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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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11-21-1985

**November 21, 1985**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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They count on us  
through Arkansas Baptists'  
Family and Child Care Services  
page 3



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Newspaper

November 21, 1985

Arkansas Baptist  
Newsmagazine

## On the cover



ABN photo / Millie Gill

The faithful support of Arkansas Baptists for their family and child care ministry has resulted in 91 years of care for children and families in crisis. "They Count On Us" is the theme for this year's Thanksgiving Offering for Family and Child Care Services.

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## In this issue

### 8 disaster relief

Two teams of Baptist men under the direction of state Baptist Men Director Neal Guthrie rushed to Louisiana earlier in November to aid victims of flooding caused by Hurricane Juan.

### 12 investment counseling

A Southern Baptist missionary delivers a pointed reminder that our primary investment should be in human lives and the Word of God.

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## Pine Bluff First marks 20 year pastorate

First Church, Pine Bluff, marked the 20th anniversary of John H. McClanahan's pastorate there with a "roast and toast" program Saturday, Nov. 2. Nearly 400 persons attended a dinner to hear church members, colleagues in ministry and family reflect on McClanahan's ministry in Pine Bluff since Nov. 1, 1965. A common theme of the recollections was Dr. McClanahan's pastoral care to the church family.

Friends presented the pastor with a desk and gave Mrs. McClanahan an antique music chest.

McClanahan, a native of Roe, Arkansas, is a cum laude graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and holds the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at



McClanahan

Louisville, Ky.

Before coming to Pine Bluff First Church, he was pastor of Blytheville First Church and Hope First Church, plus churches in Kentucky. McClanahan was assistant professor in psychology of religion and pastoral care at Southern Seminary.

During his pastorate, the church has continuously broadcast Sunday morning services on television, built their Trinity Village retirement ministry, instituted a complete child care / education ministry, built a family life center and purchased 20 acres of land.

The church has baptized 714 persons during McClanahan's tenure. They have sent \$981,624 through the Cooperative Program for Southern Baptist work.

McClanahan has served multiple terms on the board of trustees of Ouachita Baptist University. He currently is serving his second term as second vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He and his wife, the former Rosalind May Owens, are the parents of two sons and a daughter.

## Smalley to coordinate BSU on six campuses

James Smalley, Baptist student director at the University of Arkansas Medical Science Campus since 1969, has been named Community College Coordinator for the ABSC Student Department. Smalley will supervise the Baptist student work on the six community colleges in the state, as well as oversee all the physical properties operated by the Student Department: 14 Baptist student centers and eight adjoin-



Smalley

ing houses.

Smalley earlier served as Baptist Student Director at University of Central Arkansas at Conway and later at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. During his early years in Little Rock, he also served as BSU director at UALR. Under his leadership at UALR, the present Baptist Student Center was erected.

Ken Walker has been named as interim director at the Medical School campus and will begin his work in late November. Walker, a native of East St. Louis, is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University and served as Student-to-Student Worker at SAU-Tech at Camden last year.

## Schleiff to help recruit missionaries

Furloughing Southern Baptist missionary Gerald Schleiff of Jonesboro has been named to travel the state speaking to pastors about the possibility of answering a call to foreign missions.

Schleiff, who plans to return to his work in Zimbabwe in August, will meet with as many preachers as he can to ask them if they've ever considered an overseas ministry.

He is one of 18 furloughing missionaries being used as consultant assistants by the Foreign Mission Board's missionary enlistment department. Through a presence at pastors' gatherings in personal meetings, the assistants will help identify pastors who could be general evangelists overseas and encourage them to consider missionary service.

"Our view is that while every Christian should be a witness, there are those to whom God has given the missionary gift to operate

with other spiritual gifts across cultural lines," said Bill Morgan, enlistment department director. It has been estimated that at least 30,000 Southern Baptists have the missionary gift who have not responded to it.

"We have people who evidently are equipped but not going. It might have been five or 10 years since seminary, since they've had any personal challenge to think about foreign missions. In some cases, it may have been never. Only one seminary graduate out of 20 is appointed as a missionary," Morgan said.

General evangelists comprise more than half of the job requests for next year from missionaries overseas. Nearly 300 general evangelists were requested in 1985, and to date 75 have been appointed. In the United States, 95 percent of the world's evangelical preachers minister to five percent of the world's population.

## Meeting special needs for 91 years

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



It is difficult, indeed, to imagine a mother saying to her children, "I don't want you any longer." Yet, this does happen with some frequency in our state. For most of us, it is impossible to imagine the fear, distress, shock and frustration experienced by children in a circumstance such as this. What is to become of the children? Where can they go? The answer often is found at the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

For 91 years, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services has been meeting special needs of children and families. At first, we provided the Baptist Orphan's Home. Today, the agency provides a much wider ministry, maintaining Christian services to children and their families. The purpose is to help hurting children in the name of Christ.

Family and Child Care Services still maintain a home for children at Monticello. Johnny G. Biggs, executive director of the agency, observes that the needs of children are more complex today than they were in the past. Divorce, abuse and neglect are but a few of the events which impact on some of the children to whom ministry is given.

The goal of the agency is to mature and develop children into responsible adults. During the past year, Family and Child Care provided total care and direction for 100 children at Monticello. These young people come with a variety of complex needs. Many of them have experienced anger as an outgrowth of parental rejection, abuse and absence of love. Besides the basics of food, shelter and clothing, the children are provided with religious education, recreational activities, counseling, tutorial services, church, school and community involvement. The most important ingredient, however, is love.

The Christian message of God's love continues to make Family and Child Care's ministry distinctive. Twenty of the young people living at the home last year accepted Christ as their Savior and united with one of the local churches in the area. Professions of faith made by nine other children living in off-campus programs made a total of 29 children who trusted Christ as Savior.

Sponsors made it possible for a number of children to attend Siloam Springs. Seven Baptist Student Union summer missionaries worked at Monticello and in the emergency receiving homes. These college-age young people were also able to assist in communicating God's love and in ministering to the needs of the young people at Monticello and in the emergency receiving homes.

A second ministry maintained by Family and Child Care is the emergency receiving home, which provides temporary emergency

care for children who have been sexually or physically abused or abandoned.

Currently, emergency receiving homes are located in Camden, Little Rock, Sherwood and Judsonia. Others will be opened in the near future. May 21, 1985, marked the opening of the Children's Shelter in Judsonia. This shelter was developed in cooperation with the Calvary Association and with the support of Little Red River Association. The associations constructed a beautiful home, furnished it and provide assistance in operation. In addition to caring for children, there is one apartment to provide emergency care for a battered mother and her children. In one two-week period, three mothers and seven children were served. In the other emergency receiving homes in Little Rock, Sherwood, and Camden, 200 abused and neglected children received care.

