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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 22

November 4, 1993

Surround Them With Your Love



**Arkansas Baptist
Children's Homes & Family Ministries**

1993 Thanksgiving Offering goal: \$550,000

Missionary surgeon Naylor denied India medical license

By Donald D. Martin

SBC Foreign Missions Board

BANGALORE, INDIA (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Rebelkah Naylor has lost her license to practice medicine in India, crippling her practice at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where she has worked for 20 years.

A medical licensing council in Delhi, India, notified Naylor by letter Oct. 25 that it would not renew her Indian medical license. The decision affects only her Indian medical license. It does not affect her residence visa, which allows her to legally work and live in India.

The committee gave no reason for its decision, which Naylor will seek to have reversed.

Administrative responsibilities

Although she cannot perform surgery and other medical procedures, Naylor will remain at the 143-bed Bangalore hospital. She still has a full load of administrative responsibilities as associate medical superintendent. She stopped practicing medicine Sept. 18 when her current license expired.

"It's been hard on the staff and very hard on me," she said in a telephone interview Oct. 26. "It's difficult to be right in the middle of (medical work) and not be able to help."

Naylor, 49, learned of the council's ruling in September, but she could not act or comment on it until she received an official letter, she said.

She believes part of the reason for the denial stems from Indian nationalism.

In recent years, India has denied visas to missionaries. In the early 1980s, 18 Southern Baptist missionaries lived in India. Today, Naylor is the only Southern Baptist missionary living in the country of 897 million people. Several Southern Baptists work with Indian Baptists as itinerant missionaries, moving in and out of the country on a short-term basis.

No official process exists for Naylor to appeal. However, in the coming weeks she and other Baptists will contact government officials in Delhi and request that the council reconsider her case.

"The plan is to file an appeal as soon as possible. But our appeal goes back to the same committee. There's no other place to appeal to," she said.

She has also begun contacting supporters in the United States who have contacts in the Indian government — an approach which helped her cause in a previous struggle to gain her Indian medical license.

In 1991, the medical council also did not grant her a license. But she successfully appealed after enlisting help from a U.S. senator, India's ambassador in Washington and Southern Baptist pastors in Kentucky.

The Foreign Mission Board's Prayer Office also issued a prayer alert Oct. 26, asking Southern Baptists to pray for God's intervention in this situation.

"I'm praying for the patience to go through this," Naylor said. "I hope our witness will be positive to the officials and whoever else we meet in the course of this. And I hope that my own dealings with the situation will be a witness to my colleagues and hospital staff."

Cover Story



Children's Home 6-7

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries seeks to surround children with love through a variety of ministries throughout the state. Arkansas Baptists can help support this vital ministry by giving generously through the 1993 Thanksgiving Offering.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Sutton reflects on tenure

Convention president affirms Arkansas Baptists' faith and hope

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Arkansas Baptists are still there," observed state convention president William H. "Buddy" Sutton. "They're still interested in God's Word being taught as His Word straight out of the Bible, they're still interested in evangelism and they're still interested in godly behavior."

Sutton offered that assessment as he reflected on his two years of service as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will complete his work in that role during next week's ABCS annual meeting at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Sutton, the first layman in more than 50 years to serve as state convention president, is an attorney and a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock. During the past two years, he has spoken throughout the state at church services, associational meetings, dedication ceremonies, retreats and other special events.

"So far," Sutton noted, "I think Arkansas Baptists have had an unusual sweetness in their fellowship with each other that has provided strength in what we're trying to do rather than the division that has injured Baptist work in other areas."

"I sense a real wisdom on the part of our Baptists throughout the state to have different viewpoints and realize at the same time that we're in the brotherhood of Christ and should conduct ourselves accordingly. We haven't done perfectly at that," he acknowledged, "but we've done pretty well."

"I think Arkansas Baptists have managed to avoid a disenchantment that seems to have struck some areas of the religious community," Sutton affirmed. "I still see a great deal of enthusiasm and just plain faith and hope" among Arkansas Baptists.

One area of concern Sutton did discover among individual congregations "is the pain that is experienced by many pastors of churches that for one reason or another don't get along."

"It's always disappointing to see cruelty in the church and unfortunately it's present in some instances," he pointed out. "Many people act in God's business completely out of character with the spirit of Christ, in disobedience to His command that we love one another."

Emphasizing the importance of following Christ's commands and example, Sutton said, "We've got to grapple with those values and realize they are expensive. We must come to grips with the fact that



Buddy Sutton, the first layman to serve as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in more than 50 years, will complete his presidential service next week during the ABCS annual meeting in North Little Rock.

the price has to be paid, not in money, but in time commitments, the forsaking of some pleasures that tend to compromise and the realization that some things are absolutely right or absolutely wrong."

Such insights are not casual comments for Sutton, who has been an active member of Immanuel Church since 1959, a Sunday School teacher for more than 30 years and a deacon for nearly 20 years.

Allegiance to Christ

According to Sutton's pastor, Rex Home, "I think there's no one more capable of giving strong, competent and Christ-like leadership than Buddy Sutton has done in these two years. He is truly a Christian man and is not entangled with alliances or allegiances to anyone outside of Christ."

"He tries to do what is best for the Lord and for Arkansas Baptists and I think he's done that very well," Home continued. "Arkansas Baptists are seeing in him what this church has known about him for years."

ABCS executive director Don Moore said Sutton is "wise in counsel and gracious in spirit and has been a wonderful resource person to the convention leadership."

"The strength of his Christian integrity and the solid commitment that he has to the things Southern Baptists are committed to has been a great reinforcement to all we seek to do," Moore added.

Despite such sincere affirmations, Sutton acknowledged that he felt "a certain amount of inadequacy in not being a minister" when he was first elected convention president.

Insisting that "there's not anybody who ever went into the job with less knowledge about it than I had," Sutton noted that his presidential service has been "an exciting learning experience for me."

Among the many priorities in Arkansas Baptist life which have favorably impressed Sutton are ministries to singles and senior adults, commitment to inter-racial ministries and the ongoing work of directors of missions throughout the state.

He also endorsed Arkansas Baptists' proposed partnership with the European Baptist Convention. As a participant in the partnership planning meeting held this summer in Interlaken, Switzerland, Sutton noted, "The faith that is embraced by Southern Baptists is not a geographical proposition but is worldwide....It's time to step up and seize the opportunity to have an evangelistic impact in Europe."

Ministry to children and youth is another key concern for Sutton. "We have to realize we're living in an entirely different situation than we were 25 or 30 years ago and that millions of children are growing up with no spiritual or moral guidance whatsoever," he declared.

Stressing the urgency of strengthening effective ministry efforts among children and teens, Sutton added, "We're doing better than some but not nearly well enough."

Looking toward next week's state convention, Sutton encouraged messengers to demonstrate "encouragement and enthusiasm about doing the work that we were all called to do in a spirit of love that recognizes and gives credit to our brothers and sisters in Christ whether we see everything exactly alike or not."

Affirming "the viability, the energy, the devotion and dedication that is still found in our Baptist churches, large and small," the state convention president concluded, "We are a people who recognize that God is — and that ought to be the controlling factor in our lives."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By **DON MOORE**
ABSC Executive Director

I need to thank many of you who have given to state missions through the Dixie Jackson State Mission Offering. Many of our mission efforts are cooperatively funded with the Home Mission Board providing 40 percent of the funds and our state mission office providing the other 60 percent. This is known as "The Cooperative Agreement."

Speaking of cooperation, that is a word and a concept that has made it possible for Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists to do things other groups have only dreamed of doing. The amazing thing is that individual Baptists and churches have not had to surrender their independence and freedom to cooperate with others. We have not insisted that we all believe alike on every doctrine or practice. We have not insisted on having perfect leadership or perfect methods before we work together. No one has been conscripted, cajoled, conned or coerced to cooperate. Which introduces another important word to our discussion: voluntary.

Most church constitutions state that the church chooses to voluntarily cooperate with the local association, the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. We have more need than ever to voluntarily cooperate in the massive challenge of world missions.

Voluntary cooperation takes place naturally when people of a common faith and concern are drawn together around objectives that call for their best. Finding consensus about those objectives, our diverse and varied Baptists set about to reach them.

The annual state convention sessions provide an opportunity for our independent churches to be involved in the deliberations by which they reach a consensus and act to reach those God-given objectives through their churches.

Let me encourage our churches to send as many messengers as possible to our convention, Nov. 9-10, at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. It will doubtless strengthen our resolve to voluntarily cooperate.

MARGARET WARD

Woman's Viewpoint

Self-Love



In my profession, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with hundreds of women. My job is to make women look and feel better about themselves. When we feel good about ourselves, we view the world in a positive way. Our job performances improve, and people enjoy being with us and we are happy.

God wants us to be happy and love ourselves. God loves us and He wants us to love Him. In order to love God and others, we must first love ourselves — self-love. What is self-love? It is the awareness that you are a worthy person.

I believe the lack of self-love is why many of our teenagers are making wrong choices. This is why gangs are increasingly violent. Teenagers are becoming pregnant at an alarming rate. Those lacking in self-love will often go along with sexual aggressors for fear if they say "no" they will be rejected. Alcoholism and drug abuse among teenagers is rapidly growing each year. Far too many of our youth lack the self-confidence and self-love to say "no" to peer pressure.

Self-love is not arrogant. An arrogant person displays a superior attitude toward others to cover up his own insecurities. A self-loving person never

considers himself "above" another person.

A person with self-love is not a braggart. He does not have to "blow his own horn." He knows his self-worth, and is secure in it.

Self-love is a sense of self-worth. Self-love is expressed and understood in many ways. It is knowing we are wanted. It is giving your love to someone who needs you.

Self-love is experiencing God at work in you and through you.

Today our lives are so busy with meeting the needs of our families and the demands of our careers that we make little time for the most important priority in our life — God.

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship that we will experience. Some of us may be guilty of giving God only a small portion of our time. God is always present in our lives. God expects us to have a continuing relationship with Him.

Margaret Ward is married to Joe, and they have a 15-year-old son. She is an active member of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock and an executive director with Beauti-Control Cosmetics.

Personal perspectives

"We are a people who recognize that God is — and that ought to be the controlling factor in our lives."

—William H. "Buddy" Sutton, president, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

"I believe that one of the most important things for us as Southern Baptists is to mature those we are winning to Christ... We are beginning to pay a dear price for evangelism without adequate follow-up."

—Jimmy Draper, president, Baptist Sunday School Board

"We need to love one another.... Some of the things that people have said on all sides, and the contraverses that have gone on, I cannot believe would be from the mouth of Jesus."

—Evangelist Billy Graham

The miracle of the Cooperative Program

To some the Cooperative Program is a collection of funds. To others it is a unified budget. Still others view it as a plan for cooperative missions.

The Cooperative Program has been called "the glue that holds Southern Baptists together" or "the rope of sand with strength of steel" or "the lifeline of missions" and given numerous other designations.

The Cooperative Program may be all or a blend of its titles and appellations, but my 23 years of service on the mission field have brought me to the conviction that it is more than a humanly devised program to finance missions. To me the Cooperative Program is a living miracle. I have experienced and witnessed it firsthand.

A miracle of faith

Each Lord's Day faithful Baptists give by faith to their local church and by faith the church shares a percentage of those gifts each week or month for the work of Christ in the state, the nation and throughout the world. Faithfulness on the part of all Southern Baptists for just one Sunday would create a denominational economic crisis of astronomical proportions! Missionaries thank God daily for the faithfulness of Southern Baptists.

A miracle of love

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. God so loved the world that He also gave Southern Baptists a burden for a lost world and the love of His Son to reach it. Cooperative Program gifts are a tangible expression of that love. Almost 4,000 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in 129 countries are the

GUEST EDITORIAL



By JERRY RANKIN
President, Foreign Mission Board

incarnate expression of that love as they make Christ known to the nations.

A miracle of cooperation

Faithful church members, cooperating Baptist churches, concerned associations, committed state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities together weave a web of cooperation that encompasses the globe with evangelism that results in churches. This cooperative effort resulted in 251,901 baptisms overseas last year, an average of more than 4,800 baptized believers each week. A miracle indeed.

A miracle of distribution

The local church members vote on the percentage or dollar amount of funds that are forwarded for all Cooperative Program causes. The state convention messengers vote on the percentage distribution of funds for state convention and Southern Baptist Convention ministries. The SBC Executive Committee and the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention vote

on the percentage of funds to each SBC entity, including the Foreign Mission Board.

