."

"What...the court has done is guarantee that amendments that are proposed for a vote will have to be written in a clear, understandable, straightforward language. No euphemisms, no camouflage," he said.

CCAC committee chairman Barry King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot

Springs, said the victory "is a 2-0 score for the CCAC (who battled only Amendments 4 and 5) and a 3-0 score for gambling opponents in the state.

"This buys us some valuable time," King added. "It is likely that in two years even more of the casinos in Mississippi and Louisiana will be in bankruptcy. As those turn belly-up, that will make our case much stronger about the unsound footing this whole thing is built on economically."

Page said he felt "certain" that if the amendments had not been defeated in court, they would have been defeated by voters. "The poll commissioned by the *Democrat-Gazette* showed us leading in this particular amendment 55-38.

"I think their desperation showed when they brought in Jack Nicklaus and Dick Clark," Page commented. "What was next? Sinatra or Elvis?"

Page said the CCAC "will be preparing, almost on the heels of this, for the next legislative session. We feel quite certain that there will be a move in the legislature to gain concessions for the gamblers and asking the legislature to refer an amendment...in 1996 to allow casino and lottery gambling."

"Beyond that, there is a group calling themselves LOCAL (Local Option Casino and Lottery)," King said. "They are already gathering signatures for a ballot initiative for 1996 that would allow up to 20 casinos in eight different counties in Arkansas."

King said, however, that although gambling opponents "have won two very significant battles, there will be more battles yet to come. We may have won a couple of very significant battles, but the larger campaign, the war itself, continues."

Cover Story



Happy 100th! 12-19

What began as an orphanage on land donated by a Monticello woman in 1894 has become a statewide ministry spanning 22 locations, assisting more than 4,600 Arkansians annually and providing a caring shelter for more than 600 needy youth and children.

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Women learn ways to 'Make A Difference'

By Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

"Making a World of Difference" was the theme for the Marjorie Steele Grober Memorial Summit '94 held Oct. 21-22 and attended by more than 600 Baptist women from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The first-time missions conference was held at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock and sponsored by Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union with Monica Keathley, state Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women director, serving as facilitator.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, in sharing how one person could make a "world of difference" brought tears to the eyes of the congregation as she used Grober as a role model who made a difference as a wife, mother, grandmother, missionary to Brazil, president of Arkansas WCU, a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock and a member of the Summit '94 steering committee.

O'Brien told participants they had been commanded by God through the Great Commission to "make a difference. Yes! Yes! Yes! each one of you must make a difference in a world that is filled with broken homes, promiscuity, alcohol, drugs and lostness," she emphasized.

"Women have a depth of compassion that causes us to reach out to others and therefore you must do something," she concluded. "Grober was one woman we all knew and one who had a vision for making a difference in our world."

O'Brien listed hunger, AIDS and a Christian women's job corps as future projects being implemented by SBC WCU to reach today's hurting world.

Speakers highlight action

Speaker Jennifer Kennedy Dean of Marietta, Ga., told the women they had the same power of God within them to make a difference in today's world as that used by God in the resurrection. "When you let this power work in you it produces purity through the cleansing of sin and a faith that endures temptations. God does not want life to be a constant, never ending struggle but rather a faith that rests in His



Deborah Brunt of Corinth, Miss., interpreted the theme, "Making a World of Difference," through dramatic performances. She is pictured above portraying Esther.

power as it works in you," she declared.

"God created individuals with a physical, emotional and spiritual structure for a specific destiny," she continued. "If that life is lived outside of Christ it will lead to destruction, but if lived with a vision and in obedience to God it will become one that will 'make a difference.'"

Soloist Babbie Mason, through a song she had written and composed, led women in each session in learning how they could spread the love and light of God over a darkened world hand-in-hand and heart-to-heart. Mason, who performed a Friday evening concert, told participants how she thought only certain people were called to missions, but through "This Little Light of Mine" God touched her and let her see how she too must make a difference. "I am going into jails, prisons and other places to share the love of God to those who are hurting," she said.

Steve and Kathy Dewbre both shared how God called and sent them as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to South Africa their lives had been transformed and enriched because the people there had been so loving and so committed to learning more about God. "I challenge you

to commit yourselves to making a difference by saying 'wherever you want me to go or whatever you want me to do, Lord, I will do it,'" said Kathy, while Steve said, "God can use you, as He is using me, to change a world one relationship at a time."

Deborah Brunt of Corinth, Miss., through dramatic portrayals of women of the Bible and those called to special service, called for strengthened prayer lives. "You may make a world of difference or no difference, but if you have heard God's voice you must obey it," she said.

Mission changes and prayer requests from around the world were given through a fashion show that included costumes worn by Arkansas Internationals being ministered to by Karen Taylor of Sherwood.

Celebrating Missions in the Home was a unique conference led by Sharon Stanley of Warren and her daughter, Sarah.

"Women of Today are responsible for missionaries of the 21st century and therefore we must give our children a heart for missions," Stanley said.

"I hope you will begin today to build a missions heritage for your family."

'Bring the world to our homes'

"The world must be brought to our homes if we are to establish this heritage and as you do this you can also involve the men," she concluded. "A family who truly embraces the Lord is a powerful testimony and an ordinary family can do extraordinary things when filled with the Holy Spirit."

She displayed and gave creative mission involvement ideas such as prayer requests wrapped around lifesavers, baking Lottie Moon tea cakes, having a church-wide family Christmas breakfast at the church at which children would visit the manger scene rather than Santa Claus, taking family vacations to state, local or foreign missions sites, rereading Christmas cards and praying for the individuals who sent them or minister in the local community through meals on wheels, a traveling tea party or backyard Bible clubs.

In a personal testimony Sarah, a freshman at Ouachita Baptist University, closed the conference by sharing her call to a full-time Christian vocation as a result of missions education in her home.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABS Executive Director

Time is a great friend to God and truth. They both are vindicated by the passing of time. The same is true of a ministry. Passing through various circumstances over the years, a ministry is challenged in its commitment, flexibility and worth. One hundred years is a pretty good time test for a ministry.

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries has passed the test. They are this year celebrating their 100-year anniversary and have passed the test with "flying colors."

As a partner in ministry with the rest of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention ministries, they have been a team player. The consideration they have shown toward children and youth has carried over into their relationships with churches, associations, agencies and institutions. While growing they have helped others to grow alongside of them.

Changes in society have necessitated drastic changes in their ministry over the years. Their boards of trustees and administration have risen to the challenge. The work today is more extensive than could have ever been imagined a few years ago. While many of these leaders have already gone from the earthly scene, those presently serving are typical of those who have gone before. They deserve our most sincere appreciation and support.

None of our work is more in keeping with the spirit of Jesus Christ than this ministry to children and families. Loving care is extended in His name to more than 4,600 individuals a year.

None of this would be true had Arkansas Baptists not been faithful to provide support through the Cooperative Program and the Children's Home Offering over the years. We have risen to the occasion. In fact, the 100-year celebration is a celebration for all of us.

With our congratulations to Johnny Biggs and his fine staff comes the challenge of ongoing commitment to the future of this important ministry. The next chapter will be as risky as earlier ones. Who would not want to be a part of that? It is such exciting work!

SHERRY GRIFFIN

Woman's Viewpoint

Strive to be 'childlike' again!

I count myself truly blessed for having had the opportunity to teach young children in our public schools for over 20 years. During these years, I'm sure I have learned many more things about life than I have passed on.

One lesson we learn from children is to be thankful for little things. When God made the world, He created many things in very small packages. Many times our adult eyes focus on the big things and overlook the still small beauty of the world around us.

Oh yes, we see the giant oaks and magnificent rainbows but often overlook the wonder of a small caterpillar or fail to notice the unusual shape of rocks lying by the roadside. May we learn to emulate a child's curiosity and become more aware of the world around us and begin to notice those things we take for granted.

May we strive each day to be more aware of the world's beauty and the many blessings the Lord provides. Take time to look at a flower; pause to listen to the singing of the birds; enjoy the laughter of children; and be ever so thankful for the sweet smile of a friend. Remember also to reach out so that someone might count us a blessing.

Strive to be childlike again! Look at life in a simplistic, childlike way and you will be truly amazed at how many blessings have been overlooked.

Sherry Griffin is married to Wayne Griffin and they have three children. She is a member of the Dell Church where she serves as church music director and as a teacher in the senior adult department. She has been a first grade teacher for more than 20 years, currently teaching in the Gosnell School District.

Personal perspectives

"I think their desperation showed when they brought in Jack Nicklaus and Dick Clark. What was next? Sinatra or Elvis?"

- Larry Page, executive director, Christian Civic Action Committee, referring to last-minute efforts by Amendment 5 proponents to raise support for the gambling amendment

"Even if promised to secrecy, it's better to lose a friend and save their life."

- David Deere, Little Rock pastoral counselor, urging intervention with a suicidal teen

"God is faithful, and I'm here today through His grace - a living, breathing, walking product of prayer."

- Jan Johnsonius, former missionary to Argentina on surviving an automobile accident which killed her husband

Don't delay - call today

Hungary...Romania...Bulgaria...Slovakia. The names are familiar to anyone who follows unfolding international events. Any roll call of East European nations conjures up memories of decades of communist rule followed in recent years by varying degrees of political and religious freedom. Yet bloody revolutions, civil war, spiraling inflation, political turmoil and economic chaos have accompanied the newfound freedom in many countries.

Current reforms throughout Eastern Europe were fueled most dramatically by the fall of the Berlin Wall in late 1989 and the political demise of the Soviet Union two years later. As expected, Southern Baptist and dozens of other religious and social organizations have sought to respond to countless ministry opportunities created by the unprecedented changes. Southern Baptist missionaries and mission volunteers are working throughout Eastern Europe in response to overwhelming spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

More surprising, perhaps, is that Baptist workers are not limiting their efforts to national language ministries. They also are ministering in a widely accepted foreign language - English. The primary focus of the English-language work is to plant international Baptist congregations in strategic European cities.

Leading the way in the church-planting strategy is the European Baptist Convention, an English-speaking convention with more than 60 congregations stretching from Portugal to Russia and encompassing most countries in between.

The EBC began in the 1950s as a network of churches comprised mainly of American military personnel stationed in Europe. A gradual shift toward reaching out to the rapidly growing community of English-

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

speaking internationals has been hastened by the end of the Cold War and the ensuing military drawdown.

EBC general secretary John Merritt and other European Baptist leaders readily agree that the transition from military to international churches was a "do or die" situation for many congregations. In fact, several EBC churches located near closing military bases have disbanded in the past few years.

Working closely with national Baptist unions, the Foreign Mission Board and local Baptist leaders, however, the EBC is working diligently to strengthen existing churches and establish new ones in major European cities. As a result, 15 new international works have been started in the past three years, enabling the EBC to register a net growth in congregations despite the impact of the drawdown.

One question outside observers may ask is: Why put time, energy and financial resources into English-language ministries when there are so many pressing national ministry needs all across Europe? The answers are numerous including the fact that taking the gospel to all people includes

providing worship opportunities to internationals in a language they understand - and English is the clear choice of diplomats, businessmen, students, refugees and others who worship regularly at EBC churches.

Additionally, the international churches frequently reach out to nationals in their host countries through English language training, home Bible studies, social ministries and other projects. It is not unusual for a typical international service to attract participants from a dozen countries, including local nationals interested in learning English.

Another missions-related benefit of international ministries is the opportunity for members to return to their home countries as bold ambassadors of Christ. Their influence can make a lasting impact even in countries where traditional mission work is prohibited.

No one knows how long the current ministry opportunities in Eastern Europe will remain accessible. Urgent response is needed and the ministry of English-speaking international churches is one vital part of that response.

Fortunately for Arkansas Baptists, God has granted us the privilege of being directly involved in responding to Europe's spiritual needs. Our state convention's current missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention allows us to provide prayer support, to partner with EBC churches and to personally participate in specific ministry projects.

The needs are great. The time is now. Make your church's involvement a matter of urgent prayer. Additional information is available by contacting interim partnership coordinator Doyné Plummer at 376-4971, ext. 5190.

Children's Home keeps caring and sharing

"Celebrating a Century of Caring" is a worthy milestone for any institution. The celebration is especially significant when one considers the rich history of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries.

Established in Monticello in 1884 as the Arkansas Baptist Home for Orphans, the ministry has grown to include 22 sites throughout the state. The spectrum of ABCHFM ministries now includes a boys' ranch in Harrison for young men who have completed an intensive drug and alcohol abuse program; Promise House in El Dorado, a residence for unwed pregnant teenagers; six emergency receiving homes which provide temporary shelter for

abused, abandoned and neglected children, as well as battered women and their children; five area offices which provide a full range of counseling and intake services; and seven satellite offices where counselors are available one day each week.

Much of the growth of the Children's Homes ministries has come during the 23-year tenure of Johnny Biggs as ABCHFM executive director. His vision and commitment, along with that of the staff, trustees, donors and Arkansas Baptists in general, has helped ensure that the selfless service of the Children's Homes continues uninterrupted as long as there are needy children and families in Arkansas.

In addition to celebrating a century of service, the centennial theme also emphasizes that the ABCHFM is "Dedicated to a Future of Sharing." Arkansas Baptists can be both proud and thankful for this vital ministry that not only celebrates the past but looks with anticipation and enthusiasm toward the future.

The ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries echoes the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:14, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of God." Thank you, Johnny and staff, for personalizing Christ's call to compassion on behalf of all Arkansas Baptists.

Workshop studies youth suicide prevention

By Colleen Backus

Assistant Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Often youth suicide is nothing more than a means to solve a problem, said Tommy Anthony, family life minister at Calvary Church in Little Rock, and with the proper awareness, "we can determine that and find another means to solve the problem."

Awareness-raising was the goal of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop, sponsored by the Arkansas Attorney General's office and held at Calvary Church Oct. 22. More than 400 adults and teens participated in 30 conferences dealing with topics from basic youth suicide information to conflict-solving strategies in schools.

"Adolescents face more social issues than ever before," noted workshop leader Lucy Cannon, a social worker at CPC Pinnacle Point Hospital in Little Rock. "The incidence of teen suicide has tripled since the 1950s and is the third-leading cause of death among teens; the second among white males."

Cannon informed participants of several "basic facts" about youth suicide:

- Females attempt suicide more times than males, but males complete the action more often, due to a more lethal choice of methods.

- Suicide does not relate to any certain social class and crosses economic and racial boundaries.

- Twenty percent of individuals who attempt suicide will do it again in a more deadly manner.

Ten warning signs of youth suicide

1. Exhibits an extreme change in personality
2. Shows poor self-image
3. No longer considers school, work or extracurricular activities important
4. Develops a tendency toward isolation
5. Has been seen with large supply of pills or has acquired a gun or rope
6. Talks about death and life after death
7. Gives away prized possessions
8. Writes or inquires about a will
9. Has made a previous suicide attempt
10. Makes suicidal threats or references about not being around in the future

Cannon also discussed several suicide myths, including:

- *If you talk about it, someone might do it.* "Talking can often make the difference," Cannon noted. "The worst thing you can do is ignore the possibility."

- *All suicidal people are mentally ill or psychotic.* Although often depressed, suicidal youth often are reacting to a concentrated stressful time, Cannon explained, and are not mentally ill.

- *Once suicidal, a person is beyond help.* The opposite can be true, Cannon commented, and a youth discussing suicide is crying for help.

- *Holiday time is when most suicides*

occur. There is no time of year when suicides are concentrated. However, most suicides do occur between 3 p.m. and midnight, Cannon noted.

When someone does confide suicidal thoughts or feelings, there are certain things not to say, Cannon explained. "Don't tell them suicide is sinful or morally wrong or that they should learn to appreciate what they have," she said. "Don't analyze or theorize; leave that to the professionals."

What you can do, Cannon said, is "reassure them. Explain that it can get better. Listen and be supportive; do let them know that suicide is an ending—you can't go back and redo it."

Get the friend to a "safe" place, often a hospital, where they can receive professional help, Cannon suggested. "Don't assume a good talk will resolve the situation," she warned. "Don't leave them alone, especially if they have a plan for action."

Similar information was conveyed to youth participants by pastoral counselor David Deere. Many of the youth had friends who had attempted suicide or died in a suicide attempt. "What do you do if you have a friend you think is suicidal?" Deere asked participants. "Continue to be their friend," he encouraged. "Take the risk and tell a responsible adult—a teacher, a school administrator or a minister are good options. If the adult doesn't take appropriate action, tell another adult."

Even if promised to secrecy, Deere said, it's better to lose a friend and save their life.

Baptist youth below norm for at-risk behavior

DALLAS (ABP)—Baptist youth are considerably less likely than their friends to engage in at-risk behavior, according to a recent survey. The survey, conducted during the summer of 1994, was designed to provide a "snapshot" of youth active in Baptist churches in Texas, according to Chris Liebrum, youth consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Of youth responding to the survey, 96 percent said they attend church at least once a week, and 90 percent profess a faith commitment to Jesus Christ. Many Baptist young people who have said "no" to drugs, alcohol and premarital sex have close friends who are involved in those activities, the survey showed.

While 72 percent of the Baptist youth said they do not drink alcohol, half said their closest friends drink.

Although 85 percent of the Baptist youth people said they had not had sexual intercourse, nearly half said some of their friends are sexually active.

And though 95 percent of the Baptist youth said they do not use illegal drugs, about 18 percent said that some of their close friends are drug users. "Overall, youth who are actively involved in our churches are overcomers. Even though their close friends are at risk, most of our kids are behaving counter-culturally—in

a positive sense," Liebrum said.

Suicide is a major issue to Baptist youth, the survey demonstrated. Four in 10 said they had either thought about (27 percent), planned how to (6 percent) or tried (7 percent) taking their own lives, and 62 percent said they know someone who has attempted or committed suicide.

Of those who had thought about suicide, 39 percent said problems at home led them to consider it, and 22 percent cited loneliness as the reason. Among the 15 percent of the youth who indicated that they had sexual intercourse, more than half had their first sexual encounter at age 14 or 15, and about one-fourth lost their virginity by age 13.

Twenty percent of those who had sexual intercourse said they had been forced to do so—half by a friend or acquaintance, 19 percent by a stranger, 13 percent by a father or stepfather, and 19 percent by another relative.

"One thing the survey reveals is that most problems start before the high school years," Liebrum noted.

"We see the results of at-risk behaviors during the high school years, but the patterns form before middle school. We need to work with elementary school kids in prevention."

Southern Baptists assess needs in Haiti

By Tim Yarbrough
SBC Brotherhood Commission

CAP-HAITIEN, HAITI (BP)—Planned Southern Baptist relief efforts in Haiti are "God's instrument" that will help bring change to the politically and socially ravaged nation, say Haitian Baptists.

"As Lazarus was buried and resurrected, so will the Baptist Convention of Haiti" rise again, said an emotional Delaine Jean, president of the convention.

The convention offices were burned the day after a September 1991 coup ousted freely elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most of the building is still under renovation.

Jean and Haitian Baptist officials met Oct. 19 with a delegation of Southern Baptists assessing the country's needs.

"We may have many political and social problems in our country, but we know that Jesus Christ is the only solution," Jean told the group. "We know during these difficult times we must not miss the opportunity to share Christ with the people."

"The presence of the Southern Baptist delegation here is a response to our prayers," Jean added. "This is an instrument God is using for change in the country."

The assessment team arrived in Haiti to lay the groundwork that will bring more than 200 Southern Baptist volunteers and thousands of dollars to Haiti for relief efforts. The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board are jointly sponsoring the relief effort.

Relief efforts planned will include food distribution, water well drilling and well refurbishing, along with basic medical care.

The top concern for Southern Baptist planners is organizing food distribution. Without food, the situation will quickly turn to chaos in a country where people are hungry and still feeling the effects of an international embargo.

Southern Baptist volunteer teams to arrive in coming weeks will handle the packaging and distribution of "family packs" — containing basic commodities of rice, beans, oil and flour, as well as an evangelistic tract. Haitian Baptists are being asked to give out tickets to help ensure orderly distribution of the packs.

Problems in transporting supplies and scarcity of resources will limit food distribution initially. Mrs. Rutledge told Haitian Baptists. Haitian churches will be asked to help with the distribution effort — both as a way to meet their members' needs and as a means of outreach to needy families in their communities.



Haitian girls watch as Baptist volunteer Ed Brentham checks a local water pump.

Plans to secure free relief food do not appear to be an option at present because of the constant looting of storage facilities. Up to 4,000 break-ins at food warehouse

facilities have depleted more than \$3 million in relief food, according to officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Restocking the warehouses will take another three months.

A local pastor attending the meeting added: "There is a great need when you give to one person and not to the other one — you can create more of a problem. If that happens, you will never go there (to that community) again."

Evidence of failed food relief efforts dot the country. In St. Marc, 60 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince, a giant CARE warehouse stands in ruins. Local vendors now line the street selling food, clothing and other goods beside the facility.

Southern Baptist missionary Mark Rutledge said a school meal program that at one time fed 14,000 children was stopped in 1988 — in part because of problems associated with storing food.

The food distribution may be limited at first, but the key to support of Haitian churches is knowing the efforts will continue, said Emmanuel Pierre, Baptist convention executive secretary.

Baptists from several states feed, care for flooded southeast Texans

DALLAS (BP)—Baptists from Oklahoma and Louisiana have joined Texas Baptists in providing food service and child care for flooded southeast Texans.

Tennessee Baptists also were on their way to Angleton, Texas, Oct. 25 where they were slated to begin preparing hot meals the next day.

Every regional Texas Baptist disaster relief unit except for remote El Paso has been called into service. Arkansas and Tennessee Baptists were standing by to provide additional child care if needed.

Baptists prepared about 64,000 meals in six days, not counting those served at shelters in churches, and provided care for 165 children during the first three days of temporary emergency child care.

The Texas Baptist disaster relief mobile unit and command post were set up at First Baptist Church, Dayton, Texas, about 40 miles northeast of Houston.

Volunteers served food from the mobile unit in addition to cooking meals delivered by 25 Red Cross emergency response vehicles. Workers can prepare up to 35,000 meals per day at a disaster site working from the kitchen.

The Oklahoma Baptist mobile unit was set up at First Baptist Church, Tomball, Texas, north of Houston, and the Louisiana

Baptist mobile unit was stationed at Kingswood Plaza Hospital.

Regional disaster relief units from Smith and Wichita Falls Baptist associations were set up at Houston's South Park Baptist Church. The regional unit from Tarrant Baptist Association was stationed at Simonton Community Baptist Church, west of Houston.

Golden Triangle Baptist Association volunteers traveled their neighbors from the parking lot at First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Texas. They provided food directly from the unit and supplied meals for a half-dozen Red Cross ERVs.

Volunteers working from the San Marcós Baptist Association disaster relief unit also were providing hot meals in the Beaumont area at Memorial Baptist Church.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Baptists were providing free temporary emergency child care at FEMA centers four locations — Conroe, Liberty, north Houston and south Houston.

Southern Baptists work cooperatively with other private organizations through Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAID) which includes the Red Cross, Salvation Army and a number of other church groups.

Staff changes

Jerre R. Hassell will retire Dec. 31 as pastor of First Church in Stuttgart, concluding more than 18 years of service. A native of Dallas, Texas, he is a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Hassell, currently a member of the board of directors of the Baptist Medical System, has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive board. In addition, he has served as moderator for both North Pulaski Association and Centennial Association. He also has been pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Campbellsburg, Ky.; Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock and Central Church in North Little Rock. For 15 years, he served as director of pastoral care for the Baptist Medical Center. Hassell is married to the former Barbara Ann Dabney of Grand Prairie, Texas. They have two children, Patricia Chandler of Atlanta, Ga., and Nancy Benton of Helena. Following retirement, Hassell will be available to do supply work, interim pastorates or Bible conferences. He may be contacted at 1910 Strait Place in Stuttgart until the end of the year. His mailing address, after Jan. 1 will be 2112 Middleton, North Little Rock, AR 72116.



ARKANSAS ALL OVER

By MILLIE GILL

Rusty Hart has joined the staff of First Church in Little Rock as part-time music associate. A native of Hope, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Hart is married to the former Lori Reeves. They have two daughters, Laura and Megan.

Mike McCauley has joined the staff of First Church in Gentry as full-time minister of youth, coming there from Westside Church in Greens Ferry. He and his wife, Paige, have three children, Rebekah, Jon and Katie Jo.

Larry Reeder will join the staff of First Church in Harrison Nov. 1 as minister of music, coming there from First Church in Batesville, Miss. In addition, he has served as a graduate instructor at the University of Mississippi, as assistant professor of music at East Texas Baptist University, as minister of music for First Baptist Church in Marshall, Texas, as a band director and as a percussionist for Louisiana and Texas symphony orchestras. Reeder recently

completed his doctorate in music education at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He also is a graduate of the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Martha, have two children, April and Samantha.

David McClung is bivocational pastor of Light Church in Greene County Association. He is a student at Williams Baptist College and previously served as youth director for First Church in Mansfield.

Sam Huskey is serving as music director for Bethel Station Church, Paragould. He is a student at Williams Baptist College.

Harold Sadler is pastor of Alicia Church, going there from Greenfield Church near Harrisburg.

John Worsham is pastor of Pitts Church at Cash. He was a member of Amagon Church and has served other Arkansas churches.

Joyce Jordan has joined the staff of First Church in Springdale as director of children and preteen ministries, coming there from Orchard Hills Church in Garland, Texas. In addition, she has directed other children's ministries in Texas and South Carolina. Jordan has studied at Eastfield Community College in Mesquite, Texas.

Steven Lee Kyle has joined the staff of First Church in Blytheville as minister of youth and outreach, coming there from Ramer Baptist Church in Ramer, Tenn. He is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

Church news

Mountain Home First Church is conducting English as a Second Language classes to meet the needs of internationals residing in the Twin Lakes region. The ministry is being led by Edith Mitchell, a literacy missionary trained by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. She is being assisted by church literacy volunteers Jerry Howard, Bonnie Maragason, Doreen Mahone, Hylian Mitchell and Sue Wanless.

