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### November 5, 1992

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 91, Number 23

November 5, 1992

## COVER STORY

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## Arkansan among missionaries evacuating embattled Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (ABN/BP)—Arkansan native Debbie Moore, a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to Liberia, is among a group of missionaries who have evacuated the embattled country.

Fighting between rebel factions and troops of a seven-nation West African peacekeeping force has escalated in recent weeks. Heavy fighting is under way on the outskirts of Monrovia, according to news reports. Peacekeeping forces have imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Monrovia and the U.S. Embassy is transporting some personnel out of the country.



Miss Moore evacuated Oct. 22 to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on a plane chartered by the U.S. Embassy, according to her mother, Betty, a member of First Church, Hope.

"The war had escalated to full-scale—bombs were flying overhead and bullets were zinging through the air day and night," Mrs. Moore recounted following a phone conversation with her daughter.

"Debbie sounded good but she was

worn out," Mrs. Moore added. "She hadn't slept in a week because of the situation."

"She said to thank everybody for praying—that she could feel it," her mother continued. She said specific prayer requests from her daughter include prayer for the safety of missionaries still in Liberia, for the Liberian people, and for a miraculous end to the war.

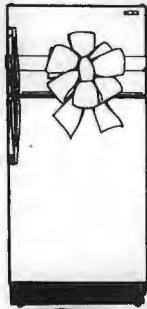
"It was a difficult decision to evacuate," Mrs. Moore pointed out. "It makes them feel bad to fly out to safety and leave the Liberians behind." Previous fighting forced missionaries to evacuate Liberia for a full year in 1991.

Miss Moore has served in Liberia since 1982. She previously was GA and Mission Friends director for the Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union. She holds degrees from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

According to news reports, Liberia appears headed for nationwide warfare again. In October peacekeeping force warplanes bombed the rebel-held port of Buchanan, 80 miles east of Monrovia, and rebels have launched artillery bombardments on parts of Monrovia.

Since the situation heated up, about 100,000 new refugees have sought refuge in Monrovia.

## This Christmas, help rescue the perishing.



It may be hard to believe, but two refrigerators in Zimbabwe are helping save lives.

Nancy Carley works as a nurse at Sanyati Baptist Hospital. The refrigerator at the hospital stores vaccines, which she uses to bring hope to hurting children.

The refrigerator at her home was purchased with Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds and stores cold drinks and snacks for the youth she teaches in Sunday School. Through her work with the young people, Nancy brings hope of eternal life to the Zimbabwean youth.

Pray for Nancy and the hospital staff as they declare hope and give support to the growing number of AIDS patients and their families. Pray that the Zimbabweans will accept the hope offered to them through Jesus Christ.

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
National Goal: \$84 million

## Cover Story



### Love lifts kids

8

For 98 years, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries have been lifting children in crisis out of neglect, abuse and troubled lives and giving them a second chance.

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# Crusade marks 'major milestone'

By Trennis Henderson  
 Editor, Arkansas Baptist

A four-day "Celebration Crusade" held Oct. 18-21 in Guatemala City was "a major milestone" in the Guatemala/Arkansas Partnership, according to Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The metropolitan crusade was preceded by nine local church crusades throughout the city. Seventy Arkansas Baptists participated in the week-long emphasis. The volunteers preached, witnessed, led music, performed concerts and distributed more than 40,000 copies of the gospel of John.

International evangelist Nelson Fanini preached during the central crusade which attracted a total of 9,000 people to the four services. More than 270 people professed faith in Christ during the week, including 130 who became Christians during the central crusade.

The crusade "was the most challenging project we outlined three years ago," Moore noted. "Its successful completion has marked a milestone for Guatemala Baptists. Such an event would likely have never taken place except for the generosity, compassion, vision and efforts of Arkansas Baptists."

Partnership coordinator Glendon Grober, director of the ABSC Brotherhood department, said more than 1,400 Arkansas Baptists have traveled to Guatemala during the past three years. "We've gone beyond every one of our goals in the partnership," he affirmed.

Grober said the establishment of 38 churches and missions in Guatemala has been "one of the most major breakthroughs of the partnership." Other projects have included church construction, leadership training and medical and dental projects.

"The most important thing is that the Guatemalan people have grown in their understanding and involvement in evangelism and church starting," Grober said. "What we have done down there is what the missionaries and the Foreign Mission Board wanted done down there. We've been helping them, not them helping us."

The partnership, originally scheduled to conclude in December, has been extended through June 1993. Future projects include medical missions, Bible school and revival services.

Don Phillips, pastor of Calvary Church in Camden, described his involvement in the recent crusades as a "wonderful, eye-opening" experience. "The people there



Guatemalan women shopping in an open-air market is a common sight for the more than 1,400 Arkansas Baptists who have participated in the Guatemala partnership.

were wonderful and friendly and most of them were open to the gospel," he added.

Phillips said the witnessing projects encouraged many Guatemalan Baptists "to be more aggressive going door-to-door and reconfirmed in our minds what we need to be doing here at home.... The experience challenged me to be a better pastor here."

In addition to the crusades, other recent partnership projects have included Woman's Missionary Union training and a construction project to repair and remodel Guatemala Baptists' national camp. The WMU leaders concluded their project Oct. 17 and the 16-member construction team from Garland County Association was scheduled to return Nov. 3.

The nine-member WMU team divided into two groups. One team taught women in Guatemala City how to develop marketable skills to increase their family incomes. The other team worked in Antigua, teaching women from 12 churches about health and nutrition, how to teach children in Sunday School and how to develop and strengthen WMU work.

Julia Ketner, state WMU director, noted that many women in and around Antigua either walked or rode buses to the conferences. "The thing that impressed me was the sacrifices they made," she said. "I didn't see anyone drive up in a vehicle." The series of conferences, held in four area churches, attracted 225 participants.

In addition to the training conferences,

Arkansas Baptist women provided sets of Old and New Testament teaching pictures for each church that participated.

"It was an encouragement to them that we would come and work with them and accept them and their children," Ketner noted. "It helped them see that we are all part of a team to share the gospel and that our purpose is the same wherever we are."

"I was put to shame by the effort they make in responding to leadership training," she added. "It reminded me of how much we have and that we take so much for granted."

Reflecting on the overall partnership, Moore remarked, "It is a highlight to see the spiritual bond that develops with people of other cultures even without the facility of language. You sense oneness and warmth and love and acceptance in a tremendous way."

He said another highlight "is to see individual conversions—the elderly, the derelicts, the youth."

Affirming the work of the Arkansas volunteers, Moore noted "the tremendous bond that develops between team members as we come from different churches and different parts of the state and merge into unified teams."

"It's a particular joy and delight to see our Arkansas people pull together to undertake such significant projects," he declared. "We have seen again that we can do things together that we would never undertake alone."

# YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE  
ABCS Executive Director

God speaks to His people. "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27), is what Jesus said about communication between God and His people. He further said, "He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God" (John 8:47).

In a very few days the messengers from our churches will be gathered for the annual Arkansas Baptist State Convention. We will hear many sermons and reports. We will hear from our agencies and institutions. We will hear from our friends as we renew fellowship with them. The paramount question is whether or not we hear from God.

God's Word, Spirit and people are normal channels He uses to speak to His people. No one can keep God from speaking. No one can really keep us from hearing. If we are attentive, open to hear what He says, and willing to respond to what He says, we will likely hear His voice.

Actions taken and efforts made as a result of hearing God's voice will always be accompanied with God's power and blessing. We need to hear Him. The repeated admonition of Christ to the seven churches was, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:7a).

Would you, now, pray for the sessions of our Convention meeting in Pine Bluff, Nov. 10-11 Plans for a great year of emphasis of "Growing Churches" will be launched. Charter changes will be recommended that will more tightly bind our agencies and institutions to the Convention. The new editor for the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine* will be introduced to the convention by its board. The Bible study, the messages and numerous reports will provide many opportunities for God to speak, our hearts to be moved, and our fellowship to be strengthened.

The good health being found in so many churches and associations is sure to spill over into the convention. I wish you all could be present. You can all help by prayer.

WILLIAM H. SUTTON

## The President's Corner



### The duty of endurance

There is not a moment without some duty.— *Cicero*

The life of a Christian is centered on duty created by the commandments of Christ. We are commanded to love, preach, teach, conquer, surrender, go, stay and feed to mention but a few.

Duty changes as circumstances in life change. At some point in life, usually in our maturity, we are bonded with the duty to endure. Endurance is a task that calls for a different set of muscles and puts success at risk for many who have done well with other aspects of Christian living.

It is not easy for one who has served with vigor and strength to be sentenced to a long and painful illness. Life can be hard indeed for one who has dreamed of an ideal family only to suffer the disappointment of a broken marriage. Some must endure the long night of grief due to the loss of a loved one, or the loss of a job or from some failure or embarrassment. These are apt to be the times when Satan moves into one's life to attack with fear, doubt and despair.

For most, the battle is critical, but it is not glamorous. It is often lonely, depressing and without apparent prospects of victory. At such times the endurer needs the sincere compassion

and support of fellow Christians who have an understanding, albeit an imperfect one, of the role of endurance. They need to know that Christ spoke no lesser words than these: It is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved (Matt. 10:22).

Endurance is not salvation nor the means of salvation but it is the fruit and evidence of salvation.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).

"Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful" (James 5:11).

May God give us the love to recognize, respect and assist endurers. And when it comes our turn, pray that we will "let endurance have its perfect result."

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

## Arkansas Baptist

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## Pray for cooperation, vision, action

"Grow Churches" is the theme of next week's Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting. The focus is part of the state convention's five-year emphasis on "Building God's Family" through prayer, missions, families, ministry, outreach and church growth.

Seeking to grow churches is a significant undertaking. The concept has been with us throughout the history of Christianity. Jesus spoke of building His church in Matt. 16:18. Following Pentecost, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

Growing churches is a complex matter in today's world. It involves extensive cooperation, vision and action, with each step bathed in prayer for God's leadership and blessing.