A miracle of grace

No human instrumentality can claim credit for the success of the Cooperative Program. It is only by the grace of God that Southern Baptists have been blessed with the financial resources to reach our world. It is only by His grace and the leadership of the Holy Spirit that Southern Baptists have been led to contribute generously to missionary causes.

It is a miracle of God's grace that a culturally diverse and geographically scattered people called Southern Baptists can be bound together by trust that transcends our differences and combines our resources for doing together what none of us can do alone.

A miracle of growth

Since its beginning in 1925, the Cooperative Program has grown beyond the fondest dreams of our Baptist forefathers who nurtured it through its infancy. Yet the last few years indicate a downward trend in SBC Cooperative Program gifts, while the potential for future growth is as great as the promises of God.

Our people, our churches and our conventions must be challenged as never before to increase their gifts and their percentages for global evangelization during these final years of Bold Mission Thrust.

Another miracle is in the making. I challenge you and your church and your state convention to be a vital part of what God is doing in our world.

'Seek out' pastor

I am a veteran of 14 interim pastorates in two states and one in the Caribbean. I am constantly amazed at the number of resumés that appear on the desk of our search committees.

One committee member expressed an interesting thought: "It is a hard feeling to know that you are dealing with a man's life and almost pre-judging him without benefit of knowing him."

This makes me wonder if the best procedure is to go "seek out" a pastor rather than being sought by method of resumé.

Andrew M. Hall
Fayetteville, AR



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Amen to rescue response

Amen to Rev. Mark Brooks response to Operation Rescue (Sept. 23 issue, page 6). His kind of sane thinking has got to make its way into SBC pulpits. We have too much irrational talk about abortion, homosexuality, race, censorship, welfare and other social issues. We heard little or nothing from pulpits about abortion until

it became legal. Thus, Christians look like legalists instead of moralists.

Pure, undefiled religion as defined in the Scriptures will win the hearts and minds of people. Most of us find the "defiled" things such as carrying signs, gathering signatures, shouting epitaphs and passing judgment easier to practice than pure religion. Carried to extremes, this defiled religion led to "killing for the sake of God." Practicing defiled religion gives one a false sense of spiritual superiority and keeps one too busy to practice pure religion. Too many of us have been there. I thank Rev. Brooks for his courageous words.

Nell Anderson
Newnata, AR

Ministry surrounds children with circles of compassion

By Colleen Backus
Arkansas Baptist

When Johnny Biggs sees children in need, he sees circles of compassion. Biggs, director of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, sees the outer circle as the compassion of Arkansas Baptists, an inner circle composed of the concerned staff of his agency, and in the innermost circle, the children.

"Surround Them with Your Love" is the theme of the agency's Thanksgiving offering this year. "Many of the children we serve are abused, neglected and in need of someone to love them," Biggs explained. This year's offering goal of \$550,000 will help the agency continue to express its ministry of compassion through several avenues.

For 15-year old Kathleen, the circle of love was the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello. Kathleen has suffered from abuse all her life. She carries the physical effects of being beaten about the head as a 4-month-old infant. This year, the home has provided care for 83 children and youth. In addition to providing the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, Biggs said, "Our staff provides a loving environment and guidance to bring about healing and wholeness of life." The home offers recreational activities, counseling and tutorial assistance as well as church, school and community involvement.

For three-year-old Stacy, the circle of compassion was an emergency receiving home. Her father tried to drown her because she wouldn't stop crying. The emergency receiving homes serve children birth through 18 years of age who need temporary emergency care due to abandonment, neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse. A sixth home in West Fork opened recently, in addition to the other five located in Little Rock, Sherwood, Judsonia, Camden and Pargould. Last year, 395 children found immediate care and protection at these homes.



1993
Thanksgiving
Offering Goal:
\$550,000

The circle also surrounded Bonnie, a 24-year-old pregnant mother of two, abused by her husband because she would not abort her unborn child. She was among 17 battered women and their children who were cared for at two of the emergency receiving homes.

Circles of love brought 16-year-old Ricky to the Boys Ranch, where he has been for almost two years. Ricky began using drugs and breaking into houses at age 12. The Boys Ranch outside Harrison continues to

provide new beginnings for boys fighting substance addiction. Construction of a second ranch house for the boys, as well as beginning construction of two more ranch homes will help the ministry reach far into the future. This year, 36 boys found new beginnings in a chemical-free environment.

The Promise House in El Dorado offers a Christian alternative to abortion. In addition to protecting unborn life, the Promise House also protected 16-year-old Sally who was living in an old car. It also provided a safe haven for 15-year-old Linda, who came from a good Christian home. This year, 12 unwed pregnant teens lived at the house, receiving prenatal care, delivery services, counseling, education and religious training.

The special needs of some children can best be met in a small group setting or through a foster family. The Group Home for Boys in Jonesboro cared for six boys; two other children were cared for in approved foster homes.

The area and satellite offices "have become a beacon of light" to many families in crisis, according to Biggs. Last year, the staff responded to 1,687 referrals involving 9,368 interviews. "The complex array of marital problems, parent-child conflict and personal problems present our staff with challenges for ministry," Biggs said.

"Arkansas Baptists have been so faithful in their support over the years — we do so well together," Biggs added.

David Perry, director of staff development for the agency, explained that needs continue to increase. "Our shelters are staying full, and many children are waiting for an open space at the Children's Home,"

Children's Home sixth emergency

The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries dedicated its sixth emergency receiving home Oct. 17. Washington-Madison Association built and furnished the house. The Tommy Jones Memorial Home at West Fork can house up to eight children and also has a family unit for battered mothers.

The facility is named for Tommy Jones, who was chairman of the agency's long-range planning committee and a member of Fayetteville First Church. "It's beautiful inside," said Johnny Biggs, agency director. He said the associational leaders "have done a tremendous job in getting their resources together."

Harold Gateley, director of missions for the association, has dreamed of having a receiving home in the area for a decade. "When we first came to the association 10



Participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Tommy Jones Memorial Home in West Fork were (left to right) Gary Burney, Jere Mitchell, Jane Jones, Earl Adams, Johnny Biggs, Harold Gateley and Bill Carter.

he said. "Recently, one of our receiving homes took care of a seven-year-old boy with both hands broken by parental abuse."

Biggs affirmed the growing need for his agency's ministry, which will reach its centennial mark next year. "The Thanksgiving offering determines how far we can reach and how well we can provide for hurting children and their families."

One of those hurting children was Angel Martin, who came to the Children's Home when she was 15. "When I first went there, I had a really hard time adjusting. I didn't get into trouble, but I wasn't content," she explained. In the summer after the 11th grade, Angel went to live with a relative. She said she quickly discovered that the Children's Home "was more of a family than I realized, so I asked them if I could come back."

Angel graduated from high school and with the aid of a special scholarship program, enrolled at Ouachita Baptist University. However, during her first semester, she was in a car wreck which hospitalized her for 18 days. "The people from the home were who I cried out for," Angel recalled. "And they came. They stayed with me in the hospital and they are still there for me."

Due to a need for ongoing physical therapy, Angel returned to the home to recuperate. She returned to Ouachita the next semester, and she will graduate next August. "Before I went to the home I wasn't directed," she explained. "I didn't think certain things were possible - like going to college. Through the home, I had the opportunity, as well as an increase in my desire."

"And they never deserted me."

officials dedicate receiving home

years ago, I realized there was a need for a home in the area," he explained. Gateway and his wife previously had been houseparents at the Sherwood emergency receiving home, and knew firsthand what the ministry could provide.

A pastor in the association, Paul Dennis of Sang Avenue Church in Fayetteville, wanted a home for battered women. Through the emergency receiving home, both were provided. The association established a committee and raised the necessary funds.

"The completed home is almost 3,500 square feet," noted David Perry, director of staff development for the agency. "In addition to sleeping areas, there are houseparents quarters, an intake office, counseling office, and living, dining and kitchen areas."

Newsmagazine directors unanimously elect Russ Dilday associate editor

Russ Dilday, news and information coordinator for the Missouri Baptist Convention public relations department, has been unanimously

elected by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine board of directors as Newsmagazine associate editor. Dilday, an Arkansas native, will begin his new responsibilities Jan. 1, 1994.

"We are extremely fortunate to have a Christian journalist of Russ Dilday's caliber join our Newsmagazine staff," noted Newsmagazine board president Greg Kirksey, pastor of Benton First Church. "His work as associate editor will enable us to continue to improve the quality of the Newsmagazine and further assure Arkansas Baptists of our commitment to provide the very best coverage of news events which are of interest in Arkansas."

"God's hand was obvious throughout the search process," Kirksey added. "There was absolutely never a doubt that Russ was the man for the job. He is just another choice servant that God has brought to Arkansas."

"I am excited about the personal and professional strengths Russ will bring to our staff," agreed Newsmagazine editor Trennis Henderson. "His strong Southern

Baptist heritage and training, combined with his commitment to the ministry of Christian journalism, will help strengthen the Newsmagazine and benefit all Arkansas Baptists."

Dilday is the son of Janyth Dilday and the late Don Dilday, who formerly was pastor of Stamps First Church and Helena First Church and a director of missions in Texas. Dilday, 29, is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

While in seminary, Dilday served as assistant to the director of public relations there. Following graduation in 1991, he accepted the Missouri Baptist Convention position.

As Newsmagazine associate editor, Dilday will assist in the publication's ongoing production, including responsibilities in news and feature writing, editing, photography, design and long-range planning.

"I am eager and excited about working with the staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention," Dilday remarked. "They have a reputation of teamwork and getting the job done. I look forward to fitting into that mode. I'm also looking forward to returning to my home state and renewing some old relationships and beginning many new ones."

Dilday and wife, Suzanne, a high school English and Journalism teacher, currently are active members of Southridge Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo.



Russ Dilday

Williams coach saves life of motorist

Judy Johnson, the girls volleyball coach at Williams Baptist College, is credited with saving the life of an accident victim as the coach and her team traveled to a road game Oct. 8. Johnson administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to Sandra Gilford of Corning until an ambulance arrived at the accident scene. Gilford was hospitalized for a week at St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro. She continues to recover from her injuries.

Coach Johnson and her Eagles volleyball team witnessed the accident on U.S. Highway 67, just south of Corning. The college van, driven by Johnson, was traveling behind the Gilford car when the car was struck by an oncoming trailer truck.

As the coach stopped the van to offer assistance, Gilford was conscious but soon started convulsing and stopped breathing. Johnson performed CPR for about two minutes, until Highway Patrolman Larry Kirk arrived. Johnson and Kirk removed the victim from her car to better administer CPR, and then continued the process until paramedics arrived.

Johnson, who is a certified American Red Cross instructor in CPR and first aid, said she prayed as she helped the accident victim. "Lord, please don't let her die. Let me do what I can to help her."

The Williams volleyball team was on its way to Greenville, Ill., for a game at Greenville College. Coach Johnson is in her first year of teaching at Williams.

State discipleship conference focuses on equipping churches

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

The need for churches to minister to the crucial hurts and needs of people in today's world was addressed by James P. Draper Jr. and Johnny Jones as they spoke at the 1993 Arkansas Conference on Discipleship.

The conference, held Oct. 25-26 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, focused on the theme, "Equipping the Church for Ministry." Sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Discipleship and Family Ministry department, the meeting featured inspirational worship sessions followed by training conferences for general officers and leaders of single-staff and multi-staff churches, youth, children and preschool. Sessions for secretaries also were held.

Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, noted the need for Southern Baptists to return to discipling and maturing Christians. "I believe that one of the most important things for us as Southern Baptists is to mature those we are winning to Christ," he declared. "We have been reaching people for years and have been known for our evangelism, but we are beginning to pay a dear price for evangelism without adequate follow-up."

"Discipleship groups are places where believers can help each other be accountable for their faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ," Draper said. "I am excited about the services and materials that we have provided in the discipleship area. They enable us to apply basic foundational truths of the Word of God to our everyday lives. They are materials that can help us experience and discover afresh the forgiveness of God and forgiveness of others. It is in discipleship groups that we are going to recapture the sense of responsibility that belongs in a society."

Draper emphasized it is essential that Southern Baptist churches have a caring, ministering discipleship because of the crisis in leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention, the crisis in church influence and the crisis in church membership.

He shared that a recent survey conducted by Fuller Institute at a pastors' conference revealed that 50 percent in attendance felt they were inadequate for ministry, 37 percent admitted they had acted improperly sexually with a member of their church, 50 percent said they received only four to five hours of sleep a night, 70 percent said their self-image was



Baptist Sunday School Board president Jimmy Draper affirms the urgency of church involvement in discipleship.

lower than when they began their ministry and 50 percent said they had no close friends to whom they could relate.