A third ministry offered by Family and Child Care Services is counseling. These professionally-trained Christian counselors, located in area offices in Little Rock, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Harrison and Hope, help in resolving parent-child conflicts, marital difficulties and personal problems. Often, homes are saved from divorce and parent-child relationships are strengthened. Last year, Family and Child Care counselors responded to 954 referrals, representing services to 5,171 persons. A major responsibility of these offices is to conduct intake of evaluations on children who need care in one of Family and Child Care's residential programs.

A fourth ministry maintained by Family and Child Care Services is foster care and group home care. Baptist families from throughout the state joined hands with the Family and Child Care agency in providing foster care for 21 children during the past year. Many youth need the experience of living as a part of a caring family. Increased activity in foster home recruiting and placement is planned for the coming year.

Seven boys received care by living in Family and Child Care's Group Home for Boys in Jonesboro. A group of men from First Church, Jonesboro, continued to provide for the house, utilities and upkeep. The work of the home is sponsored by First Church.

Family and Child Care Services Executive Director Biggs expressed gratitude for the Cooperative Program support received each month. "Yet, the Thanksgiving offerings from Arkansas Baptist churches continue to assist in meeting the ever growing needs of hurting children," he said. "Last year, 1,051 churches in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention gave an all-time high of \$404,671, representing a 7.8 percent increase over the previous year."

## Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas' third largest publication,  
meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### Thank you, Arkansas Baptists!

The theme for the Ouachita Baptist University family in hosting the annual meeting for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is "Thank you, Arkansas Baptists." Some may ask the question, "Thank you for what?" No single answer is adequate, even though the main message is "Thank you for making possible 100 years of Christian education at Ouachita."

How many different ways have Arkansas Baptists supported Ouachita? Let me count the ways:

(1) By sending close to 15,000 of your finest young people to enroll in Ouachita since 1886, to become pastors, doctors, teachers, lawyers, homemakers, military officers, business entrepreneurs, missionaries and many other vocational leaders. Investing and entrusting these young in and to Ouachita is the strongest vote of confidence.

(2) By supporting Ouachita generously,

andably and in increasing dollar amounts through the Cooperative Program, Arkansas Baptists have helped Ouachita to become one of the five or 10 strongest Baptist colleges and universities in the nation.

(3) By choosing Ouachita graduates to be your pastors, missionaries, deacons, teachers, convention presidents, convention executive directors and other denominational leaders, you have confirmed Ouachita's purpose of educating and training young people for Christian service.

(4) By your constructive criticism through the years, in the context of faithful love and support, you have helped Ouachita to improve in its responsible service to the denomination, as well as in academic and Christian excellence.

(5) By encouraging churches and individuals to support Ouachita over and

above the budget and tithes, endowed professorships and scholarships have been established and beautiful and useful buildings have been built. In addition to the impact of these contributions for Christian education, a "little Ridgecrest or Glorietta" has been established for Arkansas Baptists at Ouachita in the summertime.

(6) By praying for Ouachita's trustees, administration, faculty and students, you have made possible many modern miracles at Ouachita in changed lives, strengthened faculty, improved buildings and grounds and a closer relation between Ouachita and the churches.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for supporting Ouachita Baptist University in these and untold other ways.

**Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.**

### 'Global Circuit' prayer line opens 15th year Nov. 22

RICHMOND, Va. — The latest prayer concerns from Southern Baptist missionaries can be picked up via Global Circuit, a toll-free telephone line open Nov. 22-Dec. 8.

The prayer "hot line," in its 15th year, will relate up-to-date, specific prayer needs from many of the 106 countries where Southern Baptists missionaries work.

The toll-free number, 1-800-446-2725, may be dialed from all but three states.

During the season of prayer for foreign missions in Southern Baptist churches, the requests can be shared in worship services, Sunday school classes and mission organization meetings for men, women, youth and children, according to Minette Drumwright, the Foreign Mission Board president's special assistant for intercessory prayer.

"Keeping these requests before us daily heightens our awareness of a world in need of a Savior even as we busily celebrate his coming," Drumwright said.

Tape-recorded messages noting several prayer requests will change each Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the 17-day period.

Last year, nearly 7,900 calls were received, compared to more than 6,700 in 1983 and 14,000 in 1982.

In seeking out the latest prayer concerns, Drumwright mailed a special request in August to prayer coordinators in each Southern Baptist mission around the world.



## Woman's viewpoint

Maurine Bunch Freeze

### God's unconditional love

Acceptance is basic to successful living. Every woman, married or single, has a need to be loved and regarded as a person of value. We have been conditioned by society to believe we don't have worth unless we deserve it. Society says we must earn it by doing good works and by observing certain rituals.

Most acceptance is based on performance. We accept ourselves when our performance measures up to our expectations. Our feelings of self-worth increase when we do well in given situations. Others accept us when our actions are consistent with their expectations. But what happens when we fail to measure up? What happens when we let others down?

Acceptance cannot be determined by the opinion of others. Opinions change. Neither is personal opinion consistent enough to serve as a basis for acceptance. Acceptance becomes a reality as we come to believe what God says about us as persons of infinite value and worth. God says we are fearfully and wonderfully made and have been crowned with glory and honor. Acceptance is based on God's unconditional love and not as a result of our gifts, talents

or accomplishments.

During the Christmas season, we will be much concerned with the giving of gifts. "What shall I give?" Sometimes we ask, "What do you want?" We delight in the satisfaction of giving an appropriate or much desired gift.

Children are sometimes asked, "Have you been good?" Receiving gifts seem to require goodness. This concept misrepresents the love of most parents, family and friends and certainly misrepresents God's love, which is unconditional.

God's gifts are not dependent on our goodness. God loves and accepts us just as we are. Just as there is nothing we can do to make God to love us less.

The precious gift of God's Son came from God's heart of unconditional love. We are only asked to receive it. May we do so this holiday season.

**Maurine Bunch Freeze is a single adult consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. A member of Little Rock First Church, she is a frequent speaker at state and national single adult conferences and retreats.**

Don Moore

## You'll be glad to know...

...**"Multiply The Vision"** is the appropriate watchword for 1895-86 in WMU! It is appropriate for all of us anytime. Young athletes envision the day they will be on the high school ball team, and in that vision are found the motivational seeds that propel them to excel and succeed. The same could be said for aspiring musicians, scientists and politicians. There is something mystical—almost magical—that drives people with vision. There is also something spiritually dynamic about vision. Acts 2:17 indicates that vision with believers is an evidence the Spirit of God is at work.



Moore

What is your vision for this year? As a person you will end the year having made little progress unless you envision yourself being different and take steps to effect the changes you envision. As a prayerer, a parent, a spouse, a friend, a church member, a soul winner and a steward will you envision yourself conforming to God's expectations of you. Your church, association and convention should assist you in realizing your vision.