Church growth also is multidimensional. According to ABCS associate executive director Jimmie Sheffield, the convention's current emphasis involves "balanced church growth. It's not just evangelism, but discipleship, stewardship, new churches and missions, worship — every facet of church life."

In other words, church growth isn't just about numbers. Balanced church growth should unapologetically include numerical growth. But it also includes growth through sponsoring new work, strengthening existing ministries and expanding needed programs and facilities. Above all, successful church growth must include spiritual growth of individual



### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON

members and the church as a whole.

"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," counsels 2 Peter 3:18. Personal and corporate spiritual growth is the starting point to help ensure that other aspects of balanced church growth follow.

In addition to the "Grow Churches" theme, other facets of next week's annual meeting in Pine Bluff will include business, inspiration and fellowship. It will be a significant gathering for the messengers and guests who attend. Yet less than one-half of 1 percent of the resident members in Arkansas Baptist churches will travel to Pine Bluff for the Nov. 10-11 event.

But regardless of whether time or finances or other concerns permit one's personal involvement in the annual meeting, all Arkansas Baptists can participate through prayer.

The prayer list for a successful annual meeting is much like the prayer list for successful church growth. It requires attention to such details as cooperation, vision and action.

The need for cooperation is obvious. As messengers address budgets, resolutions, election of officers and other business items, there will be differences of opinion. The key is to express those differences through Christian love and to unite in common purpose once the majority has spoken. Hallway politics, grumbling and backbiting serve no useful role in conducting the business of God's people.

Vision is equally essential. Whether it is implementing church growth priorities or endorsing the proposed \$15.2 million Cooperative Program budget goal, we should all pray that Arkansas Baptists gain the vision to accomplish those ministries which God sets before us.

Action is the bottom line in ensuring a successful annual meeting. It is one thing to come together and talk about ministering to the world around us; it is quite another thing to go home and put that vision into daily practice. There are those at home and elsewhere who will watch to see if our actions match our words.

If your schedule permits, join us next week in Pine Bluff. If not, join us in prayer for Arkansas Baptists to demonstrate cooperation, vision and action. With your prayers and God's guidance, it promises to be a great experience.

## Words of appreciation

It has been an incredibly hectic two weeks—much like the two weeks before that and the two weeks before that.

The past two weeks have been spent making new acquaintances, beginning my whirlwind orientation to the unique aspects of life as editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, and providing leadership for this issue of the *Newsmagazine*.

On the home front, recent activities have included unpacking boxes, enrolling our 6-year-old daughter in a new school, unpacking boxes, visiting area churches and unpacking boxes.

The previous two weeks were spent making the physical move from Missouri to Arkansas and taking a few days to visit my wife's family in Ohio. The two weeks before that were spent closing out a decade of ministry among Missouri Baptists and saying farewell to many dear friends and co-workers.

Hectic, yes—but also rewarding. Arkansas Baptists have graciously welcomed my family and me. A special word of thanks is due a few key people who have been instrumental in helping smooth our recent transition.

Newsmagazine board president Nelson Wilhelm, search committee chairman Greg Kirksey and the entire board of directors have exemplified Christian grace and conduct throughout this recent process. Nelson has demonstrated his effective leadership skills as president and Greg has proven himself as a trusted friend and minister. Thank you.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore and the executive board staff have welcomed us with open arms. Don's timely and thoughtful words of encouragement are deeply appreciated. I look forward to building a strong and lasting bond with executive board staff members who are pivotal in

helping challenge and equip Arkansas Baptists for effective ministry.

Above all, I wish to extend deepest thanks to the *Newsmagazine* staff who have worked tirelessly in recent months to maintain the vital ministry of this publication. They have demonstrated a strong commitment to professionalism and service that will continue to pay dividends to Arkansas Baptists. It is a privilege to join them in serving our readers.

Additionally, I have received dozens of letters and phone calls from Arkansas pastors, executive board staff members and colleagues from across the nation. Thank you for your kind words and pledges of prayer support.

I am anxious to personally meet more and more Arkansas Baptists in the days and years ahead. Based on the gracious reception I have received so far, I am confident our ministry together will be positive, productive and pleasing to God.

# Parks details reasons for retirement

By Bob Stanley

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—R. Keith Parks wrote Southern Baptists' 3,900 foreign missionaries Oct. 23 that his decision to retire now "is the Lord's will under unfortunate circumstances."

But the Foreign Mission Board president added: "I feel we are missing the best that God had for us. Southern Baptists should be marching through God's open door of opportunity as a united, loving, obedient people of God. May God forgive us and have mercy on us!"

Parks told missionaries he was writing them to clarify why he felt led to retire at 65, rather than serve until 1995 as he proposed in August 1991.

"Many of you have indicated that our reason for retiring earlier than planned is still not clear," he said.

Parks also said he is still receiving similar questions from Southern Baptists in general and from some of the board's own trustees who say they encouraged him to continue serving. He sent copies of his letter Oct. 26 to FMB trustees and staff and state Baptist executive directors and editors.

He also sent a separate letter to FMB trustees elaborating on his reasons for retiring Oct. 31, 1992, three years earlier than he originally planned.

A number of trustees, staff and others "have insisted 'nothing has changed' (at the Foreign Mission Board) and have objected to my saying there were 'philosophical differences' with them," Parks' letter to missionaries said.

Parks disagreed with that opinion, listing 10 areas in which he believes the Foreign Mission Board has changed since

the "conservative resurgence." Trustee chairman John Jackson of California, responding to Parks' letter, expressed strong disagreement with its conclusions. Arkansas trustees contacted by the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* declined to respond to Parks' letter.

The letter from Parks cited:

1) Lack of appropriate representation of "a very large percentage of Bible-believing, theologically conservative Southern Baptists" on boards of trustees. "Their money is still solicited but not their representatives nor any contribution of convictions or viewpoints," Parks wrote.

2) Decisions being "increasingly shaped by ultra-conservative theological interpretations rather than tested and adopted mission principles."

3) "An atmosphere of trust and respect for differences of viewpoints has been replaced by suspicion, distrust, criticism and intimidation."

4) Freedom to disagree being "replaced by expectation of conformity." Parks added: "When issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved."

5) A decline in career missionary appointments and increased emphasis on volunteers that is "bringing an imbalance overseas."

6) Some trustees "without the time, expertise, knowledge or experience to make administrative decisions" on foreign missions "increasingly doing staff work instead of fulfilling the role of trustees."

7) More pressure on the board's news office, which serves as the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press, "to report only 'positive' news," which Parks said threatens to "destroy the credibility of the press."

8) A new development of asking pro-



FMB president Keith Parks, who retired Oct. 31, detailed that decision in a recent letter to foreign missionaries.

spective staff members "for expressions of loyalty toward trustees and/or the 'conservative resurgence.'"

9) Increasing emphasis for missionary appointment on the four background statements in the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee report, instead of just the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

10) The convention controversy atmosphere causing "many fine (missionary) candidates either to believe they cannot be appointed or to decline appointment because they are not comfortable with the present Foreign Mission Board direction."

Jackson, who received a faxed copy from Parks of the letter to missionaries, said, "Trustees have the highest admiration for Dr. Parks and his ministry to Southern Baptists and the world. He has a heart for missions and desires to see the world evangelized. However, I strongly disagree with the conclusions regarding philosophical differences found in his letter."

As an example, Jackson cited one statement Parks made in his letter to missionaries: "When issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved." Jackson said most of the statements in Parks' letter were never discussed with trustees.

"In addition, when discussion did take place, any negative view was exploited or labeled as the controversy weaving its way into board affairs," Jackson said. "Missionaries and Southern Baptists are not told of individual disagreement within the Global Strategy Group (the FMB's top executive council). But if one trustee voices a nega-

## FMB's Law plans early retirement

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Betty Law has announced she will retire early as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for the Americas, citing disagreement with the approach taken by board trustees.

A veteran of 40 years in Southern Baptist home and foreign missions, Law is the board's highest-ranking female staff member and is the second vice president to take early retirement because of disagreement with trustees. Isam Ballenger, then vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, announced early retirement last January.

In a letter dated Oct. 22 to retiring board president R. Keith Parks, Law said she will retire Jan. 15 after 29 years with the board, the final three as the top administrator for mission work in Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada. She sent copies of the letter to 1,350 missionaries in the region and to 17 trustees on the FMB's Americas committee.

Law, who turns 64 Nov. 8, told Parks she could no longer serve with integrity as vice president for the Americas because she can no longer "support and defend the actions, directions and views of the trustees or fairly interpret" them to missionaries and Southern Baptists.

tive opinion, it is trumpeted as if all trustees have voted."

Jackson said both he and the other trustees desire "to have room to disagree without being disagreeable. We believe this can and will be the future working relationship with (FMB) staff. I ask the Lord to bless the Parkses and give thanks for their dedication to missions and their unflinching support to the Foreign Mission Board staff and Southern Baptist missionaries."

Arkansas trustee Jack Bledsoe, director of missions for Carey Association, told the *Newsmagazine*, "At this point, I have not had opportunity to read the letter and I am not in a position to respond.

"I would have loved for him to stay on as president," Bledsoe added. "I feel that he could have remained" as president if he had chosen to do so.

Wallace Edgar, pastor of Trinity Church in Texarkana, noted that the letter "pretty well spoke the heart of Dr. Parks." He declined to offer further assessment.

Parks, in the letter to missionaries, said the confusion over his retirement is summed up in one question: "Why did you say it was God's will to lead until 1995 and then a few months later say it was God's will to retire in 1992?"

In August 1991 Parks revealed a vision he said God had given him for new foreign mission initiatives to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals. He offered his personal commitment to lead preparations up to a 1995 launch date for his "Missions 21" vision, which would extend into the 21st century.