Citing similar Southern Baptist statistics, Draper declared, "We have a crisis in leadership that we must address by developing a comfort zone that will address people at the point of their needs. We are going to have to deal with the difficulties and the problems and challenges that face us."

Draper noted that another survey among non-church members found that only 28 percent believe the church has anything to say to them. "These statistics are frightening and the truth is the church has withdrawn into its sanctuaries, buildings and programs," he said. "We as Southern Baptists have stopped being on the cutting edge of touching people at the point of their needs and thus we have lost our influence."

Illustrating the crisis in church membership, Draper said one in four children in America today live in single-parent homes and one in two will live in a single-parent home by the time they graduate from high school. He added that half of all marriages end in divorce, almost 10 percent of the population lives alone, sexual abuse is rampant, incest affects one in five Americans and there are 20 million alcoholics in the nation.

"The depth of the problem is seen in the fact that more than 15 million people weekly participate in over 500,000 self-help groups," Draper noted. He said that

number is expected to double in the next three years and reach 60 million people within a decade.

"We have abandoned this epidemic to secular groups when there are answers to be found in the Word of God," Draper said. "The church is called by God to address these needs and discipleship is the maturing of an individual into a real and vital relationship with Jesus Christ."

"We have never had better materials or sharper tools than we have now, but there is going to have to come a commitment on the part of our churches to ministering in the name of Jesus to the pains, hurts and needs of individuals, leading them in their relationship with God until we all together become what God would have us to be," Draper concluded.

Jones, a LIFE support specialist in the BSSB's Discipleship and Family Development division, also affirmed the materials now available through the Sunday School Board. He added that Southern Baptist churches must take advantage of such resources in order to become prepared to help people where they are hurting.

"I praise God that Southern Baptists for the first time are entering a new ministry that can help people where their needs really are," Jones declared. "Through a small LIFE support group or 12-step group people with hurts and needs can find trust and affirmation. It is a place where they are meeting for a specific purpose with a trained facilitator who leads the group in sharing their sins and praying together. Individuals will see that others are hurting and see themselves in others."

Jones emphasized that small support groups are a tremendous outreach tool for local churches. "We are finding that 70 percent of those people who come to support groups don't belong to the church. It is a ministry to help people where they have needs and to let the church really be the church, ministering to people where they are hurting. Through these groups people learn they can come to the church, take off their mask and really be themselves."

He encouraged more churches to become involved in such programs, challenging churches to quit ministering to those people who have it all together and become concerned for those people who are on the pews Sunday after Sunday hurting emotionally, dealing with co-dependency or addictions or who come out of abusive backgrounds. "These people have brought all of that baggage into an adult life, they are hurting and they need help for those hurts," Jones challenged.

"Is it a risk to do support groups?" Jones asked. "Yes, it is, but I believe it is a God-called ministry that we all need to get involved in."

Campaign expands in Arkansas and nation

"You have no idea how stupid we feel being the only virgins in junior high."

Richard Ross still remembers those words voiced earlier this year by two junior high girls in his youth group at Tullip Grove Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn.

"Statistically, I knew the girls were in error," said Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board. "At their ages, virgins would certainly be in the majority. But it concerned me that our society has shifted so much that teenagers living God's way feel they are living in a tiny minority. They feel they are the strange ones. And for them, perception is reality."

Ross became convinced that teenagers needed a way to discover just how many of their peers were refraining from sexual activity. He soon developed an idea for having youth from across America sign covenant cards promising to remain sexually pure until marriage, collecting them and then displaying them at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting as a witness of the willingness of young people to choose abstinence as a lifestyle.

"True Love Waits" was born.

Since the launch of the nationwide campaign last April, tens of thousands of youth and college students from across America and some foreign countries have signed abstinence pledges. Several other denominations and religious groups have endorsed "True Love Waits" and religious and secular media have provided extensive coverage of the campaign.

Ross himself has been interviewed by a variety of national media, such as NBC's "Today" show, Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club," CNN Radio Network, *The New York Times* and *USA Today*. While he is excited about the positive coverage of the campaign, he is a little uncomfortable about all the attention he is receiving as one of its coordinators.

"This campaign is really a team effort," Ross stressed, referring to the work of the BSSB "True Love Waits" committee, chaired by Jimmy Hester of the BSSB discipleship and family development division. "The 'True Love Waits' committee took my initial idea, thought through all of the implications and logistics and developed the specifics of the campaign,"



Youth from throughout the nation will display "True Love Waits" covenant cards on the mall in Washington D.C. during a youth evangelism conference next summer.

he said. "It is truly a corporate effort."

Still, Ross is a key player. But he knows something bigger than himself is responsible for the campaign's success.

"Never in all of my years of ministry have I had such a profound sense of working on something so obviously orchestrated by God Himself," Ross said. "Literally, hour by hour at my desk it is clear that we are uncovering the details of a plan God created from the beginning."

On the state level, Bill Falkner, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Discipleship and Family Ministry department, is serving as the True Love Waits coordinator. He has developed an Arkansas plan that plugs into the process at four levels.

"First, we encourage teens and their parents to consider the True Love Waits materials in a worship-type setting in their home. For those teens who do not have that security and support from within the home, we encourage other adults to 'adopt' those kids."

Falkner emphasized that the teens' decision are based on sexual purity, not virginity. "Some of our kids have already made mistakes. We want them to tap into God's forgiveness and be part of the campaign to recover their self respect and deal with their guilt."

A second step is a time of corporate worship and celebration during which the covenant cards can be turned in and affirmed by the church body. Ideally, Falkner said, the third step is an associational rally.

The final in-state step is the statewide True Love Waits Rally which will be held on April 1, 1994, during the State Youth Convention. From there, the cards will be taken to Orlando, Fla., to be displayed at the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The response to True Love Waits is expanding across denominational lines," Falkner explained. One result is that the covenant cards will be displayed in Washington D.C. the week following the Southern Baptist Convention during D.C. '94, a nationwide conference on youth evangelism.

"This is a way of graphically visualizing to the nation that there are teenagers who are not buying into the myth of 'safe sex' and have a commitment of their lives and sexuality to be abstinent until they are in a God-blessed marriage," Falkner said.

"Teenagers have been lulled — by adults — into believing they are going to be promiscuous. This campaign is a viable alternative," he emphasized.

People with questions about True Love Waits can call the Baptist Sunday School Board toll-free at 1-800-LUV-WAIT between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To order the True Love Waits campaign kit or the video promoting the campaign, call the BSSB Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-2772. The materials also will be available for sale next week at a booth at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Church-starting efforts in Europe help offset U.S. military cutbacks

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

WIESBADEN, GERMANY (BP)—Three more English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe have closed as U.S. military force cutbacks continue to drain congregations affiliated with the European Baptist Convention.

But a strong church-starting campaign reaching English-speaking internationals is reducing the impact of the withdrawal, EBC leaders say. So many Europeans either speak or want to learn English that English-speaking churches can play a key role in evangelizing Europe, they predict. Messengers to next week's Arkansas Baptist State Convention are scheduled to vote on a proposed three-year partnership with the European Baptist Convention which includes an emphasis on new church starts.

Thirteen English-speaking Baptist congregations have closed since the fall of the Berlin Wall signaled the end of the Cold War. But 17 new churches have started during the same period as the European convention shifts its ministry focus to include all English-speaking internationals, not just Americans living in Europe. Some of those new churches are in Eastern Europe.

About half of the convention's approximately 60 congregations already call themselves "international" and focus their ministry on English speakers from anywhere in the world. A mid-1993 survey showed that people from 94 nations attend

EBC churches on a typical Sunday.

Interest in the English language across Europe, especially Eastern Europe, provides a standing invitation in many places to start an English-language church, said Southern Baptist missionary Ray Reynolds. He and his wife, Helen, serve as EBC church-planting consultants. They have conducted surveys in major European cities and pinpointed dozens of strategic places to plant churches. Earlier Reynolds was pastor of an EBC congregation in Belgium.

Open doors of ministry

"The future has never looked brighter," Reynolds said. "Everywhere we look we see open doors for planting new churches and we're excited. I think we'll see great things from the EBC across Europe in the next few years."

Reynolds cites English-language classes as a key to church outreach. A survey in Milan, Italy, one of Europe's great fashion capitals, revealed more than 100 schools that teach English. In Bratislava, capital of the Slovakian Republic, a single English-language school has 2,000 students. It's three blocks from Palsady Baptist Church, where an English-language congregation meets. The school's director told Reynolds he will promote the church as a place to hear English.

The European Baptist Convention has close ties to Southern Baptists and most of its pastors come from Southern Baptist backgrounds. EBC staffers are Southern

Baptist missionaries or volunteers.

During the last several decades EBC churches have ministered mostly to Americans in Europe with the U.S. military. Up to 350,000 American troops were in Europe a decade ago, with families and support personnel pushing the total far higher. American military leaders now expect fewer than 100,000 soldiers to be in Europe by 1995.

Closing military bases accounted for the closing of the three EBC churches this year—Friendship Baptist Church in Melton, England; Border Baptist Church in Fulda, Germany; and San Vito Baptist Church, San Vito, Italy.

Other EBC churches have lost so many members that they have been left much weaker, said EBC general secretary John Merritt, a Southern Baptist missionary. Some churches, once self-supporting, now plead for financial help. Weakened churches in Augsburg and Berlin, Germany, also have asked the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for missionaries or volunteers to serve as pastors.

EBC finances also have dipped this year, although income is still expected to exceed expenditures, Merritt said. Traditionally, EBC churches have had per capita giving rates much higher than Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

Despite such temporary problems, Merritt believes the convention's future remains bright. Despite the three churches closings this year, three others have opened in Germany, Norway and the Slovakian Republic.

Since the Cold War ended, other new EBC churches have begun in Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Germany and Spain.

Two couples with Arkansas ties appointed missionaries

Two couples with Arkansas connections were among 30 people recently named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

James Reary (J.R.) and Kimberly Duncan, appointed as missionary associates, will live in Germany, where he will be pastor of an English-language church.

A native of Missouri, Duncan is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of three Missouri Baptist churches.

Mrs. Duncan, the former Kimberly Davis, is a native of California. The Duncans have two children.

Randy and Anita Jordan will live in South Korea, where they will work with university students. They formerly were FMB journeymen to South Korea.

Jordan was born in Fort Smith. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma in Norman and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Jordan, the former Anita Couch, is a native of



J.R. and Kimberly Duncan

Randy and Anita Jordan

Oklahoma. She is a graduate of East Central University in Ada, Okla.

Both families will go to Rockville, Va., for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Preparation can help avert disaster

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

The image of fire is often cited in biblical illustrations, but real fire can pose a serious threat to those worshipping in God's house.

The likelihood of fire in a church is increased when the building is historic, emphasized a Conway pastor whose church building was destroyed almost two years ago. Dale Wicker Jr., is pastor of Conway First Church, which dedicated a new facility Oct. 17. The church's original 80-year-old structure was devastated by fire in January 1992.

"Churches need to have some kind of plan for what they would do in an emergency," Wicker said. "They need a decision-making group and a plan for contacting the congregation." Fortunately, Conway First Church had such a system in place.

"Our fire happened on a Saturday," Wicker explained. "We still needed to meet, to be together. We got our committees on the phone and we met at Central Baptist College the next day." The congregation continued to meet at the Missionary Baptist college, located two blocks from the church site, for 22 months. "Even though we had lost our building, we didn't lose our church," Wicker emphasized.

Several things surprised Wicker about the fire, which began with the baptistry water heater. "I was shocked that it was totally destroyed," he said. "When daylight came, I expected to see something left, but it was complete and total destruction."

Wicker also was unprepared for how tedious and time-consuming it was to start cleaning up the site. First there was an investigation by the fire marshal, which meant the site could not be touched until it was finished. After the investigation was complete, the church had to deal with contracts from demolition companies and with the slow process of beginning to rebuild.

Not everything that surprised Wicker was bad, he explained. "Many of our people had been around for so long, and had so much personal history tied to the building, that I was surprised how quickly they looked to the future," he said. "They really understood that the church is people and not a building."

When it came to replacing an 80-year-old building, some things were obvious, Wicker noted. In addition to meeting the stricter building codes on new structures,



the church put in an automatic fire alarm system with automatic closure of some areas. The superstructure is steel and the entire church was built with flame-resistant materials.

The result is a contemporary structure, based on function rather than form. "The architecture is reverent, but not traditional," Wicker explained. "The sanctuary is built for optimal visual and audio impact, with television and productions in mind."