What is your vision for your church? We have so many churches that get upset over insignificant things but never worry that they operate year in and year out without vision and effectiveness. People stretching toward a true spiritual vision will not turn aside to strive over insignificant matters. Baptisms, Sunday School enrollment, Christian growth and mission support need to be included in your vision for your church. Giving an account for opportunities wasted and resources unharnessed will be sobering. "Oh God, help our churches to be hooked up to your vision of what you want them to accomplish." We can do more and be more than we think we can, but not until we envision it. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18).

Your vision, or lack of vision, is showing. Weak commitment, easy excuses, chintzy giving, grouchy attitudes and general negativism are dead-give-aways. No vision! If you could repent of these and receive what the Holy Spirit gives, you would once again be like the "young men who see visions" (Acts 2:17). Hallelujah!

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Pornography is big bucks for 'sex industry'

by John Finn

"Pornography" is a derogatory word, derived from the Greek word *pornographos*, literally meaning "the writings of the prostitutes or promiscuous women." In the *American Heritage Dictionary*, it's defined as "written or pictorial matter intended to arouse sexual feelings."

The word frequently is used interchangeably with obscenity. The word "obscene" is derived from the Latin word *obscaenus* (meaning "filth"). Obscenity is commonly used to refer to things that are considered disgusting, foul, repulsive or filthy. In addition, obscenity refers to that which is offensive to modesty or common decency.

In the Miller case, the Supreme Court set forth a three-point test to define what is meant by obscenity. The guidelines are as follows:

(1) Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;

(2) Whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and

(3) Whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

Regardless of the definition, pornography is "big bucks." Consider these eye-opening numbers. An estimated \$8 billion to \$10 billion is spent in America for sexually explicit materials. This figure exceeds the combined gross income of ABC, CBS and NBC television networks. More than 165,000 entrepreneurs are involved in the sex industry as producers, distributors, retailers, writers or photographers. At least 20 million people buy sex-related or adult magazines every month.

Sexually explicit films now account for 10-15 percent of the video cassette market. A recent Newsweek poll indicated that nine

percent of all Americans—nearly 40 percent of all VCR owners—bought or rented an X-rated cassette within the past year.

The phones are sizzling with sexually explicit talk. The *Ladies Home Journal* reports there are about 80 dial-a-porn telephone numbers providing explicit messages to callers.

The television industry gets its share of "big bucks." Viewers have channels HBO, Showtime and Cinemax, which abound with R-rated movies and are considered by some as soft-core porn.

The Playboy Channel runs on 570 cable system in our country, and approximately 800,000 homes across the country subscribe to "sophisticated adult entertainment for men and women."

Have we seen the end of the sewer? No, for computers are now part of the porn explosion. A network for personal-computer users has been established. Members of the network from all over the country "talk dirty" to one another by typing words on their computer terminals.

What can we do? We need to move forward on four fronts.

First, we must evangelize. Our witness must not exclude the pornographers or the victims.

Second, we must educate, and this is part of the Great Commission. God's people must be educated concerning the alarming growth of porn in our society, the extent of problems related to it and the harm inflicted.

Third, we must pass legislation. We must work for strong legislation from all levels of government providing stiff penalties for pornographic crimes. We must insist that local, state and federal officials enforce the law.

Fourth, we must use the economic channel. We must refuse to do business with stores that sell porn magazines and books. We must stop buying products of advertisers sponsoring porn programs or movies. When we take this action, the merchants and sponsors will get the message, and this filth will disappear from the stores and the airwaves.

**John Finn is director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas.**

## Ouachita to observe centennial homecoming

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University is observing its centennial Homecoming with activities the weekend of Nov. 22-23.

Festivities will begin with a pep rally and bonfire Thursday evening, Nov. 21. Friday's activities will include the third annual carnival and float display and class and football team reunions.

Saturday, Nov. 23, will offer an alumni soccer match, the annual Homecoming parade, an OBU football match against Henderson State University and a concert by contemporary Christian singer Russ Taff.

Information on tickets for Homecoming events may be obtained from Mrs. Agnes Coppenger, OBU, P.O. Box 3762, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; (501)246-4531, ext. 576.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Loretta H. Jones** of Little Rock died Nov. 9 at age 47. She was a member of Little Rock First Church and an employee of Little Rock School District. Survivors, all of Little Rock, are her husband, D. Larry Jones; a son, D. Lance Jones; a daughter, Leigh A. Jones and three brothers. Memorials may be made to Little Rock First Church or a favorite charity.

**Lillian Crane** of Little Rock died Nov. 9 at age 87. She was the widow of John H. Crane and a member of East End Church, Hensley. Survivors are a son, James Crane of Little Rock; a daughter, Margie Mitchell of Little Rock; four grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Don Nall** was honored Nov. 10 by Batesville First Church in recognition of 10 years of service as pastor.

**David Miller** has resigned from the staff of Little Rock Second Church, effective Dec. 31.

**Mark Tolbert** has resigned as pastor of Pocahontas First Church to become pastor of First Church, Santo, Texas.

**Steve Lemke** is serving as interim pastor of Pocahontas First Church. He is chairman of the Department of Religion at Southern Baptist College.

**William Francis McBeth** has received the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers award for the 20th consecutive year. He is professor of music, chairman of the theory-composition department and composer-in-residence at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Jerry Miller** is serving as pastor of East Side Church, Trumann, moving there from Waldenburg.

**William Whitlock** was ordained to the preaching ministry Nov. 17 at Alsop Church, Bay. He serves as pastor of Faith Church, Tulot.

**Jim Tillman** is serving as interim pastor of Tyrnza First Church. He is vice-president of development at Southern Baptist College.

**Thomas D. Kinder** has resigned as pastor of Weiner First Church to move to Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

**Leslie Elam** will begin serving Dec. 1 as pastor of Huntsville First. He will move from Freeman Heights Church, Berryville.

**Joe Williams** has resigned as minister of music at Life Line Church in Little Rock to serve as minister of youth at First Church in Yukon, Okla.

**Beulah Kramer Wyatt** died Nov. 8 at age 84 in a Batesville nursing home. She was a resident of Rosie where she was a member of the Rosie Church. Survivors include one son, one daughter, two brothers, two sisters, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Doug Grubbs** was ordained to the preaching ministry Nov. 17 at Olivet Church in Little Rock. Leading the ordination were pastor Lamar Life, Malcolm Samples and Rudy Davis.

**Robert Naylor** has resigned as part-time educational director at Osceola First Church.

## briefly

**Mount Olive Church** at Crossett is ministering to its unemployed members through financial assistance and "old-fashioned" poundings.

