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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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### September 25, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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September 25, 1986

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine



Helpline:  
Improving worship  
pages 10-11



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Paving the way for an encounter with God in worship requires much planning and effort, as Melissa Rutherford, organist for Osceola First Church can attest. This month's "Help-line" feature (pp. 10-11) focuses on planning for more effective worship. Several photographs from Osceola First Church illustrate the article.

## In this issue

### 8 a new heart

The ordeal of a heart transplant for a 15-year-old North Little Rock youth has strengthened his family's faith immeasurably.

### 17 a new life

A Fort Worth, Texas, woman tells Radio and Television Commission trustees how an ACTS program literally saved her life as she was contemplating suicide.

## No ABN Oct. 2

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine will not publish an Oct. 2 issue, one of four such weeks during the year. This week's issue contains Sunday School lesson commentaries for Sept. 28 and Oct. 5.

## Notice: title change

The ABN this week implements a change in "Lessons for living." The International series of Sunday School lessons now are referred to as "Convention Uniform."

## World Hunger Day 1986

*'Lift your hands . . . for the lives of your children . . .'*

By Robert Parham

*"Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street" (Lam. 2:19).*

Swollen belly, reddish hair, pale skin, listless eyes and stunted body. These are the signs of malnutrition. More specifically, they are the signs of kwashiorkor which in the Ga language of Ghana means "rejected child."

The idea of "rejected child" is one way to think about hungry children. Hungry children are the rejected human beings of our world. And they are everywhere.

In Africa, some hunger experts are talking in terms of a whole generation of lost children. If they survive to adulthood, they probably will have had permanently eroded their capacity to be tomorrow's parents, workers, and leaders. In 1986 in sub-Saharan Africa an estimated 5 million children will die from malnutrition and diseases. Another 5 million will be disabled.

But Africa is not the only place where

children are hungry. More and more American children are sliding into poverty and are at risk to hunger. In 1973, 9.7 percent of white children lived in poverty. Ten years later the number had leaped to 16.9 percent. Meanwhile the number of black children living in poverty increased from 40.6 to 46.3 percent.

The writer of Lamentations vividly captured the image of the hungry children of the world. Children, whether white or black, American or African, are the rejected ones of society "who faint for hunger at the head of every street."

Observing World Hunger Day on Oct. 12 is one way to remember the rejected children.

**Robert Parham is director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.**

## Letters to the editor

### Thanks to ABSC employees

I would like to commend the employees of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Recently Don Moore was in our church and preached two services on stewardship. He also explained the Cooperative Program to our Adult Training Union Department. The following month's offering was the largest offering we had had in the history of our church.

Bro. Clarence Shell and myself visited several of the pastors in our Association. We had a great response to his visit at our area evangelism conference. The spirit was real good and the crowd was large. It is good to know the Arkansas Baptist employees are interested in the local pastors and their churches.

Bro. Ervin Keathley was recently with us for a musical workshop. He spent two days with us. Bro. Keathley was a great help to our choir.

We, the members of Union Avenue Church, would like to say thanks to these people for their assistance.—Shelby Bittle, Wynne

### Church and state

I thank the Lord for actions such as I have just read in the *Arkansas Baptist*. The Sept. 11 issue reported on the back page the account of a court decision in Tennessee which declared that church involvement in referendum issues does not constitute political involvement which requires a financial disclosure.

Far too long we, the body of Christ, have let the world define and dictate what the church can and cannot do. Today our liberty is limited to meeting and eating. We cannot read the New Testament without seeing the followers of Christ confronting the issues of their day. The apostle Paul confronted some of the most vital issues of all times, and gave us clear, concise, understandable and applicable instructions.

The matter of marriage and divorce is perhaps one of the most vital decisions of society. Today we have let the courts say, the clergy may marry a couple, but we reserve the right to separate. How ridiculous! As a result, we see a nation torn and riddled by the unscrupulous practices of a profession equally as evil as prostitution.

As I read through the *Arkansas Baptist*, and now write this letter, I am listening to some great gospel music on the Newark School radio station. This is paid for by public tax monies, which some people would scream illegal, unconstitutional, and therefore must be stopped. God help us to go back to the constitution and see what our forefathers meant in what they wrote.

1987 is the bicentennial of our nation's constitution. What a great opportunity for Baptists and all other Christians to dig through the dusty libraries, and rediscover the meaning of separation of church and state. Prayerfully this will lead to a dedication of Christians to become involved combating the evil that is so rampant all about us.—Jim Glover, Sulphur Rock



Most Baptists would agree that a deacon is one of the most important people in a church. Across the years, however, many ideas have developed as to his role. Some have viewed him as the church business manager, while others have seen him as someone who keeps the pastor straight. A few have felt that the system is a way of honoring outstanding men.

The word "deacon" in the New Testament is derived from the Greek word *diakonas*, meaning "servant." In the time of Paul, life was cheap. Man's power or station in society was often measured by the number of servants he owned. The word "servant" might be spoken like "leper." But the word was given a new and lofty meaning by the inspired men of the early church, as the deacon came to be known as a servant of God.

Most scholars agree that the seven men appointed in Acts, the sixth chapter, were deacons although the name is not specifically assigned to them anywhere in that scripture. These men were chosen out of a definite need. The Greek widows were complaining that the Hebrew widows were receiving a larger portion of the church's resources (Acts 6:1). The disciples said it was not desirable that they should leave off the proclamation of God's Word to distribute resources to the needy members of the church. Great wisdom was exercised by the disciples in that they chose Greeks for the office. The men functioned well. They solved the problem of fellowship as well as relieving the load of the apostles.

By the time of the writing of Philippians, the office seems to have been well established, for Paul addresses "all the saints in Jesus Christ which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). As a heretical ecclesiastical structure developed, by the end of the second century, the deacon's position was changed. From the position of a layperson, he was moved to the lowest position of the professional clergy.

The New Testament gives us insight into the office as it outlines the requirements for these dedicated men. A deacon is to be one who is grave (serious), that is, one who has Christian purpose (I Tim. 3:8). This does not imply that he should not enjoy a good joke. Every pastor agrees that a good sense of humor helps. He is to be doctrinally sound (I Tim. 3:9), mature in Christian service (I Tim. 3:10), a man with a Christian family (I Tim. 3:12), a man of controlled speech (I Tim. 3:8), a man who is temperate (I Tim. 3:8), and a good steward of his possessions (I Tim. 3:8). The requirements for a deacon are the same as those for a preacher, with the exception of being "apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2).

The concept of a "Board of Deacons" who serve as the

church's business managers, had its beginning in the late 1800's during the rise of the democratic revolution. Individual rights were being considered more seriously on almost every level. The term "board" was adopted from policy-making meetings around board or wooden tables. The business concept was transferred into our Baptist congregations.

The idea of deacons serving as a church business manager was further enhanced by the fact that many churches only had the services of a pastor on a part-time basis. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, many congregations would have the services of a pastor only one or two Sundays a month. Someone had to care for the business of the congregation while the pastor was away. It seemed appropriate for the deacon to step in and provide this assistance for the congregation.

It is easy to tell whether a church uses deacons as a "board." This method is being followed if: (1) items of business must be screened by the deacons; (2) the pastor and the staff are responsible to the deacons; or (3) use of finances or facilities must first be approved by the deacons. There are no levels of authority in a Baptist church. If the New Testament teaches, as we believe, that every member is equal, the deacon board may be considered a violation of the rights of the congregation.

We believe the New Testament indicates that a deacon should be a part of the pastoral ministry or spiritual team. They should work under the leadership of the pastor to assist the congregation in accomplishing its spiritual objectives. As a part of this endeavor, deacons would have several responsibilities.