The new worship center will seat 780 people, Wicker said. The church decided rather than building larger, it would hold multiple services if needed. "The size keeps the worship experience intimate," Wicker noted. "The fan-shaped seating means that no person is farther than 46 feet away."

An additional precaution that helped the church rebuild was being adequately insured. Wicker noted that response by the insurance company was commendable, with the company presenting the church with the largest claim check it had issued in the state.

Churches should really take advantage of the annual inspection that insurance professionals make of the property. "Those people know what they are talking about, and following their suggestions can make the building much safer," Wicker said.

Marked Tree First Church had a smaller brush with fire in the fall of 1992, but it still changed the way the church viewed the building.

Pastor Ken Overton and his wife, Hope,

discovered smoke in the building from a fire that had burned itself out in a utility room. The smoke damage prohibited use of the facilities for almost two months, during which time the congregation alternated use of the local Methodist church facilities.

The insurance paid adequately for clean-up, Overton said, but the church decided they also wanted to replace the carpet and buy new chairs for the choir loft. Without any fund-raising efforts or bank loan, the church was able to purchase the items as "people just gave a little bit more each week," he explained.

"It was a positive experience all the way around," Overton commented. "You can say, 'Let's take this in a positive manner'; but people have to do it. Our people really did."

However, purchasing two new fire extinguishers wasn't all the church needed to avert another fire. Tragedy nearly struck again in January 1993, soon after the church resumed use of the facilities. Overton and other smelled smoke during a Wednesday night dinner. One of the church's four main heaters was malfunctioning and smoldering.

"It was more than I could stand," Overton said. The church called the fire department which tore out enough structure to make sure there was no possible source of combustion. "We didn't have to move out this time," he said. "We replaced all four heaters immediately."

Proper maintenance of heating and air conditioning systems is one of the best ways that churches can prevent fires, according to Havis Jacks of the Little Rock Fire Marshall's office. He suggested other areas that churches need to take notice of in order to keep the structure safe:

- Housekeeping. Keep combustibles away from possible sources of ignition, such as the large water heaters used in church kitchens and baptistries.

- Appliance maintenance. Make sure everything is in working order, with safe power sources.

- Fire preparedness. Make such exit signs are lighted and exit ways are clear. The church should have a smoke and fire alarm system, if possible.

- Candles. If candles are used, they should be in a container and properly extinguished. If special electrical lighting is used, make sure fixtures are turned off following use.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Staff changes

A. Hilton Lane resigned Oct. 31 as director of missions for North Central Association to accept a chaplaincy position with Baptist Memorial Hospital Systems in Memphis, Tenn. Following six months of in-service training, Lane will become director of pastoral care for Mississippi hospitals in Southaven, New Albany and Oxford. He previously served for 20 years as the founding pastor of Fairfield Bay Church.

Bernard Ford is serving as interim pastor of Northside Church in Batesville. He previously served as pastor of churches in Garland Association and Mississippi County Association.

Al Sparkman resigned Oct. 17 as pastor of Crow Mountain Church in Russellville to re-center retirement. He went to Crow Mountain in 1990 to serve as pastor of the mission which recently constituted as a church. Sparkman and his wife, Bobbie, were honored by the church with a reception and gifts. The Sparkmans will continue to reside in Russellville. He will be available for supply preaching, revivals and Bible studies and may be contacted at 968-7357.

Aaron Harvie has joined the staff of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock as youth intern. He is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University where he is pursuing a double major in biblical studies and language. A native of California, he previously served as youth/children intern in Warren.

Sam Adkins is serving as interim pastor of Central Church in North Little Rock. He currently is a chaplain at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, Little Rock. Adkins previously has served as pastor of churches in Benton, El Dorado, Sheridan and West Helena.

Scott Hobbs began serving Sept. 26 as pastor of First Church in Lewisville, coming there from Oak Ridge Church in Mineral Wells, Texas. Hobbs, who currently is working on his Ph.D. degree in evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and served for two years as a journeyman in Scotland. He and his wife, Laura, have both served with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Niagara Falls, N.Y. They have one son, Leith.

Todd Cochran has joined the staff of First Church of Atkins as minister of music and

youth. He is a student at Arkansas Tech University.

Curtis Altom began serving Oct. 3 as pastor of Palestine Church, Quitman. He previously served Post Oak Church.

Reed Dillahunty has joined the staff of First Church of Hughes as minister of music and youth. Dillahunty, a member of the church, had filled this position for three months as a volunteer.

Matt Porter began serving Sept. 19 as minister of music and education at First Church of Berryville, coming there from Hot Springs.

Jack Auten resigned Oct. 14 as pastor of First Church in Monette. He and his wife, Kathy, moved to Homestead, Fla., where he began serving Oct. 17 as pastor of First Baptist Church there. The Monette church honored the couple with an appreciation luncheon Oct. 3 in recognition of six years of service.

Stuart Bell will begin serving Nov. 7 as pastor of Forrest Park Church in Pine Bluff, coming there from First Church in Edmond, Okla., where he had served as youth director since 1990. A native of

Eastern Heights in Van Buren constitutes as new church

Eastern Heights Chapel of Van Buren was constituted as a Southern Baptist church Sept. 26 with 99 charter members.

The new Arkansas Baptist church was founded as a mission in 1947 as a result of a church census conducted by First Church of Van Buren. A Vacation Bible School coordinated by Mrs. T. H. Jordan and Mrs. Marshall Johnson launched the first mission effort in the Eastern Heights area of Van Buren.

Following more than 20 years of ministry through the mission, Van Buren First Church voted in 1970 to combine what had become Bates Mill Chapel with the Jesse Turner Mission with the dedication service being held May 16, 1971. This chapel soon became Eastside Chapel and carried that name until Sept. 16, 1987, when it became Eastern Heights Chapel under the leadership of pastor William Powell.

Denny Neff began serving as chapel pastor Feb. 12, 1992. Under his leadership the chapel has experienced consistent growth with 179 people being added to the Sunday School membership and 46

people being baptized. Additionally, Sunday School classroom space had been added and new Sunday School units established. Neff attributes the church's growth to an ongoing emphasis on prayer.

Chapel members voted Sept. 8 to constitute as an autonomous church and First Church of Van Buren affirmed the decision at a Sept. 12 business meeting.

Participants in the constitution celebration included W. Trueman Moore of Fort Smith; Scannon Caudle of Marion; Gene Bell, chairman of the missions committee of First Church of Van Buren; Gordon Wells, associate pastor of Eastern Heights Church; Bryan Smith, pastor of the sponsoring congregation; and Jimmy Barrentine,

director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department. Special music was presented by Larry and Renee Meadows, Gall Crawford and the Eastern Heights men's ensemble.



Eastern Heights pastor Denny Neff and associate pastor Gordon Wells join in prayer with the church's ordained men.

Church news

Midway Church near Mountain Home held a youth-led revival Oct. 10-13 with Dwain Miller as evangelist. Pastor Bob Richardson reported 11 professions of faith and a 20-year high attendance of 84 in Sunday School.

Woodlawn Church in Little Rock held a fellowship dinner Oct. 22 to honor Horace and Edith Grigson for 42 years of service to the church. They were presented with a book of bound letters.

Obituaries

Thomas Shaw Griffin of Sidney died Oct. 15 at age 79. He had served as pastor of Midway Chapel and Hilltop Mission, as well as several other Arkansas churches.

People

Lyndon Finney recently observed 20 years of service as organist at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. In addition to serving as organist, he directs the His Kids choir and the Immanuel Praise vocal ensemble. Finney previously served as organist for Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith and First Church in North Little Rock. Finney, who is director of internal communications for Baptist Medical System in Little Rock, is a former member of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine's* board of directors. He and his wife, Donna, have three children, Merritt, Shawn and Christa.

Ramona Smith was recognized Oct. 3 by First Church of Cove for 37 years of service as a Sunday School teacher. Pastor Jim Oliver presented her with a certificate of recognition and a picture.



Mount Zion Church near Paragould celebrated its goal of "Debt Free in '93" with a noteburning service Oct. 10 for its new auditorium. Phase two of the building project was launched in 1989 when an old auditorium was torn down so that the new one could be constructed. The congregation completed an educational building and fellowship hall in phase one. Burning the note are (left to right) Charles Cupp, a trustee; pastor Bill Passmore; and Donald Dunn, a deacon.

Springdale, Bell is a graduate of John Brown University in Siloam Springs and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Lisa Karen, have two children, Emily Karen and Lucas Allen.

Sara Williams, a senior at Ouachita Baptist University, has joined the staff of Second Church, Hot Springs, as children's intern. She previously served as an intern at Geyer Springs First Church and Immanuel Church, both in Little Rock.

Joel Sanders has resigned as pastor of First Church of Grandview to become pastor of Necessity Baptist Church near Caddo, Texas.

Harrison First Church ordained Dean Crouse, Mark Newton and Greg Hatfield to the deacon ministry Oct. 17.

Union Valley Church of Bebe ordained Leroy Lawrence to the deacon ministry Oct. 10.

Arkadelphia Second Church ordained Butch Alexander, David Golden, Vonnice Kinnard, Dennis Mills, Andy Rlethumair and Ronnie Riggle to the deacon ministry Oct. 24.

Ordinations

East End Church of Hensley ordained Doug Head, Billy Kilmer, W.C. McBride and Gary Stewart to the deacon ministry Oct. 3.

Paragould First Church ordained Tim Hamilton and Mark Niemeyer to the deacon ministry Oct. 17.

Batesville First Church ordained Bill Green to the deacon ministry Sept. 26.

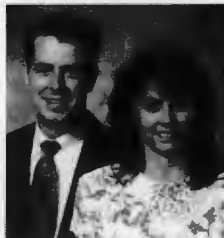
Northside Church of Batesville licensed Corlas Keck to the gospel ministry Oct. 6.

Stephensons appointed as home missionaries

Dave Stephenson and his wife, Sharon, a native of Arkansas, recently were appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Stephenson, a native of Georgia, is a graduate of Georgia College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be serving as a church planter apprentice in Woodstock, Ga.

Mrs. Stephenson, a native of Little Rock, is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston. She will work in family and church service. Mrs. Stephenson has served as a pianist and Mission Friends teacher on the local church level.



Dave and Sharon Stephenson

Mohler inaugurated, Graham honored

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—The inaugural worship service for Al Mohler as Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's new president also provided a platform for announcing a new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

Mohler, addressing nearly 9,000 people at the Oct. 14 service that featured a message by Graham, announced trustee approval of the new school during an executive session Oct. 13.

"This school—the only one of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention—will put Southern Seminary on the cutting edge and in its rightful place of leadership in this denomination...and of the larger evangelical world," Mohler said.

The service, in Louisville's 20,000-seat Freedom Hall, also included a word of greeting from Kentucky Gov. Brereton Jones and music by a 400-voice choir and full orchestra.

Graham, who led a crusade in the same auditorium in the 1950s, said the Oct. 14-15 inaugural events at the seminary, signify time has come "to hand the torch to a new generation."

"You have elected a young man here with a tremendous vision, not only for the future of this theological seminary but the future of evangelism and missions in the Southern Baptist Convention and in the world," Graham said.

Graham, who emphasized in his message "the greatest need that we have in America at this hour is a spiritual awakening that will change our moral value system," said such a movement of the Holy Spirit also could involve "a reconciliation and unity within the

"This seminary is a precommitted institution... The eternal truths of the Christian faith are not up for question or deconstruction."

— Al Mohler
President, Southern Seminary



Southern Baptist Convention."

"We need to love one another," Graham said. "We can disagree, of course. But we need to love one another.

"And some of the things that people have said on all sides, and the controversies that have gone on, I cannot believe would be from the mouth of Jesus," the evangelist said.

'A baptism of love'

"I think that we need a love that we've never known before. And I'm praying for a baptism of love that will sweep this convention.

"And it can start at Louisville, at the seminary," Graham said. "This seminary is looked on as the leading educational institution perhaps in the world for Baptists. You have a tremendous responsibility. That doesn't mean that you give up your convictions at all. There come times when you have to stand. There come times when there has to be confrontation. But it must be done in a spirit of love. And I think that it can be—I think that can be recovered by the Holy Spirit."

Mohler, 33, became the ninth president

of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary Aug. 1, succeeding Roy L. Honeycutt, who had led Southern since 1982.

Mohler, who was editor of Georgia Baptist's *Christian Index* newsjournal from 1989 until August, is a graduate from Southern and, under Honeycutt, was the seminary's coordinator of foundation support from 1983-87 and director of capital funding from 1987-89.