**South Side Church** at Fort Smith ordained Lawrence Fitting and Randy Morehart to the deacon ministry Nov. 10.

**Fordyce First Church** will observe the fifth anniversary of its Singing Christmas Tree with performances of "Celebrate God's Light" Dec. 8-14. Complimentary tickets will be provided as requests are made to the church office, 501 North Main, Fordyce, AR 71742.

**Bruno Church** women recently organized a Baptist Women's Group. Phyllis Powers, WMU director for White River Association, and Jean Maburn, associational Baptist Women's director, assisted with the organization.

**Calvary Church** in Little Rock observed Staff Appreciation Week Nov. 3-8, recognizing Clyde Glazener, pastor; Ross Burton, minister of education and administration; Paul Williams, minister of music; Martin Babb, minister of youth and Janet Williams, director of childhood education.

**North Pulaski Association** single adults will hold a fellowship Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Calvary Church, North Little Rock, 5025 Lynch Drive. Meat and drinks will be furnished by the church. Everett Davenport will present a concert of western/gospel music. Reservations may be made by calling 945-4174.



*New Antioch Church at Brookland held a noteburning service as a part of its annual homecoming Sept. 15. The congregation celebrated payment of a basement kitchen and fellowship hall and upper-level educational space. The building, begun in 1982 and estimated to cost \$120,000, was constructed at a cost of \$60,000 by men of the church. Participating in the noteburning were (left to right) Wayne Downs and Charles Johnston, building committee members; Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association; and James Wells, pastor.*

# Mountain Home First Church closes 'historic' property sale

by Mark Kelly

Baxter Bulletin photo

**MOUNTAIN HOME**—In a ceremony Pastor Roy Fowler termed "historic," Mountain Home First Church finalized the sale of their four blocks of downtown property to the Mountain Home and Baxter County governments Nov. 5.

The proceeds from the sale, along with other funds collected and pledged, will go toward what Fowler expects will be the debt-free construction of a new \$2.4 million, 42,000-square-foot church plant. First Church's new facilities, situated on 31 acres east of Mountain Home, are scheduled for completion in May 1986.

"This is an historic move for First Church," observed Fowler, a former missionary to Brazil who has led the Mountain Home congregation for eighteen months. "It especially shows that church buildings can be sold."

Half of the church property was purchased by the city and county governments and an area committee on higher education, Fowler explained. The property will be converted for use as the "Baxter County Education Center," Fowler said, and will offer both junior and senior college instruction through extensions of North Arkansas Community College and Arkansas State University.

The other half of the property was purchased by the State of Arkansas and a vocational-technical school has been located on it.

The sale of the property was overseen by a church committee composed of Frank Huckaba, Bob McFerrin and Tommy Nelson, Fowler noted.

Mountain Home First Church was founded in 1868 with 10 members. Edwin Dyer was the first of the 32 pastors who have served the congregation in 117 years.

The church was originally located on the corner of Seventh and Hickory streets, until 1935, when the congregation moved into a new frame building at its present location. The present sanctuary was constructed in 1951, and educational facilities were expanded in 1970. Three additional blocks of property—one of which included the McClure Chapel—were acquired later.

Mountain Home First Church has grown



Mountain Home First Church closed the sale of its four blocks of downtown property to the Mountain Home and Baxter County governments in a ceremony Tuesday, Nov. 5. Pictured (left to right) are Bob McFerrin and Frank Huckaba, representing First Church, and Baxter County Judge Joe Dillard. Seated at right is First Church pastor Roy Fowler. McFerrin holds the deed for the church property, which he exchanged with Dillard for a check closing the \$750,000 transaction.

from 647 members in 1968 to its current 1,226 membership. Total contributions in 1984-85 amounted to \$675,697.

The church has sponsored mission churches in Bull Shoals, Hilltop and Big Flat, as well as started another Mountain Home congregation, Eastside Church. The church also sponsored a construction team for an AMAR project in Brazil this past spring.

Clema (Mrs. Don) Alley, a member of Mountain Home First since 1924, explained that part of the property recently sold was the home of the old Mountain Home Baptist College, a private college which closed in 1929.

Established in 1889, Mountain Home Baptist College operated under various ownerships, including that of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, for 44 years. In 1902, it was a preparatory academy for Ouachita

Baptist College. The school even functioned for a time as a "mountain school" under the proprietorship of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alley said.

The college passed into private hands and operated for two years after state convention support was discontinued, before closing in 1933.

During its ministry, the school graduated a number of influential persons in Arkansas Baptist life, among them M.E. Wiles, former state missionary for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

A room will be established in the new educational center which will feature memorabilia from Mountain Home Baptist College, Alley said.

Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

## Cooperative Program report: October

### January-October

Summary for October 1985	
Received	\$920,281.85
Budget	\$956,331.17
(Under)	(\$36,049.32)

Year	Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
1980	\$214,558.47	11.51
1981	\$103,505.12	10.96
1982	(\$147,128.94)	9.61
1983	(\$62,003.04)	11.00
1984	(\$355,773.24)	4.84
1985	(\$357,585.83)	6.15

There was little change in the giving pattern during the month of October. We are still receiving slightly more than 96 percent of budget requirements. This does represent a better than 10.25 percent increase over last year's giving.—L.L. Collins Jr.

## O'Hair rumor untrue

The rumor that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to halt religious broadcasting is still untrue. A spokesman for the FCC in Washington told the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* Nov. 14 that there is no such petition and never has been.

The rumor and a call for Christians to write to oppose granting her petition have been circulating in the state recently and the ABN has had several inquiries.



# Arkansas Baptist Men assist Louisiana flood victims

by Joe Westbury

Brotherhood photo by Joe Westbury

HOUMA, La. — As the weekend rain slackened to a steady drizzle and the flood waters continued to rise, Arkansas Baptist Men entered their third rain-soaked day of ministry to flood victims of Hurricane Juan in southern Louisiana.

By Monday morning, the six men, including state Brotherhood director Neal Guthrie, had served more than 8,000 meals from the disaster response unit set up at East Park Recreation Center. The first crew, which arrived late Thursday night after a 10-hour drive, was replaced by a second group of volunteers on Monday.

**“There’s a good deal of satisfaction in giving a child something to eat and getting a big ‘thank you’ in return.”**

“We’ve had numerous opportunities for counseling,” Guthrie said as he stepped out of the rain to the cover of the feeding unit. “For example, Ed Lauderdale and I shared the Lord with one man who had been flooded out twice and was pretty depressed. Ed shared his testimony with the man and assured him the Lord was still in control.”

The Arkansas feeding station was set up outside a shelter where 700 flood victims had sought refuge in crowded living conditions as they awaited the green light to return to their homes.

The unit was one of five feedings stations from four states which responded to needs of flood victims, reported Cameron Byler of the Memphis-based Brotherhood Commission. Byler, national coordinator of disaster response, said units from Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas had formed a ministry network preparing about 10,000 meals a day.