First, deacons should assist in promoting the spiritual fellowship of the church. There is no group which can do more to strengthen the harmony of a congregation. Usually, deacons are people who have been a part of the church for a considerable period of time. They know the people. They are loved by the members, so they can assist greatly at this point.

Second, deacons should assist in proclaiming or carrying the gospel. A deacon should be a witness both in his life and in his word. Often, these dedicated men can do more in reaching the lost than can a pastor.

Finally, a deacon should assist in caring for the needy in the community. A part of every church's responsibility is to minister to those who have real needs. It is tragic when we have not always fulfilled our God-given responsibility at this point. We believe that every deacon's meeting should provide a time for reporting on the witnessing and benevolent activities of the deacons.

## Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

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## Taking a stand on moral issues

Letters of deep appreciation from Arkansas Baptists, churches, and associations are in order for leaders in any walk of life who dare to take a stand on moral issues. Doing this would help counteract some of the "flack" these people receive from those on the other side of the issue.

Two cases in point for example: The Walmart Company recently removed materials from their magazine racks that they, along with many others, felt were detrimental to American youth and homes. Athletic Director Frank Broyles and Coach Ken Hatfield at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville refused to give football informational material to a pornographic magazine.

The problem of pornography is taking a devastating toll in American life. Some of it is even feeding the tragic problem of youth suicides. Materials obtained recently from the FBI Academy, Quantico, Va., reveal that many deaths among youth and adults alike



Parker

are reported as suicide, but instead are autoerotic deaths, many of which were related to pornographic materials.

Many in our society seek to hide behind the First Amendment in justifying their complaints against those leaders who dare to take stands against pornography.

There are those who angrily protest, "Quit trying to force your morals on us!" Christians absolutely must answer with firm conviction, "We object to the forcing of immoralities on us, our children, youth, and families." Pornography got to the place in ancient Rome where they had public killings by gladiators and wild beasts to satisfy the sadistic cravings of those addicted to pornography. It hasn't gotten that bad in America; but if the present permissiveness continues, it could!

The Executive Committee of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation voted recently to send letters of appreciation to the aforementioned leaders in this article for their stand for right. You might consider doing likewise. The CCF is made up of several leading church groups in Arkansas; primarily Assemblies of God, United Methodists, Nazarenes and Southern and Freevill Baptists.—Bob Parker, ABSC Christian Life Council

## Southern Baptist College reaches highest enrollment

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, reports a 13 percent increase in the fall enrollment over the fall of 1985. Jeroi Swaim, vice-president for academic affairs, announced to the board of trustees this past Friday that enrollment has reached 483 students. "This is the highest on-campus enrollment in the past 15 years," Swaim reported.

When asked what accounted for the increase, Swaim said, "Excellent retention of students and an aggressive recruitment program are the obvious factors." He added that "the expansion of the curriculum to senior college status certainly entered into this encouraging increase." Swaim concluded by saying "personal attention in the area in individual financial aid continues to be a strong asset in recruiting students."

The college awarded its first baccalaureate degree this past May in Christian ministries and plans to initiate a degree in business administration in the fall of 1987.

## OBU to host students interested in ministry

Ouachita Baptist University will launch Oct. 19-20 a new service for high school-age young people considering commitments to Christian ministry.

Called Christian Ministry Forum, the two-day program offers young men and women a "headstart in ministry," according to Roy Buckelew, faculty sponsor.

The Forum, planned to run from Sunday afternoon through Monday afternoon, will give prospective ministers an opportunity to learn about what they will be doing as they first become involved in vocational ministry, Buckelew explained. The program is open to anyone considering any kind of ministry commitment, he said.

After arriving on the OBU campus in Arkadelphia, participants will share in a worship service and then enjoy a period of recreation. That night, they will room with students presently enrolled in ministry preparation at OBU.

Monday morning will feature a "free for all" discussion on practical questions about getting started in ministry. An opportunity to sit in on a class period will follow.

"The Christian Ministry Forum is intended to be very practical," Buckelew asserted. "We'll deal with subjects like steps to first sermons and how to interpret the Bible."

The experience will be offered at no charge to interested students, Buckelew said. Persons interested in attending need only contact him at 246-6678, after 9 p.m.

Christian Ministry Forum is sponsored by OBU's Christian Ministry Fellowship, a campus organization of students preparing for vocational ministry. Barry King is president of the organization.

## Two new lesson commentaries begin

Bradley Rogge, pastor of Brookwood First Church, Little Rock, begins this week writing commentaries on the Life and Work series Sunday School lessons in "God's good creation," for Oct. 5.

Rogge is a Florida native. He and his wife, Marilyn, have two children, Stephanie and Steve.

W. W. Dishongh, part-time pastor of Lancaster Road Church, Little Rock, begins writing commentaries on the Bible Book series Sunday School lessons in "Jesus the eternal Word" for Oct. 5.

Dishongh retired in 1983 and now serves as chaplain for the Pulaski County Jail. He attended Baylor University, Southern Seminary Extension, Lighthouse Bible Col-



Rogge



Dishongh

lege and Pioneer Theological Seminary in Rockford, Ill. He has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas.

## Cooperative Program report: August

Summary for August 1986		January-August gifts		
		Year	% increase over previous year	
Received	\$1,003,668.28	1981	\$ 93,352.03	11.51
Budget	\$1,020,833.33	1982	\$168,400.59	8.46
(Under)	(\$ 17,165.05)	1983	(\$119,354.43)	10.77
		1984	(\$488,840.24)	2.84
		1985	(\$269,930.76)	9.61
		1986	(\$360,354.88)	5.77

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for your faithfulness in giving to the Cooperative Program. Your contributions meet needs in Arkansas, the United States, and 106 foreign countries.—Jimmie Sheffield

# Combined effort leads to northeast Arkansas retirement community

It was to meet the needs of northwest Arkansas' older citizens that Butterfield Trail Village, a Life Care retirement community, was undertaken as a project by five area churches.

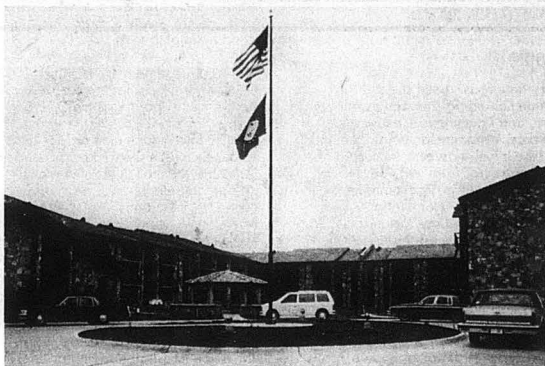
In the mid 1970's, it became evident that the growing number of retirees moving to northwest Arkansas warranted some attention. The idea of a retirement community originated within the congregation of Fayetteville's First United Presbyterian Church. Preliminary research was done, surveys were studied and evaluated.

According to church member Margaret Stephan, now vice-president of the Butterfield Trail Village board of directors, "It was slow going at first. But the need was still there so we kept pushing."

Fortunately, four other area churches—Central United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, First Christian Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church—joined the effort to offer a quality lifestyle to Arkansas retirees.

Today, a \$27 million complex sits on 20 acres of land at 1923 East Joyce Street in Fayetteville. Butterfield Trail Village houses 228 apartments, 20 cottage homes and a 40-bed health care center staffed 24 hours a day.

According to Paul Debenport of the Presbyterian Church, the united effort of all the churches is a credit to Arkansas. "The persistent, hard work it took to reach the opening of the Village is really just a prelude to the symphony which now can begin." The real work of art is the quality lifestyle offered



Butterfield Trail Village was made possible by the combined effort of five area churches.

at Butterfield Trail Village, according to Debenport.