The new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth will become the seminary's fifth graduate school. It is the first among Southern Baptist seminaries with a status equal to schools of theology, Christian education or music. It will offer master of divinity and theology degrees and doctor of ministry and philosophy degrees, with a doctor of missiology to be added at a later date.

'A fountain of truth'

During his inaugural ceremony the following day in the seminary chapel, Mohler voiced his vision of Southern Seminary as a "fresh and fertile fountain of truth for the world."

Pointing to the current "disarray" in

Southern trustees show unity during Mohler's

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP/ABP)—In a meeting marked by a consistent show of unity, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees named three faculty members to endowed chairs and passed resolutions urging trustee and faculty support of the Cooperative Program.

The Oct. 12-13 meeting was the first for seminary president Al Mohler in his new role. Trustees welcomed him by passing every major item of business with little or no dissension.

Trustees unanimously named three professors to endowed chairs—a contrast to action last spring when three professors were not approved for chairs the administration had recommended for them.

One of those professors bypassed last spring was named to a chair at this meeting,

but the other two men were not.

Gerald Keown was named to the Martha and Talmadge Rogers Chair of Old Testament. The two professors not mentioned this time were Raymond Bailey, professor of Christian preaching, and William Hendricks, professor of Christian theology.

The chair for which Bailey had been recommended—the Victor and Louise Lester Chair of Christian Preaching—was given during this meeting to Craig Loscalzo. The chair Hendricks was denied was not filled. William Cromer was named to the Gaines Dobbins Chair of Church Administration and Leadership.

In another proposal from the academic personnel committee, trustees passed a resolution encouraging faculty to support

the Cooperative Program and to "encourage those churches of which they are a member to focus their giving through the Cooperative Program." At previous meetings, some trustees have expressed concern about faculty members who are members of churches that channel portions of their missions giving through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

While the trustees action has no binding effect on faculty, one trustee commented that the board wanted to go on record as positively encouraging professors to support the Cooperative Program. Trustees in a separate resolution affirmed their own support of CP.

In other action, trustees:

■ Heard that the seminary spent \$120,000 more in the just-ended fiscal

American theological education, the new president argued that Southern Seminary is uniquely positioned to help theological education "find itself."

One key step, Mohler said, is to "reaffirm our central purpose to train, educate and prepare ministers of the gospel for the churches."

Southern Seminary must not fall prey to the trend in much of theological education toward professionalization and specialization, Mohler emphasized. He also decried the "devaluation and even debasement of ministry" at some seminaries.

"The ministry is not less than a profession, but it is far more than a profession," Mohler said. "The minister is known first and foremost by identity with the gospel and not by duties assigned."

Another goal Mohler cited for Southern Seminary is to re-establish the place of theology at the center of seminary education and, in turn, church life.

Theological truth claims have been "swept aside in some circles by the acids of modernity and...the allure of pragmatism," Mohler said. "The result is an eventual abdication of the faith."

Mohler reaffirmed the local church as the primary focus of seminary education. "Our focus must be on preparing real ministers for real churches," he said.

He also challenged the seminary to "true excellence in scholarship" within a confessional framework.

"This seminary is a precommitted institution," Mohler stated. "We do not teach and operate in a value-neutral environment. The eternal truths of the Christian faith are not up for question or deconstruction....We will not apologize for our own theological and moral precommitments."

first meeting

year than it received in income, according to unaudited reports. Of that shortage, about \$90,000 was due to a shortfall in anticipated student fees and \$30,000 was due to expenditures exceeding budget, said T. J. McGlothlin, vice president for business services.

■ Learned that donor contributions to the seminary were down 20 percent in 1992-93 from the previous year.

■ Designated \$175,000 from contingency reserve funds to be used at the discretion of Mohler in the 1993-94 fiscal year. This item originally was listed as "transition expenses," but Charles Barnes, chairman of the seminary's financial board, later explained that some of the money would be used for items other than transition expenses.

Southwestern trustees inaugurate institute for church leadership

By Scott Collins

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORTH WORTH, TX (BP) — Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, meeting Oct. 11-13, inaugurated a new institute for church leadership, elected two new faculty members and initiated plans to study links between the seminary and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The Scarborough Institute for Effective Church Growth was proposed by Southwestern president Russell H. Dilday and approved by trustees last year. Headed by Daniel Sanchez, the institute will focus on research in church growth issues and provide practical experience for students.

Robert E. Coleman, director of the school of world missions and evangelism at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., delivered the inaugural address.

New faculty members

The two new faculty members are Steve Lyons, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela, as professor of pastoral ministry, and Marcia McQuitty as assistant professor of childhood education.

Trustees approved a special study dealing with ways Southwestern should relate to the CBF, an organization of Baptist moderates. The study will be conducted by the board's executive committee.

Trustees approved the study after lengthy discussion about alumni exhibits at the annual CBF meeting and the involvement of a husband and wife selected to receive the seminary's B.H. Carroll Award in March 1994. The couple, C.J. and Ophelia Humphrey, of Amarillo, Texas, was identified by trustees as being involved with Texas Baptists Committed, an organization linked to moderates in Texas.

A motion to rescind the award was made pending investigation into the Humphreys' involvement with the CBF. The motion to rescind the award was later withdrawn.

The B.H. Carroll Award is presented annually by Southwestern to recognize "outstanding contributions to the life of the seminary." The Humphreys have been influential in funding Southwestern's evangelism practicum

program, which sends students across the United States to lead revivals in pioneer areas of Southern Baptist work.

After trustees voted to give the award to the Humphreys and to Lee and Delores McKellar, of Mount Pleasant, Texas, seminary administrators were asked if either couple was involved in any way with the CBF.

Dilday told trustees it was not seminary procedure to investigate "denominational political ties" of donors.

The issue of seminary alumni exhibits at the CBF annual meeting was referred to all six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries as a result of a motion at the SBC in June. The motion asked that "alumni associations of our seminaries which have exhibited at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship gatherings be discouraged from doing so." It also asked that CP funds be withheld from seminaries whose alumni associations continue to exhibit at the CBF.

Trustees rejected a response proposed by Dilday which stated that Southwestern considers "it important to relate appropriately to all of our alumni across the world."

A substitute response proposed by Don Taylor, a trustee from North Carolina, was tabled until March when the report of the board's executive committee study on CBF links is due.

In his substitute response, Taylor stated "that the CBF exists for the purpose of maliciously creating a chilling and adversarial relationship within the Southern Baptist Convention for the purpose of depriving the SBC of the needed funds to finance the Cooperative Program missionary endeavors."

In other business, approval was given for a 99-year ground lease with the Institute for Biblical Research for the construction of a research library on Southwestern property. Dilday said the research library "will be an important enhancement in our efforts to make Southwestern a center for conservative evangelical scholarship."

Trustees promoted Roy Fish to distinguished professor of evangelism and granted tenure to Dan Crawford, associate professor of missions and evangelism, and Allen Lott, associate professor of church music history.

During his report to the board, Dilday said enrollment for the semester and the 1992-93 academic year was up.

Midwestern trustees deny tenure to Stancil

KANSAS CITY, MO (BP/ABP)—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Wilburn T. Stancil was denied tenure Oct. 18 by seminary trustees who expressed reservations about Stancil's views on inerrancy, baptism and other theological concerns. Stancil, 44, has been associate professor of theology since 1989.

According to trustee Roger Oldham of Tennessee, chairman of the instruction committee, Stancil "rejects inerrancy as an appropriate model for understanding the nature of Scripture."

Arkansas trustee Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, added, "The whole conservative resurgence is about inerrancy, and he fails to meet that standard."

Given time to defend his views, Stancil told trustees, "I believe all of the Bible is inspired because men moved by the Holy Spirit wrote it.... I do not know how God inspired the men who wrote the Bible, but I believe He did. I believe God inspired not only their thought but also their words. In other words, I believe in verbal inspiration."

"I urge you to get beyond terminology," seminary president Milton Ferguson told trustees. "Lay aside whether he speaks kindly of inerrancy or is friendly to current (Southern Baptist Convention) leadership. He believes more about the Bible than some folks who call themselves inerrantists."

In the end, however, trustees rejected Ferguson's plea and the recommendation for tenure.

The controversy surrounding Stancil has been brewing since April, when he received a 16-9 vote for tenured status. But the trustee chairman ruled a two-thirds

vote was necessary for approval, although the bylaws did not specify.

Ferguson convinced trustees to reconsider their action and then postpone a vote until their October meeting, during which they agreed only a majority vote was required for current faculty.



Wilburn Stancil

As the process dragged on, students became involved, holding a public forum on the topic and voting 100-3 in favor of granting Stancil tenure. Student body president David Martin called Stancil "one of the three most popular professors at Midwestern." Stancil's fellow faculty members also adopted a statement urging tenure for their colleague.

But during the October meeting, the instruction committee voted 5-0 not to recommend Stancil again. Ferguson chose to present the recommendation for Stancil's tenure to the full board, which voted it down 24-9.

After the secret-ballot vote, Stancil again was allowed to address trustees. Stancil insisted he was denied tenure because "some trustees are more interested in furthering a political agenda imposed by denominational power brokers than in arriving at the truth about my theology."

"For many trustees truth and justice are negotiable, and unethical behavior and power politics are acceptable and effective methods to carry out kingdom work," he declared.

Two trustees walked out as Stancil spoke. Others attempted to get trustee chairman James Jones of Michigan to rule Stancil out of order, but Jones did not acknowledge the calls from the trustees.

Jones called the timing of the recommendation "unfortunate" because of what has gone on in the Southern Baptist Convention over the years.

He called on Southern Baptists to pray for Stancil and his family "as they go through these deep waters of adversity."

In other actions, board members unanimously voted to grant tenure to Randall Bradley, assistant professor of church music education since 1989.

They also unanimously voted to approve an advancement in rank for Albert F. Bean, from associate professor to professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

Trustees also received a report concerning actions taken by the executive committee in response to a motion made at the Southern Baptist Convention. The motion for an investigation into allegations of harassment of female students by a Midwestern trustee was ruled out of order by SBC president H. Edwin Young. However, seminary administration and executive committee members went on to investigate the charges this summer.

Lewis Adkison, a committee member from Colorado, said the executive committee "found no evidence of harassment of any student, male or female." Yet, he acknowledged the response of two students who "expressed feelings of personal discomfort following telephone conversations from a trustee which they felt went beyond the bounds of appropriate inquiry by a trustee to a student."

Trustee Carl Weiser of Louisiana inquired about an ad hoc committee that he understood had looked further into the allegations.

Chairman Jones said the committee "dealt with these accusations" which involved two trustees but "did not find that the accusations were substantiated."

During the finance committee's report, it was noted although actual revenue for Midwestern during the 1992-93 academic year was below budget by \$106,606—due primarily to declining Cooperative Program revenues—expenses also were below budget by \$98,358, producing a deficit of just \$3,984. This is in contrast to a deficit of \$46,513 the previous year.

Glenn Miller, director of financial services at the seminary, said the results were accomplished through the use of a deficit reduction plan which involved a thorough analysis of all funds, investments and cash flow needs.

Southeastern trustees elect professor

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected an ethics professor to the faculty and gave the seminary's administration, staff and faculty their first salary increase in five years during their recent board meeting.

Daniel J. Heimbach, who served on President George Bush's staff, was elected associate professor of Christian ethics. Heimbach holds a Ph.D. in law, politics and Christian ethics from Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Seminary president Paige Patterson delivered his report to trustees, highlighting a citywide evangelistic blitz

in which more than 150 students and staff of the seminary went door-to-door Oct. 9, inviting Wake Forest citizens to attend Southeastern's first annual "Sandy Creek Week Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting."

"Three persons accepted Christ and numerous opportunities to share the Gospel occurred," Patterson said.

In other business, trustees re-elected their current officers without opposition, including vice chairman Dale Thompson, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith. Ned Matthews, pastor of Parkwood Baptists Church in Gastonia, N.C., was re-elected chairman.

Golden Gate trustees elect vice president

MILL VALLEY, CA (BP)—Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary elected a new academic vice president and voted to investigate opening new centers in Arizona and Colorado at their recent October meeting.

Roderick K. "Rick" Durst was elected unanimously to become vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary effective Aug. 1, 1994. A native of California, Durst is a graduate of California Baptist College and has earned two degrees from Golden Gate Seminary.

Durst, 39, who will succeed Clayton Harrop who has announced plans to retire next July, has been director of Golden Gate's Southern California campus in Brea since 1991. Durst also was elected to the Golden Gate faculty as associate professor of Christian theology and church history.