The Arkansas unit played a critical role in the Red Cross emergency distribution of food to area residents, Guthrie explained. Working in cooperation with volunteers at the feeding site, the Baptist Men have been operating at capacity preparing 2,800 meals daily as Red Cross workers distributed the meals to victims as far as 40 miles away in flooded bayous.

Law enforcement officials anticipated the evacuation of up to 9,000 additional residents in the area as waters continued to rise during the weekend.

Linda Russell of nearby Bourg, who was assisting in the feeding operation, said most of the victims were Houmas Indians “who have lived for generations in the remote bayous of the area. They are mostly fishermen and trappers with families who don’t have any relatives in high ground areas” where they were being relocated. She praised Baptist men for providing “great moral support as well as food for our



Baptist Men Rex Blaine of Mountain Home (left) and John McAlister of El Dorado (center) open cans of meat while Boyd Margason of Mountain Home empties the containers into a stew pot. The three Arkansas residents were part of the disaster response crew that ministered to Hurricane Juan flood victims in Houma, La.

community. We’re very grateful.”

Houma resident Carroll Scott reported some victims had to wade in water up to their chest to escape from their homes as tidal surges eight-feet deep struck their houses. “We didn’t even have water like this in the storm of ‘26,” he added.

Guthrie, who served as unit director of the feeding operation, said the unit quickly depleted its initial supply of 3,000 meals but was being restocked by the Red Cross.

“This is our first trip outside of Arkansas this year, though we were on standby for hurricanes Danny and Elena as well as the Mexico City disaster,” he added.

John McAlister of El Dorado, reflecting on his first trip to a disaster, said there’s “a good deal of satisfaction in giving a child

something to eat and getting a big ‘thank you’ in return. I’ll definitely volunteer for another trip.”

The Baptist men who served on the first crew on the Oct. 31 to Nov. 6 trip included Don Gephardte of North Little Rock, Ed Lauderdale of Quitman, John McAlister of El Dorado and Boyd Margason and Rex Blaine, both of Mountain Home.

Serving on the second crew were George Knight of Judsonia, Don Cranford of Searcy, Ron Conden of North Little Rock, Rusty Kisling of Arkadelphia and Lauderdale, who remained from the first crew.

Joe Westbury is associate editor of the Brotherhood Commission’s World Mission Journal.

# Two North Little Rock congregations merge Nov. 6

by J. Everett Sneed

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

The Indianhead Lake Church, Sherwood, and the Unity Church, North Little Rock, officially merged Nov. 6. Individuals who previously formed the two congregations are excited over the new relationship.

The Indianhead Lake Church, just off of east Kiehl Avenue, was originally sponsored by the Amboy Church of North Little Rock and the State Missions Department. The church was constituted in 1975. The Unity Church, just off of JFK Boulevard, was constituted in March 1982.

Each congregation needed the strength of the other. Indianhead Lake had been without a pastor for more than 17 months, although they had made gains under the leadership of interim pastor Don Hook.

The Unity Church had tried to establish a work in the Park Hill area, with little success. The congregation had begun searching for a place to relocate. The relocation process had been discussed with both the State Missions Department and the North Pulaski Association leadership. After careful consideration, Floyd Tidsworth, director of Church Extension for Arkansas, suggested the Kiehl area.

Jack Kwok, pastor of the Unity Church, discussed the possibility of relocation with a number of the pastors in the North Pulaski Association. Among them was Hook, who suggested to the Indianhead Lake Pulpit Committee that they might consider Kwok as pastor with the possibility of merging the two congregations. At first, the pulpit committee was reluctant to pursue this possibility but decided to go hear Kwok preach.

Both congregations proceeded with caution, and excitement began to develop. Eventually, a date was set for each congregation to vote. Both congregations approved the merger, and the Indianhead Lake congregation extended a call to Kwok.

The Unity Church will dispose of its property in the Park Hill area, and the newly formed congregation will worship at the Indianhead Lake facilities. Before the merger, the congregations decided to continue to use the name "Indianhead Lake" for the present.

**"We had lost in membership and felt we were alone. Now we see the Lord is blessing and we can continue to be a force for our Master."**

Pastor Kwok said, "We were confronted with the dual problems of corporation merger and Baptist polity in facilitating the merger of the two congregations." Arkansas Baptist Foundation Vice-President Larry Page, an attorney, provided assistance in the merger of the two corporations (each congregation was incorporated). Pastor Kwok had each of the members of the Unity congregation to transfer his or her membership



Studying procedures for the merger of the Unity and Indianhead Lake churches are (left to right) Don Hook, interim pastor of the Indianhead Lake Church; Michael Boyd, music director for Indianhead Lake; Jack Kwok, pastor of the Unity Church and new pastor of the combined congregations; and Lowell S. Powell, Unity Church deacon.

individually to the Indianhead Lake Church.

An official celebration of the merger took place Nov. 17. The celebration stressed commitment of each member to the lordship of Christ, to the local church and to one another. The church covenant was read responsively and the meeting was concluded with a fellowship dinner.

Kwok said there were three things involved in the merger: theology, methodology and transition. He said, "We knew we were in basic agreement theologically because we were all Southern Baptists, but there is often some diversity among Southern Baptists. So, we reviewed our theological foundations to make certain there would be no theological difficulty in our working together. We discovered that in our methodology we were even more diverse than we were in theology, but we reviewed the procedures we had used to make certain we could find an accommodation for each other."

Michael Boyd, music director for the Indianhead Lake Church, said, "I am excited. We had lost in membership and felt we were alone. Now we see the Lord is blessing and we can continue to be a force for our Master."

Lowell S. Powell, a deacon of the former Unity congregation, said, "I am extremely happy. I feel that the Lord has put our two congregations together. We had some hard years. We had approximately 150 people when we originally formed the Unity Church. But we had dropped to about 14 families just before Kwok came. The merger of the two congregations will make it possible for us to be a viable force for the Lord."

"We have a top-quality pastor," Powell continued, "and I believe that God is ready to use us here to reach and teach people."

Tidsworth said, "The background of both churches made a merger possible. Unity was located in a situation where major growth was impossible. Their debts also made it necessary for some solution to be found."

Tidsworth listed a number of positive elements in the merger. Among these are: (1) Indianhead Lake has at least 4,000 unchurched people in the area; (2) the church is compatible with its community; (3) the larger congregation and attendance will stimulate growth; (4) the additional families will provide financial strength; (5) the congregation will have a good full time pastor who understands church growth; and (6) the attitude of the people is positive and this is necessary in order for growth to take place.