Under Butterfield Trail Village's Life Care program, residents pay a one-time entrance fee which entitles them to lifetime residency in an apartment of their choice and the availability of unlimited skilled nursing center care, if ever needed. Residents also pay a monthly service fee which provides such services and conveniences as one meal per day, regular housekeeping, flat linen service, regularly scheduled transportation and

a variety of planned activities. Residents also have unlimited access to an indoor pool, library and meeting room.

The governing board of directors for Butterfield Trail Village is elected by a corporate membership affiliated with the five sponsoring churches. The board of directors has retained Retirement Centers of America, Inc. of Lee's Summit, Mo., as marketing and management consultants to the project.

Jere D. Mitchell is pastor of First Church, Fayetteville.

## missionary notes

**Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Coad**, missionaries to Mali, are in the States (address: 4141 Whitfield, Fort Worth, TX 76109). He is a native of Missouri, and she is the former Beverly Gallegly of Little Rock. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972.

**Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Fletcher**, missionaries to Peru, report a change of address (Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru). He was born in Fayetteville. She is the former Sylvia Howard of Oklahoma. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1975.

**Mr. and Mrs. Darrel E. Garner**, missionaries to Malawi, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 224, Balaka, Malawi). He lived in Huntsville while growing up. The former Judy Brown, she was born in Independence County and lived in Walnut Ridge and Fayetteville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

**Mr. and Mrs. John P. Heskett**, missionary associates to the Dominican Republic, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (ad-

dress: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in Helena. She is the former Lorene Burton of Missouri. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.

**Mr. and Mrs. Milton A. Lites**, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 401 Anglin, Cleburne, TX 76031). He was born near Garland. The former Nannette Webb, she was born near Dyess and grew up in Wilson. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

**Mr. and Mrs. David S. Miller**, missionaries to Peru, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He is from Little Rock. The former Martha Savage, she was born in DeQueen and considers Walnut Ridge her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.

**Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Schleiff**, missionaries to Zimbabwe, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address:

P. O. Box 657, Gweru, Zimbabwe). He was born in Fort Smith and lived in Charleston while growing up. She is the former Barbara Robertson of Monette. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

**Mr. and Mrs. E. Roy Worley**, missionaries to Venezuela, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). They consider Memphis, Tenn., their hometown. The former Rebecca Taylor, she was born in Jonesboro. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.

**Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hampton**, missionaries since 1956, recently received 30-year service pins at the annual meeting of the Baptist Mission of Kenya. They have served in Tanzania and Kenya. Since 1978, he has served as associate to the area director for eastern and southern Africa, stationed in Nairobi, Kenya. He was born in New Blaine and lived in Paris and Mena while growing up. The former Gena Ledbetter, she was born in Harrison. They may be addressed at P. O. Box 48390, Nairobi, Kenya.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Barry Bates** has joined the staff of Hillside Church in Camden as minister of music and education. A native of Alabama, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University where he served as a voice instructor from 1983-86. He has served churches in Texarkana, Hope and Arkadelphia. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association. Bates is married to the former Vicki Taylor of Hot Springs.

**W. C. "Nick" Garland Jr.** has resigned as pastor of Second Church, Hot Springs, effective Oct. 5 following more than six years of service there. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Broken Arrow Church in Broken Arrow, Okla. Garland is immediate past president of the Arkansas Pastor's Conference and has served in leadership positions in Ouachita Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and with the Home Mission Board. He has served churches in Arkansas, Texas and Alabama. He is a graduate of Florence State University, Florence, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Garland and his wife, Jenine, have two children, Joshua and Jodi.

**Guy Whitney** has accepted the call to serve as director of missions for Current-Gains Association, going there from Rectory where he has served as pastor of First Church for 13 years. He also has served churches at Paragould and Scott; has served as associational moderator and has held leadership positions for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

**Dalton Barnes** has accepted the call to serve as associate minister of counseling at First Church, Alma. Barnes has served as a chaplain for both the U.S. Army and the Oklahoma City Police Department. He has worked in a private counseling center and served as a family counselor for the Capitol Association in Oklahoma City.

**Troy Prince** is serving as interim pastor of Harlan Park Church in Conway.

**Evelyn S. Miller** died Sept. 13 at age 85 in Little Rock. She was a retired switchboard operator for the Veterans Administration Hospital at Fayetteville and a member of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. Survivors include two sons, Wendell Miller of Huntington Beach, Calif., and Fred W. Miller of Mount Herman, Calif; two daughters, Bertoline M. Cap of Federal Way, Wash., and Thelma M. Parker of Little Rock; a sister; 19



Bates



Garland



Whitney



Barnes

grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

**Truett Murphy** is serving as pastor of New Hope #1 Church at Smithville. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Altha, have a son, Ronald.

**Larry Spencer** has been called to serve as full-time pastor of South Side Church in Fayetteville. He has been serving the church as interim pastor.

**Charles Chaney** began serving Sept. 21 as interim pastor of Springdale First Church. He is dean of the Redford School of Theology at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

**Gilbert Nichols** has resigned as director of missions for Ouachita Association following two years of service. He and his wife, Deana, will return to Paraguay in October to continue their work with the Paraguay Mission, previously serving there for 25 years under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

**Jay McAllister** recently was ordained to the preaching ministry by Trinity Church in Moore, Okla. He serves as pastor of Hickory Grove Church, Star City.

**Carey D. Stone** has joined the staff of Hardin Church, Pine Bluff, as minister of music. A native of Jonesboro, he is a graduate of Arkansas State University. He has served as minister of music and youth at Harrisburg First Church.

**Martha Vastine** will join the staff of Bentonville First Church Oct. 5 as minister to children. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She has been serving as youth and outreach director at Southside Church in Monahans, Texas.

**Emil Turner** will begin serving Oct. 5 as pastor of Mount Olive Church in

Crossett, coming there from First Church, Harrisonburg, La. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Institute of Biblical Studies and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served on the staff of Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green, Ky.

**Bill Whitledge** of Fort Smith is serving as pastor of Abbott Church. He has served other Arkansas churches, including Vista and Midland Churches. He and his wife, Norma Jean, have three children, Becky, Melinda and Terry.

**Ron Reynolds** is serving as pastor of Turlell Church.

## briefly

**Riverside Church** in North Little Rock is moving its location from Landers Road to 1602 Maumelle Boulevard, effective Oct. 1. The first Sunday services will be conducted on Oct. 5, according to Amon Baker, associate pastor.

**Conway Second Church** senior adult group is striving for a Standard of Excellence. Laura A. Wright has been named as senior adult coordinator and has planned activities which include Bible study, study courses and precept studies, meetings, banquets, retreats and sight-seeing tours. November has been designated as Senior Adult Month and will be culminated with a churchwide event Nov. 20, featuring ventriloquist Clyde Spurgeon from Piggott.

**Hot Springs First Church** recently hosted a reception honoring Bob and Mary Sowell, recognizing his five years of service as minister of education and administration.

**Wood Springs Church** at Jonesboro recently observed its 25th homecoming. Special guests include Harold Ray, Bert Hargett, John Basinger, Benny Brooks, Alvin Harms, Andrew Jackson, and Leon Minick. The Clarkson Family from Forrest

City and the youth group from East Side Church in Trumann provided special music.

**Hopewell Church** at Harrison will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 19. Don Mulford of Pee Dee Church will speak at the morning worship service which will be followed by a potluck meal. Judge Roger Logan will be speaker for the afternoon service.