However, Parks said, his tenure rather than his vision became the issue in committee discussions. "It became evident that I would not be allowed to fulfill my role as president without restrictions and hindrances," he wrote.

At the FMB's March 19-20 spiritual emphasis retreat he said, "The Lord impressed me that if I was not going to be affirmed to lead, then my staying would be a hindrance to missions and just a marking-of-time." He said he remained open to see how the trustees would interact, but claimed that in subsequent sessions at the retreat the trustees' questions were "inquisitorial."

"Under these circumstances, I decided I should retire as soon as possible and free the board to find a person they could trust," he wrote. "I would have to find another way to continue contributing to world missions."

Parks, who has not yet announced any decision about his future plans, asked missionaries to pray that he can know God's "will for the future without question and follow it without hesitation."

## FMB, Fellowship representatives hold dialogue, express concerns

By Donald D. Martin

SBC Foreign Mission Board

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—After five hours of airing concerns and grievances, representatives from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship left an Oct. 15 meeting with most of their original opinions unchanged.

The one-day meeting came at the request of Woman's Missionary Union leaders who asked Foreign Mission Board trustee chairman John Jackson to arrange a dialogue between the board and the Fellowship.

WMU leaders asked the two groups to discuss mutual concerns about missions and the FMB's openness toward appointing missionary candidates who come from churches affiliated with the Fellowship.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formally organized in 1991 by moderate Southern Baptists opposing the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Topics discussed at the meeting included: reasons for FMB president R. Keith Parks' retirement, the morale of the board's staff and mission force, the board's balance of resources between church planting and other ministries such as medical and agricultural missions, the board's funding from the fellowship, and the conservative/moderate mix of the FMB's trustees.

Most of the participants agreed the talks were useful, yet many of the issues discussed at the meeting were beyond the control or responsibility of one or both groups.

"I didn't come with any grand ideas that we would be able to convince them of our opinions, but I did want to at least create another alternative in their minds about what may and may not be true about the FMB," Jackson said after the meeting. "At least we began a dialogue. Someone needs to begin if there's ever going to be a true meeting of the minds."

John Hewett, immediate past moderator of the Fellowship, indicated such a meeting of the minds is a long way off.

"What you clearly have here is two radically different interpretations of what is going on in the SBC and two radically different interpretations about what's going on at the Foreign Mission Board," Hewett said.

Fellowship leaders expressed frustration at not having any moderate Southern Baptists on the FMB's current slate of trustees. FMB leaders disagreed with that assessment, saying that although the majority of the 87

trustees are conservative, there are moderate voices among them.

Either way, current board staff and trustees can do little about the selection of new trustees. That power rests with the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations, named each year by the SBC president and approved at the annual convention.

The two groups did find points of agreement. FMB officials committed themselves to working in "harmony and without conflict with missionaries of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," according to a written statement prepared by the board's representatives.

The Fellowship supports eight missionaries in Europe who have left the FMB. Fellowship leaders expect their mission force to grow to more than 20 in 1993. But Fellowship representatives at the meeting insisted they have not tried — and will not try — to recruit currently appointed FMB missionaries.

The two sides also agreed not to use disrespectful language when speaking or writing about one another.

While discussing the events leading to Parks' retirement announcement, Fellowship representatives described it as a forced resignation, not a retirement. Parks' decision to step down came as a result of conflict with the trustees and not simply reaching age 65, they said.

Board representatives agreed Parks' leadership style often conflicted with many trustees, who wanted to take more active roles in leadership of the board. But few trustees wanted Parks to step down, they stressed. That decision, they said, came at a spiritual retreat in Dallas, where Parks said his departure was God's will.

The mission board group came prepared to discuss the missionary appointment process in detail. "There has been a lot of rhetoric and misconceptions about our appointment process," Jackson said. "I want to share that we do not have a political agenda. I personally don't have one and I don't think the board has one."

The board does not keep a list of churches affiliated with the Fellowship, the representatives said, nor would a missionary candidate's affiliation with the Fellowship affect the board's decision about appointing that person to missionary service.

Fellowship leaders responded that their concerns with the mission board stem from a lack of representation within the trustee body.



ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

# Love still lifting children after 98 years

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

*"The home is the best place I've ever been in my life. There are so many people there that love you. My house parent and I have gotten so close that if anyone asked my dad's name, I would tell them his." - 13-year-old Stevie, resident at the Monticello Children's Home*

For 98 years, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries have been lifting children in crisis out of neglect, abuse and troubled lives and giving them a second chance. Founded through the deacon ministry of Monticello First Church in conjunction with the vision of Hannah Hyde Gardner who donated her home and 80 acres, the ministry has grown and changed with the needs of Arkansas children.

One of the agency's newest ministries is the Boy's Ranch outside of Harrison. In keeping with societal needs, the program provides a rehabilitation program for boys who have successfully completed a hospital treatment program for substance abuse. Currently housing 15 young men, the campus is expanding with the completion of the first of four new cottages.

"We try to blend the professional care that they need with Christian compassion and opportunities for spiritual growth," explained Johnny Biggs, agency director. "It's that combination that is going to work for the boys."

School work and interaction are very challenging for the boys, Biggs said, especially since the residents attend school off campus in the local school system. The most rewarding thing, he added, is that 85 percent of the residents have made public professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Biggs said one young man who had failed at three other treatment centers did remarkably well at the Boy's Ranch. Biggs attributes the young man's response to the spiritual aspect of the rehabilitation.

The young man's family had told Biggs that they had suffered great financial hardship due to the boy's addiction. "We've spent everything we had on him; if it doesn't work this time, we're giving up," they said. That boy is currently back home and the family is holding together. "True rehabilitation can take place when the change is inside," Biggs emphasized.

House parents obviously play a large role in all of the children's ministries; Biggs describes them as the unsung

## 1992 Thanksgiving Offering Goal: \$500,000

heroes of the agency's work. "House parents are committed to serving God through providing care for children. That's at the core of where they are; their commitment to Christ," he said. "They deserve a lot more credit than they get."

Another pivotal point in the ministry is the work of the five area offices. They provide the full range of the agency's services, from counseling services for families and children to intake services for children who need residential care.

The Monticello Children's Home continues to be the centerpiece of the agency's ministry, lifting up children like five-year-

old Gary and his seven-year-old brother Bobby. The two had been abandoned by their mother to live with relatives in separate homes where fights and police visits were commonplace. When the brothers were ordered into custody of Arkansas Human Services, workers had to search the streets to find them. Even though it took them a while to learn what "lights out" meant, these residents of the Children's Home love their clean clothes, warm meals, new friends, and especially the swimming pool. Gary wants to be a policeman and Bobby wants to be a preacher.

The campus has undergone recent renovation, making the home more comfortable and safe for the children who live there. The ministry houses 56 children and has a waiting list of 10, five girls and five boys who have been approved to go and are waiting for a vacancy. Many of the children are waiting at Arkansas Baptist Emergency Receiving Homes around the state.

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"Our shelters are used to the extreme," Biggs noted. "One of the house parents told me last week they had to turn down seven kids because the house was at capacity, as are most of our shelters. Needs are increasing at an alarming rate and it is frustrating not to be able to meet them."

The children being sheltered at the Emergency Receiving Homes come from circumstances most Arkansas Baptists could not imagine. A few of the kids whom love has lifted include:

- A six-month-old infant wearing only a diaper, abandoned on a street corner after 10 p.m.

- An 11-month-old girl with a leg broken from abuse and bruises all over her body.

- A nine-year-old girl who had scarring on her neck from being chained to a bed. She was dysfunctional and unable to cope with life from being physically and sexually abused and locked in a closet.

- A preschooler whose hand was badly burned from having it held in boiling water by a parent.

- 11- and 12-year-old sisters who were sexually abused resulting in both of them having venereal disease. Their mother

chose to live with her boyfriend rather than care for her daughters.

These children and others in the agency's care are aided in part through the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Thanksgiving Offering. This year's offering goal is \$500,000.

The breakdown of the family continues to impact children needing the ministry's care. Biggs said of the 56 residents at the Children's Home, only four maintain a connection to either biological parent.

Biggs tells the story of one young girl who had been caught in a custody battle most of her life. She was very inquisitive about becoming a Christian, and made a profession of faith while her regular house parents were out one weekend. "Now I'm in Jesus' custody," she explained to them upon their return.

"Despite the horrible situations the kids come from, they are receptive to genuine love and care," Biggs pointed out. "A large number of them have accepted Christ, in addition to getting their lives on solid ground."

\*All examples cited are real; fictitious names have been used to protect the privacy of the minors involved.

## Promise House: a year of firsts

*"Love has provided for six pound, eight ounce Susie to be born. We don't know if Susie's mother seriously considered aborting or not, but we do know that her mother was provided good prenatal care, Christian counseling, an opportunity to continue her education and Christian guidance while at the Promise House."* — Johnny Biggs, director of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes

Everything that Jennifer Cloyde, director of Promise House, the Arkansas Baptist home for unwed mothers, has done this year has been a first. Whether its admitting a young woman into the hospital to have her baby or coordinating volunteers, this is the first time for everything as Promise House has completed its first year of operation.

A ministry of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Promise House is a viable alternative to abortion for teenage mothers. So far, three babies have been born, one is on the way and another is due in December.

As in any other ministry to teenagers, school work takes up a majority of the girls' time. In addition to education, Cloyde tries to find places in the community for the young women to work as volunteers, hopefully in a field they might be interested in pursuing as a career.

Volunteers from El Dorado First Church have played a large part in the girls' lives, from throwing birthday parties to making sure the girls are included in church and community activities.

So far, Cloyde said, there has been a blend of results — adoption and keeping the baby — among the young women's post-delivery options. "Whatever the girls do, we hope that we've planted a seed of Christian compassion," she added.