Gentry First Church had a mission team which left Oct. 16 for Russia, where pastor Joe Finrock will be speaker for a pastors' conference in southern Moldova. Other team members Chuck Jones and Debbie Harris will assist in establishing a sister church partnership with Chadir-Lunga Church and accessing the needs of those people. Church members Clay and Connie Cartwright and their family left the states in August for Tambov, Russia, where he is teaching English and music and has been



Hillside Church in Camden observed four decades of ministry Sept. 18 by burning a note on Herndon Fellowship Hall. Lynn Robertson is pastor of the church, which was founded by Graham Fowler and Leo B. Golden. Other pastors who have led the congregation, founded as a mission of Second Church in Camden, include Elson Herndon, Herman Voegelé, Horace Gray, Carl Lansford, Heyward Adams, Randy Maxwell and Greg Kirksey. Participants in the service included (left to right) Sandy Nutt Jr., Iva Nutt, Maxine Hyman, Kirksey, Linda Starr, C. C. Stinnett and Robertson.

asked to serve as the minister of music in a church there. She is homeschooling their two children, Grace and Adam.

Ozone Church had a fellowship meal Oct. 16 to celebrate the 45th wedding anniversary of its pastor, Raymond Palmer, and his wife, Jean. The congregation, as an outreach ministry, served a noon meal Oct. 20 to Baptist Student Union members at the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville.

Tilton Church of Hickory Ridge is the new name adopted Oct. 18 by members of what was Victory Church of Patterson.

Ordinations

Hamburg First Church ordained Bob Barnes to the deacon ministry Oct. 16.

Paragould First Church ordained Tommy Bowers to the deacon ministry Oct. 16.

Central Church in Pine Bluff recently licensed Nick Works Jr. to the gospel ministry. He is a student at Williams Baptist College.

Harrison First Church ordained Tony Walker as a deacon Oct. 23.

Obituaries

Linda Stanley Harrison of Pine Bluff died Oct. 14, following a one car accident near Redfield. Injured in the accident were her husband, Edward Harrison Jr., and her granddaughter, Lynette Harrison. Her funeral services were held Oct. 18 at Dollarway Church in Pine Bluff where her husband, a former vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been pastor since 1981. Harrison, a native of Georgia, was a homemaker and an active member of the Dollarway Church. Other survivors include two sons, Terry Joe Harrison and Timmy Edward Harrison, both of Pine Bluff; two daughters, Tammy Renee Stanley and Tiffany Suzanne Harrison, both of Pine Bluff; three brothers and three sisters. Memorials may be made to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Sarah Louise Cook Tipton, age 57, of Little Rock died Oct. 17 following a lengthy illness. She was a homemaker and a member of West Rock Church in Little Rock. She is survived by her husband, Joe Tipton; two sons, Ricky Tipton and Steve Tipton, both of Little Rock; a daughter, Kim Harrod of Little Rock; her mother, Lovie Graves Cook of Little Rock; a sister, and four grandchildren.



Newly-elected officers for the Arkansas Association of Baptist Secretaries include: (left to right) Gayle Paul, president, Little Rock; Margie Dopson, vice president, Crossett; Jean Myers, secretary-treasurer, Benton; and representatives Teresa Ford, Hope; Kaye Robertson, Charleston; and Marty Davis, North Little Rock.

Secretaries form professional group

Secretaries from Baptist churches, associations and denominational offices formed a professional organization, adopted a constitution and elected officers recently. It is the first time an organization has existed for Baptist secretaries in the state. The Arkansas Association of Baptist Secretaries formed during the annual Arkansas Church/Denominational Secretaries Conference Oct. 25 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

During a luncheon meeting, a study committee of secretaries presented a recommendation to form the organization and adopt a constitution.

Robert Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipleship and family ministry department, told participants that the organization will promote "fellowship, mutual support, personal development, professionalism and an awareness of secretaries and their contribution to the ministry."

The constitution, which was adopted unanimously after minor discussion, outlined the name, purposes and membership qualifications and framed provisions for the election of officers, meeting frequency and finances.

The more than 80 participants at the meeting also elected three officers and an additional three representatives to the AABS executive committee. Elected as officers were: Gayle Paul, secretary in the AABS Sunday School department, president; Margie Dopson, secretary for Ashley County Association, vice

president; and Jean Myers, secretary in the AABS discipleship and family ministry department, secretary-treasurer.

Elected as executive committee representatives were: Marty Davis, pastor's secretary for Park Hill Church; Kaye Robertson, secretary for First Church, Charleston; and Teresa Ford, secretary for Calvary Church, Hope.

"We are making history today," Paul said, accepting her election as president. "Remember to pray as we strive to advance the cause of Christ in Arkansas."

Also during the conference, participants heard Donna Gandy review the causes of "work-related stress" among church and denominational secretaries. Gandy, a consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board and author of *Managing Stress in the Office*, interpreted the conference theme, "Managing Office Stress."

She listed stresses on secretaries as:

- excessive responsibility without corresponding authority.

- The inability to control your own schedule.

- Your workload is too heavy.
- Can't properly use your gifts, skills or abilities to their fullest.
- You have insufficient resources or equipment to do the job.

Gandy gave participants preventative measures to combat stress. "Separate your call and your identity," she urged. "Separate your personal and professional lives, separate work and play and separate your unrealistic and realistic expectations."

Retiring foreign missionaries honored

Two Arkansas couples among 98 who served total of 2,805 years

The second-hardest thing Mary Louise Clark ever did was leave the United States for the mission field.

The hardest thing she ever did was leave Zimbabwe three decades later to come home.

"I have only one regret — that I don't have another 30 years to give," Clark said during a recent service at Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., honoring her and 97 other retiring Southern Baptist missionaries. "But I have left behind those who will be much more effective than I have ever been."

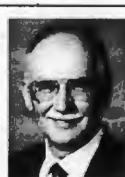
Many heads nodded among the retiring missionaries who sat behind her as Clark spoke of her sadness and joy at bidding farewell to her spiritual children in Zimbabwe. Each could tell similar stories.

Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin paid tribute to the 98 retirees, one of the largest such groups in memory, who served a combined total of 2,805 years on mission fields in about 40 countries.

Two missionary couples with Arkansas ties were among attending: J. Frederick and Bettye Spann, appointed to missionary service in Brazil in 1962, and Ray and Ruby Fleet, appointed to Brazil in 1964.

Spann served in Brazil for the entirety of his missionary career, where he was director of the department of sacred music at North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in Recife and was pastor of Forte Baptist Church there.

Spann was born in North Little Rock and was in music and education work in Baptist churches in Bauxite, Wynne and Benton. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Florida State University.



Fred Spann



Bettye Spann



Ray Fleet



Ruby Fleet

"Perhaps our greatest blessing has been that we were able to work alongside Brazilian Baptists, actually becoming one of them," Spann said. "Within this indigenous context we cultivated close, deep friendships with national Christians.... We are grateful to have been able to spend our lives working with Brazilian Christians, such lovable, responsive, wonderful people."

Mrs. Spann, the former Bettye Brawner, was born in Colt and lived in Wynne while growing up. She is a graduate of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Appointed with her husband in 1962, Mrs. Spann served as a church and home worker in Recife. She taught childhood education

at North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary and worked with children and local Woman's Missionary Union groups in the churches.

Fleet began his missionary service as a religious education promoter in Recife. He also directed the department of religious education at North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary and was director of the state camp for the Pernambuco State Baptist Convention. From 1985-94, he was professor of religious education and music at a seminary in Sao Paulo.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., Fleet is a graduate of Oklahoma City University and Southwestern Seminary. He served as a music and education worker for Beech Street Church in Texarkana prior to appointment.

Recalling an incident on the field, Fleet said, "In our home in Brazil, standing in flood water waist deep, reaching to retrieve a lamp, I was knocked into the water, unconscious and paralyzed by the 220-volt current. Regaining consciousness under the water, still paralyzed, unable to free myself from the lamp and resigned to certain death, I prayed in my heart, 'Lord, help!' The current stopped. Rising to my feet, I realized as never before that life, physical and spiritual, is a gift from God."

Mrs. Fleet, the former Ruby Edson, was born in Foreman. She was an office worker prior to her missionary appointment. She served as a church and home worker in Recife and Sao Paulo.

Fred Spann voiced the culmination of the years of service by the couple. "God's presence was constantly felt during our years of service in Brazil. We never had any indication that He had sent us overseas without accompanying us in doing His will."

Iowa Baptists vote to increase CP percentage

DAVENPORT, IA (BP)—Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship messengers have hiked the percentage of their Cooperative Program budget for Southern Baptist causes by one-half percent and begun the process of becoming a state convention in 1995.

The two steps were among actions taken by 101 messengers from 40 churches during the fellowship's Oct. 20-21 annual meeting at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Davenport.

The Iowa fellowship's 1995 Cooperative Program budget of \$299,488 includes a 21.5 percent designation for Southern Baptist Convention national and international missions and ministries, up by a half-percent from 1994. The overall fellowship budget for 1995 was set at just under \$1.2 million.

The fellowship's new convention committee presented a report, video and skit about plans to become a state convention in 1995. The fellowship was formed in 1965. "Our Time Has Come" will be the theme of the 1995 annual meeting, Oct. 20-21 at the Winterset church. Arkansas Baptists are in the second year of a missions partnership with Iowa Baptists.

Currently the fellowship encompasses 102 churches and missions. Elected as fellowship president was Ed Gregory, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, and vice president John Shaull, pastor of First Baptist, Winterset. Jonette Appleton, a member of First Baptist Church, Johnston, was re-elected recording secretary.

Southeastern trustees form new college

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP)—Formation of Southeastern Baptist Theological College (SEBTC), an institution offering an undergraduate major in biblical studies and an associate of divinity degree, was unanimously approved by trustees during the Oct. 10-11 meeting at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Undergraduate students seeking the biblical studies major must have at least 58 basic education hours before entering the college as required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of Southeastern Seminary's accrediting agencies, said SEBTC's newly elected dean, Gerald Cowen.

Cowen, professor of pastoral leadership and church ministries at the seminary, estimates 25-30 students will enter the college's first semester in January 1995.

SEBTC's vice president for academic affairs Russ Bush lauded the formation of the SEBTC, saying, "The biblical studies major offered by the college will lay a sound academic and theological foundation, which will benefit both students and professors. Southeastern College students entering the seminary will be prepared for advanced study and have a known base of biblical knowledge upon which our professors can build."

Paige Patterson, president of the seminary, said the addition of an undergraduate, biblical studies major and degree program will "allow Southeastern faculty more time to train God's messengers with academic acumen and evangelistic energy so they can minister practically and prophetically in a lost world which needs the saving message of Jesus Christ."

Cowen added, "The demands of the ministry today are much more complex, and today's ministers need intensive preparation. Students earning the biblical studies major will be better equipped for advanced studies at our seminary and for ministry after graduation than they would if they entered the seminary with a liberal arts, bachelor's degree from another school."

Southwestern trustees elect female to theology faculty

DALLAS (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees heralded the beginning of the Ken Hemphill era, Oct. 17-18, hailing a spirit of prayer and revival on campus and hearing their new president say his first three months on the job had been the "most challenging and invigorating" of his life.

In their first regular meeting since they fired president Russell Dilday Jr. last March, trustees heard upbeat reports from various areas of campus life, elected the seminary's first full-time female faculty member and scheduled Hemphill's inauguration for May 1 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

In their other business, the trustees:

- responded to two motions from the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention, agreeing to decline to receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and doubling the amount of tuition a student will pay if his church of membership does not support the Cooperative Program;

- heard reports that the seminary finished its 1993-94 fiscal year in the black, with a \$401,000 surplus in spite of being denied \$200,000 from the CBF, and will receive \$435,000—\$100,000 for program and \$335,000 for capital needs—because Southern Baptists oversubscribed the SBC Cooperative Program budget;

- voted to establish three new

professorial chairs: the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching, named for the pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas; the James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministries, named for the president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and the Rebekah Naylor Chair of Missions, named for the Southern Baptist missionary physician in India;

- affirmed the board's bylaws requiring academic freedom in the classroom.

Karen O'Dell Bullock became the first woman elected to the faculty when the trustees elected her as assistant professor of church history. She currently is teaching on the adjunct faculty as have other women, but none heretofore have been elected faculty members. She and Stephen M. Stookey, who also has been an adjunct faculty member and was elected an instructor in church history, were recommended to the trustees for election last March but action was deferred until the fall meeting. Hemphill also was elected to the faculty as professor of evangelism and church growth.

Hemphill cited concerns raised by some trustees about Bullock's position on the faculty, noting it was in church history, not theology, and that she had assured him that she was under the authority of the seminary president as a faculty member and her husband in her home.

Midwestern trustees kick off search for new president

KANSAS CITY, MO (ABP)—Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary kicked off a search for a new president and delayed a tenure vote on two faculty members until spring at their semi-annual meeting Oct. 17-18.

They also voted to proceed with plans for an \$850,000 family life center to be built on the campus in Kansas City, Mo., and endorsed a severance agreement with former theology professor Bill Stancil, whom the board denied tenure in 1993.

The trustees adopted a presidential search process and named a seven-member committee to seek a replacement for Milton Ferguson, president of the Kansas City-based seminary since 1973, who plans to retire in July 1996.