**Fianna Hills Mission** at Fort Smith will celebrate its first year of active ministry with a "First Anniversary Revival" Oct. 5-8. Rick Lineberger will be evangelist and Joe Riggins will serve as music director. The mission has doubled both its Sunday School and worship attendance in its first year. They have baptized 21 and had 38 join by letter. Bruce Tippit serves as pastor of the mission, which is sponsored by East Side Church, Fort Smith.

**Russellville Second Church** organized a Brotherhood Sept. 6. Don Phillips was elected as president and Dennis Wheeler as secretary. Brotherhood members plan to be in charge of the church's Royal Ambassador activities with future plans to include mission activities.

**Russellville First Church** ordained Bill Abington, Ray Carroll and Mike Chaffin to the deacon ministry Sept. 21.

**Crossett First Church** will observe its 80th anniversary Sept. 28 with all-day activities which will include Sunday School, morning worship, a potluck luncheon, musical entertainment and recreation. Billy Kite, director of missions for Ashley County Association, will be speaker and Brian Kinder will be the guest musician.

**Blytheville Calvary Church** has four Royal Ambassador Pioneers and two counselors who participated in the recent mission projects of the National RA Congress in Memphis.

**Fellowship Church** at Huntington celebrated payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service Aug. 31. Pastor Charles Whedbee also announced four recent additions to the church by baptism, make a total of 35 additions during this church year.

**Oak Grove Church** of Van Buren will send their pastor, Carel G. Norman, to Korea June-July 1987. He will be involved in an evangelistic and church planting crusade.



**10 years of service**—John Dresbach was honored Sept. 21 by Osceola First Church in recognition of his 10 years of service there as minister of music. He was presented with a monetary gift at the close of the morning worship service and honored at a surprise evening reception hosted by the adult choir. He currently serves as membership secretary of the Centurymen and is president-elect of Arkansas Singing Men.

## Centurymen to perform in Little Rock



The Centurymen, a 135-voice men's chorus sponsored by the SBC Radio and Television Commission, will be featured in concert at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock on Oct. 3, as part of a three-state, eight-day tour.

Guest artist Ken Medema will perform with the Centurymen on three selections from "The Weaver," a new musical composed and arranged by Medema and Centurymen director Buryl Red.

The concert will include a musical salute to B.B. McKinney on the anniversary of his 100th birthday, as well as other gospel favorites, folk songs, and anthems, arranged by Red.

Seventy of the Centurymen will be participating in this full domestic tour, the first since the group was formed in 1969. The members are all ministers of music of Southern Baptist churches and represent more than 21 states.

During a history-making, 17-day cultural exchange tour in 1983, the Centurymen became the first group from outside the People's Republic of China to perform in the Radio Beijing Music Hall. The Centurymen have recorded nine albums and were the subject of an NBC television special.

Admission to the concert will be free. For more information, contact James Burleson at Geyer Springs Church, 565-3474.



# Faith and prayers of family and community help Park Hill youth

text and photos by Erwin L. McDonald

"Welcome Home. Our Prayers Answered."

This placard was part of the greeting for Jerry Cound, 15, heart transplant recipient, from a group of fellow young people from Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, when he returned home recently from acquiring a new heart at Methodist Hospital, Houston.

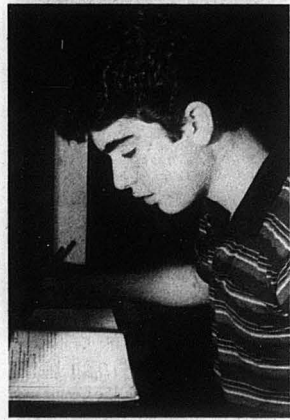
When Jerry's name went on the Houston hospital's computer system, May 31, indicating nationally his need for a heart transplant, his surgeons estimated he had but 12 hours to live. But it was not until the next day, following surgery that gave him a new heart and a new lease on life, that his family learned from his surgical team how near he had come to dying before the heart for transplant had become available.

"We had been at the hospital for a week, getting ready for the operation and waiting for an available heart for transplant," Bitsy, Jerry's mother, recalled recently in a family interview at their residence.

"As a result of Jerry's name being placed on the hospital computer, he became top priority in the nation for a donor heart," explained Jerry's father, Gerald.

The fact that a suitable heart—right size and from a donor of similar age and blood type—became available in time to save their son's life was an answer to the many prayers in his behalf, the Counds believe.

"The heart donor was a 19-year-old youth about Jerry's size and having similar blood type who died in a car accident in Denver," Mrs. Cound said. "We will always be grateful to the youth's parents for making their son's



Three months after a heart transplant, Jerry Cound is back in school as a sophomore at Sylvan Hills High School in North Little Rock.



Jerry Cound (far right) shares a moment of levity with his family; (left to right) brother Mike, mother Bitsy and father Gerald.

heart available to us."

Members of the Houston transplant team flew to Denver for the heart, while Jerry was being made ready for the operation. The operation was delayed three hours to await arrival in Denver of surgeons from Philadelphia who were getting the kidneys and liver of the donor for other transplants.

"All this time, Park Hill Baptists were praying around the clock," Mrs. Cound said.

The actual operation, including the removal of Jerry's worn-out heart and the insertion of the new, healthy organ, was completed in remarkably short order, Jerry's father reported. "And the ready response of his body systems indicated the operation was a success before the last stitches were taken," he said.

The operation started at 4 a.m. on Sunday, June 1, and was completed by 7:30 a.m. At the 8:30 a.m. worship service of Park Hill Church that morning, Pastor Cary Heard announced the good news to his congregation, having just received it in a telephone call from Mrs. Cound.

No small part of the story is the faith of the Cound family, including Jerry.

"I never had any feeling but that the Lord would bring me through," said the joyful patient. "When the doctor told me 'Your heart is worn out and we are going to have to get you a new one,' I said, 'Let's go for it!'"

And now that he is back in the swing of things, including being a sophomore at Sylvan Hills High School and an active participant in Park Hill's youth department, including playing basketball, Jerry feels that the Lord has something in store for him in the years ahead. Whatever it is, he is ready, with his Lord's help, to "go for it."

Already Jerry has been back for his first

check-up with his Houston surgeons, who found him getting along well, and he will be going back for other tests from time to time.

"I'm on 11 different kinds of medicine," he said with grin, "but I'm going to bed at 10:30 p.m. and getting up at 6 a.m., feeling good and doing whatever I want to do."

Two of his medicines—cyclosporine and prednisone—he'll be taking the rest of his life, in order to cope with the continuing possibility of his body's rejection of the new heart. And there are some reactions to these drugs, including high blood pressure, which make other medications necessary.

Other members of the family are Mike and Chela, senior and sophomore, respectively, at Hendrix Collge, Conway, who flew to Houston for their brother's surgery, and who, as the rest of the family, have had their spiritual lives quickened by the experience. Soon after Jerry's return home, Mike left on a previously scheduled missions trip to Brazil with a group from Park Hill Church.

One of the spiritual benefits coming from Jerry's transplant, all of the Counds agree, is "feeling as never before the presence of the Lord," in the family, in the church, and in the larger community that has been and still is involved.

In closing, Mrs. Cound adds a note of family perspective, "Jerry's trouble started from a virus infection when he was two weeks old that resulted in damage to his heart. From that time his father and I have committed him to the Lord. We didn't know when we took him for the transplant how it would come out. We just recommitted him to the Lord."

Erwin L. McDonald is editor emeritus of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

# Helpline

for the local church

October is a month associated with cooler temperatures, great football games, beautiful foliage and harvest. As the new church year gets underway, new excitement is stimulated. Just what will God do through us in this new year? We don't really know, but it will likely be something related to what we have prayed, planned and prepared for him to do.