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

# Your state convention at work

## Church Training

### Good News America

Our Evangelism Department is providing excellent help in preparation for the Good News America Revivals in 1986. The



Holley

Church Training Department is pleased to play a supportive role in both the preparation and follow-up for the revivals. The Church Training Department is joining with the Sunday School and Evangelism Departments to encourage churches to teach the new Equipping Center module, "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism." This is a six-session witness training program for Sunday School workers and other adults. It is suggested the study begin on Jan. 19, the Sunday following Witness Commitment Sunday. We recommend all adults in Church Training be involved in the study for these six sessions.

The modules are available at the Baptist Book Store, from the Mail Order Center in Memphis or from the Church Literature Department, BSSB. Members booklets should also be ordered for the participants.

Follow-up is also important to the Good News America Revivals. Associations will be conducting a conference on "Conserving the Results of Evangelism" early in 1986. These conferences will offer help in decision counseling, the use of the Encourager Plan and the use of *The Survival Kit* and other new member training resources. The preparation and the follow-up are vitally important and deserve our best effort and prayer support. — **Robert Holley, director**

## Christian Life Council Urgent need

Christian life committees in every church and association are needed now. "Sin" industries in our state and throughout the



Parker

nation are highly organized. That's just one reason the army of Christ must be organized decently and orderly. That's the biblical way! As has already been reported, national gambling interests are gearing up for what they believe will be a successful drive to get the state-operated lottery in Arkansas also. This threat would be met more effectively if our churches and associations had Christian life committees

ready to meet this attack on Christian living. This is another way Arkansas Baptists can give more than financial and prayer support to the Christian Civic Foundation and its director John Finn.

Christian life committees can help not only in facing moral attacks, but such committees are needed to promote responsible Christian citizenship by encouraging voter registration and voting.

The Arkansas Baptist World Hunger Committee also needs more widespread support in its effort to do something positive about domestic and world hunger.

Church Training, evangelism and every other area of our church and denominational structure could be undergirded by a Christian life committee in your church and association. Please set up such committees now if they are not included in your organizational structure. — **Bob Parker, director**

## Missions

### Forty fields

Directors of missions have requested that we come and look at communities where new churches may be needed. We have done feasibility studies in many of these in 1985.



Tidsworth

We have a list of 40 places where we know a new church is needed in Arkansas. And that is just the beginning! It appears that about 20 of these places will be ready to start church-type missions in 1986.

We will try to let you know about these fields so you can "pray with understanding" for them. In some cases, financial support also is needed.

Let us know if you are aware of a place you think might need a church. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

## Family and Child Care

### Can they count on you?

Thanksgiving is the time to thank God for his blessings and a time to help troubled and homeless children for whom Arkansas Baptists are responsible. You can have a significant part in ministering to these children and their families who will receive care from Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. How? You can join others as they give to the Thanksgiving Offering.

We want all Arkansas Baptists across our state to know how much you mean to our ministry. Your prayers and your gifts of money provide for our caring for these hurting children. Never has the demand been greater for your partnership in Christian

service for children who count on us for help.

To those churches and individuals who make monthly contributions or take an offering at another time we say "Thank you".

The children who come into our care are made in the image of God. They have many problems, but through the grace of Jesus, we can present the gospel to them, and their lives can be transformed and Christ-centered.

Pastors and church treasurers need to remember that we close our books shortly after Jan. 1. We will credit all gifts that arrive prior to the closing of our books for the current year. It will be helpful if we can receive these gifts by Dec. 31, 1985. A list of all contributions will be published in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

Again thank you for what you have done and what we know you will continue to do for our children in the name of the Lord. Can they count on you? — **John A. Ross, director of development**

## Evangelism

### Witness Commitment Day

The annual observance of Witness Commitment Day is scheduled for Jan. 12, 1986. This is one emphasis that every



Shell

Southern Baptist Church should participate in. Each pastor should preach a God-given message to the hearts and minds of his people. Church members are given an opportunity to make a commitment to training and witnessing for the new year.

The day will focus on the church's primary task of evangelism and provide a list of potential soul winners. A well-planned service will emphasize an increased concern for the lost, prayer for the unsaved and produce a list of evangelistic prospects.

Most pastors want their members involved in personal evangelism to strengthen and enhance the work of the church. A vital ingredient to that end is enlisting them in witness training and motivating them in witness activities.

Each of the persons making a commitment can begin training on the following Sunday. On Jan. 19, we will launch "Training a Million Sunday School Workers in Evangelism." A very fine module has been produced that will gain these results as properly used during Church Training. Every Sunday School worker in our state should be trained to use a marked New Testament and share their testimony to lost people.

— **Clarence Shell, director**

## State Evangelism Conference

Jan. 27-28, 1986

Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Sessions: Monday, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.; 6:30 - 9:20 p.m.  
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon; 1:30 - 4:40 p.m., 6:30 - 9:15 p.m.



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## Missionary criticizes Southern Baptist 'country clubs'

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptists are middle class Americans who have isolated themselves from the poor of the land, a foreign missionary says.

Their latest "million-dollar fad" is to build big buildings—"Christian country clubs" of family life centers, bowling alleys, saunas and gymnasiums—while giving "crumbs from the table" to missions, said Sam Cannata, a medical missionary in Africa, who with his wife, Ginny, is missionary-in-residence at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Cannata spoke during the final session of the Texas Baptist Men convention at First Church, San Antonio.

"We say these buildings are built for the glory of God, but they're basically for us; it's for ourselves," Cannata said. While acknowledging some individuals have been saved through the ministries of "Christian

country clubs," he charged there are "thousands, perhaps ten thousands," who drive by those buildings every day who are angry at the injustice.

As a whole, Southern Baptists are not caring for the poor in the country, Cannata said.

"We don't want to help them, and we get mad when the government does," he said. "A lot of churches have soup kitchens where they dole out soup or closets where they dole out clothes. But it's a paternalistic type of giving, not a loving, lifting kind of giving."

What Southern Baptists give for mission offerings (both home and foreign), compared to what they give for buildings and church staffs, "is like crumbs from the table," Cannata said. "I tell you this: God is going to judge us."

Cannata said he is more afraid of the selfishness within Southern Baptist churches

than he is the convention's controversy or anything else. "If we don't watch it, we are giving to ourselves, to our children, to our children's children. We act like we're building an empire that's going to last forever."

He reminded participants of the New Testament disciples who were "not really too concerned" about material things.

"We're at a crossroads. We need to decide if we're New Testament Christians or if we're going to let our culture dictate how we live," he challenged. "I pray that we'll come back" to the fact only two things in the world are eternal: people and the word of God.

"I'm not saying churches shouldn't have buildings. I'm saying we've gone overboard. We as individuals need to learn what it means to invest our lives in people and in the word of God."

## More than \$1 million pledged for ACTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—In October, the first month of a five-year fund-raising campaign for the American Christian Television System (ACTS) network, the Radio and Television Commission received pledges of \$1,020,787 from nearly 500 donors.