Trustees authorized the seminary administration to "investigate the possibility of establishing new centers" in Phoenix, Ariz., and Denver. However, seminary president Bill Crews pointed out such centers "would have to be funded in some way other than Cooperative Program" because of a limit on enrollment that may be counted in the seminary funding formula.

"My opinion is that the day of significant growth of the Cooperative Program is a thing of the past," Crews added.

He said the Denver program likely would be a joint venture between Golden Gate and Denver Theological Seminary. A center in Phoenix "would be in conjunction with Grand Canyon University," he said.

Trustees authorized borrowing \$212,650 from California Baptist Foundation to meet operating expenses through December. A report presented to trustees blamed "a continuing drop in Cooperative Program" funds, lower than expected income from the annual fund drive and budget over-expenditures for a \$111,000 budget deficit during 1992-93.

The loan is scheduled to be repaid through the sale of residential lots in the Seminary Ridge Development on the seminary campus overlooking San Francisco Bay.

Hunger in U.S. still increasing; churches challenged to respond

WASHINGTON (BP)—Although private efforts to assist hungry people have increased greatly in recent years, hunger in the United States has increased by 50 percent since 1985, according to the Bread for the World Institute's annual report released recently.

As a result, government must do a better job of fulfilling its role of complementing charitable assistance, the report says.

"People need to re-examine their contributions to the anti-hunger movement," said David Beckmann, BWT's president. "Some of the effort devoted to helping hungry people must be channeled toward changing ineffective government policies which help to cause hunger."

"Government policies can affect hungry people on a scale that dwarfs the impact of private assistance. By calling loudly and strongly on the government to do its part, private citizens can transform the politics of hunger."

The report, entitled "Hunger 1994: Transforming the Politics of Hunger," calls on religious bodies and other organizations to motivate their members to greater involvement in influencing public policy on national and international hunger issues.

Although few food pantries or soup kitchens existed in the United States in 1980, more than 150,000 private organizations now distribute food to the hungry, the report says. These groups pass out \$3 billion to \$4 billion worth of food each year.

Among churches, more than 250,000 congregations give to emergency hunger relief. Forty-eight percent of churches, or about 150,000, have food pantries, the report estimates.

Yet, there are about 30 million hungry Americans, and nearly 37 million people in the country live below the poverty line, according to the report. The number living below the poverty line is the largest since 1962.

Worldwide, 1.3 billion people live in absolute poverty.

The report defines absolute poverty as the "income level below which a minimally nutritionally adequate diet plus essential non-food requirements are not affordable." Hunger is a "condition in which people lack the basic food intake to provide them with the energy and nutrients for fully productive, active and healthy lives," according to the report.

Palau: U.S. is major mission field

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—The United States is one of the world's largest mission fields, international evangelist Luis Palau said during a recent address at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Palau, who has preached to 10 million people in nearly 60 nations, said he concentrates his ministry efforts on the United States. He was in Fort Worth, Texas, for a five-day evangelistic crusade.

"America needs the gospel of Jesus, the basic gospel, all over again. It's like the dark ages. The pagans have taken over," Palau said. "I believe, in the U.S.A., there are literally millions of Americans who live with a cloud of guilt unresolved, who have left the church but who grew up in Sunday School."

Those non-Christians are hungry for hope, Palau said.

"People are angry at secular answers. People are angry at the responses from government and politicians and even educational people," he said. "They need to hear the simple, powerful gospel of Christ. What an opportunity for us."

Church leaders—especially older ones—overlook chances to evangelize because apathy seeps into their ministry, Palau

said. They begin preaching family values and anti-abortion messages to lost people who need to hear how to be saved instead, he insisted.

"The temptation is to begin to not give up on the gospel, not to become a heretic, not to throw it out, but just to go easy on it," he said. "The gospel truly is the need of the United States of America, and I tell you, brothers and sisters, don't lose your passion. Get back to it again and again."

Ministers also must present the gospel as a message that demands a response, Palau said. "We mustn't engage in informational evangelism," he said. "All these are action verbs, where the Lord says, 'Come, repent, believe, receive, open.'"

For every non-Christian to have the opportunity to respond to the gospel, every Christian must evangelize, Palau declared. No one should rely on crowd-drawing crusades, he said.

"Don't wait for the evangelist to come," he said. "Even if you become a professor at the university or a teacher at the seminary or you go to the mission field, remember this: You can be God's instrument to turn men to light from darkness, to God from Satan, to the kingdom of heaven."

Religious leaders united in hailing RFRA passage

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Religious leaders hailed the U.S. Senate's Oct. 27 passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act as a major step toward guaranteeing the religious rights of Americans.

The Senate's 97-3 approval of RFRA capped three years of effort by an unprecedented coalition of religious and civil-liberties groups working for passage of the measure.

Because of minor changes in the bill, it went back for final approval to the House of Representatives, which earlier approved the measure on a unanimous vote. If approved, it will go to the White House for President Clinton's promised signature.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved RFRA after first rejecting an amendment that would have excluded prisoners from the scope of the bill's protections.

RFRA would restore the legal test abandoned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990 that required government to have a compelling reason to restrict religious

practice. In the court's Employment Division vs. Smith decision, a narrow majority said that in most cases, government could interfere with religion without a compelling reason.

The Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion, chaired by Oliver Thomas, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, included virtually every major U.S. religious body, as well as an array of civil-liberties organizations, ranging from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to the American Civil Liberties Union and People for the American Way.

"It is a significant victory for the free exercise of religion and a massive tribute to Buzz Thomas and his associates who worked tirelessly in support of this measure," said James Dunn, BJCPA executive director.

"Mr. Thomas, who chaired the coalition in the most amazing diplomatic fashion, held together an unparalleled diverse coalition that spanned the entire spectrum

of religious and civil-rights concerns."

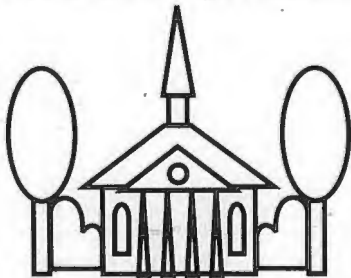
"All defenders of religious liberty should be delighted at the passage of RFRA," said CLC executive director Richard Land. "When President Clinton signs RFRA, we will have substantially rectified the terrible damage done to our First Amendment religious-freedom liberties inflicted by the infamous Smith decision. The passage of this bill shows that Americans still cherish and are ready to defend vigorously their constitutional freedom of religion."

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a chief co-sponsor of the bill, acknowledged the diversity of supporting groups. "These organizations don't agree on much," Kennedy said, "but they do agree on the need to pass the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a chief co-sponsor, described the measure as "one of the most significant pieces of legislation in support of religious freedom to ever come before Congress."

"This bill is important to our country because it restores to every American the precious balance conceived by our founding fathers between the interests of our government and the religious liberties of our citizens," Hatch added.

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Leazer's speech to Masons prompts forced resignation

ATLANTA (BP)—Gary Leazer, assistant director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, resigned Oct. 22 following publication of a speech he gave to a regional Masonic convention in August.

HMB president Larry Lewis told Baptist Press he requested Leazer's resignation for "gross insubordination" stemming from an address Leazer gave Aug. 6 to the Southeast Masonic Conference meeting in Atlanta. A transcript of Leazer's speech was printed in the October issue of *The Masonic Messenger*, a publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

Last year, Leazer led the department in writing a "Study of Freemasonry" as directed by the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis. The lengthy study was submitted to HMB directors who then drafted their own brief "Report on Freemasonry." A concluding paragraph of the board's report was adopted overwhelmingly by Southern Baptist messengers in Houston.

"After he was relieved of duties as director of the interfaith department last March, Dr. Leazer was directed to refrain from any and all involvement in the Freemasonry issue," Lewis explained. "He has clearly violated that directive and in doing so has demonstrated his unwillingness to submit to the authority of his supervisors."

According to Leazer, "Dr. Lewis and I remember things differently. I do not recall being instructed that I was to have no

further involvement with Freemasonry. I was only told that I was to have no further involvement in the writing of the 'Report on Freemasonry.'"

In his August speech, Leazer criticized HMB administrators and the board of directors for their handling of the Masonic issue.

"My study does not agree with the conclusions in the Home Mission Board report....(The report) does not reflect my conclusions as a non-Mason and I feel certain it does not reflect yours," he said.

Actions labeled 'inexcusable'

Leazer also criticized a number of Freemasonry opponents. Lewis said, "Dr. Leazer's name-calling and disparaging remarks about several individuals is inexcusable."

Throughout the speech, Leazer encouraged Masons to take action concerning the HMB report. "You should not be satisfied with the report. I hope you will respond clearly and quickly. You simply cannot afford to ignore the report," Leazer urged. Lewis responded that Leazer's "outright advocacy for the Masonic Lodge is extremely unprofessional and calls into question his ability or willingness at this point to be objective."

Lewis emphasized neither Leazer's remarks nor his termination should reflect negatively on the study or the report.

"Southern Baptists can be assured that both these documents are reliable; neither has been seriously challenged and, in fact,

each has been praised by proponents on both sides of the issue," Lewis said.

Lewis termed the action requesting Leazer's resignation "most unfortunate" but said, "I have conferred with my staff as well as the administrative committee of our board and am confident this is the right course of action." He asked Southern Baptists to remember Leazer and his family in prayer as they face this transition time.

In an earlier development, the man who spearheaded the drive to investigate Freemasonry has brought a new challenge to the HMB report.

Larry Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician, claims the board "published a report which they knew was not true." Holly further cites a recent article in a masonic publication he claims links Southern Baptists with the masonic lodge, which he called a part of the occult.

Holly, who had previously said he would devote no more time to this matter, mailed letters to several SBC leaders asking them to reconsider the HMB's report and to "issue a statement correcting the lie that Southern Baptists are in alliance with the Masonic Lodge."

Lewis defended the board's report, and rejected any responsibility for "policing every characterization of the report."

"It is my prayer, and I believe the heart of Southern Baptists, that we stop devoting time and energy to this issue in order that we might focus on reaching the estimated 180 million lost people in the United States," Lewis said.

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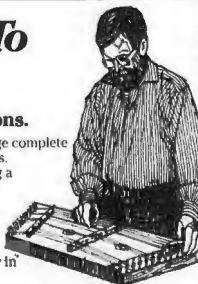
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| 10. 32 qt. stock pots (4) - \$80 ea. | 26. Hand truck - \$150 | 42. Stoves (6) - \$125 ea. |
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| 14. 4 1/2 qt. sauce pan (2) - \$20 ea. | 30. Food cambros (10) - \$250 ea. | 46. Commercial Microwave - \$2,000 |
| 15. 7 qt. sauce pan - \$30 ea. | 31. Drink cambros (5) - \$175 ea. | |
| 16. 10 qt. sauce pan - \$35 ea. | 32. Camcarriers (4) - \$175 ea. | |

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Iowa Baptists increase CP

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA (BP)—The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship increased its Cooperative Program giving by 1 percent and began the process of becoming a state convention during its Oct. 22-23 annual meeting. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention currently is involved in a five-year partnership with Iowa Baptists.

The Iowa fellowship meeting, attended by 117 messengers at Immanuel Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, approved a 1994 budget of \$1,197,515, increasing the Cooperative Program portion of the budget to 21 percent.

The fellowship's vice president, Ed Gregory, pastor of Immanuel Church, made a motion on behalf of the new convention committee, which he chairs, that the fellowship "begin the process of planning and preparation that will conclude with the fellowship constituting as a convention at the 1995 annual meeting." Messengers unanimously approved the motion.

Re-elected to a second term was the fellowship's president, David Newcom, a layman from Trinity Baptist Chapel in Waterloo, and Gregory as vice president.

Texas messengers reject efforts to defund Baylor, BJC

DALLAS (BP)—Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas for the second year in a row decisively rejected attempts to defund Baylor University and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, overwhelmingly adopting a \$63.5 million basic Cooperative Program budget for 1994.

The 108th annual BGCT, which drew more than 5,200 registered messengers to the Dallas Convention Center, Oct. 25-26, also elected Jerold McBride, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Angelo as president. McBride received 3,142 votes, and Wayne Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, received 1,539 votes.

By an overwhelming majority, messengers defeated an amendment to the budget which would have reduced from \$4.05 million to \$1.78 million the allocation for Baylor University and distributed the balance proportionately to other Texas Baptist schools.

Three years ago, the Baylor board of trustees changed the university's charter to create a virtually self-perpetuating governing board of regents. Previously, the school had been governed by a 48-member board of trustees elected by the BGCT. Under a relationship agreement approved by BGCT messengers in 1991, the convention elects 25 percent of Baylor's governing board, and Baylor elects the remaining 75 percent.