Moore

How better can we begin the new year than by concentrating on the harvest of souls here at harvest-time? Harold Bennett published an update on Bold Mission Thrust in September. Every category by which we measure our progress showed growth except one. For the nine years we have been in Bold Mission Thrust, the number of people baptized has declined by 8.69 percent. How tragic that our churches have done so poorly. If we could know the number who had been counted in a previous year's baptisms, who were baptized again this year, we would likely all drop our heads in embarrassment and shame. As we begin the new year, let's commit ourselves to ministries and activities that will enable us to win the many lost God is now preparing for salvation.

Sunday School has been the main means of bringing people under the gospel. Since most of our Sunday Schools are small, they will receive special attention and help this year.

**Small Sunday School has its day!** All general officers and teachers in Sunday Schools with 150 or less enrolled are invited and urged to share in our first Small Sunday School Workshop. The dates are Oct. 17-18, at Camp Parson. The complaint is often made that conferences and training do not fit the small church. We are going to give you some great new ideas in this workshop.

**Small Sunday School pastors and directors**, here is your opportunity. Oct. 31-Nov. 1, all of you from churches with 150 or less enrolled in Sunday School may come for a workshop designed just for you. Here is your answer for the low-baptism or no-baptism syndrome. This will give you some handles as to how you can excite the church and lead them to reach the community. This will be at Beech Springs Camp near Smackover.

**Here is another reaching tool** being offered in October. The third National CWT (Continuing Witness Training) seminar will be held at Haven Heights in Fort Smith. I hope registration isn't filled by the time you receive this. If you can attend, you had better give Clarence Shell a call to see if there are openings.

**Missions education:** There is a crying need for more and better missionary education in our churches. This is the year God has made for some of our churches to begin WMU and Brotherhood work. You do not have to be a big church to do it. In fact, some of our finest organizations are in small churches. To do it, you will have to have some leadership that knows

what they are doing. We are here to help you with that.

**For women:** Special leadership training! Leaders from East Arkansas can go to First, West Memphis on Oct. 1. Evening training will be offered at Calvary, Little Rock Oct. 2.

For inspiration, information and mission challenge, the Baptist Women's Retreats could be just the thing to fire you up and get you moving. The dates are Oct. 23-24 and Oct. 24-25. Both are at Camp Parson. Nothing special will happen this year if you don't plan for it to.

We are even ready to sign up Campus Baptist Young Women who will be off at college this fall. We'll be at the BSU Convention, Oct. 4 to greet you.

**For girls:** It's a GA Missions Spectacular! Oct. 18, Park Hill, North Little Rock. Can Pat Glascock ever put on a spectacular! GA leaders, don't let your girls miss this!

## October's harvest

by Don Moore

**Money:** Her letter came last week. An appeal for emergency assistance was the purpose of the letter. A good, godly, faithful pastor husband had gone to be with the Lord. He had never pastored very large churches, and most of them did not help with his retirement. The widow is left now with funeral expense, monument costs and medical bills. Income for covering these is \$400 Social Security and \$49 from the Annuity Board each month. Deacons, treasurers, finance committee people, you need to know how you can do better toward ministerial retirement. Some will say, "We can't do better until we get more money." We can help you with that, too.

Oct. 2, at Calvary, Little Rock, both the New Expanded Church Annuity Plan and Planned Growth in Giving will be shared.

**Training:** How is it in your church? You haven't given up have you? O.K. You need to learn what is being offered in Church Training now, not 10 years ago. We're on the way back. The state Church Training Convention will greatly help you. It's Oct. 28, Immanuel, Little Rock.

**Get this!** The first State Bivocational Conference, Oct. 3-4, Olivet, Little Rock. Wives are included. Five areas of your work will be discussed. Let's make this first one a great one, and start something that will keep on going and blessing you.

**Men, you're not left out!** On Oct. 2, in conjunction with the Annuity and Stewardship Conference, special training in Brotherhood work will be offered. This is leadership training.

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

This monthly Helpline is a cooperative ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*, designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to the churches. Pages 12-14 were produced by the ABSC Executive Board.

### 10-11 'prepare to meet thy God'

*If genuine worship is a vivid encounter with a majestic God that leaves us awed, convicted, inspired, and committed, how often do our regular services accomplish that goal? Planning can make a difference.*

### 12-14 just for you

*Baptist men, women, boys, and girls: training and inspiration events are designed with your needs in mind. Executive Board departments share their plans for the coming weeks, events planned just for you!*

## Worship planning

# Helping man en

by Mark

*"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." — William Temple*

*"Worship is communion with God in which believers by grace center their minds' attention and their hearts' affection on the Lord, humbly glorifying God in response to his greatness and his worth." — Bruce Leafblad*

Every Sunday, just before midday, Baptists across the state of Arkansas begin gathering in their local assemblies for "morning worship." In that act, they are joined not just by other Baptists across the United States, but by Christians of many denominations all around the world.

In gathering for worship, Baptists are doing what Christians have done for nearly 20 centuries, coming together to celebrate and proclaim the resurrection of their Lord. That worship heritage is held so much in common, at least among Baptists, that even the order of worship looks much the same from congregation to congregation.

But how often do we understand what we are doing as we assemble ourselves? If genuine worship is a vivid encounter with a majestic God which leaves us awed, convicted, inspired, and committed, how often do our regular services accomplish that goal?

While worship is the most important thing churches do, it is usually the least planned, contended Fred Kelly, a staff member of the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. Kelly spoke in Little Rock Aug. 26 during a Worship Planning Seminar sponsored by the church music department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

A lack of planning leads to sameness in worship services, Kelly explained. As a result, "we tend to fall into ruts and do the same things over and over and over," he said.

Kelly noted Baptists' legitimate pride in their stand against ritualism in worship, but charged that, although Southern Baptists do not believe in ritual, "they are very much bound in ritualism." "Services which have degenerated into sameness cannot achieve their goal of a fresh encounter with God, he said.

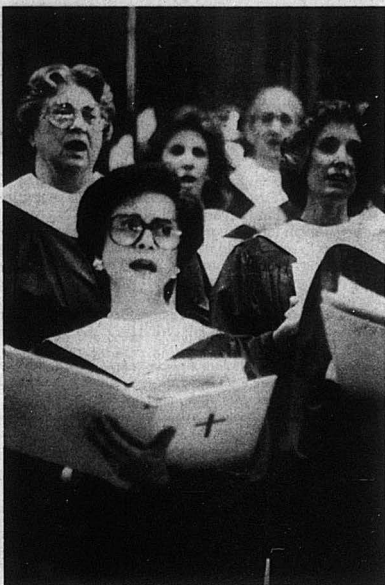
"Worship is an act," Kelly asserted. "In worship, we give ourselves to God. We tell him of our love and admiration for him, and we lay ourselves open to his majesty.

"The primary purpose of worship is the glorification of God, not the edification of man," he said.

Genuine worship, when the community of believers is awed by the presence of its holy God, should lead naturally to confession, seldom a planned part of worship services, Kelly added. "Worship provides the occasion for seeking restitution to God through confessing our sins to him, asking and receiving forgiveness, and dedicating ourselves afresh to him," he explained.

Genuine worship issues in service to God, Kelly continued. In fact, he noted the Greek word (*latreuo*) translated "worship" in several passages (e.g., Acts 7:42, Phil. 3:3, Hebr. 10:2) is translated "serve" in other passages (e.g., Matt. 4:10, Acts 27:23, Hebr. 12:28).

"We worship God in the sanctuary. We continue to worship him in the world as we serve him," Kelly said. "Christian worship is not authentic without a specific encounter with God that produces a definite obedience to God."