The search committee will be chaired by the board's chairman, Lewis Adkinson, senior pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. Other members

of the committee are Tim Harvey of Byron, Ga.; Tony Mattia of Wamego, Kan.; Richard Proctor of Wynne, Ark.; Ronnie Rogers of Hot Springs, Ark.; Stoney Shaw of St. Louis, Mo., and Dennis Wood of Tempe, Ariz.

In another matter, following a two-hour executive session, the trustees voted unanimously to extend teaching contracts for Larry McKinney, assistant professor of biblical studies, and James Hines, assistant professor of religious education and to consider recommending them for tenure at the trustees' semi-annual meeting next April. Both teachers were eligible to be recommended for tenure this year.

In other business, trustees adopted a motion, referred by the Southern Baptist Convention, to decline to accept funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Since 1990, Midwestern Seminary has received \$180,954 from the Fellowship.



Johnny Biggs, ABCHFM executive director, interpreted the need for celebrating the ministry's 100th year. "We wanted to offer thanksgiving to God for His magnificent blessings and for providing a trail of miracles throughout the history of our ministry," he said. "We also wanted to share our appreciation with Arkansas Baptists for their interest and support of this crucial child care ministry over the years."

Biggs said anniversary planners also wanted to "help launch, on a strong base of compassion, our second century of ministry to troubled children and families and to reaffirm our commitment to seek the will of God as we respond to the needs of hurting children and families in the next century."

The ministry has grown over the last century to include a variety of services. David Perry, ABCHFM director of program and staff development, said the variety of services mirrors the changing needs of children from troubled homes in Arkansas.

"Child care institutions today are dealing with a broader array of issues and problems related to the breakdown of the family and our society as a whole," he commented. "For our agency, it has meant expansion into new territories of service."

He gave examples of the variety of services offered by the agency. "We have our home for unwed mothers, the ranch program for boys with chemical addictions and the further expansion of

our emergency receiving homes and area satellite counseling services."

"Thanks to the vision of our leadership, board of directors and the generosity of Arkansas Baptists and other benefactors," he said, "we have been able to respond to this multitude of needs."

Perry, who directs the programs of the ABCHFM ministries with the exception of the Children's Home, said there are still "many" ministries for children and youth yet to be completed. "Looking toward the future, we see a broad spectrum of possibilities ranging from ministries dealing with kids that have even more difficult and complex emotional and behavioral issues.

"However," he countered, "we must be careful to constantly maintain and strengthen existing programs.

"Every board meeting we are faced with requests from Baptist associations or churches

to expand our programs into their communities," he explained. "We have responded many times, but some we have put on hold because we're using all of our finances on existing ministries.

"If you look at the last 10 years," Perry noted, "we have exploded with a variety of services. It has been miraculous that we have been able to finance and program this expansion."

The Children's Home continues to be the ABCHFM's largest and most visible ministry, caring for more than 85 children and youth in 1993.

Home director Royce Aston said the Children's Home "provides kids with the opportunity to grow up in a safe, Christian environment where they are loved, cared about and helped to succeed.

"What we do best is give opportunity," Aston claimed. "If we have kids that come in and say, 'I want a chance to grow up, have three squares a day and clothes, have people that care about what I do and a place where I am important to somebody,' we give them that kind of place."

Ministry more than Home

The ABCHFM ministries have grown to include emergency receiving homes in Sherwood, Little Rock, Westfork, Camden, Paragould and Judsonia. The homes offer immediate, temporary shelter for abused, abandoned and neglected children, as well as teens and battered women.

Charles Flynn, who oversees work at the Sherwood, Judsonia and Little Rock shelters, said the three shelters experienced a busy

100th anniversary year, housing children from several different home situations.

"Each of the shelters experienced something different," he said. "The Little Rock shelter will have housed 116 residents by the end of the year at its present rate. We housed children from suspected child abuse situations, others where children were clearly in danger and another where the father's location was unknown and the mother was incarcerated."

Flynn said the values of emergency receiving homes are many. "The obvious reason is that it allows a child to be removed from a dangerous situation until the

danger can be verified," he said. "Another value is when a family is in a volatile situation such as a child refusing to follow rules or the parents have unreasonable rules. They might, possibly, need some time to be separate so that tempers can cool."

He stressed the importance of Baptist

100 Years of Caring

What began as an orphanage on land donated by a Baptist woman in Monticello in 1894 has become a statewide ministry spanning 22 locations, ministering to more than 4,600 Arkansans annually and providing residence space for nearly 600 children and youth each year. Now, after 100 years of ministry in Arkansas, the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries are "Celebrating a Century of Caring - Dedicated to a Future of Sharing," the theme for its centennial year celebration.



From the original Home in Monticello, the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries has grown to include a variety of services in 22 locations statewide.

referrals in placing at-risk children. "When a pastor encounters a situation where he thinks a placement is necessary, he can call one of the area offices, where a worker will determine if a placement is appropriate."

Flynn said emergency receiving homes "generally are similar to cottages in Monticello, except that they are in a neighborhood."

"Houseparents live in the home and their responsibilities include preparation of meals and cleaning," he added, "but they are just as much a counselor. They are often the first ones that the child will open up to about their home situations and they are the ones who sit up at night and hold a child while they cry."

Flynn is director of the Little Rock area office, one of five in the state that provide intake interviews and evaluations for children needing placement in an ABCHFM facility. The offices also provide counseling to troubled families to reunite and strengthen them.

ABCHFM ministries also have grown to include Promise House in El Dorado, which provides a residence for unwed pregnant teenagers as an alternative to abortion.

Jennifer Cloyde, caseworker and counselor at Promise House, said that "one of the neatest things about Promise House is that right now we are almost to capacity. We have eight girls in the program and about five in the process of trying to get in."

Cloyde said Promise House gives young women "an unbelievable support system from other girls that are pregnant and in the same

situation. There is a common bond that brings them together. They have learned to understand other options in dealing with other girls' situations."

She said many Promise House residents experience a "new twist...a new perspective on family. Some of have come from wonderful homes, some from no homes and some from dysfunctional homes. This is a new twist for all of them."

For example, she said, "We find in a lot of homes that no one does the chores. This is the first time many see family responsibilities."

"Our ministry has roots that go so deep," she said. "We are changing the life of the babies, their mothers and their grandparents. Girls are becoming saved and babies are saved from abortion. That's a lot of lives being saved."

Despite being able to offer a wider variety of services to youth, Perry said that Baptists are largely unaware of the ABCHFM's range of services. "The thing that bothers me most," he said, "is that despite what we consider extensive efforts, we remain an unknown entity in the eyes of the average Arkansas Baptist, or their knowledge of us is limited to the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello."

100 Years OF CARING



ABCHFM executive director Johnny Biggs examines a quilt with Mrs. Leroy Tyson of Hopewell Church in Atkins. Six quilts were made by Woman's Missionary Union members to commemorate the group's longstanding support of ABCHFM ministries.



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Cooperative
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Hannah's children

Children's ministries began with one woman's vision

By Larry A. Toller

Business manager, Arkansas Baptist Children's Home

Hannah Hyatt awoke from her sleep with a tug on her arm.

"Miss Hannah...Miss Hannah, wake up it's one of the chil'ren, acallin' fo ya...callin' for her mama."

"Wha...oh, thank you Marion." Hannah reached for her robe, then hurried downstairs and across the yard to the children's dormitory.

Once inside, she followed the sound of the whimpers in the darkness. She stopped at the foot of the bed of a little eight year old girl named Anna, a new arrival. Anna's mother died a few weeks earlier of tuberculosis.

Hannah sat on the side of the bed as Anna cried again, "Mama... Mama." Hannah put her hand on the child's shoulder and gently shook her. "Honey...honey, wake up." Anna opened her eyes. She said with fear, anger and confusion, "Where's my mama?"

"Honey, your mama's not here," Hannah replied. Anna remembered. Tears welled in her eyes. "I want my mama," she said.

Two hours later, Hannah pulled the covers back over the girl, kissed her on the forehead and returned to the bed where she averaged less than four hours of sleep each night.

Her head sunk into the feather pillow and as she fell asleep, her mind kept repeating, "So many hurting children...so many."

For a century, the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children has been bringing care to children in need of the kind of love for children that Hannah had. It started many years earlier. Hannah's parents were Benjamin and Agnes Hyatt, pioneers in Monticello, who came to Arkansas in wagons from Chester County, South Carolina in 1846. They quickly became prominent citizens.

On August 31, 1859, Rev. B.C. Hyatt bought 480 acres of land and constructed a lovely two story home for his family.

In 1886, Agnes Hyatt died, and in 1887, Rev. Hyatt followed her into eternity. Hannah inherited the home and 80 acres of land.

Throughout her life, Hannah was active in church and the community, but her greatest desire was that orphaned children have a place to call home.

There was no orphanage in Arkansas. So with a heart full of love, zeal, determination and faith in her Heavenly Father, Hannah sought to fulfill her vision. She began to gather orphan children into her own home. By the end of 1888, she had 15 children in her home. For the care of these children, Miss Hyatt paid all the bills. She was also their housekeeper and teacher until she hired a young lady to assist her.

In 1894, she offered her home and land to the Arkansas State Baptist Convention for the establishment of an Arkansas Baptist Home for Orphans. The gift was accepted, and the Home was established. In 1895, the Arkansas Baptist Orphan's Home was incorporated. The original Hyatt family home served as the Administration Building for the orphanage for many years until destroyed by fire in 1937. It stood on the site of the present day administration building.

In 1896, a new building was completed which would house fifty orphans. It was immediately paid for, thanks to the generosity of numerous churches throughout the state. W.W. Gardiner, pastor of First Church of Monticello, was appointed treasurer and charged with the task of raising funds for the Home. His son, S.E. Gardiner, was hired to manage the farm. With a common love for Christ for children, Hannah and S.E. found a love for each other and in 1897 they married.

Hannah and S.E. managed the Home until 1908. After leaving the Home they adopted five of the orphans, one boy and four girls. In 1935, they moved to San Antonio, Texas.

When the administration building was dedicated in 1939, Hannah wrote: "I am surely grateful and sincerely thankful to my Heavenly Father above for...the many blessings that have been showered upon the Home and its inmates, that through its teaching and training, they are better citizens for earth and Heaven." S.E. died in 1941 and Hannah died in San Antonio on April 7, 1944, at the age of 87.

During the past 100 years, thousands of children have experienced the result of Hannah's vision. The ministry gradually expanded to accept neglected children as well as orphaned children.

Almost all the children who have entered the Home have come due to circumstances beyond their control. They have been the victims of neglect, abuse or abandonment. Hannah's ministry is an expanding ministry. Her dream of establishing an orphan's home had become reality in 1894. At times she wondered if it was a dream, or perhaps a nightmarish trip into the sorrowful lives of discarded, abandoned and orphaned children—hurting children—with an emptiness in their hearts that not even Hannah's love and care could fill. There is within the heart of every child, a little corner that cries out in the dark lonely night for "mama." There is within the heart of every child a little corner that longs to hear the words, "I love you." There is within the heart of every child a little corner that desires the security of a place called "home."

Hannah knew that her "all" wasn't quite enough to fulfill the yearnings of these broken little hearts. But it was better than doing nothing. So she gave her all in an attempt to make the hurt not hurt quite so much.



Hyatt

1894-1903

In 1894, Hannah Hyatt gave her home and 80-acre farm for the establishment of the Arkansas Baptist Orphan's Home. The Home population grew from four in 1896 to 60 in 1903. A dormitory was constructed in 1897.

1904-1913

The Thanksgiving Offering concept was created in 1907. The population grew to 157 children. The Gardiners left the Home in 1907. The ministry was described as "a passkey to the heart" and Sunday Schools were urged to take a monthly offering.

1914-1923

By 1915 the population reached 192. The convention instructed the new superintendent, S.A. Stearns to reduce the population. Monthly operating costs were \$1,500 in 1922. A hospital ward was added. On Christmas day, 1923, a disastrous fire destroyed the three-story dormitory.

Baptists continue Hyatt's legacy

By Johnny G. Biggs,

ABCFFM executive director

Discovered in a century-old ledger, providentially protected, were the earliest recorded minutes of our Children's Home ministry. Meticulously penned, the minutes recorded a meeting of the deacons of First Baptist Church, Monticello, who met to discuss the plight of orphan children of that day. After reading God's Word and much prayer, "they decided that an Orphan's Home was a necessity"; for they believed, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Not too long after they made this commitment to ministry, Miss Hannah Hyatt came forth to give her home and 80 acres to be used as a home for orphan children. That was 1894.

The spirit of Hannah Hyatt, followed by succeeding generations, has continued to provide for the needs of children. Her gift became the seed from which our agency has grown to include a statewide ministry to children and families: The Children's Home in Monticello; the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch in Harrison; the Promise House in El Dorado; six emergency receiving homes (located in Little Rock, Sherwood, Judsonia, Paragould, Camden and West Fork); seven satellite offices (located in Pine Bluff, Batesville, Bentonville, Greenwood, Mena, Batesville and DeQueen); five area offices (located in Little Rock, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Harrison and El Dorado) and our executive offices in Little Rock.

Our staff and board of trustees have followed the same pattern as our founding fathers in the development of these varied ministries: identify needs, pray for guidance seeking God's will as we respond to the needs and develop resources. Time after time, we

have seen the Lord demonstrate His miraculous power by providing the resources to meet specific needs.