Cloyde makes it clear that Promise House is a resource for pregnant teenagers in Arkansas Baptist churches. "We still encourage WMU groups and especially youth groups to come and tour to raise awareness of our facility. If a girl gets pregnant, she probably will tell a friend long before she tells her pastor."

In this year of firsts, Cloyde has learned the value of a sense of humor. "Humor is the first thing you lose in a crisis. When you can reclaim it, then you can start making progress."

With the loving hearts and outstretched hands of Arkansas Baptists, Promise House can reclaim more than humor — it can reclaim lives.

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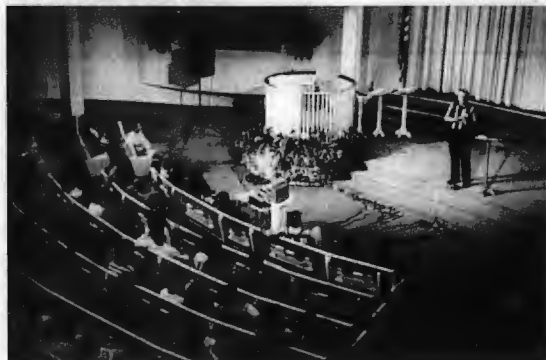
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## Baptist Student Union Convention calls on students to "Wake Up!"

BSU photo / George Sims



Jeff Lewis, Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke to nearly 500 participants at the 1992 Arkansas Baptist Student Union Convention held at Hot Springs First Church Oct. 2-4. The convention's theme was "Wake Up."

Something many students traditionally do not like to do — wake up — was the theme of the 1992 Arkansas State Baptist Student Union Convention held Oct. 2-4 at Hot Springs First Church. "Wake Up!" was explored by two keynote speakers: Ken Smith, an evangelist from Starkville, Miss., and Jeff Lewis from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

One of the high points of the convention was the Saturday night recognition of student summer missionaries. "The Company," a drama troupe from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, performed and special music was presented by Paul Paschall from Oklahoma Baptist University.

"I was really impressed with the quality of the speakers — they were tremendous," exclaimed Nathan McLean, state BSU president and a junior communications major at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

George Sims, associate in the state BSU department, said the "Wake Up!" theme was "students awakening to their own personal spiritual journey as well as their potential for ministry in today's world."



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\*Figures are for January-December 1991 and were verified through your state convention office and designated gifts to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Home Mission Board Accounting Department, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Based on churches with resident membership of 25 or more.

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# Ministering to a CD world

*Support Ministries offer new techniques for dealing with modern problems*

By Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

"Southern Baptist churches currently are ministering to a CD world with record album methods," declared Claude King in an Oct. 26 Support Ministries conference.

Park Hill Church of North Little Rock was host for this first-time statewide presentation. Support Ministries, created by the Baptist Sunday School Board, is designed to provide Christian ministry and emotional support to individuals experiencing social, emotional or physical need.

Referring to the eras of the 78 and 45 recordings, eight tract tapes, cassettes and CDs, King noted, "As the whole recording industry changed with CDs, so do the outreach methods of Southern Baptists need to change. Yesterday's methodologies of revival and Sunday School outreach are not reaching the world of today.

"Southern Baptists need to look at today's world," he continued, "where 29 to 38 percent of the population have emotional problems, 13 percent are addicted to alcohol, 15 percent of the women have

eating disorders, 38 percent of the girls are sexually abused with 75 percent of those by a family member, 16 percent of the men are sexually molested, and 6 percent suffer from depression. These statistics and many others reveal we are living in a society of broken, hurting families who are desperately in need of help.

"It is important for Southern Baptists to see what God is doing in His world," King told conference participants. "God is on mission to redeem a lost world, but Christians are so busy substituting programs and activities they are not seeing all of the brokenness and hurting around them.

"Is your churches interested in bringing healing?" he asked. "If so, I want to challenge you to get involved in these new support ministries designed to help dysfunctional families with divorce recovery, grief recovery, chemical dependency, codependency, abuse recovery and eating disorders."

In addition to needs named by King, conference participants named single parenting, troubled youth, lack of parenting skills, low self-esteem, emotional abuse and terminal illness as other possible support group needs.

King described three types of support groups which include:

- Encouragement and accountability where members encourage and support each other's progress toward a goal.

- 12-Step groups where members use

Christian adaptation of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 Steps to help each other make progress in recovery from addictions through a process of repentance, trust in God and spiritual renewal.

- Personal issues groups where members share personal responses to issues and problems they are dealing with, and the group provides a safe and loving environment for personal healing, growth and recovery.

King said resource materials were still being developed, but encouraged participants to begin by reading and studying such resources as *Search for Significance*, *Making Peace with Your Past*, *Wise Counsel: Skills for Lay Counseling and Life Support Leader's Handbook*.

Bob Holley, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Discipleship Training department which sponsored the conference, told participants, "Arkansas Support Ministries leaders, who have been equipped this summer at either Glorietta or Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers, are available to train local church workers.

"We could not wait until all Support Ministries materials were available because we wanted state churches to catch a vision, be informed and properly equipped for this new program."

Larry Pillow is pastor of Second Church in Conway where 11 support groups, including a divorce recovery group, are meeting. "We keeping a waiting list for the divorce recovery group," he noted. "I would encourage churches to begin ministering to those who are hurting."

Dennis Dodson, pastor of First Church of Monticello, stated, "There is an urgent need for this ministry in Arkansas Baptist churches. Pastors must be informed to meet the needs of a hurting world."

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## PRAYER MINISTRY WORKSHOP

## Continuous prayer is key

By Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist

"Continuous prayer is the key to a successful prayer ministry," T.W. Hunt told participants at a prayer ministry workshop held Oct. 26-27 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Hunt, a Baptist Sunday School Board prayer consultant and compiler of the *Church Prayer Ministry Manual*, named Intercessory and Watchman Prayer Ministries as two basic plans that can help a church maintain continuous prayer before God.

"Continuity is the key word," Hunt declared. "Whatever the membership, it can be divided so that prayer can be continuous before God." The intercessory ministry is held at the church while the watchman ministry takes place at home.

Hunt said key leaders in a successful prayer ministry should include the pastor, a coordinator and prayer warriors. "The most successful prayer ministries I know of are those where the pastor is not only the key leader, but also a participant," he pointed out.

Hunt said a deeply spiritual person who is a good manager should serve as coordi-

nator. "Your prayer warriors must be trained to be confidential," he emphasized, "and told if confidentiality is betrayed they will be asked to no longer serve."

Hunt said a prayer room should include a kneeling altar, table and chairs, and a telephone. He encouraged the use of a bulletin board where prayer listings could include events in the Christian world, important world news, praise items, articles and sermons, and a copy of the state Baptist paper.

"Prayer warriors should pray one hour, praying 10 minutes for six different divisions," he suggested. "However, the prayer period should always be subject to the guidance of the Holy Spirit." Prayer subjects could include the unsaved; the church, its staff, members and programs; foreign and home missions; the sick and homebound; and the world.

Hunt said a prayer ministry should include a three-month pre-launch period of training, bulletin articles, sermons and a launch day.

"The hardest part of this ministry is how to maintain it," Hunt stated. "You must have a dynamic prayer coordinator. I have seen ministries collapse because of a weak coordinator.

"Though I have witnessed a hurting world, I also have seen the effectiveness of continuous prayer and know our world needs can be met, if Southern Baptist churches will launch effective prayer ministries and return to fervent Wednesday evening prayer meetings," Hunt declared.

Bob Holley, director of Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Discipleship Training department which sponsored the workshop, said, "This workshop has been provided to awaken people to the importance of prayer in their relationships to God, to generate interest in beginning intercessory prayer ministries in their churches and to provide materials to enable prayer leaders to administer an effective prayer ministry for their churches."

## Lottie Moon gifts help provide hope

By Sandy Wisdom Martin

Arkansas GA director

The simple glass jar was kept in the cabinet next to the sink. Regularly you would see Dad put in his spare dollars and change. The money did not go toward the family vacation. It wasn't a fund for emergencies. It wasn't savings for something special the family wanted to purchase. He put in money through the year to add to his Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. When December came, the jar was emptied and the process started all over again with the new year. Dad was faithful to declare hope to the peoples of the world.

Early in her life, state WMU associate Monica Keathley learned the importance of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by watching her parents' example. She remembers one fall day when her mother's purse was stolen. Her mother wept, not because of lost Christmas gift money or credit cards, but because she had her Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in an envelope in that purse. She believed declaring hope was important.

David James, state BSU director, remembers a special pastor who influenced his giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This pastor led the church through personal modeling. His encouragement was to give a week's salary to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Declaring hope was a way of life for this pastor.

The theme for the 1992 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is "Declare Hope." These examples have done their part to declare hope. They have been faithful in their giving so that the world may have access to the gospel message of hope. The 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering National Goal is \$88 million.

Churches also are encouraged to participate in a church-wide adult foreign mission study. The suggested time is Nov. 15-18. This year the study will take you to India where participants will learn about growing cities and witnessing churches who are doing their part to declare hope.

Will hope be declared through the 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? There are many places in our world where people haven't heard the gospel and have little chance of hearing it unless Christians give them special attention.

Will the next generations be concerned about declaring hope to the world? What will they learn from our example? Will they have an inspiring "Lottie Moon story" to share? Will you help declare hope?

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## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**William E. Piercy** observed his 20th anniversary of service Sept. 29 as pastor of First Church in Manila. Members presented him with a plaque and a gift of money. In addition to the Manila church, Piercy has been pastor of Red Oak Church, McCrory First Church, and Brinkley Chapel, Osceola.



**Mark Baber** began serving Oct. 11 as pastor of First Church of Marion. He recently returned with his family from Durban, South Africa, where he has served since 1988 as a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board, working in university ministries and church development.