ABN photos / Millie Gill



# counter God

Kelly

*"Worship, simply put, is the acknowledgment of God's supreme worth. We worship God because of who he is, not because of what he can do for us. We worship not to glorify ourselves, but to celebrate God's majesty. We do not worship to build up our church, its programs, or even God's kingdom. We worship to affirm what God has done, what God is doing, and what in faith we believe God will do in the future." — Fred Kelly*

And a congregation need not fear that a move toward deeper, fresher worship experiences draws them away from the task of evangelism, Kelly added. In fact, a genuine worship experience is essential to sharing the gospel.

He quoted Baptist theologian W.T. Connor in *The Gospel of Redemption*: "The first business of a church is not evangelism, nor business, nor benevolence; it is worship. The worship of God in Christ should be at the center of all else that a church does, for until a congregation has worshiped God, it has nothing to say to a lost world."

Furthermore, genuine worship is not a solitary experience, Kelly asserted. Calling participants' attention to the "Model Prayer" Jesus gave his disciples, Kelly pointed out all the possessives and pronouns of the prayer are plural, not singular: "our Father," "our daily bread," "our debts," "deliver us."

Worship is a community experience, when the people of God come into the presence of their Lord and Savior, Kelly insisted. He used the encounter between God and the Hebrews at Mount Sinai, recorded in Exodus 19:24, to outline the basic elements of a meeting between God and his people.

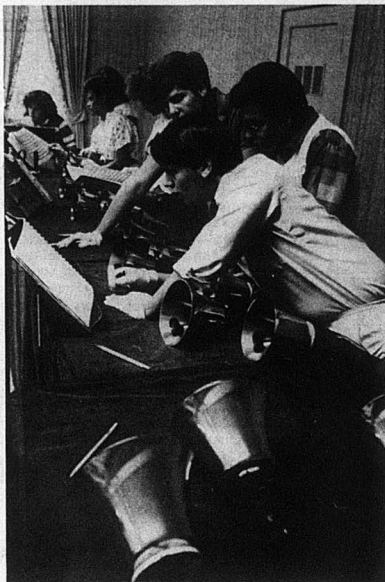
Such a meeting (1) is called by God; (2) requires the full participation of the people; (3) is characterized by the proclamation of the Word of God; (4) involves the people accepting the conditions of the covenant with God; and (5) is climaxed with a dramatic symbol of ratification, a sealing of the agreement.

Pursuing that point, Kelly said effective worship: (1) is planned, to avoid sameness; (2) must be adapted to people, starting where they are and helping them grow; (3) involves all the people, trying to avoid "spectatoritis;" (4) is balanced between the old and the new, between the nearness of God and his otherness; (5) speaks to the whole person; (6) includes basic elements such as praise, confession, thanksgiving, witness, commitment, and sending; and (7) is evaluated frequently.

In order to be effective, worship must be evaluated periodically by worship leaders, Kelly explained. He offered 12 questions for evaluating a congregation's worship experience:

- (1) How would you characterize your services?
- (2) What are the trends in worship at your church?
- (3) How do you introduce or use different styles or techniques?
- (4) How do you develop meaning or value in worship?
- (5) How do you use the Bible in worship?
- (6) How do you use hymns in worship?
- (7) How do you use drama in worship?
- (8) How do you use instrumental music in worship?
- (9) How do you achieve freshness in worship services?
- (10) How do you begin your worship services?
- (11) How do you conclude your worship services?
- (12) When and how do you worship?

Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



ABN photos / Millie Gill



## Cooperative Program

### October features Cooperative Program Month

Our Southern Baptist denominational calendar designates October as Cooperative Program Month. The purposes of the emphasis are:



*Sheffield*

1. To inform and inspire church members about the multitudes of mission needs and opportunities around the world.

2. To lead church members to greater understanding of the Cooperative Program.

3. To lead church members to become more involved in mission support through the Cooperative Program.

Your church can conduct several activities to highlight the Cooperative Program during October. Materials have been

mailed to each pastor supporting this emphasis.

Some of the suggested activities for October include:

- Conducting special programs on the Cooperative Program during prayer meeting.

- Conduct a church-wide study of *Cooperation: the Baptist Way to a Lost World* by Cecil and Susan Ray.

- Show one or both of the following films: *More Than Money* or *Like a Mighty River*. (Available from the state Stewardship Office.)

- Enlist a church member to give a personal testimony related to the Cooperative Program. This testimony should emphasize how giving through the Cooperative Program enables every church member to have a vital part in everything Baptists are doing at home and around the world.

- Use Cooperative Program Month

posters to make church members aware of this emphasis.

- Plan and prepare one or more Cooperative Program bulletin boards for use around the church.

- Ask adult Sunday School departments to use one or more department periods to emphasize the Cooperative Program. The booklet, *Cooperative Program Devotionals* (CP-6), is available from the SBC Stewardship Services, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234.

- Invite a furloughing missionary to speak during a worship service.

The Cooperative Program is very vital to our Bold Mission Thrust emphasis. Church leaders need to help our people understand the Cooperative Program. October would be a great time to start! — **Jimmie Sheffield, Associate Executive Director**

## Evangelism

### We listen

We listen to you! At the Youth Evangelism Conference last year, it was mentioned that churches with part time or

volunteer youth leaders need assistance. They need ideas. They need methods and they need materials. This year on October 11 at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, we are sponsoring a conference to meet those needs.



*Lagrone*

We call it Growing an Evangelistic Youth Ministry. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m.

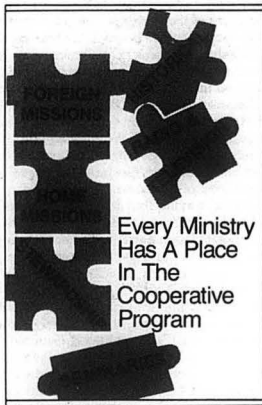
Just look at the highlights of the meeting: (1) It is held on Saturday when more volunteer workers can come. (2) It is for all youth leadership - pastors, youth workers, teachers and even some parents. (3) It is FREE. Southern Baptist College and the

Evangelism Department will provide the noon meal. Several areas will be covered, some of which include training our youth in evangelism; working with a zero budget, how to get ideas, where ideas are, and various other topics will be covered. Your youth workers will make their own choices of classes. They can split up and choose to go to all the seminars offered and therefore get the whole conference. As you can see, it will be an uplifting, power packed, informative event. Be a part of that meeting.

If your youth workers are struggling for ideas, innovative techniques, working with the youth in the 80's, building a discipleship program, and other resources that are available to them, this will be a beneficial meeting.

To reserve your space for the noon meal and allow us to provide enough materials for each participant, please contact by letter or phone, James Lagrone, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 376-4791.

— **James Lagrone, associate**



**YOU help take the gospel  
into all the world...  
through the  
COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAM.**



## Church Training

### Church Training Convention

Dr. James Bryant, missionary to Bangkok, Thailand, will be one of the speakers at the annual Church Training



Bryant  
noon session.

Convention on October 28, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. Dr. Bryant and his wife Virginia have returned for furlough following their first term of service in Thailand. "As ye go... make disciples" will be the subject of his message to the after-

A special feature of this year's Church Training Convention will be a B.Y.P.U. Alumni meeting for all former B.Y.P.U. members. There will be a reception and fellowship for this special group at 10:45, following the general session. This will be a time of fellowship, testimonies and reminiscing. No reservations necessary!

Leadership conferences will be conducted during each of the three sessions beginning at 10 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will be conferences for Church Secretaries and Media Library Workers.

Church Training conference leaders include Delores Lynn of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock; Bill Young, Stanley Howell and Marlan Seward of the Church

Training Department, Nashville; and Eric Williams and Gordon Vestal of the Texas Church Training Department staff.