Undergirding this process have been committed Christians who have sensed a word from God in sharing their resources to build and support this ministry. Individuals, churches and associations have joined with us in special ways to meet these needs in His name. Gifts from the Cooperative Program have provided a strong, dependable foundation on which we could build to meet the total financial needs of our agency. A committed, progressive board of trustees has provided stable, effective leadership and support over these years.

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries has a wonderful heritage and is committed to a future of sharing.

It is incredible to consider that this year, 1994, we are celebrating 100 years of ministry which began in Southern Arkansas in Monticello in 1894. On Oct. 6, 1994, we dedicated a new Ranch campus in Harrison, as an expression of our dedication to a future of sharing; another wonderful example of God's perfect timing.

We have heard from former residents of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children. A lady who lived at the Home during the 1920s said she owed a great debt to Arkansas Baptists for providing care for her and her four siblings 70 years ago. She wrote, "thank you for continuing in the service of the Lord."

One hundred years of caring for children and youth; 100 years of uninterrupted ministry; 100 years of continuing in the service of the Lord. "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4).

100 Years OF CARING



1924-1933

The Home was renamed Bottoms Baptist Orphanage in honor of supporters Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Bottoms. Boys' and Girls' dormitories were built in 1924. Receipts in 1929 were \$9,804. In 1930 the children of the Home gave \$22 to missions proclaiming, "We will do without new clothes to help Arkansas Baptists."

1934-1944

In 1937, the original building donated by Hannah Hyatt burned. By 1942, the armed services had inducted 25 former Home residents.



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100 Years

OF CARING

Tates recall joys and trials of houseparenting at Monticello

Being a houseparent to eight girls is a tough job, said Liz and Jim Tate, but both said it has its rewards. The Tates, houseparents at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello for five years, can speak from experience when talking of their "kids."

"My purpose is to take care of these kids," said Jim. "I give them a role model, set an example for them and be a parent."

Liz said, "We try to be a family and do family things. We always eat together and have a devotion together in the mornings. Those are the things that they have never had."

She said her job as housemother is a ministry. "I think this is what God wants me to do. God would not let me do anything else and let me be happy."

Liz said her girls, ranging from age 13 to 17, "need a mother and a dad really bad. Most have only had one or the other and neither were good."

"They want to call you mom and dad," Jim added. "Many have called us mom and dad because they want one so bad."

The Tates begin their workday early and end it late.

"We start out at six in the morning and get breakfast ready and get them off to school," Jim explained. "I do maintenance at the home and Liz does paperwork at the cottage. Sometimes paperwork can be quite frequent."

"After school, she is in the cottage when the girls come home. She makes sure they get to the tutor and the extra study hall they have to do between tutoring and supper," he said. "The girls then have one hour of mandatory study hall after supper, then go to recreation if they want to. They have to do household chores at nine then they go to bed."

Jim said the couple, originally from the Paragould area, decided to be houseparents because "we thought we did a pretty good job raising our own kids and Liz wanted to do some more, so we moved down here."

"The first year was a learning thing," she said. "I thought I would mess up their minds or their hearts, but it's the most fun thing I have done. Kids are hilarious. There's always someone to play with."

"I enjoy being around the kids," agreed Jim. "I'm getting too old to play with them, but I try. For three years I've helped coach girls' softball, so they won't say 'I'm bored.'"

Although there are many joys to being a houseparent, they said it also can be hard.

"The toughest thing is to see the kids leave and not know if they have a stable place to go," Jim commented. Residents must leave the Home if they are 18 years old or out of school. They can stay until 20 if they remain in school.

"Sometimes I love them too much," Liz said. "That lets me expect too much sometimes. They seem like my kids. When I see the anger they show me, but actually feel toward a parent, that hurts me."

She said that "sometimes we don't make it with the kids. We are not able to lift them above where they have spent their lives. That is hard. I go through hard grieving when we lose one."

Dealing with the girls individually can also prove to be a challenge for the Tates.

"I had a little girl say, 'I have a problem with hugs,'" recounted Liz. "I never had a mother who hugged me and said she loved me. I taught her to take hugs slowly. These kids are too important not to hug."

She said that the "good in being a houseparent" far outweighs the tough times. "There's too much that's good, like seeing my kid make honor roll after making all Ds and Fs—to see them come in with just a bag of clothes, with roaches crawling out of the bag and come out looking like everyone else."

She recalled another girl, who "came to know Jesus. She had been praying a prayer for salvation for four days. We talked about it and I told her what she had been praying. She laughed and said, 'I got it.'"

"I saw that girl tithing," Liz said. "She was making \$2.75 a week, and I would see her give a dollar of that in the offering plate."

Taking the message of Christ to their wards is important to the Tates. "On Father's Day, we all told Jim why we loved him. Susan (a former resident) said I loved you because when I wondered if I was saved, you showed me and I know I will always be saved."



Jim and Liz Tate strive to provide a family setting to eight girls in their cottage at the Children's Home.

1944-1953

In 1944, the "Golden Jubilee Year" was celebrated. America was in the midst of World War

II. More than 60 former residents were active in military service and several gave their lives in the service of their country. Hannah Hyatt Gardiner died in San Antonio at the age of 87.

1954-1963

A truck traveled across the state to pick up food, clothing, feed and livestock. The gym was built in 1957. In 1961 the name of the home was changed to the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, reflecting the fact that most residents were not orphans.

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To Children and Their Families

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The Discipleship/Family Ministry Department

ABSC

Nicole: 'They had smiles on their faces'

The children and youth in the care of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries are there for a variety of reasons, but all share a common life: Other residents, houseparents and staff become family.

Representative of many residents is 15-year-old Nicole (not her real name), who has lived at an emergency receiving home (ERH) and now resides at the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello. She was placed in the ABCHEM system by the Department of Human Services because of family-related problems.

She said she found the move to the ERH and then the Children's Home to be a welcome change. "I was scared when DHS told us that they had to find a place for us to sleep," she recalled. "I thought a shelter meant a place where a whole bunch of people were staying that had problems."

The Department of Human Services found a shelter for her at one of the six ERH's in the state. "When I entered the ERH, the first thing that went through my head was that it was a lot nicer than I thought it would be," she commented. "My housemother and (another resident) had smiles on their faces."

She soon found other likable things about the shelter. "I liked it at the shelter," she said. "It was bigger than my room at home and it was fun living with four to eight other girls. I was shy at first, but living at the shelter

helped me out," Nicole added. "I made new friends and it was hard when the other girls would leave. It was sad."

Nicole soon was transferred from the shelter to the Children's Home. "I just fell in love with the place when I first saw it," she said. "I saw beautiful houses in a row."

She found other things to like about the Home. "I like being with the other girls. They sing Christian music every morning. It wakes me up."

She said she also likes her quarters at the home. "I have a private room and its big. It's the first time I have ever had my own room. It's not like I thought it would be — a prison cell. It has windows."

According to Nicole, there is a part of living at the Home she "likes least. Whenever new kids come in, they have problems. They're depressed and keep it inside of them."

An integral part of her experience is her housemother, who Nicole described as "loving and sweet. She is like a mother who talks things out with you and gives you answers."

She said the Home "is not like home. I haven't had a place called home. My definition of home is where you're with your parents and you have a family and a good time.

"I don't have a real mother here," she said. "My housemother is not my real mother, but she almost takes that place."

100 Years

OF CARING



1964-1973

A Little Rock area office was established in 1966. The agency name was changed to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. The Monticello location maintained the name "The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children." Johnny Biggs became executive director in 1971. In 1973 the Fayetteville area office was opened.



Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Salutes

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries for A Century of Caring

100 Years

OF CARING

Dedication commemorates chapel, honors Jones family

More than 125 supporters of the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch gathered to dedicate the facilities, celebrate the construction of its new chapel building and to honor the ranch's most faithful donor at an Oct. 9 ceremony at the ranch.

David Perry, director of program and staff development for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, said the ranch "provides a sanctuary for chemically-addicted boys and gives them a chance to build upon and stabilize their recovery from their addiction.

"Without the ranch, most of these boys would find themselves in a revolving cycle of addiction and treatment," Perry said.

ABCHFM executive director Johnny Biggs said during the dedication of the Harvey and Bernice Jones Chapel that the ranch would have been "just a dream if not for the generosity of Bernice and (the late) Harvey Jones. Many of our dreams just stay dreams, but this place is a miracle."

Biggs also honored "the incredible love and the incredible interest of Mrs. Jones as we begin a second century of caring, dedicating this ranch."

He said of the ranch that "if we can provide a solid ground when all else is moving under their feet, our purpose is fulfilled."

Participants heard testimonies from two ranch residents, including Patrick Dawson, who related how alcohol problems turned into a drug problem. "Following treatment at Baptist Rehabilitation Institute, on my 16th birthday, I was left at the Boys' Ranch. I felt abandoned."

His feelings of abandonment soon disappeared, however, when (ranch director) Clint Morrison met me at the gate and told me, 'Happy birthday.'"

Dawson said that his recovery, from addiction wasn't smooth. "I found a way to (smuggle) drugs and alcohol on campus, but then I began to listen at church. It woke up a whole new world for me and I quit drinking and taking drugs. Without God's help, I wouldn't be speaking to you."

The ranch, which became an Arkansas Baptist ministry in 1989, began in 1964 as the Shawnee Valley Youth Ranch and in 1979 became the Arkansas Sheriff's Girls Ranch. In 1989 it became the Arkansas Baptist Boys' Ranch and the Jones Foundation funded its first year of operation.

Perry said the ranch ministry is "successful. We have no way of measuring their success because it is a new ministry and there is no way of tracking their recovery after they leave. But we want to provide the best opportunity for each boy's recovery and give them the fullest chance possible to become a productive, healthy member of society."



Supporter Bernice Jones visits with Boys Ranch residents Patrick Dawson (left) and Chris Head.

1974-1983

A satellite office was established in 1974 in Fort Smith. Receiving homes were opened in Little Rock and Sherwood. Area offices were established in Harrison and Hope and satellite offices offered services in Blytheville and Pine Bluff in 1981. Another receiving home was opened in Camden in 1983.

Congratulations on 100 years of caring and the opportunity to be laborers together with God.



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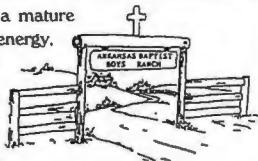
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Thanksgiving Offering a long-time tradition

Growing the ministries of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries depends on the Thanksgiving Offering given annually to the agency, said John Ross, ABCHFM director of planned giving.

According to Ross, the offering and direct gifts from Arkansas Baptist churches "account for about 25 percent of our annual income. Last year we received more than \$565,000 from those two outlets."

Because of last year's receipts and the 100th anniversary year, Ross said, "We have set an all-time high goal of \$600,000. We don't think there is a more appropriate time than Thanksgiving to think of needy children and are encouraging churches to take a Thanksgiving Offering in their church."

Ross said the funds from the offering "are placed into the general fund that will enhance all of the programs on a statewide basis."

Ross said the offering was "authorized by the State Convention around 1926.

"Although they authorized one special offering a year for the Children's Home, and we chose Thanksgiving," he said, "as other offerings came about, some churches chose

to also receive an offering on Mother's Day."

He suggested ways for churches to promote the offering prior to Thanksgiving. "The offering should be promoted from the pulpit early," he said. "Many churches will take the offering on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving."

Ross said offering envelopes will be mailed Nov. 1 "to each church according to Sunday School attendance. They'll get an envelope, bulletin insert and posters. Most churches, if they don't put the envelope in the Sunday bulletin, can put them in pews."

In addition to printed materials, Ross said that ABCHFM personnel "have a 15-minute slide presentation available to Arkansas Baptist churches as our calendar permits, with no charge to the church. We are available to come to your church Sundays or Wednesdays or to Sunday School classes, Woman's Missionary Union or Brotherhood meetings."

Ross added that the ABCHFM has "several printed materials with information on our services available on request."

For more information on the offering, contact Ross at the ABCHFM offices; phone 376-4791.

100 Years

OF CARING

1984-1994

The agency continued to expand services, opening emergency receiving homes and satellite offices. In 1989, the Baptist Boys Ranch was established at Harrison for teenage boys who completed a drug rehabilitation program. In 1990 the agency's name was changed to The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. The Promise House, in El Dorado, opened for the care of unwell mothers in 1991.

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W. David Moore, President



Foreign missionaries deal with grief

By Julie Nall

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Dana Nottingham was living her lifetime dream—serving alongside her husband as a missionary to Burkina Faso in west Africa.

Then, in what seemed the twinkling of an eye, her world shattered. Everything was gone—her house, her friends, her new language and culture, her calling. But all that paled in comparison to the greatest grief of all: the loss of her husband, Barry.

The Nottinghams completed nine months of language study in France and their first year of service in Burkina Faso as Southern Baptist missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board. Then Barry fell ill with hepatitis Oct. 21, 1989. He died two days later.

Dana returned to the United States with her three children, ages 10, 7, and 1.

"I hated what grief did to me—the constant sorrow, the being overwhelmed by the simplest of tasks, the uncertainty of what God was about," she said. "I needed to find out if God really keeps His promises. If He didn't, I wasn't going to make it."