Messengers also rejected an amendment

to the budget which would have deleted the \$63,000 allocation for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Washington-based religious liberty organization was defunded in 1988 by the Southern Baptist Convention.

In his post-election news conference, McBride said Texas Baptists need to "stay on the right track and not get distracted" by controversy. He pledged to be inclusive in his appointments, saying he had "no campaign, no hidden agenda, no vendetta against anybody."

In other business, messengers rejected a motion instructing the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission to rewrite its statement on abortion to bring it in line with the position of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The Texas CLC abortion statement strongly affirms the sanctity of human life but allows for abortion in such extreme circumstances as rape, incest, severe fetal deformity incompatible with life, and threats to the life and health of the mother. The Southern Baptist CLC condemns abortion in all situations except to save the life of the mother.

Messengers approved resolutions opposing the spread of gambling in Texas, commending bivocational ministers and their families, and opposing television programs that promote immorality and urging boycotts of stations that broadcast and the advertisers who sponsor them.

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Wildmon decries growing 'moral relativism'

Emphasizing that "the battles over defending traditional family values are won or lost, more times than not, on the local level," Tim Wildmon urged participants at an Oct. 26 luncheon in Hot Springs to be "salt and light" in American society.

Wildmon, vice president of the American Family Association, was the featured speaker at the luncheon held at First Church, Hot Springs, in conjunction with a meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas. The CCF is an interdenominational organization which seeks to address such social and moral concerns as abortion, pornography and gambling.

Insisting that "moral relativism is poisoning our society," Wildmon declared, "We're talking about the future of Arkansas and the future of America...What we're fighting for will determine whether or not we're really going to have a civilization in 20 years.

"Many good, well-meaning Christians abdicate their responsibility of being salt and light," Wildmon added. "It is important to raise a standard.

"We can say, without apology, that we

have the values that work," he emphasized. "They're found in holy Scripture....It does matter what is right and what is wrong."

Wildmon said one recent effort by the American Family Association has been a campaign to oppose the new ABC television series *NYFD Blue*, which AFA describes as a "softcore pornography program" that "pushes the limits of nudity, violence and profanity on network TV."

Although the program continues to air, "our efforts have not been in vain," Wildmon remarked. He said 59 ABC affiliates chose not to air the show when it premiered in September. "What we've done this time could help prevent this type of thing from happening in the future," he added.

The CCF also has been opposing *NYFD Blue* on the state level, including purchasing an advertisement last month in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* calling for viewers to boycott ABC's Little Rock affiliate, KATV, throughout November. KATV reportedly was the only ABC affiliate in Arkansas to air the *NYFD Blue* premiere.

CCF executive director Larry Page also reported to CCF board members that

efforts continue in opposition to a proposed casino on Whiskey Island, a peninsula on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi River that officially is part of the state of Mississippi.

Since there is no bridge connecting Whiskey Island to the rest of Mississippi, "obviously this casino is targeted for Arkansas," Page noted. He added that the CCF is working with a group of citizens in Lee County who are opposed to locating the Mississippi casino on Whiskey Island.

Although Mississippi officials have granted initial approval for the site, "it's still not too late" to oppose the plan, Page said. He advised concerned individuals to contact Arkansas state officials and encourage them to "get more plugged into" public concerns over the issue.

Page challenged CCF constituents to work together to present a unified voice on such concerns. "We've got to find a way to create a connectedness among our congregations," he said. "That's something we're going to have to do if we're going to achieve more for God's righteousness in this state."

Individuals interested in additional information about the *NYFD Blue* boycott, Whiskey Island casino or other issues being addressed by the CCF may contact Page at 568-0448.

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SHONEY'S

Pastors seek closer ties with FMB

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Relationships: They're what larger churches want from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

That's what 18 pastors and missions ministers from eight states told Foreign Mission Board staff during a Creative Access Projects Conference held Oct. 13-14 in Richmond, Va.

The response they got from the board's new president, Jerry Rankin, was just what they wanted to hear. The biblical Great Commission to carry the message of Jesus Christ around the world, Rankin said, wasn't given to the Foreign Mission Board but to individual Christians and churches.

"We as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention exist to serve as a channel for your church to fulfill its mission in reaching the lost world," he said. "I want to open up the channels to serve you, the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Steve Smith, minister of family life at West Memphis First Church, was among local church participants in the meeting. Noting that FMB officials "are opening the door to churches and associations to get more personally involved in missions," Smith said his congregation is "looking at beginning a hands-on approach to missions."

"I hope we will actually adopt an unreached people group, perhaps one that has direct ties with missionaries associated with our church family," Smith added. "When we can get more personally

involved with missionaries, it will increase and expand our missions vision and involvement."

Demonstrating just how open missions channels can become, Bill Morgan, FMB assistant vice president for mission personnel, offered to send addresses and phone numbers for mission area offices directing work in various parts of the world and encouraged participants to call them directly about projects.

He also brought three mission area directors before the group to share needs from their part of the world.

Morgan acknowledged the conference participants come from churches already active in missions - although not always through Foreign Mission Board channels. He hopes the meeting will bring greater cooperation.

"We need you," Morgan told the church leaders. "We are your Foreign Mission Board. I hope there are some ways we can be of service to you."

Morgan directs the new Creative Access Project emphasis, which links selected churches with overseas needs to focus prayer, personal involvement and other resources on those needs.

"We don't want you to stop anything you're doing," noted John Floyd, area director for Europe, where several of the churches represented have sent volunteers outside FMB channels. Instead, FMB staff and missionaries want to help churches do what they're already doing even better.

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FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Based on standard industry measures, radio programming by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is accessible to an estimated U.S. audience of 150 million and a worldwide population of more than 600 million.

"I am amazed at the doors that are opening because of the changing world geography," said Ed Malone, vice president of radio services for the RTVC. "We are receiving requests and inquiries from countries that have been closed to us in the past. Something is happening out there.

"God is moving in a unique way and doors are opening," he continued. "There is greater opportunity for proclaiming the gospel than ever before...and we must step in."

Malone said a major station in Monrovia, Liberia, recently began airing six weekly RTVC programs as a result of seeing an article about the programs in *BEAM International*, the commission's quarterly magazine.

"The station reaches well over 1.5 million people in Africa," Malone pointed out. "In just a month and a half we have had an increase of 130 stations carrying our programs."

Malone said RTVC president Jack Johnson's work in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union also has resulted in radio and television programs that are now reaching millions.

International emphasis

"We are looking at satellite networks, shortwave systems and internationally privatized stations around the world to carry our programs," Malone said. "For the remainder of this year and next year we are emphasizing our international radio marketing strategy."

Malone said he plans to attend the European Convention of Broadcasters and the International Broadcasters Convention, both in the summer of 1994, in an effort to increase the RTVC's outreach in Europe and Asia.

"Numbers are a funny thing," he said. "While it is important to reach as many people for Christ as possible, we are not to be obsessed with numbers for pride's sake. We give God the credit for giving us these wonderful opportunities and are grateful that we can take advantage of them."

Three of the RTVC's weekly radio programs celebrate anniversaries in 1994. "MasterControl" will be 35 years old. "Country Crossroads" and "Powerline" will be 25.

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Brotherhood trustees approve expanded program statement

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved an expansion of the agency's purpose and program statement at their Oct. 22-23 meeting. Officials said the changes will "clarify and strengthen" the commission's working relationships with other Southern Baptist agencies.

However, the new document's guiding principle — that the Brotherhood Commission's purpose is to "help churches involve their members, primarily men and boys, in missions" — remains unchanged.

While the current program statement calls only for a program of Brotherhood promotion and support services for that promotion, the revisions outline broader program assignments in developing missions education organizations and resources and in encouraging personal missions involvement.

Relationship highlights

The revisions also provide more detail regarding the agency's relationships with other agencies, state conventions, and local churches as Brotherhood plans and provides programs, services and products.

The new statement will be presented to state convention executive directors and leaders of other SBC agencies for their comments, and then to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in February 1994. Upon approval, the statement will be considered by SBC messengers in Orlando, Fla., next June.

The trustees also approved a request of \$1,074,904 from the basic Southern Baptist Cooperative Program budget for the budget year 1994-95, a 10 percent increase over the 1993-94 allocation.

Trustees also were informed of the agency's plans to recover a 1992-93 budget

shortfall of \$123,502, or about 3 percent of the \$4.2 million total. Several cost-saving steps instituted in August will continue at least until finances are reviewed again in January. They include a hiring freeze, a 15 percent reduction in staff travel, and executive staff approval for any non-routine expenditures. In addition, several line items in the 1993-94 budget were reduced including health insurance premiums, which are now projected to be lower than first anticipated.

Brotherhood Commission president James D. Williams said much of the budget shortfall was due to income expected from new publications and products that were not ready for introduction as originally planned.

"Though I was disappointed in the July and August income figures, the strong September and October sales helped affirm to us that this shortfall is only a temporary setback," Williams added. "And with these new products that are now being released, and with more accurate sales forecasting, I'm confident this (1993-94) will be the best financial year in our history."

In other action the trustees:

- Heard a progress report on the agency's \$10 million Opportunity Now capital campaign that will soon begin making appeals to individuals taking part in Brotherhood programs and projects.

- Reviewed the program and curriculum design for Challengers, a new missions education program for young men in grades 7 through 12 to begin in October 1994.

- Received information regarding the agency's partnership agreement with the Foreign Mission Board and the Japan Baptist Mission to enlist Baptist volunteers for construction projects in Japan.



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PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

Missionary notes

Jeffrey and Barbara Singerman, missionaries to Benin, are in the States (address: 111 W. Cloverdale, Brinkley, AR 72021). He is a native of Ohio; she is from Michigan. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1989.

Emmett and La Nell Barnes, Baptist representatives, have transferred from Lebanon to Morocco (address: Apt. 4, 27 Rue Abou Alla El Maari, Trangier, Morocco). He is a native of Missouri. She is the former La Nelle Taylor of Monette. They were appointed in 1966.

Clifford and Cynthia Case, missionaries to Uruguay, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Mision Bautista Uruguay, Agraciada 3452, Monteveo, Uruguay). He considers North Little Rock his hometown. She is the former Cynthia Garner of Oklahoma. They were appointed in 1992.

Calvin and Margaret Fox, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 80322, Davao City, Philippines 8000). They are natives of Arkansas. He is

from Gentry, and she is the former Margaret Cotton of Paris. They were appointed in 1987.

Mike and Kerry Gilchrist, missionaries to Windward Islands, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 621, Kingstown, St. Vincent, W.I.). He considers Shreveport, La., his hometown. She is the former Kerry Duke of El Dorado. They were appointed in 1993.

Mel and Nancy Skinner, Baptist representatives to the Commonwealth of Independent States, are on the field (address: U.E.C.B., Russia, International Post Office, P.O. Box 171, Moscow, Russia). He is a native of Missouri. The former Nancy Pelley, she considers Mena her hometown. They were appointed in 1991.

MK prayer calendar

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in November:

■ Nov. 6, Jeremy Erwin, sophomore from Mall, OBU Box 3499, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

■ Nov. 12, Sarah Beal, freshman from Venezuela, OBU Box 4376, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

■ Nov. 16, Ariel Hernandez, senior from Arkansas at UAM, P.O. 589, Warren, AR 71671.

■ Nov. 16, Coby Bird, sophomore from Kenya, OBU Box 3024, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

■ Nov. 23, Mike Roney, freshman from Dutch Caribbean, OBU Box 4394, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

■ Nov. 28, Brian Kirby, senior from Venezuela, OBU Box 3079, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

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Convention Uniform

Deception – revisited

By Robert U. Ferguson, retired,
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Basic passage: Genesis 29:1-30
Focal passage: Genesis 29:1-30
Central truth: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall be also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

Life moves forward in circles. We meet ourselves from time to time as our lives unfold, and usually the meeting is in the lives of our children.

Rebekah, Jacob's mother, led Jacob to deceive his father, Isaac, for the birthright. Jacob in turn is deceived by Laban, his mother's brother after seven years of servitude for Laban's daughter, Rachel. Obviously, Jacob's love for Rachel was very strong, but his trust of Laban was destroyed.

Life, at best, is tenuous and in most cases of murder the authorities look for close relatives to be responsible for the death. Life lived in close proximity is the truest test of one's character. Children often leave home to develop their own lives outside of the domination of parents, only to find difficulty in their marriage relationship. I heard of a man who said that he and his wife of 30 years had never quarreled. I wondered, at the time, what else he lies about.