The conference for Church Secretaries will be led by Janice Holcomb from Nashville. Glenn Hill, consultant in the Media Library Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead the Media Library conference. Dr. Phillip B. Harris, retired Director of the Church Training Department, BSSB, will speak at the morning and evening general sessions. — **Robert Holley, director**

## Woman's Missionary Union

### GA Missions Spectacular

A Ga Missions Spectacular is a one-day event to allow GA leaders, interested adults, and girls in grades 1-6 to meet missionaries. Singing, sharing, and learning more about missions is the purpose of this event. Because of last year's attendance there will be two GA Missions Spectaculars this year. Choose to attend the one that is most convenient for you.

Saturday, October 18, 1986, the first GA Missions Spectacular will be at Park Hill Baptist, North Little Rock. Registrations must be received by October 10, 1986. The first 600 registrations received will be accepted.

The second will be November 1, 1986 at Camp Paron. The capacity for that date is

200. The deadline for registration is October 22, 1986.

There is a registration fee for both GA Missions Spectaculars. Participants should plan to bring a sack lunch and something to drink. Also, a mat or cushion to sit on will be needed. Registrations for both events begins at 9:00 AM with the program starting at 10 AM and concluding at 2:30 PM. Register early! Registration information has been mailed to GA leaders. If you would like additional information, contact the state WMU Office at PO Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Plan now to attend this fun-filled missions activity! — **Pat Glascock, GA/Mission Friends Director.**

## Student Department Glasgow, 1988

It is time to start planning for yourself and others to attend the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

'Jesus Christ Rules' is the theme of the five day meeting, July 27-31, 1988.

The conference will be held in the beautiful new Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, Scotland. It is built beside the River Clyde.

Norway and Sweden will come by boat through the North Sea, will dock their boat, and will use their boat as hotel during the conference. A limited number of conferees from other countries can be housed with them.

The days will be divided into Exploration (Bible Study) in the morning, Application

(workshops) in the afternoon, and Celebrator in the evening. All will eat together in a midday festival where singing and drama groups from all over the world will perform.

Two to three thousand Baptist youth and youth leaders from America will join with Baptists from around the world in celebrating the reality that 'Jesus Christ Rules.'

Those interested can contact the Student Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. — **Tom J. Logue, Director**

## Woman's Missionary Union

### Baptist Women Retreats

Gifts are for giving. God has gifted those who follow Him. GIFTED TO SERVE, CALLED TO ACT will be the theme for the 1986 Baptist Women Retreats to be held October 23-24, 24-25 at Camp Paron.

Coming from Alabama to teach her new book, YOURS FOR THE GIVING: SPIRITUAL GIFTS, is Barbara Joiner. This popular speaker and author will help women not only discover their gifts but find meaningful ways of using their gifts to help others.

All attending the retreat are asked to purchase the book either before they come or at the retreat itself. The book can be found in the Baptist Book Store.

Missionaries Debbie Moore (Liberia) and Diana Lewis (Arkansas) will tell of the work they do in their respective fields. Beverly Coad, missionary to Mali, will lead the music.

Theme interpretations, small group prayer times, a talent show and much more await those who will attend this year's retreats.

Any woman interested in discovering and implementing her spiritual gifts will benefit from the retreats. The second retreat is a repeat of the first. Those who are interested in attending need to make their reservations early. The registration deadline is October 16th. More information concerning cost and time can be obtained by contacting Arkansas WMU, PO Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Every year life changing decisions are made at Baptist Women Retreats. This year will be particularly meaningful as the Lord reveals Himself in our lives and directs us to places of service in our world. — **Carolyn Porterfield, BW/BYW Director**

## Evangelism

### Circles of Concern

Who do we know that doesn't know Jesus? It is amazing to sit down and to think about those who come across our paths that need Christ.



Shell

One of the best systems to use for this is the Concentric Circles of Concern. As a concerned Christian, would you take time today to give serious thought to those who need your witness?

In the bull's eye or the center circle, we must consider ourselves. What is our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ? Let's think for a moment about that time when we realized that we were a sinner. We repented of our sins. We received Jesus as our Savior and Lord. We really do have

something to offer. We have Good News within us to share with those who so desperately need hope.

The second circle relates to our immediate family. Let's consider a moment our mates. Do they have a happy relationship with Christ? How about our children? Is there a son or daughter who doesn't really know Jesus? What a joy it was to lead my two daughters and son to Jesus. It's a thrilling experience to see our grandchildren respond to the love of Christ and become Christians.

The third circle reaches out to our host of relatives. We must consider our cousins. I had a first cousin born on the same day of my birth. While we were just children, his family moved to California. I thought of him many times. I had written him but never had the privilege to talk with him personally about Jesus. God brought us together a few years ago that I might talk

with him about his relationship to Christ. Think about your nephews and nieces, uncles and aunts. If you are not sure about their relationship to Christ, write their names down and begin to pray for them. Write to them, call them, and when you see them, share your concern with them. Some time ago I became deeply concerned for one of my nephews. I began to pray for him and planned to share Christ with him during a revival. It was a joy to visit in his home about a month before the revival. During this visit, I had an opportunity to tell him how to be saved. His heart was open, he repented of his sins, and asked Christ to save him. What a thrill it was to see him come and make a public profession of faith during the revival, and upon the authority of the church, baptize him in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. — Clarence Shell, director

## Sunday School

### Outreach Bible Study

Discover the way to extend your Sunday School outside of your church's setting! You will reach more people for Christ with Outreach Bible Study.



Hinkson

Outreach Bible Study is evangelistic Bible study. It is not just Bible study in general, but it is Bible study which leads participants to study passages of Scripture that clearly indicate how one comes to God through Jesus Christ. Its focus is the largest single group of Americans: the unchurched and un saved.

Outreach Bible Study is a direct approach. It is a Bible-centered approach, and it is a face-to-face approach. Its basic

premise is that the Bible has the ultimate answer to the various needs of persons no matter who they are or what their station or position in life.

Outreach Bible Study may be started any time. Whenever a group is discovered who is willing to pursue the study, that is the time to begin.

Outreach Bible Study is a small-group Bible study. In a small group there is more opportunity for questions and answers. Also, the focus is upon the person's needs.

Outreach Bible Study is a short-term study. It is designed for eight weeks. It can and will serve as a 'feeder' or channel for ongoing Sunday School.

Outreach Bible Study is more than content teaching. It is designed to answer the needs of the individual with the content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Basic life needs and life questions are answered.

Outreach Bible Study is a way of doing

evangelism. It is one way of confronting men, women and youth with the claims of Christ. There are other ways—good ways—and they should be used, but Outreach Bible Study is surely one way that has enormous potential, if honestly tried.

The Outreach Bible Study materials are available now. The book *How to Conduct Outreach Bible Study* is designed to help you do Outreach Bible Study. It is available at the Baptist Book Store. The *Invitation to Youth Bible Study: Teacher* (7140-8), The *Invitation to Youth Bible Study*: (7139-0), The *Invitation to Adult Bible Study: Teacher* (7138-2), and The *Invitation to Adult Bible Study*: (7137-4) are available on the Undated Materials Order Form or directly from Materials Services Department, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234 — Ed Hinkson

Thanks to you-it works  
for all of us.



**October 1. WMU Area Conference.** First Church, West Memphis, providing challenge and training for WMU leaders in East Arkansas.

**October 2. WMU, Brotherhood, Annuity/Stewardship Area Conferences.** Calvary Church, Little Rock, last of nine area conferences providing training for leaders in three important areas of church life and ministry.

## Next month in Arkansas: October

**October 3-4. State Bivocational Pastors Conference.** Olivet Church, Little Rock, a first-ever conference specifically designed to meet the needs of bivocational pastors and their wives.