Gradually, Dana discovered a God she had never really known before.

"When my life totally crumbled, God put it back together piece by piece in a whole new way, full of new hopes and dreams," she said.

She met Bryan Bullington, a former "missionary kid" from Africa, and they married in October 1990, making Axle, Texas, their home. Today she's back in Africa, where they serve as Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Namibia.

Grief is real

Far away from family and friends in the United States, foreign missionaries may feel overwhelmed when dealing with the death of a loved one or other personal tragedy. The grief they experience is real—just as they, themselves, are real.

The ways missionaries deal with personal tragedy and grief are as different as their experiences. Family members die from diseases, accidents, occasionally even murder overseas. Some missionaries decide to stay or return to the mission field after such losses. Others choose to return to the United States. Many admit they do not "understand" the reasons for such tragedies, but they believe that God remains in control of the situation.

Jurhee Philpot of Cherry Hill, Ark., didn't expect to endure life on the mission field alone. But on Oct. 11, 1985, her husband, Jim, was murdered in his car while driving home in Mexico City—shot

after being sideswiped.

"This type of thing doesn't happen to modern-day missionaries," Jurhee later said. Suddenly she was dealing not only with the death of her husband, but also with her own life and work.

Driving home one night, Jurhee passed the place of her husband's death and once again had to deal with her emotions. She went home and shouted and cried.

She still feels angry at times about her husband's senseless death. But Jurhee stayed in Mexico, aiding and encouraging churches around Mexico City before transferring to Costa Rica, where she is a language orientation coordinator for new missionaries studying Spanish. Who comforts grieving missionaries? Fellow Christians and mission colleagues often reach out with open arms, seeking to sympathize and often being comforted in return. This proved true for missionaries Wayne and Elinor Pennell who served in Indonesia for 21 years before transferring to the Philippines.

The ways missionaries deal with personal tragedy and grief are as different as their experiences.

When their oldest son, Mark, was in graduate school in 1983, he came to Indonesia for the summer. After a day with friends, he was hit by a truck and killed while riding home on a motor scooter.

Missionaries and Indonesian friends heard about the accident and rushed to the hospital to help Wayne and Elinor face the situation. Looking back on that time of shock, confusion, grief and loss, the Pennells also remember the warmth and love that surrounded them.

Friends handled the police report. Their house helper and two pastors' wives prepared Mark's body for burial, required within 24 hours in Indonesia. Other friends made funeral arrangements. Church women decorated the simple wooden casket with satin and garlands. Others notified people in Indonesia and around the world of Mark's death. Two couples stayed with the Pennells. Many people came from other towns and cities at significant expense.

"At a time when it was hard to find reason to praise the Lord, we could let the Psalms express praise for us," Elinor said. "Mark had brought a greeting card with him which a friend said he bought just

before he came." Verses quoted on the card were from Isaiah 61: "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...to comfort all who mourn..."

"We knew the Lord had led Mark to bring it to comfort and strengthen us."

When missionaries Richard and Carmela Bartels' 2-year-old daughter Victoria Rose drowned on Nov. 23, 1991, grief came with sudden intensity.

"I thank God for the shock we went into automatically," Carmela said. "It buffered us from the profound grief at first and gave us opportunities to minister to those who were trying to share our grief."

But after the Bartels returned to mission work in Benin two months later, Carmela was overcome with sadness and hopelessness as she tried to organize Victoria's toys and clothes. It grew to an overwhelming crescendo before gradually subsiding after the first anniversary of Victoria's death.

"I no longer wanted comfort—I wanted Victoria," she said.

A missionary friend told her to not be afraid of what she felt. So each day she went to her room to pray, read her Bible and meditate. She spent time with the Lord, seeking His comfort.

"I was especially comforted as the Lord revealed the depth of His love to me," she said. "(I) gave my sorrow, anger and bitterness to Jesus. He took it, destroyed it, comforted me and gave me peace, joy and hope."

For 15-year-old "missionary kid" Trevor Woods, who was dying from leukemia in Colorado, faith ousted his fear of death. His faith also helped his missionary dad cope. Trevor grew up in Japan where his parents, Tony and Marsha Woods, from Evergreen, Colo., worked as Southern Baptist missionaries.

"I'm a Christian, so I'm not afraid of dying," Trevor said. "But live or die, I want to go back to Japan."

That took a lot of faith for a 15-year-old, his father said, more faith than Tony could find in his own heart. He died in Feb. 22, 1992, before he could make it back.

"My heart seemed incapable of producing anything, as if it were just a mass of shattered pieces, its sharp edges working their way into every part of my being," Tony said of his son's death.

"The grief isn't so gut-wrenching now as before, but it runs deep and is never far from the surface. But I realize something now that I hadn't known before:

"My heart didn't break back then, nor is it broken now. God still holds it in his hand just as securely as always, and will keep it for his glory."

Johnsonius: 'What God taught me'

By Jan Johnsonius

FMS missionary to Argentina

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—What some people see as tragedy, others see as triumph. My journey toward understanding that truth began Aug. 1, 1993.

My husband, Jim, and I had been seeking appointment by the Foreign Mission Board for nearly eight years when we set foot on Costa Rican soil in 1991 to begin the Spanish-language learning process. Less than a year later, in August 1992, we headed to our long-awaited destination: Argentina. We hoped to spend the rest of our lives there serving the Lord.

We struggled with Spanish, and learning another new culture. We lost nearly our entire shipment of earthly goods before it even reached Argentina. We toiled to learn how to live in a small village, and how to meet the overwhelming needs of a rural province.

We discovered that although God had called us to music missions, the true need was for pastoral ministry and church development. The Lord certainly had different plans for us, but we joined Him in His work and knew the joy of being completely in his will.

It was that assurance that helped sustain me the following August, when Jim and I were involved in an auto accident as we traveled the remote rural roads between our new home of Villaguay and the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires.

An ambulance rushed us to the nearest clinic, and we ended up in intensive care — two beds with a sheet hung between them. As I lay in one bed, I could hear lifesaving equipment and hospital personnel rushing frantically around Jim's bed.

Then ... silence.

No one said anything to me, but I knew. A missionary at my bedside confirmed it. Jim had died.

In that moment, God filled me with a peace that's hard to put into words. For me, the only experience that could come close is when I received Christ as my Lord and Savior. What I didn't realize was that the serenity I felt was physically visible to others — at least to the Argentine physician caring for Jim and me.

Word of the accident spread quickly in Argentina, through U.S. churches and the Foreign Mission Board communication system. As a plane evacuated me from that rural clinic to the British Hospital in Buenos Aires, as I lay in intensive care for four days, as I continued a four-week convalescence unable even to sit up in bed, and in the months of recovery that followed, I



"Despite times when I endlessly ask why, I really can't look at any aspect of Jim's life, or death, and see tragedy."

— Jan Johnsonius

Missionary to Argentina

On the death of her husband on the mission field

knew that many people were praying for me. I knew because I could literally feel God healing my body.

God is faithful, and I'm here today through his grace — a living, breathing, walking product of prayer.

But there's still much confusion. I often ask the Lord why — when Jim and I were serving Him on the mission field and living in His will — did the accident happen? I've heard it said that we shouldn't ask questions, but it's only then that we can find answers.

As I lay in that hospital bed in Argentina for weeks on end, God had a captive audience. No distractions. No pressing mission tasks to complete. He spoke in a "still, small voice," as He's done countless

times before in the mad rush of my life. But this time I was listening.

I struggled with the assurance from many people that God must have spared my life for a reason, that he must have some great task for me. I searched for what that might be. One afternoon, God directed my attention to the pitcher of water on my bedside table. Then he said, so clearly, "My purpose for your life is the same as it has always been, the same as it is for all my children, that you share the living water of Jesus Christ with the world around you."

Many people, my missionary colleagues included, assumed Jim's death would mean my immediate resignation and return to the United States. The Lord, however, never told me that. I knew God had called me to missions as Jim's wife — but also as an individual. Instead of my questioning my mission direction, the Lord created in me a much stronger "call" — perhaps because I didn't have my companion in the ministry to encourage me.

He opened the door for me to take an early furlough and use my journalistic background as a special assignment writer in the news and information office at the Foreign Mission Board. He continues to direct my path, and I find myself waiting upon Him as I've never done before.

I've recounted my experiences so many times now, as I speak at churches, missions conferences and to new friends, that the words seem to come out almost mechanically.

The emotions and pain, however, remain very real.

I don't call it tragedy. There's a reason. I see victory in the lives of people forever changed, both in the United States and Argentina, by a man with a servant heart who answered God's call and reflected Christ's love. I see it in the Argentine missionaries who united around me as God's family in those months of recovery. I see it in the lives of Christian brothers and sisters in Argentina, the United States and around the world who prayed on my behalf.

Despite times when I endlessly ask why — why God chose to take someone so young, with such a mission heart, so early in his service — I really can't look at any aspect of Jim's life, or death, and see tragedy.

I only see victory, and the joy of a life lived fully for the Lord. It would have been a tragedy if Jim had not had a personal relationship with Christ as Lord and Savior, if Jim had not surrendered his life to full-time Christian ministry, if Jim and I had not answered God's call to missions.

That would have been a tragedy.

Small church finds growth through help

Churches working with associations and the Baptist state convention can accomplish ambitious goals. Just ask Danny Breckenridge.

Breckenridge, chairman of deacons at New Friendship Church just east of Paragould, recognized the need for a change in 1993. The congregation, then pastorless, had dwindled to 25 members and continued to decline.

"As a church, we had been trying to turn ourselves around," he recalled. "We knew where we needed to be, but we didn't know how to get there."

In desperation, Breckenridge contacted Greene County Association director of missions Jerry Cothren and requested assistance.

Cothren said the church "really didn't have any problems. I prayed about it, but didn't see anything wrong with the church. They just needed to know who they were and what they were capable of doing."

He described New Friendship as "typically characteristic of a country church. It is rural, small, some members farm, others work in town and there is a good mixture of ages."

Cothren then contacted L.B. Jordan, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's church leadership support department, and asked for suggestions to help the struggling church.

"I received a call from Jerry telling me about a church that had lost a pastor," Jordan noted. "They were discouraged and didn't have a sense of direction and needed a fresh start."

As Jordan searched for helps, one resource stood out. "It is a piece called 'We're Family: Help for the Smaller Membership Church' by Gary Farley and D.G. McCoury.

"This is a piece that is designed specifically to help smaller membership churches develop a good image of itself," he explained. "They learn how to utilize their strengths and also to get off of a membership plateau."

Cothren, who served as the church's interim pastor, said Jordan taught the first three sessions of the "We're Family" study. "L. B. came up one Sunday and did the sessions in Sunday School and that night," Cothren then completed the study with the church during the next several weeks.

"I think the key was that they were open to help," agreed Cothren. "They certainly were more flexible than many large churches."

Cothren said the "We're Family" study focused on "short-term projects that they could complete. I learned and they learned. We set some goals they could reach right

away or finish before long, so the people could be encouraged."

Breckenridge said the study "helped us to come together on a plan. It was a foundation for our process of calling a pastor—knowing what to do and having a plan."

Although the church has more than a year to complete its goals, they have begun to see results. Their membership has increased and they called pastor Dwyndi Nelms in August, 1993.

"I was surprised with the church when I came," said Nelms. "I grew up in a larger church, but served as a youth minister before in a small church. I had stereotyped smaller churches."

"What I found was a church seeking growth spiritually and numerically," Nelms added. "They were starving for something to help them to grow."

"They were running 25 in Sunday School when I came and now they are averaging about 40," Cothren said. "They are very excited in their church. They are just excited to death about the challenges."

"That's outstanding growth," Jordan agreed. "Most smaller membership churches seem to be plateaued and many are losing members."

"What made it click?" asked Breckenridge. "We knew we needed something, they (the convention and association) had something to offer and were anxious to give it. Our people were surprised to learn of the resources available to us."

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SENIOR ADULTS

Shackleford: Low self-esteem beatable even in winter years

By Terri Lackey
Baptist Sunday School Board

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Senior adults who suffer from a low self-image can take practical steps even in the winter of their lives to combat feelings of unworthiness, the editor of a national senior adult magazine said.

"Sometimes we wonder how in the world we can get to this stage of our lives where we have witnessed so many blessings and still have low self-esteem," Al Shackleford, editor of *Mature Living* magazine, said to a group of senior adults attending a Chautauqua Oct. 17-21 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Shackleford said today's senior adult males grew up associating their self-esteem with their jobs and senior adult females linked it to their families.

"Well, for most of you, both of those are gone. You're retired by now probably, and your children have left the home to start their own lives," he noted.

Shackleford said some senior adults suffer from low self-image because the world doesn't treat them with proper respect. "The world says, 'These people are from another day. They don't know anything about our new technology.'"

As Christian senior adults, Shackleford said they should accept the challenge to see themselves as very important people.

"God created you in his image. He could have created us all with a dull gray finish, with the same eyes, the same weight, the same abilities and interests, but he made us all different. He made us all like him, but with our own stuff. That's important for us to remember wherever we go and whatever we do."

Shackleford offered some practical steps for senior adults interested in working on their self-esteem, including improving the quality of their lives in three specific areas — physical, mental and spiritual.

He said senior adults should start by toning up their physical lives. That includes eating right, getting plenty of rest and regular exercise.