**Charles Van Pelt** has resigned as pastor of Abbott Church, Mansfield.

**Richard Nelson** is serving as interim pastor of West Hartford Church, Hartford.

**Jocelene Ruth McLeod** of Little Rock died Oct. 10 at age 58. She was the wife of Roy McLeod, a retired pastor who has served Arkansas churches, including Parks, Shady Grove of Van Buren, Memorial Church in Waldo, and Reynolds Memorial in Little Rock. Other survivors include two sons, Rick Lemmings of Purdy, Mo., and Mike England of Humansville, Mo.; a daughter, Laura Redmond of Little Rock; two sisters; and two grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or Mount Pisgah Cemetery Fund, Monette, Mo.

**Jim Shaw**, a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, has resigned as minister of youth for Wynne Church, following three years of service.

**John Hough** has resigned as associate pastor/education at Beech Street First Church in Texarkana to join the staff of Second Church in Hot Springs as minister of education/staff coordinator.

**Dale Bonner** is serving as pastor of Diaz Church.

**Randall Hall** is serving as pastor of Ebenezer Church, Warren, going there from Salline Church, Hermitage.

**Modena Holt Taylor** of Harrison died Oct. 6 at age 80. The wife of Dale F. Taylor, she was a public school teacher for 30 years in Arkansas, Texas and Missouri while her husband served as business manager of Baptist colleges. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now university), she also held a teaching degree from Henderson State University of Arkadelphia. A memorial service, conducted by Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director Don Moore, was held Oct. 11 in First Church of Harrison. At her request, her body was given to the Arkansas Medical School of Little Rock for medical research purposes. Memorials may be sent to Hillcrest Nursing Home of Harrison. Other survivors include a son, Frank Taylor of Carrollton, Texas; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, all of Little Rock; three sisters; and a brother.

**Clyde Gray** is serving as pastor of First Church of Berryville.

**David Stratton** has resigned as pastor of Boxley Church, Ponca.

**Don Carter** is serving as pastor of Bureka Springs Penn Memorial Church.

**Dale Cook** is serving as pastor of Southbend Church in Caroline Association, going there from Cockleburr Church.

**Charles Trammell** has retired as pastor of Steel Bridge Church, Lonoke.

**Don Gentry** has resigned as pastor of First Church of Gillham.

**Max Deaton** is serving as pastor of Hurricane Lake Church of Benton, going there from Easterwood Mission, Conway.

**Lendell Black** has joined the staff of Cadron Ridge Church as minister of music.

**Tim Rodgers** has joined the staff of Cadron Ridge Church as minister of youth.

**Joe Bagwell** is serving as pastor of First Church of Mount Ida.



*Bluff Avenue Church in Fort Smith observed Harvey Wells Day Oct. 4. In recognition of Wells' 30 years of service as Sunday School director, pastor Steve Young and Jerry Hicks, newly elected Sunday School director, presented him with a plaque. The church also hosted a noon luncheon honoring Wells and his wife, Rossie. Payment of a \$45,000 indebtedness on church improvements also was celebrated when Wells and Tom Hicks, signing trustees, cut the paid note.*

**Jim Malone** of Memphis is serving as bivocational pastor of Immanuel Church, West Memphis.

**Charles Pullin** is serving as pastor of Gardner Church, Hamburg.

**Philip Bowles** is serving as pastor of Fellowship Church, Hamburg.

### Briefly

**Post Oak Church** at Higden ordained pastor **Curtis Altom** Sept. 20. J.C. Verser preached the ordination message.

**Enterprise Church** of Viola ordained **Larry Luther** and **Calvin "Butch" Cotter** to the deacon ministry Oct. 4.

**Alma First Church** was host for a recent evangelistic campaign. The Starlight Crusade was led by evangelists **J. Harold Smith** and **Sam Cathey**. **Squire Parsons** directed music. The final service was attended by more than 750 and the Wednesday evening service resulted in 90 professions of faith.

**Sulphur Springs Church** of Pine Bluff held a "Servants' Appreciation Day" ser-

vice Sept. 27, naming **Jesse L. Pierce**, who has served as a deacon for 47 years, as deacon emeritus. **Versie Pierce** and **Roxine Carter** were presented with plaques in recognition of 30 years of service as church nursery workers.

**Barling First Church** celebrated 85 years of service Oct. 25 with a praise and worship service.

**Benton County Association** members voted in their 1992 annual meeting to return to the original name of **Northwest Association**, a name adopted in 1852 when two associations merged. The 1992 decision was made because the association now serves churches in northwest Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. **Joe Atchison** serves as director of missions, ministering to 35 churches with a total membership of 19,364.

**Manila First Church** has begun a weekly clothing ministry in downtown Manila. Volunteers working at "The King's Closet," not only provide clothing for all ages, but witness and share the plan of salvation through brief Bible studies. Recipients of the ministry also are invited to attend First Church where **William Piercy** serves as pastor.

## HMB appoints two Arkansas Baptist couples

ATLANTA—Two couples with Arkansas ties recently were appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. **Herschel** and **Frances Smith** will serve in Menominee, Mich., and **John** and **Vanessa Thomas** will serve in Tulsa, Okla.

Smith will be director of missions for Upper Peninsula Association, and Mrs. Smith will work in family and church service.

A native of Jonesboro, Smith is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has served as a pastor in Arkansas, Missouri and Michigan.

Mrs. Smith is a native of Little Rock. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. An elementary music teacher, Mrs. Smith also has served as a Sunday School teacher, a children's choir director and an Acteens director.

The Smiths have three children, **Karon**, **Joseph** and **Margaret**.

**Thomas** will be state director of Christian education in Tulsa and Mrs. Thomas will work in family and church service.

Mrs. Thomas, a native of Forrest City, is a graduate of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and the University of Oklahoma. A registered nurse, she formerly worked at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

The Thomases have two children, **Elizabeth** and **John**.

## FMB missionaries home on furlough

**Max** and **Betty Alexander**, missionaries to Thailand, are in the States (address 601 S. Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72205). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Lake City and grew up in Jonesboro. The former **Betty Nickel**, she was born in Hazel Valley and also lived in Fayetteville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1961.

**Don** and **Angie Finley**, missionaries to Brazil, are in the States (address: 400 E. College St., Georgetown, KY 40234). He is a native of Missouri. The former **Angie Coston** of Arkansas, she was born in Clarksville and considers Hot Springs her hometown. They were appointed in 1988.



*Balboa Church, a work sponsored by Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village, was constituted as a fully self-supporting congregation with 64 charter members Sept. 20. **Kenny Moore** is serving as pastor of the church which currently is meeting at the Ouachita Activities Building of the Ponce de Leon Center, Hot Springs Village. The church office is located in Carmona Center. Participating in the service were (left to right) **Carter Tucker**, Arkansas Baptist State Convention chaplaincy director; **Carl Overton**, who served the church as interim pastor; **Tim Reddin**, sponsoring church pastor; **pastor Moore**; and **Jim Swedenberg**, director of missions for Central Association.*



## Two Arkansas couples appointed by FMB

Two couples with Arkansas ties were among 41 people recently named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Barry and Sonia Burnett will serve in the Dominican Republic and Mark and Melinda Duggin will serve in north Brazil.

The Burnetts consider Arkadelphia their hometown and First Church their home church. He will start and develop churches in the Dominican Republic and he and his wife will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Burnett's parents are missionaries to Brazil and Mrs. Burnett's parents are home missionaries in Colorado and former foreign missionaries to Venezuela.

Burnett has been pastor of Elohim Baptist Mission of First Southern Baptist Church in Yuma, Ariz., since 1988. He has been student activities director at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and a Foreign Mission Board volunteer in Venezuela. He is a graduate of Ouachita and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



*Barry and Sonia Burnett*

Mrs. Burnett is a graduate of Ouachita. She has been a juvenile court program coordinator, aging program coordination and a dietitian.

The Burnetts have one son, Erik Duggin, a former pastor of Broadmoor Church in Brinkley, will start and develop churches in north Brazil. He and his wife also will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Duggin has been pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Lewisburg, Tenn., since 1989. He is a graduate of Union University



*Mark and Melinda Duggin*

in Jackson, Tenn., and Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

Mrs. Duggin, who grew up in Memphis, also is a graduate of Union University. She has worked as a registered nurse in Brinkley and Memphis.

The Duggins have three children: Matthew Alan, Micah Andrew and Mandi Allison.

Both families will go to Rockville, Va., in January for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their respective fields of service.

## MK Prayer Calendar

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in November:

■ 11/6, Jeremy Erwin (Mali) OBU Box 3499, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

■ 11/16, Ariel Hernandez (Warren, Ark.) UCA Box 4007, Conway, AR 72032

■ 11/28, Brian Kirby (Venezuela) OBU Box 3079, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

■ 11/29, Kris Cartwright (Philippines) OBU Box 4280, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

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MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Trustees approve motion on taping lectures

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Arkansas pastor Ronnie Rogers, a trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, led a successful effort to amend the seminary policy on the audio recording of classroom lectures during the trustees' Oct. 19-20 meeting. Trustees considered a report from the instruction committee affirming the seminary's existing policy before adopting Roger's amendment on a 19-8 vote.

Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, made a motion to amend the policy which previously allowed students to tape record classroom lectures "contingent on securing prior approval from the professor in the course." With his amendment, Rogers asked trustees to delete that section of the policy, allowing lectures to be recorded without a professor's approval.

"This would move the discretionary power from the professor to the student," Rogers said. "A benefit for trustees is that it would allow us an effective way to deal

with charges and counter-charges that have come forth during the time of the conservative resurgence."

Employing a hypothetical scenario, Rogers maintained if a student made allegations of aberrant teaching in the classroom, tape recordings of lectures would "give us the mechanism to deal effectively, fairly and openly with evidence." It would give trustees the means to either "exonerate the professor or substantiate the allegations of the student," Rogers said.

Instruction committee chairman James Jones questioned whether the amendment would accomplish Rogers' purpose, since the seminary policy also states: "The use of recorded materials for any purpose other than personal study is prohibited, unless the professor gives prior approval in writing."