The pledges resulted from a series of 33 dinners which launched the ACTS TeleMissions campaign. Held in 14 states on four separate evenings, the dinners featured a closed-circuit television program beamed by satellite from RTVC studios in Fort Worth. Featured on the program were Keith

Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board; Hollywood actor David Soul; several people whose lives have been changed through the ministry of ACTS; and a report from Mike Huckabee, pastor of Immanuel Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., who described the network's acceptance and success in Pine Bluff.

Allent told the audiences: "No denomination has fashioned a tool which will get into the homes of all the people with the gospel. Southern Baptists have done that."

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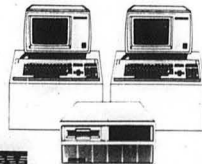
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## Tennessee churches to appeal PAC classification ruling

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—Churches in the Jackson, Tenn., area have decided to appeal a ruling by the Chancery Court of Madison County that churches be classified as "political action committees" under the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act.

Chancellor Joe C. Morris issued his ruling on a class action lawsuit filed by 13 churches—nine of which are Southern Baptist—which was tried Aug. 7. He ruled the act "does not specifically mention churches or church groups, but neither exempts them."

In response to Morris' ruling, representatives of the churches met Nov. 4 in Jackson and voted unanimously to challenge the ruling in the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

The act declares any organization a political action committee which spends as much as \$250 in support of a candidate or referendum issue and requires them to file disclosure forms listing receipts and expenditures.

The churches involved in the lawsuit had either contributed to Citizens Against Drug Abuse or had purchased advertising in an attempt to defeat a liquor-by-the-drink referendum held Aug. 2, 1984.

Morris upheld the Campaign Disclosure Act of 1980 and said, "The free speech clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution has not been violated by the requirement churches file campaign disclosure statements."

The ruling also said, "This court agrees churches and religious groups should and

must state their positions publicly on moral, political or other issues they consider right or wrong. If they fail to do so, the causes which they champion have no meaning."

The judge declared, "It appears that the act is drafted to give equal and fair treatment to all groups and organizations participating in elections in this state."

Referring to the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, Morris said, "A minister of the gospel, or proponent or opponent of a referendum or political candidate, is free to say what he wants to, when he wants to from the pulpit, over the radio, on television or by newspaper editorial, unless he makes campaign donations or advertises."

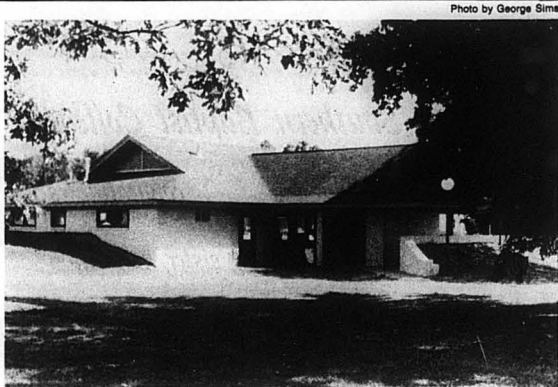


Photo by George Sims

**Architecture award**—The Architecture Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, SBC, selected the Baptist Student Center at Southern Arkansas University Tech for honorable mention during a recent National Architects Workshop held in San Antonio, Texas. The building, designed by Little Rock architect John Jarrard, was selected for its blending with existing campus architecture and energy saving design.

**First Fruits, a book on evangelism by Jesse S. Reed, retired director of evangelism. \$4.** Order from Baptist Book Store, 9101 West Markham, Little Rock, Ark., or Memphis Mail Order Center, 3359 Winbrook, or P.O. Box 161121, Memphis, Tenn. 38116. Phone (901) 345-6525. For an autographed copy order from 4100 Lacy Lane, Little Rock, Ark. 72212.

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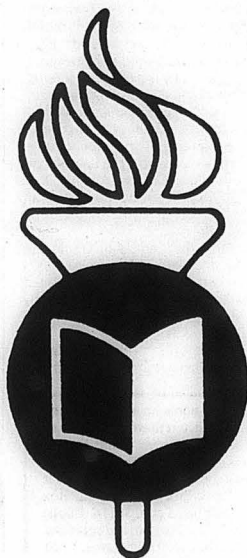
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## International

### One in Christ Jesus

by James McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley  
Basic passage: Philemon; Galatians 3:23-29;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Focal passage: Philemon 1-3, 8-20

**Central truth:** Through faith in Christ Jesus all believers are united in fellowship and love.

One of the matters that stands out in Paul's letters are the number of close friends he had. In this brief letter, he mentions, in addition to Onesimus: Timothy, Epaphras, Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas and Lucas, who were with him during his imprisonment.

Remember, Paul was once the most zealous persecutor of Christians. Following the conversion of this once hard-driving, apparently compassionless man, we find he has become warm-hearted, caring and a developer of meaningful personal relationships. Indeed, he was used of God to write such marvelous passages on love as Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 13. What a transformation!

A part of Paul's ability to enlist men in the Lord's service with him may be captured in this letter. The several men mentioned were willing to spend several years in prison in order to assist Paul's ministry. Why? At least part of the reason was the fact Paul saw the infinite value in the life of every person. Paul saw every person as one in whom Christ lived or one for whom Christ died.

Onesimus was a runaway slave. Aside from his owner, Philemon, most people in his culture saw his life as having little or no value. Paul allowed the love of God to flow through his life and reach out to that slave. Recall that Paul was a trained lawyer and had been very prominent in his society. Now, he had come to see all men on equal ground at the cross, including slaves.

One of the basic truths of the gospel is that when we accept Christ, Christ accepts us. In Hebrews 2:11, we are told he is not ashamed to call us brethren. All who receive Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior are children of God. As we are accepted in Christ, he looks for us to accept others. Paul put this truth to practice in his daily life.

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## Life and Work

### God's discipline

by Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus, North Little Rock

Basic passage: 1 Kings 9:1 to 11:13

Focal passage: 1 Kings 11:1-4,9-11,13

**Central truth:** God disciplines his people when they adopt the values of the secular world.

In this fourth and last of the lessons from the unit entitled "God's People in a New Environment," the focus is on helping believers relate to a new environment by accepting the limits God places on his people.

Despite the great changes since the day of Solomon, we can learn some vital lessons from him. It is notable that Solomon's greatness had to do with material and worldly affairs. He was a great builder (1 Kings, chapters 5-7); he was a great business man (1 Kings, chapters 9-10); he introduced slave labor (1 Kings 9:15-22).

He was famous as a collector of riddles, maxims and proverbs, but he failed to apply his wisdom. Actually, he was selfish, prideful, sensual and material.