"Our bodies are not as pretty as they used to be and we have a lot of aches and pains. Maybe we can't run marathons, but the main purpose is to keep our body in good order so God can use it for his work," he said.

"Don't go around the house all day in

your grungy bathrobe. It's nice to be lazy, but that does something to your self-image. Get up, eat breakfast, take a shower and put on some nice, bright clothes. You need to care about how you look even if nobody is looking at you."

Shackleford told the senior adults they could help their self-esteem by exercising their minds.

"You need to set some goals and plans and things you would like to accomplish. That's what keeps us going."

"Remember when you used to say, I wish I had time for more Bible study and prayer and devotion? Well, now you do."

"Keep your mind active. Did you know that 10 percent of all college students are above 50 years of age?"

Senior adults can help themselves spiritually by spending time in relationships with others and with God, Shackleford said.

"Look around you for mission opportunities. You are givers. You are a generation of people who care for others. Look around and see if there isn't something you would like to do for others in the name of God."

Senior adult confidence boosters

Shackleford listed 10 ways senior adults can build self-esteem:

1. Conduct a personal inventory listing assets, identifying goals, beliefs, liabilities and actions to turn liabilities into assets.
2. Map out a plan. Review your assets, your goals, your beliefs.
3. Just do it.
4. Stop comparing yourself to others.
5. Acknowledge your strengths.
6. Stare down your greatest fear. Admit it, face the fact, recognize it, be hopeful.
7. Get up and get out.
8. Adopt healthy habits.
9. Start giving to others.
10. Renew your vision for life.



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Federal law will require church bus driver drug tests

WASHINGTON (BP)—A law enacted by Congress and published by the Department of Transportation in February will require drug and alcohol testing on all drivers who operate buses or vans and who are required to have a commercial driver's license.

That includes all churches and other charitable organizations, which are considered "nonbusiness Private Motor Carriers of Passengers" by the federal motor carrier safety regulations.

The law takes effect Jan. 1 for organizations with more than 50 drivers, and Jan.

1, 1996, for those with fewer than 50 drivers.

The law stipulates five types of testing for each driver including random alcohol and drug testing. Random alcohol testing is required once a year for 25 percent of the organization's drivers. Random drug testing is required of 50 percent of the drivers every year.

Other regulations that deal with church bus operations also go into effect Jan. 1.

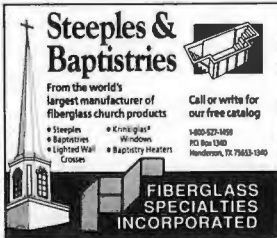
Vehicles included in the regulations are those designed to carry more than 15 passengers including the driver, or that have a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds.

To be in compliance with the new

laws, churches must have qualified drivers, comply with the hours of service requirements and maintain their vehicles. They will not be required to maintain driver qualification files, records of duty status or most maintenance records.

Although the laws for non-business PMCPs do not require record keeping, churches are required to register with the Federal Highway Administration and mark their vehicles with the church name, city, state and DOT number.

Additional information is available from the Federal Highway Administration, Office of Motor Carrier Standards, Room 3107, 400 Seventh St. S.W., Washington, DC 20590; phone 202-366-4023.



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Baptists help Rwandans escape

DURHAM, NH (BP)—Jean-Marie Higiro wasn't one of a million. Nor are he and his family among the millions. And he appreciates it.

Higiro's dramatic escape from Hutu militia death squads in Rwanda last April, and subsequent battle to avoid assignment to a refugee camp with his family, were the subject of several Baptist Press stories. Now he lives in Durham, N.H.

He credits God's protection with sparing him and his family from the fate of an estimated 1 million Rwandans hacked to death by Hutu extremists working from death lists. Most of the victims were members of the Tutsi ethnic minority targeted by the killers. But a significant number—like Higiro, a government official—were Hutus active in political organizations opposed to the "pure Hutu" emphasis of the ruling party.

Higiro recently wrote to thank unexpected allies in his effort to enter the United States: Southern Baptists.

"My wife and I don't have words to translate our feelings about (Southern Baptists') contributions to getting us out of Nairobi, Kenya, and our resettlement in the U.S.A.," Higiro wrote in a recent letter. "From the bottom of our hearts we say 'thank you.'"

Having avoided the common graves of the 1 million killed, he didn't want his family to join millions of refugees scattered around Tanzania, Zaire and Burundi.

"I have the skill to support myself," he insisted. "I won't need others to feed and

house me and my family."

His 12-year-old daughter has an American passport, since she was born while Higiro was doing graduate work in the United States. That was enough to get the entire family—after a narrow escape from the death squads—into a car convoy out of Rwanda and aboard a military plane to Nairobi.

They arrived with no money, no idea how to contact Mrs. Higiro's sister in Nairobi—nothing except the clothes they were wearing and gratitude they had not been murdered.

The family accepted an offer to stay at Brackenhurst Baptist International Center and were befriended there by Southern Baptist missionaries who also had evacuated Rwanda.

The missionaries contacted American journalists, who reported the escape. They also reported the fact Higiro's family—despite his doctoral degree in communications from the University of Texas—faced life as destitute refugees.

Finally, in July, the family flew to America. Higiro received an appointment as visiting professor in communications at the University of New Hampshire-Durham.

Interestingly, Higiro, who is Roman Catholic, had never heard of Baptist work in Rwanda before the evacuation.

But now, thankful for his million-to-one chance of escaping the sea of death and destitution in his homeland, he will never forget what Baptists did for him when he needed it most.

Prayer helps halt Christian killing

IN SOMALIA (BP)—The killing has stopped. For now.

In March suspected Muslim extremists assassinated one of the leaders of the small group of Christians in Somalia—gunning him down as he walked to work.

On a single day in September, three more Christian believers were shot to death. The following day a list of 120 "Christians" scheduled for elimination was publicly circulated—in a city where optimistic estimates put the number of believers at between just 50 and 75.

"How do you respond, in Christ, to 'hit lists' and the possibility that most of your Somali brothers and sisters in Christ living in that environment may die?" asked a Christian who works closely with the Somali believers.

"What's the strategy, the plan? How do you stop the killing, protect your people and cling to your faith in a loving powerful God?" He answered: "You drop to your knees in prayer."

But not in isolation. He and his wife called the Foreign Mission Board with the message, "They are killing off all our believers."

The mission agency's prayer strategy office got involved immediately.

"Within 24 hours we will have hundreds of Christians interceding on behalf of the Somali believers," the office promised. "Within a few days we will mobilize thousands of prayer warriors. Tell our Somali brothers and sisters of our eternal love and support."

Then the killing stopped.

"There's no explanation other than divine intervention," the worker insisted. "There was no strategy to employ other than prayer. From America and all around the world a hedge of divine protection was erected around that handful of Christians surrounded by death."

"Are the believers safe now? No!

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Mississippi College backs off secession vote

CLINTON, Miss. (ABP) — Mississippi College trustees have reached a compromise with officials of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and agreed to reverse their Sept. 22 decision removing the school from state convention control.

Instead of implementing a change in the school's charter that would authorize the board of trustees to elect three-fourths of its own members and limit the state convention to choosing only the remaining fourth, officials agreed to a plan making trustee selection a mutual responsibility. Harry Vickery, chairman of the college's board of trustees, announced to faculty at the Clinton, Miss., school Oct. 14.

A resolution approved by both the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Mississippi College trustees will require agreement from both the trustee group and the convention's Committee on Nominations before a potential trustee's name goes before the Mississippi Baptist Convention for voting.

The plan signals a return to years of tradition when nominating committees invited institutional executives to submit names and attempted to honor those

requests as a courtesy, observers say.

That trend prompted Mississippi College trustees in September to unilaterally alter their charter in an effort to protect the school "from the politics of the convention," Vickery said.

The action unleashed a wave of criticism, including talk of a lawsuit and the withholding of the \$2 million funding the state convention provides the college annually.

Bill Causey, executive director of the state convention, engineered the three weeks of negotiations leading up to the settlement. Causey said establishing checks and balances was "the key" to the compromise. "The starting point of negotiations is that you're dealing with good people who have the larger view of the work of the Lord," Causey said.

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Rex Yancey termed the agreement "the best we could get and keep the school."

"If we had gone to court it would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and would have alienated all the lay

businessmen who have poured money into the school and which could have alienated others. We could have lost the case, too. Even if we would have won, we would have lost. If we withheld the \$2 million (in Cooperative Program funding) Mississippi College becomes an elite Baptist school that's going to drift left. They always do," Yancey said.

In the event of an impasse with the nominating committee, the resolution would appear to allow the college to choose its own trustees.

The agreement also enlarges the Mississippi College trustee board to 24 members from the present 15. Up to a third will be in church-related vocations and — for the first time — alumni who live outside of Mississippi will be qualified to serve as trustees.

Mississippi College President Howell Todd, speaking to the faculty, called it "a refreshing new day, a new era of cooperation."

One participant in the compromise effort said, "The divorce is off."

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Youth/music minister — FBC, Horseshoe Bend. Send resumes to Bill Haynes, HC82, Box 202, Violet Hills, 72584.

Youth worker — Part-time to work with teenagers in the Dolph Baptist Church located near Lake Norfolk. Please send resume to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 134, Pineville, AR 72566.

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

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Williams Baptist College

Williams joins Christian College Coalition—WBC has been accepted for membership in the Christian College Coalition. The coalition includes 86 colleges and universities across the United States. It provides a number of services to member schools and their students, including an array of study programs in the U.S. and overseas. The coalition provides resources for the development of faculty and administrators, as well.

Turner wins history honor—Eric A. Turner of Jonesboro, formerly of Pocahontas, was recently named first runner-up among undergraduates at a conference for history honor students. Turner is a senior history major and was a charter member of Alpha Zeta Xi, the Williams chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. The regional conference, for Phi Alpha Theta members, was held at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway last April. Phi Alpha Theta is an international honor scholarship society for history students. The prize was awarded for Turner's presentation of his paper, "Andrew Jackson: Champion of the People or Enemy of the Public Good."

Jones new vice president—Thomas Jones has been hired as the college's new vice president for institutional advancement.

Jones, who currently holds the same position at California Baptist College in Riverside, will start work at WBC Jan. 2. For Jones, the new job gives him the chance to move back to his home state. He lived in Arkansas until he was 13 years old while his father, Donald Jones, served as pastor of several churches around the state. "I'm looking forward to working in a state that is so much a part of me," he said.

Jones has held church staff positions in California and Texas, but for the past 10 years he has been with California Baptist College. Before becoming vice president there in 1990, Jones was director of alumni and church relations, and he was assistant vice president for public affairs.

Jones and his wife, Gail, have two children: Sara, age 11, and Matthew, Age 7. Jones replaces Ron Sanders, who left the position this summer to become pastor of Lifeline Baptist Church in Little Rock.

Tax seminar slated—Williams will host a free tax seminar for ministers, church treasurers and those who prepare taxes for ministers Nov. 30. The seminar will deal with Internal Revenue Service guidelines for ministers. The seminar will start a 9:30 a.m. and should last about two hours. Participants will receive the *Minister's Tax Guide*, published by the Annuity Board.

Ouachita Baptist University

Tellabration night—An ancient tradition of passing stories will be featured at OBU in Verser Theatre Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. The night is called Tellabration, created by the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling. The evening will allow opportunities for regional storytellers to relate their stories to the audience. The special guest for the evening will be Tom McDermott, a nationally recognized storyteller. There is a \$5 admission charge.

Tiger Tunes time—The OBU Student Foundation will present its 16th annual Tiger Tunes production, Nov. 10-12, in Jones Performing Arts Center. Curtain time is set for 7:30 p.m. each evening. This year's event features eight campus clubs and organizations and more than 300 students competing for cash prizes in performing six minute musical parodies of their own choosing. Funds raised in the production are used to support Student Foundation programs to include Tiger Tunes, Tiger Traks, scholarships, job placement for seniors and dinners for 20 in support of career guidance.

Church-related vocational majors increase—Bill Steger, chairman of the division of religion and philosophy, reported growth in the number of students preparing for church-related vocations. The number of ministerial majors rose from 41 in 1993 to 43 in 1994. Religious education majors grew from 19 to 21, while missions majors rose from 35 to 47 students. Church music majors increased from 44 to 48. The number of students in youth ministry increased from 69 to 70 and the recreation majors has risen from five to six. The total number of majors in a year's time has expanded from 238 to 260 students.

Westmoreland elected president of AGATE—Jenna Westmoreland, instructor in education has been elected president of the Arkansasans for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE), a program to further educate advanced students.

Elrod elected vice chairman of educational consortium—OBU president Ben M. Elrod was elected vice chairman of the Board of the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium (CSIEC) at its annual meeting held recently in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Once he completes his term as vice chairman, it is expected that Elrod will occupy the chairmanship position.

CSIEC is an organization of 43 Southern Baptist Convention colleges and universities working together to promote international faculty and student exchange programs, especially in Communist and former Communist countries like China and the former Soviet republics.

Convention Uniform

Deja vu all over again

By Roy Bucklelew, professor,
Ouachita Baptist University
Basic passage: II Samuel 11:1-12:19
Focal passage: II Samuel 11:1
Central Truth: The more things
change, the more they stay the
same.