Kent Cochran, a layman from Kansas City, asked whether this meant a tape-recorded lecture would be allowed as evidence in a grievance filed against a professor by a student.

"Not as I understand this," Jones responded. "What the policy says is that a student can record a class, as long as he gets prior approval by the professor. But with or without that approval, with or without the amendment, any use other than personal study is prohibited.... The professor would have to give final approval in writing for us to hear it."

Trustee Timothy Norman of Virginia spoke against the amendment because, he

said, "this places the student inadvertently in position of becoming an agent of this board of trustees. I do not wish for the students to report to me what a professor said or did not say. That is the business of the trustees, not the students."

Two other motions presented by trustees were referred to the instruction committee for consideration. The first, presented by Anthony Mattia of Kansas, proposes an amendment to the Academic Freedom and Tenure statement. The amendment would require the seminary president to present to the full board any prospective faculty member, "for further consideration by the full board."

Current policy requires the president to present prospective faculty members only to the trustees' instruction committee. After committee members confer with the prospect, their evaluation is presented to the president and, at his discretion, the prospect is recommended to the full board for election to the faculty.

The second motion, presented by Cochran, also proposes an amendment to the tenure statement. The amendment would specify that the seminary president notify trustees "in writing" of his intention to recommend a prospective faculty member 30 days prior to the meeting in which the prospect would be considered.

Near the close of their meeting, trustees approved a motion by Missouri trustee Marvin Nobles to commend the faculty "for their sacrificial commitment and strong sense of call to our Lord and this institution."

## SWBTS trustees approve new degrees

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved two new degree programs in the school of theology and helped dedicate the seminary's new \$3.5 million Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library during their semiannual meeting Oct. 19-20.

A 60-hour master of arts degree and a 24-hour master of theology degree each received unanimous approval by trustees. The two new degrees are the first major curricular additions not requiring prior professional or educational experience in the school of theology since the bachelor of divinity degree was added in 1950.

Calling the new degrees a positive step for the seminary's academic future, president Russell H. Dilday told trustees the curricular additions will provide greater flexibility for students.

Bruce Corley, dean of the school of

theology, said the master of theology degree is designed primarily as a research degree to prepare students for doctoral studies. A master of divinity degree or its equivalent will be required for students entering the program.

The master of arts degree is designed for students with undergraduate degrees "who have planned a ministry besides that of the pastorate," Corley said. He said the degree will prepare graduates for academic writing, campus ministry and teaching. A liberal arts degree is required for entrance into the program.

Dedication ceremonies for the Bowld Music Library included a special music chapel service and a ribbon-cutting.

Dilday also told trustees that Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions, has been named director of the seminary's church growth institute.

## Southeastern inaugurates Paige Patterson

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention president Ed Young predicted Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary will become a "product-driven institution" as he spoke to more than 1,200 people during Paige Patterson's inaugural ceremony, Oct. 12.

"The product is scholarship on fire, and erudition does not exclude sound, conservative, theological positions," said Young. "I believe this seminary will gear its graduates to serve primarily in the local church, and these scholars on fire for God will make a radical difference as servants in the churches across the eastern seaboard and around this globe."

Patterson responded by saying his presidential responsibilities are more than any one man can do. He asked for prayer in three specific areas: that he never bring shame to God or the seminary, that Southern Baptists pray for his family, and that the seminary community always remember education is not an end in itself, but a means for training people to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## BSSB retirement 'window' chosen by 159 workers

By Charles Willis

Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—More than 83 percent of the 191 Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employees eligible for a special voluntary retirement window have elected to take the enhanced early retirement provision approved by the institution's trustees in August.

A total of 159 elected to retire between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. The one-time provision, part of a restructuring for the 101-year-old church programs and publications agency, was offered during the summer to persons with a minimum age of 52 and whose age and tenure totaled at least 77.

In addition to the retirement of eight employees from middle- and upper-level management positions announced in June, six department directors are retiring. They are Max Caldwell, Sunday School youth-adult department; Muriel Blackwell, Sunday School preschool-children's department; Tom Clark, Bibles and books; Ray Conner, church recreation; Joe Denney, video/audiovistuals; and Jerry Ross, art.

Retirees among Baptist Book Store managers include two regional managers, Robert Mendenhall, southeastern region, and Al Crawford, central/campus region. Five store managers in the 63-store chain also will retire. Of the 159 retirees, 53 were in management positions, 63 were professionals and 43 were support staff personnel.

Provisions of the voluntary retirement incentive plan include no reduction in monthly benefits for early retirement and a benefit enhancement based on projected Social Security benefits to age 62 or age 65, depending on the individual's age at

the time of retirement.

The program is being financed by the board's pension trust fund and affects operating costs positively by savings in salaries and benefits. After replacement of about 50 percent of the departing employees, the program is expected to save the board about \$2.5 million.

## Landry hosts RTVC special for NBC

By Shawn Switzer & Doug Dillard

SBC Radio and Television Commission

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Tom Landry, longtime coach of the Dallas Cowboys, will host "ThanksLiving," a TV special produced by the Radio and Television Commission to air on NBC during the Thanksgiving holidays.

Viewing times will vary, said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president for television services. Viewers must check their local stations or program listings for times and stations.

Rosser McDonald, RTVC producer who wrote, produced and directed the special, promises, "ThanksLiving will captivate the viewer with comeback stories told by the actual people involved." Those stories include:

- A paraplegic who completed a record-setting journey from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., on a row cycle.

- A lymphoma cancer patient, a physi-

cian, whose book written to inspire other victims has gone to a second printing.

- A school principal whose determination inspired a high-crime Hispanic community to restore her fire-gutted school in only six weeks so it could open on time.

- An ex-circus motorcycle daredevil who expresses thanks for a changed life by distributing meals each Saturday to the homeless who huddle under Interstate highway bridges.

ThanksLiving will be a second appearance for Landry in an RTVC production. He also hosted the popular "Set Free" in 1991, a documentary about prison ministries produced for NBC.

These documentaries, Thornton said, are aired on major networks as part of RTVC's participation in the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), a coalition of five faith groups including the National Council of Churches, the United States Catholic Conference, the New York Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America as well as Southern Baptists.

The coalition, which the RTVC helped create in 1988 to coordinate the networks' offerings of public service time, normally produces eight documentaries a year for ABC and NBC, according to Richard T. McCartney, RTVC executive vice president and current IBC president.

"NBC approached us with the opportunity to produce a 30-minute program on short notice and with no budget," noted Thornton. "Each member of the IBC chose a worthy individual to represent their group."

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# Baptist agencies plan Russia follow-up

By Doug Dillard

SBC Radio and Television Commission

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Representatives of Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission have begun work on a pilot project involving broadcast ministry opportunities in the former Soviet Union.

Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, and Sam James, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, met Oct. 19 in Charlotte, N.C., with Jack Johnson, RTVC president, and Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president, to discuss ways the two agencies can work together.

The RTVC began transmitting two hours

of programming weekly in the Russian republic in July.

"We felt it was vitally important to seize the opportunity for gospel proclamation which the sudden offer of free television time brought," Johnson explained. "We knew local follow-up would be needed and that involvement of foreign mission personnel and Russian Baptists would be required to take full advantage of the opportunity."

The two agencies agreed to work cooperatively to construct a pilot project to build on the unique aspects of the unexpected Russian opportunities. They agreed to propose to Baptists in St. Petersburg a one-year project limited to the St. Petersburg area. If Baptists there agree, the FMB

could select a coordinator, possibly a volunteer, to work with Baptists there to design a follow-up strategy.

"The Foreign Mission Board is always interested in using follow-up from media programs to integrate into work that is being done by local missionaries," Kammerdiener said.

Johnson agreed, "I am convinced we must explore the outer limits of what media does best, then place that tool in the hands of field missionaries to help accelerate our pursuit of Bold Mission Thrust goals." Southern Baptists' denomination-wide emphasis on sharing the gospel worldwide by the year 2000.

The plan calls for discussions with Baptists in the Commonwealth of Independent States in November to see how they might respond. Later, probably in early 1993, a coordinator could be enlisted to work with churches in the St. Petersburg area in establishing a follow-up plan.

At the appropriate time, the RTVC would begin inviting viewer responses, with the expectation that responses would be shared with local churches who might participate in the follow-up, Johnson said.

"Television may very well be one of the methods God wants to use in these closing days of the 20th century to touch this vast area of the world," Johnson added. "I pray that we and the staff of the Foreign Mission Board may be able to refine a powerful strategy for taking full advantage of this significant opportunity."

## Graham outlines vision for Russia

MOSCOW (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham revealed his new "vision for Russia" in a press conference held Oct. 15 at the Foreign Ministry Press Center, the site where the abortive coup of 1991 to topple former President Gorbachev was announced.

"I think the greatest need in the world today is for spiritual renewal and revival," he said. "I believe that the Russian people are more prepared to lead than any one I know."

"You have been a religious nation," he

continued. "Your roots are very deep in religion. It seems to me that you have something to share with the rest of the world. You could have a new beginning now, not only economic and political but also spiritual."

Graham was in Moscow to hold his first-ever crusade in the former Soviet Union. The meetings have been organized by Renewal '92, a year-long program of training and outreach supported by 150 churches of many denominations in the Moscow region and 3,000 churches throughout all the republics.

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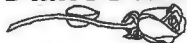
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# Croatians, Serbians recount war's horrors

By Mike Creswell

SBC Foreign Mission Board

ZAGREB, Croatia (BP)—Christian sources in Croatia and Serbia have confirmed widely publicized stories of war atrocities committed in the splintering pieces of Yugoslavia.

Eyewitness accounts of murders and concentration camps have been released by the Christian Information Service in Zagreb, Croatia. The service is directed by a Baptist, Boris Peterlin.

A Christian worker in Belgrade, Serbia, who asked not to be identified, confirmed that the stories sound consistent with similar reports he has heard from refugees and other sources there. But the worker pointed out atrocities have been committed by all sides.