To the Galatians, Paul wrote: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man (or woman) soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). To paraphrase Paul we could say, "Don't deceive yourself, even with deception all around you; God has so constructed this world that whatever one does, one gets in return." Some call this retributive justice.

A few years ago, an American president was denying any involvement in a criminal break-in that occurred during an election campaign.

Then it happened. A member of his staff remarked, "Check the tapes. I helped install a recording system in the Oval Office." The deception ended.

Now it needs to be said that not every deception is revealed in its day and time. But there is a day of judgment coming, when all the secrets will be known. I do not know what God will do with all the information, or what He will decree about it, but the intelligent decision is to make peace now with our friends and neighbors and avoid the worry that deception brings.

Life and Work

License to kneel

By Michael Seabaugh, pastor, Pike
Avenue Church, North Little Rock
Basic passage: Isaiah 10:20-11:16
Focal passage: Isaiah 10:20-11:9
Central truth: Our relationship with God is a privilege granted by Him.

It has been said, "If the lion lies down with the lamb—I want to be the lion!" The attitude behind that sentiment reflects the view of many. It does not bother us to "believe" in God, as long as we do not have to depend on Him (10:20). The problem is, God knows we believe in Him only when we truly do depend on Him.

God is the grantor of all licenses (10:23). God takes responsibility for all of history. It is God who stands behind all events. Romans 8:28 tells of God's synchronized plan in human events. That is why we must look to God's purpose and not our circumstances (Heb. 12:2).

All are given a temporary, restricted license to serve God's purpose (10:24-25). However, divine permission does not mean divine approval. We need to keep in mind our license's restrictions.

We must remember our restriction of perspective. God sees all of eternity. He may grant a license – temporarily (v. 25).

We must look close at our life, lest we discover too late that our blessings were simply a restricted license in another's life (10:5-14). When the Lord uses someone, He runs the risk of having them overestimate their importance and ability. We must be cautious to not allow our license to become licentiousness. Misuse of our license will cause us to lose it.

We do not have to settle for a temporary, restricted license in serving God's purpose. Yahweh desires that we have the license to kneel. In Isaiah 10:20, He expresses His desire that His people "truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel." Our license to kneel is the cross of Jesus. In it we place our total dependence on God.

Be careful though, that you are not caught practicing without a license (Matt. 7:21-23). Being good is not good enough. Our license requires that we belong to Him.

Bible Book

Practical instructions

By Maurice L. Hitt, DOM, Red River
Association
Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 12:1-17:7
Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 13:1-18; 14:22-29; 15:7-11; 17:1-7
Central Truth: Holiness includes consecration of our possessions, treatment of the poor, and undivided loyalty to God.

The basic passage involves instructions for a variety of issues. The theme that unites them all is God's call to holiness which is consecration of life. Three areas will be highlighted here.

1. The tithe belongs to God (14:22-29). Some today would like to treat the tithe as a holdover from Judaistic legalism. Instead, the tithe indicates that all we have comes from God. To dedicate a tenth to God shows we know who has blessed us with the 100 percent, which in turn affects the way we use the remaining 90 percent.

Moses shows that the tithe is used for touching other lives. The minister (Levite), the stranger, widow and orphan are ministered to from the tithe. Kingdom work costs, but failure to be a steward of one's blessings costs more.

2. Holy people care for the poor (15:7-11). Direct instructions concerning treatment of the poor include: not hardening one's heart against their needs, not shutting our hand to meet their need, and not failing to lend when the poor will be unable to pay back.

Even the attitude of the helper is involved. To grieve over what one does to help another misses the point that God will bless those who open their hearts to the poor. Though social welfare programs exist to meet needs of the poor and churches show they do care in special seasons, Christians need to see the poor as a mission field generally untouched today.

3. Holy people treat worship seriously (13:1-18; 17:1-7). To leave God and follow after the gods of this world is a serious mistake. To forsake God and entice others to do the same was considered a sin deserving of death. In addition to give God less than the best as worship or offering was an abomination (17:1).

Consecrated persons know that. The temptation to keep the best for ourselves remains a temptation which once yielded to produces a worship with something missing – our heart and mind, and too often, our body.

Convention Uniform

In a time of uncertainty

By Robert U. Ferguson, retired,
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Basic passage: Genesis 33
Focal passage: Genesis 33:1-17
Central truth: Our guilt makes us cautious!

The complete account of the notable event in Jacob's life begins in Genesis 32 with Jacob sending messengers to Esau to ascertain Esau's disposition toward him. Jacob is an intelligent person and knows that anger can persist for years. He had deceived his father, Isaac, and stolen Esau's birthright. Jacob was cautious now that he was going back home to the land of his father and to Esau. His messengers bring back news that Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men!

Jacob, afraid, divides his group into two groups for safety and begins an all-night prayer meeting. The next day he selects from his possessions a present for Esau and has his servants take the gifts ahead of the family group with instructions to speak sweetly to Esau. It is during the night that Jacob wrestles with the Lord and has his name changed to Israel.

Limping from the encounter with God, Jacob prepares to meet Esau. Placing the women and children before him, Jacob meets Esau, bowing seven times to show respect and humility. Esau runs to him with an embrace and tears, asking only, "Who are all these persons with you?" Esau the offended one, has no malice. Jacob, the offender, has unnecessarily worried about this encounter for years. The guilt of Jacob had seen trouble in the forces of Esau that was non-existent. Note the word of Jacob in Genesis 33:10. Jacob saw Esau's face as the face of God because his deception in stealing the birthright was an unresolved sin in his own life.

The emotions presented in these verses of Scripture have been repeated in human history since the beginning of time. The offended often do not carry grudges, but the offender is always weary. When Jesus was crucified it was because the Jewish leaders pressed the case. It was these same leaders who wanted a watch set over Jesus' tomb lest his disciples steal the body and claim He rose from the dead. Human history is filled with these apprehensions.

Oh, the tangled web we weave when with deception we deceive! Forgiveness is often easily obtained from our offended friend or brother if only we would ask!

Life and Work

No apology necessary

By Michael Seabaugh, pastor, Pike
Avenue Church, North Little Rock
Basic passage: Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-7;
50:4-11
Focal passage: Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-4;
50:4-7
Central truth: There is no need to apologize for following the example and teachings of God's Word.

Isn't it a shame that many Christians feel the need to apologize for Jesus? All around us are forces who want to change our shame culture. Shame is being seen, inappropriately, by the wrong people, in the wrong condition. Shame is a bond as well as a divider. Through internalized values, we are bound by appropriate actions or divided from the group by shameful acts.

It used to be "shameful" to be a homosexual; to have an abortion; to be sexually promiscuous; to commit suicide. Today, Christians are made to feel ashamed if we even hint at disapproving of such things. In Isaiah 50:7, we are challenged to follow the example of the suffering servant in setting "our face like flint" instead of trying to "save face" in this world.

As we consider the example of the suffering servant in Isaiah, we are reminded that there is no shame in God's simple ways (42:1-4). Jesus, the suffering servant, came to establish justice (v. 1, 4). However, He would not use traditional means. His faithfulness would be His method (v. 2-3). God's ways are simple, not simplistic. They are basic, not easy. The simple lifestyle of God's people needs no apology (1 Pet. 3:16).

There is no shame in God's secret weapon (49:1-7) against sin. Jesus came to defeat the shame of sin in the world. He was God in the flesh and He was victorious over sin and death. The only shame we should have about the gospel message is that it remains a secret for too many (Rom. 1:16).

There is no shame in seeking God's wisdom (50:4-7). Day by day, the Holy Spirit desires to teach us and we must commit ourselves to the learning and the living of God's truth as revealed in the Bible (II Tim. 2:15).

One day we will stand face to face with Jesus to give account of our life. It is my earnest hope that of my life He says: "No apology necessary."

Bible Book

Ministers among us

By Maurice L. Hitt, DOM, Red River
Association
Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 17:8-26:19
Focal Passage: Deuteronomy 17:14-20;
18:1-8, 15-22
Central Truth: God's people have responsibilities toward God's chosen leaders.

These passages present an interesting trio — a prophet, priests and king. God's people have a responsibility toward the three because they are God's choice.

1. The congregation of the Lord should recognize God's prophet (18:15-22). God promises to raise up the prophet. He will be recognized because what he says is the truth. His words will come to pass because the words are from God. The people's responsibilities are to hear the word, discern the truth, and then to hearken by putting the truth to action in one's life.

2. The congregation should care for the priest (18:1-8). The priest is to minister in the name of the Lord. The people are to minister to the priest's needs, for that is his inheritance. In that day and now as God's ministers sacrificially serve by faith, the congregation needs to be thoughtful in caring for him and his family. A ministering pastor is worth far more than can be measured. He is not to be treated as an employee, a door mat, or as a disposable friend. He must be treated as a servant of God.

3. The congregation must discover the king (17:14-20). God promised to set a king over Israel. Moses described him as humble, unselfish, not arrogant, and committed to God's word. He will be single-minded in following God, and in leading others to follow God also. The implication is when you find your king follow him.

Kings came and went in Israel and Judah, but only a few were as close to the description as David, yet he sinned grossly before God. How interesting that Jesus, the prophet, priest and king, was of David's lineage.

Our duty to Christ as prophet is to hear Him (Matt. 17:5). As our high priest, we must consider Him (Heb. 3:1). As our king and Lord, we must follow Him (Matt. 18:36-37). We must make God's choice our choice.

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Conference 'builds bridges' with independent Baptists

ROCKVILLE, MD (ABP/BP) — A Bible conference organized to "build bridges" between independent Baptists and Southern Baptist leaders was hailed as a historic first step by organizers.

The conference, held Oct. 12-13 in Rockville, Md., featured independent Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell, and two pastors who served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention — current president Ed Young of Houston and 1989-90 president Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla.

Falwell said in an interview after the conference that more cooperative meetings, such as Bible conferences and crusades, are ahead for independent Baptists and Southern Baptists.

"I would say we're a couple of years away ... but I don't think there's any question that we're heading toward some major mergers that will probably surprise a lot of people," Falwell said. "The agreement that is now developing between Bible-believing churches, particularly Baptists of all stripes, is that they will be moving and planning and praying in concert, but probably not reporting to the same headquarters."

U.S. House of Representatives rejects parochial aid plan

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. House of Representatives has soundly defeated a measure that would have allowed public tax dollars to go to private and religious schools.

By a vote of 130-300, the House rejected a school-choice amendment to the Goals 2000 — Educate America Act (H.R. 1804). The amendment, offered by Rep. Dick Arme, R-Texas, would have authorized \$400 million for education, requiring 25 percent of those funds be used for so-called "choice" programs in public or private schools.

The bill, approved 307 to 118, includes the Clinton administration's Goals 2000 proposal that would establish a national framework for education reform.

SBC, state convention named in lawsuit against church

BALTIMORE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware are among defendants named in a \$60 million lawsuit filed in Baltimore.

The suit, filed by plaintiffs under assumed names, seeks damages for sexual abuse alleged against a former part-time minister of music at North Point Baptist Church in Dundalk, Md. The minister, James Reed, 53, was convicted last year of child abuse and molestation of three brothers who attended the church and is serving an 18-month sentence at the Baltimore County Detention Center.

State convention attorney Alan Stocksdale predicted charges will be dismissed against the conventions and Baltimore Baptist Association.

Conservative strategists meet after Mohler inauguration

LOUISVILLE, KY (ABP) — Leaders of the conservative movement across the Southern Baptist Convention gathered in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 15-16 for a strategy session, just weeks prior to the annual meetings of Baptist state conventions.

Participants have described two earlier, similar meetings as forums for expressing concern about the SBC and for sharing information about conservative movements in the state conventions.

The Louisville meeting was held immediately after the inauguration of Al Mohler as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Key organizers of the strategy group have been T. C. Plinckney, a retired Air Force general from Alexandria, Va., and Perry Ellis of Dallas, executive director of the Texas Baptist Conservative Fellowship.

"We get together for fellowship and understanding what we're facing in our conventions — just the situation across the convention," said Ellis. "We learn from one another, encourage each other and pray for each other."

Hispanic Seminary inaugurates Pachecano as president

SAN ANTONIO, TX (BP) — Omar H. Pachecano was inaugurated Oct. 15 as the sixth president of Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in a traditional laying-on-of-hands ceremony at Baptist Temple in San Antonio, Texas.

The new president, 58, former director of missions for the El Paso Baptist Association, pledged to develop leaders for Hispanic churches who have an evangelistic burden for the world without losing a sense of social compassion.

Pachecano, a graduate of Dallas Baptist University, is chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees' Americas committee.