Yogi Berra, the legendary catcher of the New York Yankees baseball team, once said, "It's like deja vu all over again. That is especially true about history. To quote a proverbialism, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." It's the cyclical view of history, the view that history repeats itself again and again. It is about the way people behave. When you read the story of David, Bathsheba and Uriah, it sounds like a typical story in a newspaper, movie or novel today.

Like this story from long ago, the world today is made up of victims. Also, the world today is in need of the voice of God.

First, the world is made up of victims (chapter 11). All three people in this story are victims. Bathsheba was a victim of the seduction of sex. The sex drive has always been such a powerful force. Think of the trauma in Bathsheba's life because of sex. Think of the trauma caused by runaway sex today, not just in America but all over the world—sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, rape and abuse. And think of how seductive sex is as it is displayed in our modern media. For example, adult videos depicting explicit sex are renting and selling at an amazing rate among both men and women.

David was a victim of sin, the sin of self-gratification. He gratified himself by sex with another man's wife. Many today gratify themselves by sexual sin, but there are other ways we gratify ourselves—money, success, drink and drugs, power and violence. Uriah was the victim of the situation. He was an innocent victim. He had done nothing to deserve death.

Second, the world is in need of the voice of God (chapter 12). Sometimes the voice of God is full of compassion, but because of David's sins of murder and adultery, God's voice was full of condemnation. The voice of God promised calamity for David and the nation, because he had been anointed to be an example and a leader. Also, the voice of God evoked from David a confession of his sins, which is what God always wants from us.

As it was in the days of David, so it is with us all over again.

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Life and Work

A sincere love

By Rick Hyde, pastor,
Malvern Third Church
Basic passage: Hosea 4-7
Focal passage: Hosea 4:1; 6:1-6
Central truth: Our love for God is
demonstrated in our sincerity.

Someone once said that it's not enough to simply be sincere...one can be sincerely wrong! Even though the people of Hosea's day were sincere, the prophet wanted them to see that their sincerity was not based in righteousness but in ritualism. A sincere relationship with God is not one of legalism, but of love...a sincere love.

The actions of the people spoke louder than their words. "Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: 'There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land'" (v. 4:1, NKJV). The words of God through His prophet Hosea were the loudest in the land. The people talked about truth, mercy, and knowledge, but their actions told a different story. They were guilty of swearing, lying, stealing, adultery and even murder.

The attitudes of the people spoke louder than their words. "Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up" (v. 6:1). Many scholars agree that true repentance was not offered by Hosea's people in these words. Their return was not a return to righteousness, but a return to empty religious rituals in the hope that God would overlook their sinful lives.

The announcement of God's prophet spoke loudest of all. "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" (v. 6:6). Not only did God reveal the insincerity of the people's words and actions, but the prophet Hosea revealed the insincerity of their worship. Their sinful lives invalidated their insincere worship.

An old song asks the question, "How can there be any sin in sincerity?" There can be when that sincerity is based in man's desires instead of God's demand. His demand is simple: that we love Him because He loves us. The people of Hosea's day were sincere...sincerely wrong! Their love was insincere. Our love for God should be like His love for us.

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Bible Book

Spirit-filled relationships

By W. David Moore, president,
Arkansas Baptist Foundation
Basic passage: Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Focal passage: Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Central truth: Believers reveal their
filling of the Holy Spirit through
mutual submission in relationships.

Paul describes how believers live out ("walk") the Christian life in a manner worthy of the high calling we have in Jesus Christ. The key to that walk involves being filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 18).

Then Paul begins to describe in practical terms what the Spirit-filled life means. He does mention a heart of joyful music, an attitude of gratitude and a spirit of submission. Notice that he does not mention external expressions like raised hands, speaking in tongues, etc.

In our relationship with others, there should be a spirit of submission. Paul illustrates that in the family setting by explaining mutual submission. Husbands and wives submit to each other, parents and children submit to each other and masters and slaves (I think he is referring to house servants) submit to each other. The key is in verse 21—mutual submission.

In fact, there is no verb in verse 22. The word "submit" is implied from verse 21. Any man who thinks he is a lord over his wife needs to understand the principle of mutual submission.

The vocative case is used to designate the audience and yet husbands and wives often quote the verses that are written to their spouse! Husbands like to talk about the wife's submission and the wife likes to talk about her husband's duty to lay down his life for her. Both parties need to focus on the words written to them! For instance, when I start loving my wife like Christ loved the church, then I will have the right to demand her submission. Frankly, I am not there yet!

Likewise, children need to read and apply their part and parents should focus on their part. If parents spent as much time applying verse 6:4 as they spend teaching verses 6:1-3, parent-child relationships would be greatly improved!

By the same token, husbands and wives would be wise to focus on Paul's words to them, not their mates. Employers and employees in these passages also are given the chance to illustrate their Spirit-filled lifestyles (vv. 6:5-9).

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Convention Uniform

Do right in God's sight

By Roy Buckelew, professor,
Ouachita Baptist University

Basic passage: I Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-24

Focal passage: I Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-24

Central truth: When we do right in God's sight, He will bless us.

Even God's people can rise to the heights and then fall. It happened to David and Solomon. Like He had with David, God called Solomon to do what was right in His sight and promised Solomon that, if he did, he would be blessed. God also warned that, if he didn't, he would lose His blessing. The principles by which God blesses us today are probably the same as they were for Solomon and Israel — if we do what is right in God's sight, He will bless; if we don't, He won't.

■ What if we do right in God's sight? Look at verses 9:4-5. Speaking to Solomon, God held David up not only as an example of what He expects us to do, but is proof that God forgives sins, forgets them and does not hold them against us. God also remembers only our righteousness. What did God tell Solomon to do? Have "integrity of heart," "uprightness," be honest, do right and obey the Word of God. God has the same expectations for us.

What did God promise Solomon? He would establish the throne of Israel forever (v. 9:5). Solomon must have obeyed God, because God blessed him. He built the temple and the palace (v. 9:1). He also took control of other nations, accumulated wealth and increased the strength of Israel (vv. 9:10-28). Through it all, he maintained his devotion to God (v. 9:25). Even a pagan queen, Sheba, was drawn to Solomon. She praised God and recognized that He had enabled Solomon to do such wonders (v. 10:9). Surely verses 10:10-24 are a description of the Golden Era of Israel. God blessed Israel because of Solomon's righteousness and faithfulness to do what was right in God's sight.

■ What if we don't do right in God's sight? Look at verses 9:6-9. God told Solomon that, just as He blessed Israel because of Solomon's righteousness, Israel would lose God's blessing if Solomon fell away. "I will cut off Israel," God said. And, He said, Israel would become the laughing-stock of the world and would mock the God of Israel. Today, when God's people fall, they are still a laughing-stock and God is dishonored. In the next lesson, we will see what happened when Solomon didn't obey God.

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Life and Work

A loyal love

By Rick Hyde, pastor,
Malvern Third Church

Basic passage: Hosea 11

Focal passage: Hosea 11:1-8

Central truth: God's love for us is loyal.

A famous poet once asked, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Although the poet addressed romantic love, the prophet Hosea addressed spiritual love in the same questioning manner: "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? (v. 11:8a, NKJV). Even though the people (here called Israel and Ephraim) had failed, God still loved them. Why?

God continued to love His people because He loved them from the beginning. "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son." (v. 11:1). Even though the people had forgotten that God had brought them out of bondage, God had not forgotten them.

God loved His people because He saw them grow. "I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms...I stooped and fed them" (vv. 11:3-4). Even though the people had forgotten that God had provided for them in the wilderness, in the Promised Land and even in times of captivity, God had not forgotten them.

God continued to love His people even though He knew that they had failed Him. "My people are bent on backsliding from Me" (v. 11:7). Even though they had failed Him and continued ("are bent") to fail Him, God did not fail them.

God continued to love His people because He knew they needed Him. "My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred" (v. 11:8b). God loved Hosea's people even though they were at that time very unlovable. Their rejection of His love did not cause Him to reject them.

Now change all of the past tenses of the above statements concerning the loyalty of God's love in Hosea's day to present tenses for truths concerning God's love for us in our day. Are you able to count the ways that God loves you? Hosea counted several ways. How many ways can you count? And how many ways can you count that shows your love for God? God loves us first and continues to love us because we need Him. His love is loyal.

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Bible Book

It's time to stand

By W. David Moore, president,
Arkansas Baptist Foundation

Basic passage: Ephesians 6:10-24

Focal passage: Ephesians 6:10-24

Central truth: There are times for believers to stand strong against the forces of Satan.

At times we are told to run away from Satan. Paul told the Corinthians to flee immorality, or to run away from sexual temptation. (I Cor. 6:18) At other times, we have to stand up to the attacks of Satan.

In our passage, Paul reminds us that the believer cannot stand strong in those attacks without the power of the Lord. The clothing images used persuade me that His power is necessary to overcome Satan's attacks.

After almost 20 years of serving as a pastor, I have moved into another area of ministry. I now find myself praying intensely for my pastor and other pastors, because I know from personal experience how strong the Satanic attacks can become.

Any pastor who preaches the Word and stands for God will be attacked. Since God has called him to that role, he cannot run from it. Rather, he has to stand. But he cannot stand in his own strength.

When a believer is clothed with truth, righteousness, preparation, faith, salvation, the Spirit and the Word, he can stand strong against the most powerful attacks. After all, the One in us is greater than the one in the world!

Notice that Paul makes our enemy perfectly clear. If you listen to many Christians today or watch the media, you would think that Christians are fighting each other. Denominations do not agree with others. Nondenominational groups disagree with denominational groups. Believe it or not, Baptists even fight against Baptists.

Our enemy is not the Methodist church, or the independent Baptist church. Paul makes clear that our enemy is not flesh and blood. Our battle is not against people at all. Instead, our war is spiritual in nature and we have greater forces to combat.

Before America enters a battle, the military leaders must have a clear understanding of the mission. That mission guides every aspect of the operation. Do you know that some churches are ineffective today because they do not understand their mission? As such, they have forgotten to lean upon the spiritual power available to meet their spiritual battles.

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NEWS DIGEST

Seniors' yearbook pledge: 'to remain sexually pure'

ORLANDO, FL (BP)—Five high school seniors made a bold statement for abstinence last spring: After signing "True Love Waits" pledge cards with about 650 others from their church's youth group, they purchased a full-page ad in the school's yearbook to tell about the pledge each of them had taken.

The page features prom photos of all five young men with their dates, encircling the "True Love Waits" pledge. "We wanted to show that we're not 'geeks,'" Robby Hurd, a member of First Baptist Church, Orlando, said. "We wanted to prove that you can have fun and date — but you have to control yourself."

In designing the advertisement, Hurd said he was also thinking of the future: "It will be something neat to hand to my wife someday and say, 'Read this page,' because I really kept my pledge."

Injured volunteer responding after months in coma

RALEIGH, NC (BP)—Southern Baptist volunteer Paul Sutherland, critically injured during a July mission trip to Argentina, is showing some response after nearly three months in a coma.

Physicians haven't officially said Sutherland has emerged from the coma, but "you can tell he's in there — it's not just a blank stare," said Vivien Hagler, his daughter.

A member of Sanford's Cool Springs Baptist Church, Sutherland has gone on many mission trips in the United States and overseas. He was painting the library at Buenos Aires' International Baptist Theological Seminary when he fell and was injured.

Jim Henry among delegation on Clinton's Mideast trip

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry was part of the United States delegation on President Bill Clinton's trip to the Middle East last week.

Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., left the night of Oct. 24 on the trip, which included stops in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Israel and Kuwait. On Oct. 26, the president and his guests attended a signing ceremony for a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan on the countries' mutual border.

In a prepared statement released through the First Baptist offices, Henry said he would attend not only the treaty signing but the president's speech to Jordan's Parliament and his address to Israel's Knesset.

Others among the 58-member delegation invited by the White House include representatives of the Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities, Henry said. Other Baptist leaders on the trip include Charles Adams, a Detroit pastor and president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and Otis Moss Jr., a Cleveland pastor, according to the White House.

The president and other members of the delegation were scheduled to return to the United States Oct. 28.

1994 SBC Annual error mixes ministers of music, youth

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—The 1994 SBC Annual contains a mixup involving a switch of headings for ministers of music and ministers of youth.

The SBC Annual, which carries directories of church personnel in even-numbered years, was recently mailed by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to churches, Baptist associations, state conventions and SBC entities.

The section coded as "MM" actually is the directory of ministers of youth, while the section coded "MY" actually is the directory of ministers of music.

The misclassification resulted during the creation of diskettes at the Baptist Sunday School Board used in the production process and in the proofreading of the publication at the Executive Committee.

Southern reports record year of \$7.5 million in gifts

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary received a record amount of contributions during the 1993-94 fiscal year.

Donors provided the seminary approximately \$7.5 million which topped the previous record of \$5 million given during the 1988-89 fiscal year, according to Thomas F. Mabe, the Louisville, Ky., seminary's vice president for institutional advancement. Of that total, approximately \$3.8 million was received in current gifts. Another \$3.7 million was given in the form of irrevocable trusts.

Much of the money is designated for campus capital projects and endowments, Mabe said. Currently, the seminary is securing funds to construct a conference center, the third and final phase of the Honeycutt Campus Center.