(1) Ignoring God's limits weakens one's relationship with God (1 Kings 11:1-4)

Perhaps the worst thing about Solomon's harem was not so much the quantity of it as the fact his women came from foreign lands and pagan religions. In his old age, Solomon embraced the false religions of his wives while still trying to worship God. He died without learning a most valuable lesson: one cannot live by the standards of the world and also serve God.

(2) God demands faithful (1 Kings 11:13)

God had blessed Solomon's reign with peace and prosperity, but in the end Solomon was a failure. Why? Mainly because he had become too infatuated with the things of this world. He had loved luxury too much. And his enormous harem, which he had used to promote political favor with pagan nations and to spread his reputation as a rich man, showed how far he had departed from following the God of his fathers. His mistake in attempting to mix his worship of the true God with that of the pagan gods of his many wives marked his eventual downfall.

But despite the sin of his people, God himself remains faithful. The conclusion of the whole matter: God's people must reject worldly ways if they are to live according to God's will.

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## Bible Book

### God's people restored

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes  
Basic passage: Ezekiel 37:1 to 48:35

Focal passage: Ezekiel 37:1;11-14;26-28; 43:5-7

**Central truth:** Ezekiel's visions reveal that God provides new life for those whose hope is dead.

Valleys and plains strewn with sun-bleached bones were a common sight in the ancient Middle East. Armies fallen in battle would often lie unburied until all that remained were the scattered bones of skeletons. Scenes such as this spoke of defeat and death.

When Ezekiel's vision opens in chapter 37, 10 years of exile have gone by. Jerusalem and the Temple are no more, and the people have given up hope. Ezekiel's promises of restoration find little response in the people. The nation of Israel is dead, and its bones lie bleaching in the desert sun.

At this point, God intervenes with a startling new message of hope. God can take even skeletons and make them into a living army. The Spirit of God will yet move upon the people of Israel. The nation will be remade and live again. The two warring kingdoms will become one nation under one ruler, a new David.

In verses 21-28, the immediate promise to the exiles merges into a vision of a future golden age. This telescoping of immediate concerns with the full blessing of a distant ideal age is characteristic of Old Testament prophecy. The return of the exiles is only a foretaste of all that God has in store for his people.

Ezekiel's final vision (ch. 40-48) brings this message of hope to a thrilling climax. In it, God is seen returning in glory to a new Temple, God in the midst of his people once again, never to depart. He comes to live among a people and priesthood cleansed from evil (ch. 43). However, this vision does not reach as far as the vision in the book of Revelation. John's vision goes beyond earthly temples and sacrifices to an eternal age where everything is gloriously new. There will be no death, no sin, no need of a Temple or sacrifices. God will make all things new.

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## Far from suburbia, Appalachians 'eke it out'

by Leisa A. Hammett

ROSES CREEK, Tenn. (BP)—Far from sophisticated suburbia, hidden in the "hollers" of Appalachia, many families insulate their homes with cardboard and still haul water from natural wells and cook on wood stoves.

The nearest supermarket is about 20 curvaceous, hilly, gravel-hurdling miles down the hollow, a challenge for a car in any condition and the death of many rusted, disassembled vehicles characteristic of Appalachian hollows. "When you go to the store," says Carol Judy of Roses Creek hollow, "four dollars worth of groceries ends up costing 10 dollars because it takes six dollars in gasoline just to get there."

Roses Creek hollow, an unincorporated community bordering East Tennessee and Kentucky state lines is home for Judy and 59 other families.

Typical of other Appalachian hollow residents, Judy goes to the supermarket in Jellico, Tenn., once a month and stretches the remainder of her \$100 to \$150 food stamp allowance at the local grocer, five miles down the hollow. Although the local grocers strive to break even, prices still are exorbitant for rural residents.

Fresh fruit, meat and adequate refrigeration for their community are rare or non-existent commodities in Roses Creek. Instead, home grown beans and potatoes are dietary staples.

Letta Casey (Judy's cousin) is one of several women community leaders. She models the typical Roses Creek family, a slight-frame, single mother of two or more who appears twice her age. Toothless but articulate, she voices their primary concern: jobs. "The main thing we want is jobs to avoid being hungry," she insists.

Only two men in Roses Creek have found work, one in coal mining and the other in community development. Harold Osborne, who returned to Roses Creek after a stint of military service, manages the locally-organized Woodland Community Land Trust. The Trust builds and sells homes for approximately \$22,000.

Some homes remain ownerless because few banks are willing to finance the homes. Osborne has postponed further construction until financing becomes available. If the land trust does not receive further financing, Osborne will have to receive unemployment this winter in order to support his family.

Barren, yellow-tinted mountain ridges remind Osborne and his neighbors that, in better days, strip mining once provided plentiful jobs for Roses Creek and other Appalachian hollows. Now, only one Roses Creek resident is employed in the dwindling coal industry.

Even if residents could afford the daily drive down the "holler" to Jellico, the nearest town, existing jobs are filled by town

residents.

Judy admits moving may seem like a solution. But few residents can financially afford to move and have no place to go if they did. Some have tried living in the cities, but the lifestyle is foreign, crime greater and jobs competitive.

"As hard as it is in Appalachia, (the residents) cannot and do not want to leave," says Charlotte Barr, a Dominican sister who lives temporarily in Roses Creek. Marie Cirillo, a former sister from Brooklyn, N.Y., who moved to the Roses Creek area 18 years ago, maintains the people of Appalachia have a right to live here.

Tilda Kempen, an eighth grade dropout, decided education would help defend that right. At age 32, Kempen went back to school, received her GED certificate, a college degree in special education and also completed postgraduate studies.

With \$11,000 in government funds, plus a qualifying \$2,000 prerequisite from the Catholic Diocese of Nashville, Tenn., Kempen started the Mountain Communities Child Care Center in a trailer.

Today, the daycare and an adjoining prenatal clinic employ 35 women, making it the second largest employer in Campbell county. The school system is the largest.

The "native herb co-op" also is housed with the day and prenatal care complex. At the co-op, locals make wreaths from local foliage to sell. Funds from the wreaths are channeled back into the center. Larger facilities are needed to expand the co-op and also provide space for local women to make quilts for sale. But facilities take funds which are not available locally.

Locals see markets and marketing strategies as a way to sell home-produced wares but have not yet been able to cultivate either because of geographical isolation and the lack of resources and marketing contacts. In addition to the center, co-op and land trust, experimental gardening techniques are another local self-help program.

Osborne is spearheading efforts to garden more productively. Government funds have bought seed and fertilizer but, according to Osborne, more gardens could be cultivated if additional funds were available. A bush hog and tractor disk for plowing also are needed for gardening. Locals now pay by the hour to rent a disk.

Despite the conditions, Roses Creek residents feel better off than many in Appalachian hollows. "We aren't poor by choice," said Roses Creek resident "George" Morris. "We're poor because of the lack of jobs. But we're proud, and we're trying to do something about our condition."

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