The reports reflect the religious roots of the vicious conflict. Their stories of neighbor turned against neighbor suggest the hatred and killing will not stop soon.

Croatians are heavily Roman Catholic, while Serbians are predominantly Eastern Orthodox. In the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where heavy fighting has occurred in recent months, the population includes 44 percent Muslims, 31 percent Serbians and 17 percent Croatians. Slovenia, once the northernmost region of Yugoslavia bordering Austria and Italy, also has become an independent state.

Croatia and Serbia fought for nine months before borders between the two sides stabilized. About 10,000 people died in the war. Now the fighting has largely shifted to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Serbs, based in what once was eastern

Yugoslavia, have been accused of trying to eliminate the Muslim minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina through a process called "ethnic cleansing."

Refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina who have taken refuge in Croatia reported mass killings. In one eyewitness account reported by the Christian Information Service, a Bosnian schoolboy told of seeing 14 people from two villages near the city of Tuzla shot down by the "cheteniks" — non-military citizens turned guerrilla fighters. The villagers were fleeing as cheteniks arrived in the area. As the villagers ran towards a forest, another chetenik intercepted them and opened fire, the boy reported.

"I lay down on the ground and threw myself from the path, down a steep slope," the boy testified. "A burst of fire came forth, but luckily I hadn't been hit."

After hiding out in the forest overnight, the boy eventually made his way back to another village and safety. He identified six of the gunmen by name and said they were his neighbors before the conflict broke out. They looted his village and burned down about 60 houses, he said.

Sflock was evident in the boy's statement, because those neighbors had once lived in peace with them. "We didn't expect such things," he said.

Members of a village defense group later found the bodies of the victims, unburied and in a state of decomposition.

Another witness testified he had been held in a Serbian concentration camp set up in a technical school in Karakaj. About 700 prisoners were held in the camp, all from Muslim villages, he said.

"We were under insupportable repression all the time, accommodated in small rooms without enough air and water," the man said. "A number of people died due to suffocation. We were beaten with fists and rifle butts. People were covered with blood and many did not get up after that."

The number of people in the camp diminished as group after group were carried away in trucks, supposedly to be sent home in a prisoner exchange program.

"But as soon as they would take out those people we could hear rifle fire, screams and cries," he said.

One day he and eight others were taken outside. "They forced us against the wall and started shooting immediately," he said. "It was a miracle that I stayed alive." He lay among his slain neighbors, pretending to be dead. When the troops left to get the next victims, he crawled away.

Some 400 people were killed in the camp and the other 300 were subjected to "many stages of torments," the man testified. Like the boy, he named two gunmen who were formerly his neighbors. One of them is a former town assembly member, he said.

Baptists are among the 1 percent Protestant minority in former Yugoslavia and have members both in Croatia and Serbia. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board authorized \$225,000 for Baptist feeding programs in seven areas of Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. An estimated 600,000 to 700,000 war refugees are in Croatia alone. Many refugees are housed in tents, and relief workers fear they will face disease or death this winter unless proper housing can be provided.

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### *Suffering for the unfaithful*

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

Basic passage: Hosea 1:1-3; 3:1-2; 6:4-6; 11:1-4

Full passage: Hosea 1:2-3

Central truth: God's relationship with His people is pictured in Hosea's life with Gomer.

(1) Hosea's marriage to Gomer was beset with problems. The talk everywhere was that Hosea had disgraced himself by marrying a prostitute. From God's perspective, some great truths are unveiled: (a) No person is beyond hope until his unbelief is finalized by death; (b) Gomer represented the most unlikely wife for a prophet of God, just as it seems unlikely that the scum of the earth will repent and become trophies of God's saving grace.

(2) Hosea arranged for reconciliation. Gomer forsook her marriage vows; her promiscuity provided her with many lovers. Such ways are common in our day. At least four lessons are taught here: (a) Hosea's strong love, reflected in his seeking reconciliation, is a role play of God's seeking reconciliation for all His unfaithful people (3:1); (b) God's love is deep enough to redeem (3:2); (c) God's love is courageous enough to discipline (3:3-4); and (d) God's love will ultimately win His people's return (3:5).

(3) Gomer's commitment proved to be shallow. Shallow commitments will not satisfy a sovereign God (6:4-6). Hosea resented his wife's indiscretions, as is revealed in the names given to her children (1:2,4,6,9). He was married to Gomer and bound by the marriage vows as much as God is bound to us by His power of creation. Gomer's offspring were Hosea's concern. This illustrates how God loves His people and provides for them.

(4) Hosea wanted Gomer's love and faithfulness. God desires our faithfulness and our constant love.

(5) God must discipline. God does not wish to give His people up (11:1-4). The unfaithful who have gods of wood, hay, stone, and stubble are called to repent in order for God to cure their sinful ills. Hosea's reference to Israel's deliverance from Egypt is a picture of the return of Joseph, Mary and Jesus from Egypt to Nazareth, and of Jesus' ultimate journey to the cross as the final payment for the sin of man (11:1).

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## Life and Work

### *Soldiers to the last*

by Hess Hester, pastor, Markham Central Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 10-17

Focal passage: 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 10-17

Central truth: God's Word equips His people for ministry in the last days.

Ministry in the "last days" (days just prior to the Lord's return) is going to be rough. The spiritual warfare in which we are engaged as soldiers of Christ will be intensified. General Paul instructs his young captain Timothy, as to what he needs to know in order to be properly equipped and prepared for spiritual warfare in the "last days." There are two keys.

First, soldiers of the Lord must be experts on battle conditions. This knowledge is critical to success. Paul describes the battle conditions of the last days in vv. 1-5. Paul lists 18 different characteristics. The entire list is dominated by an incredible spirit of selfishness; "lovers of self, lovers of money...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." He describes a society dominated by people with self-centered lives rather than God-centered lives.

True soldiers of Christ are called to worship God, love people and use things. In the last days people ignore God, love things, and use people. Good soldiers must ask and honestly answer the question, "Is my life God-centered or self-centered?" A God-centered life versus a self-centered life is determined much more by the sum total of the daily decisions we make than by the occasional big ones. In other words, God-centeredness is determined more by decisions such as how we respond to our spouse and kids at the end of a long day than whether we should take the job transfer to company headquarters.

In v.5 Paul confirms that without God-centeredness the best anyone could hope for is a life holding only to a "form of godliness," devoid of spiritual power.

Second, every good soldier must be properly trained, equipped and protected. Without this a soldier is powerless! The main point of vv. 10-17 is that there is no need to be fearful of the conditions in the last days because we can experience God's power in His Word. V.16 explains that the Word equips us to know what is right what is not right, how to get right, and how to stay right (Wiersbe). He concludes in v.17 with the declaration that God's Word prepares the soldier of the Lord for any condition of battle in the last days.

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## Bible Book

### *Is God really just?*

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

Basic passage: Romans 9:1-29

Focal passage: Romans 9:19-29

Central truth: Even when we don't always understand His plan, we can be assured that God is perfectly just and can be trusted.

Israel is the only nation in the world with a complete history - past, present and future. In the ninth chapter of Romans, Paul defended the character of God by showing that Israel's past history actually magnified the attributes of God: His faithfulness (vs. 1-13); His righteousness (vs. 14-18); and His justice (vs. 19-29). It is the last point upon which we shall focus.

There are times in which we can look around and see all the sorrows and tragedies in this world, where the innocent suffer while the rich go free. We wonder how God could allow such things to exist. Indeed it is unthinkable that God would ever will an unjust purpose or perform an unjust act. Yet, at times it seems that He does just that. Paul here gives three answers to this charge by using the judgment of Pharaoh as an example:

First, who are we to argue with God? Let us never forget that God is the potter and we are the clay. God is wiser than we are, and it is foolish to question His will or to resist it. Even Pharaoh had great opportunities to learn about the true God and trust Him, yet he chose to rebel. We may not be able to choose our parents or genetic structure, but we are all still responsible for our choices.

Secondly, God has His eternal purpose. We must never think that God enjoyed watching a tyrant like Pharaoh, but endured it. The very fact that God was long-suffering indicates that He gave Pharaoh every opportunity to believe. In vs. 22, the word translated "fitted" is in the Greek middle voice and should really be translated, "fitted himself for destruction." God did not make Pharaoh a "vessel of wrath", he did it to himself. In fact in vs. 23 we read that God prepares man for glory, but sinners prepare themselves for judgment.

Finally, Paul indicates that all of this had already been predicted and prophesied beforehand. Quoting from Hosea and Isaiah, Paul proves that God is not unjust in saving some and judging others. In fact, it would be unjust if He did not keep His own Word.

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## Convention Uniform

### God holds court

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

Basic passage: Micah 6

Focal passage: Micah 6:13-16

Central truth: God will judge and penalize offenders who forsake their responsibilities.

(1) The historical setting. This prophecy came at a time when Israel and Judah were enjoying peace and prosperity. They were developing their economic, social and political systems since Syria was no longer threatening them.

(2) While at ease, Israel made mistakes. The rich tribal judges had gobbled up the small landowners. The unemployed migrated to the cities to seek work and shelter. Violence, poverty and disease were results of overcrowded conditions.

(3) God has a case against Israel. Micah uses "mountain" as a metaphor of a foundation on which God's people were to build and be established (6:1). They are accused because they have slipped out of line or off their right course. Can blame be against God (6:3)? When you consider what He has done in the past (6:4), we would also be wise to consider the alternative (6:5).

(4) What does God require (6:8)? God's expectations for His people are clear when all things are considered. Justice, mercy and piety ought to head the list. The verdict comes after the trial (6:9-13) and it reads: "Guilty." God's people are guilty!

(5) Are there consequences after the verdict is read? Judgment and penalties follow the announcement of the verdict (6:14-15). The most concise answers to our problems today are systematically listed here: (a) Those who eat and those who can't are not satisfied; (b) Those who think they are thrifty can't save anything; (c) War, storms and pests take everything away; and (d) There is not enough to go around. All of these conditions make up 100 percent of the news commentaries of our world today.

(6) How does a nation become desolate and without honor (6:16)? When other laws mean more than the laws of God, and when the "religions" of the world offer more excitement than witnessing and teaching men how to be saved, a nation is in trouble. Who would have thought that Romans 1:24-31 would be a fitting conclusion to Micah 6?

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## Life and Work

### Charge and challenge

by Hess Hester, pastor, Markham Street Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Tim. 4:1-8; 16-18

Focal passage: 2 Tim. 4:1-8

Central truth: Every Christian is to be a bearer of the Gospel with a ministry to fulfill.

In this final chapter we have the last recorded written words of the Apostle Paul. They contain this old warrior's final charge (vv. 1-5) and challenge (vv. 6-8) to the young soldier of the Lord, Timothy.

You see the solemnity of the charge in v. 1. Paul makes clear that the day will come when all will stand before the judgment seat of Christ where only one opinion will really matter - His.

The substance of the charge is to "preach the Word" (v.2). Keep the main thing the main thing. Our message should be presented in as many creative ways as possible but the method should always be governed by the message.

This is the responsibility not just of pastors but of every believer. And, in every situation. To "be ready in season and out of season" is to be a bearer of God's Word whether it seems like an opportune moment or not. In other words, don't make excuses, make opportunities.

Preaching the Word involves reproving, rebuking and exhorting in a patient manner (v. 2). When done in this way many people will respond. However, some will seek out others who will "tickle their ears" for them, or say just what they want to hear (vv. 3-4).

Paul's challenge to Timothy is "fulfill your ministry" (v. 5). One of the most exciting discoveries a Christian can make is the ministry God has for them personally. The potential of any church will be unleashed to the extent that this occurs.

Paul makes clear that a real key to fulfilling one's ministry is endurance. He proceeds to offer his life as a profound example of what that means (vv. 5-8); as "a drink offering," his blood poured out in death for the cause of Christ.

He has "fought the good fight... finished the race." In these favorite athletic metaphors, Paul is not saying he fought better than anyone else, but he did his best, he went the distance! He is not saying he ran faster than anyone else, but he finished! He fought and ran in such a way that he never brought dishonor upon His Lord. He endured.

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## Bible Book

### Remedy for rejection

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

Basic passage: Romans 9:30-10:21

Focal passage: Romans 10:1-15

Central truth: Regardless of man's religious sincerity, there is still only one remedy for man's rejection of God's will and purpose for mankind.

Romans 9, 10 and 11 form an interlude in Paul's masterful letter to the Romans. In these chapters he deals with election, rejection and future restoration of the nation of Israel. Chapter 9 deals with God's divine sovereignty, but Paul quickly moves to human responsibility in chapter 10.

Israel rejected their Messiah, first, because they did not feel a need for salvation. They felt the Gentiles surely needed to be saved, and they would have been happy to have experienced political salvation from Rome, but they did not feel the need for a spiritual salvation from their sins.

They rejected God's righteousness, secondly, because they were already zealous for God. Yet, Paul states that their zeal was not based on knowledge. It was heat without light. How sad it is to know that there are many religious people today making the same mistake.

Thirdly, they rejected their Messiah because they were too proud and self-righteous. Israel's signorance of God's righteousness was not based on the lack of opportunity. They had been told many times, but they had refused to learn. They were too proud of their own good works.

Finally, Israel misunderstood their own Law. The Law was just a signpost pointing the way, but it could never take them to their destination. Yet, Israel worshipped the Law and as a result rejected the Messiah. In our desire as Southern Baptists to be true to the infallible, inerrant Word of God, let us be careful not to worship the written Word instead of the Living Word - Jesus.

This brings us to the remedy for this rejection. The only way unbelieving Jews could be saved is the same way we are saved today - that is by calling upon the Lord. But before a person can call upon the Lord, they must believe. Yet, before they can believe, they must hear the Word. It is the Word that the Holy Spirit uses to create faith in the heart of the hearer. For this to happen, a herald of the Word must be sent, and it is the Lord who does the sending.

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## Emerging nations agree English equals progress

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Nations once closed to the West may still disagree about the value of democracy or capitalism. But nearly all of them agree on one thing: English equals progress.

Russia, other former Soviet republics, China, even Vietnam — they all want English teachers from the West to train their future leaders in the dominant international language.

That call opens a wide door for Christian teachers desiring to influence people who may one day head up national governments, industries and other institutions.

"Volunteers who can teach English overseas are in growing demand," said Bill Peacock, who helps recruit teachers for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

"Emerging nations are realizing their leaders must know English to have an impact on the rest of the world," he said.

Christian teachers who help meet that need gain respect and can in turn have an impact on such nations by sharing their faith with key people.

Kazakhstan is a prime example. Southern Baptists in the Central Asian land are teaching English, business and economics to some of the nation's top students. Their efforts have drawn the gratitude of Kazakhstan's president.

Additional teaching opportunities there include short-term openings at a strategic institute of business and economics and the new Kazakh-American School begun with Southern Baptist aid. Educators also are needed for two-week stints during a cultural festival next May and June.

China remains perhaps the most open arena for teachers. Cooperative Services International had openings for more than 100 longer-term teachers and language students for China this fall, but recruited only 15. The openings call for university English teachers or others with degrees in English, English as a second language or English literature.

For more information, interested teachers can contact Peacock or the CSI office at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230, (804) 353-0151.

## Baptist workers help establish Kazakh school

ALMALIBAK, Kazakhstan (BP)—With the assistance of Southern Baptist volunteers, local people officially opened the Kazakh-American School of Kazakhstan in October.

The school in the former Soviet republic, a strategic crossroads of Central Asia, began classes with 100 Kazakh students, seven Americans and two Pakistanis enrolled in grades one through five. The school will be self-supporting through students' tuition.

The school is the first private institution of its kind established in post-Soviet Kazakhstan, said director Robert Cuttino, a Southern Baptist volunteer.

"The new school is a chance for Christians to serve in a front-line capacity, directly with the people," Cuttino said. The school aims to offer the training needed for an "emerging economy and developing democracy," he said.

In addition to helping the Kazakh community, the school will help meet the educational needs of the expatriate community.

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## NEWS DIGEST

### Andrew disaster relief gifts top \$1.5 million to Florida

MIAMI (BP)—Dipping into piggy banks, pocketbooks and personal savings, more than 1,500 Southern Baptists and others have offered a generous financial hand to churches and communities in the hurricane-ravaged Miami area.

More than \$1.5 million has been contributed to the Florida Baptist Convention's disaster relief fund to help victims of Hurricane Andrew.

Gifts have ranged from \$2.70 given by a Florida child to more than \$100,000 contributed by a sister state convention. Other gifts were sent by a Navajo Indian church in Arizona, Southern Baptist missionaries in Bermuda, the ladies guild of a Catholic church in New York, a Presbyterian church and an Assembly of God high school.

### Southern trustees fund new ethics professorship

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted to fund a new Christian ethics teaching position at the school but released no information regarding the fate of an embattled ethicist now teaching at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

In an Oct. 14 meeting with faculty and administrative staff, Southern Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt announced that trustees had allocated funds to hire the additional professor by next fall. The action was taken during a two-hour executive session Oct. 12 which began at a point on the agenda where trustees were to hear a report concerning ethics professor Paul D. Simmons. An eight-member trustee committee has been investigating charges against Simmons related to his views on abortion.

The funding of an additional ethics professorship was the only information trustees agreed to release from the executive session, Honeycutt said.

### Martin Bradley retires after 38-year BSSB career

NASHVILLE (BP)—Martin Bradley, 65, retired Nov. 1 after 38 years with the Baptist Sunday School Board, concluding his service as director of corporate planning and research. He served as Southern Baptist recording secretary from 1978-90.

During his career, Bradley has seen the research department grow from five to a peak of 37 employees involved in conducting research not only for the board but for other Southern Baptist agencies. He has overseen the mammoth compilation of the annual Uniform Church Letter from the more than 38,000 Southern Baptist churches.

In addition to leading the board's research efforts, Bradley helped to organize the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship and has served as its president. He chaired the team which produced the 1990 *Churches and Church Membership Study*, compiling statistics on adherents of American religious groups.

### BWA women to sponsor leadership meeting in Moscow

WASHINGTON (BP)—The BWA women's department is sponsoring a leadership development conference for women in the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The meeting will bring together 80 women leaders from several areas of the former Soviet Union.

The Nov. 9-14 meeting will be held in Moscow at the same time representatives will be in Moscow for meetings of the Evangelical Union of Christians-Baptists.

Catherine Allen, president of the BWA women's department, will head the international delegation of women leaders going to Moscow for the conference.

### Second Baptist worker assaulted in Kazakhstan

LONDON (BP)—Southern Baptist worker Steve James is recovering in London from facial surgery after being assaulted by several men Oct. 14 in Alma-Ata, capital of the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

James, of Richmond, Va., is the second Southern Baptist worker to be attacked in Kazakhstan in little more than a year. In a similar incident, Kevin Buss of Texas was beaten in June 1991 by two drunk men who mistook him for a Russian. Many Kazakhs hate Russians because of the long Soviet domination of their land.

James was leaving an evening gathering with his wife, Barbara, and several friends. Suddenly a car sped around a corner into the alley from which they were emerging. The Jameses and another woman dove for the curb and barely escaped being hit.

The car stopped and three men got out. James told his wife and the other woman to get into another car waiting nearby, then turned to speak to the men. One of the men shoved James and another hit him in the face under his right eye before fleeing.

"I'm almost positive they thought I was a Russian," James said. "But my guess is they were just looking for a fight." Despite the attack, Kazakhstan remains a place where James wants to be of service. "There's no question in my mind. I'm on my way back," he promised.