**October 3-5. State Baptist Student Convention.** University of Arkansas at Little Rock, annual time of inspiration and challenge for college students from

Arkansas' 27 campuses.

**October 4. Campus BYW Event.** University of Arkansas at Little Rock, promoting Campus Baptist Young Women organizations with students attending the State BSU Convention.

**October 10-11. Tri-State RA Camp-oree.** Camp Cordova, Memphis, Tenn., promoting missions awareness among and teaching camp skills to Crusader and Pioneer Royal Ambassadors.

**October 11-18. Senior Adult Chautauqua.** Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, North Carolina, a week of inspiration and fellowship in the mountains of North Carolina for senior adults and their leaders.

**October 12. World Hunger Day.** encourages Southern Baptists to be generous in sharing materially and spiritually with the world's hungry.

**October 17-18. Small Sunday School Workshop.** Camp Paron, training Sunday School general officers and teachers from churches with enrollments of 150 or less.

**October 18. GA Missions Spectacular.** Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, building excitement about missions in girls grades 1-6 and their leaders.

**October 20-23. National CWT Seminar.** Haven Heights Church, Fort Smith, certifies participants to launch Continuing Witness Training programs in their local churches.

**October 23-24, 24-25. Baptist Women Retreats.** Camp Paron, two retreats offering missions information, inspiration, and challenge.

**October 28. State Church Training Convention.** Immanuel Church, Little Rock, annual training event for Church Training workers and directors, pastors, directors of missions, church secretaries, and media library workers.

**October 31 - November 1. Small Sunday School Pastor / Director Workshop.** Beech Springs Camp, Smackover, helping pastors and Sunday School directors understand how to plan and implement a good program of Sunday School work.

## November

**November 1. GA Missions Spectacular.** Camp Paron

**November 2-8. National RA Week**

**November 3. January Bible Study Clinics.** Fayetteville First Church, North Little Rock Levy Church

**November 4. January Bible Study Clinics.** Russellville First Church; Pine Bluff Matthew's Memorial Church; Fred's Fish House, Cord

**November 8. January Bible Study Clinics.** Mountain Home First Church,

Hope First Church

**November 8. State RA Fellowship Luncheon.** Woody's Sherwood Forest  
**November 30 - December 7. Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

## December and January

**December 4-5. Career Assessment.** Baptist Building, Little Rock

**December 11-12. Evangelism**

**Workshop.** Camp Paron

**December 29-30. Joy Explo '86 Youth Evangelism Conference.** Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock

**January 12. Growth Spiral Workshops.** Jonesboro Walnut Street

Church, Monticello First Church, Blytheville First Church

**January 13. Growth Spiral Clinics.**

Brinkley First Church, Pine Bluff Immanuel Church, Hot Springs Second Church

**January 15. Growth Spiral Clinics.** Hope First Church, West Memphis Calvary Church, Searcy First Church

**January 18. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

**January 19-23. Area Media Library Clinics**

**January 25. Baptist Men's Day**

**January 26. Baptist Doctrine Study Preview.** Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

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# Russellville homemaker writes books with purpose

by Gene Herrington

Frances Carroll, a Russellville homemaker who has had seven books published by Prentice Hall, knows "my writing is a gift from God with a purpose."

A native of Tennessee, she moved to Russellville with her family in 1971 when her husband, Raymond G. Carroll, took a post with Arkansas Power & Light Company in the nuclear generating plant. (He has since left Arkansas Nuclear One and now works as a consultant and computer programmer.)

Mrs. Carroll credits good high school English instructors with giving her a strong background for her writing. Her only other formal training came when she completed a course in the Christian Writers Guild.

A fairly recent entry into the writing field—she did not start until February 1982—Mrs. Carroll launched her new career to fill a "need to express myself following the death of my mother in December 1981."

She pinpoints 1976 as a year of spiritual awakening. A Christian since 1951, she found what she had been searching for some time. She and her husband, both of whom were members of another denomination, joined First Church and "the Lord began revealing what he can do with a life dedicated to him." Her philosophy on writing reflects this dedication. "My goal as a writer is not to be famous or to make money but to serve Christ," she says.

She picks *How to Talk with Children About God*, the sixth book published by Prentice Hall, as the one "I like best."

"If I had had this book when I was a teenager, it would have been a great help," she explained. "It would have been a help to my parents, who were devout Christians."

Practical Christianity is the recurrent theme of her books. This is mirrored in her approach to her Sunday School class. "I try to talk with my teen-aged class members as if they were my children."

Her number one priority is being a wife and a mother. Both her children, Mary Ann, 15, and Ray Jr., 13, have shown an interest in journalism.



Frances Carroll, prolific Christian writer and mother of two, has had seven books published by Prentice Hall since she started writing in 1982.

Mrs. Carroll's first published article was in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* in the *Woman's Viewpoint* column. Her article, published early in 1982, was on Proverbs 31.

Her routine does not include certain hours assigned to inputting on her word processor. "I do not have a schedule. I usually get up about 5:30 a.m. for Bible study and prayer, and in the fall and winter months, after I get the family breakfast and my husband off to work and my children to school, I can write if I have something to say."

Her published titles testify to her having something to say. They include, in order of publication, *Devotions for Today's Woman*, *Temptation: How Christians Can Deal with It*, *Christian Diary, Frustration and How Christians Can Deal With It*, *Promises, A Christian Guide to Commitment*, *How to Talk With Children About God*, and *How to Explain the Trinity*.

One of her current projects is seeking a

publisher for her new writings. After Simon and Schuster bought out Prentice Hall, the decision was made to eliminate religious publication. "I had established a very pleasant working relationship with several of the editors," Mrs. Carroll said. "In fact, they even suggested some of the things I have done."

She has two proposals under consideration by Bethany House, involving family devotionals, and has queries out on several other ideas including second publication of some of the books to which Simon and Schuster has given her the rights.

In the foreword to her book *Promises*, Roy Buckelew, her former pastor, describes her:

"While I was her pastor, Frances Carroll impressed me as a hard-working wife and mother, a serious Christian, and a faithful church woman. Although she is a blossoming writer, she is like many women we all know; she operates a taxi service for her children, cooks for her family, cleans the house, washes dishes and clothes, and squeezes every dollar possible out of the family budget. Besides such chores, she has her pleasures: photography, reading, fishing, camping, and rockhounding. In other words, her life is very much like yours and mine, hectic. And, through all of the hurry of her everyday life, she is trying to be Christian and grow as a Christian. So, when she writes about struggle and failure of success as a Christian, she is not pontificating from some 'ivory tower.' She is the neighbor next door writing out of the everyday experiences common to all of us. That is why her books are worth reading."

Gene Herrington, a former managing editor of the *Arkansas Democrat*, is a member of Olivet Church, Little Rock.

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**Campers elect officers**—Campers on Mission elected officers at their annual fall rally, which was held at Greers Ferry Sept. 5-7. New officers are (left to right) Carroll Gibson, Paragould, president; Betty Gibson, Paragould, secretary; and Lendol Jackson, Hardy, vice-president.

## Suicidal Stephanie 'is joy of ACTS'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—With tears in his eyes, Jimmy R. Allen introduced Stephanie to trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission during their September meeting.

"One of the joys of ministering in radio and television is the joy of the end product," said Allen, commission president. "It is the joy of what God is doing in people's lives."

In a soft, low voice Stephanie told trustees of her encounter with God through ACTS: "Two months ago, I was suicidal. I had already tried (to commit suicide) and I figured the third time it would work."

She related how she had been working with severely and profoundly retarded children but was off work because of an injured back. "I wasn't working, and my work was my life, so I just thought, 'There's no reason to live.'"

"I had the pills in my hand and I decided that I would turn on the TV and watch music or something," she said, explaining that in Fort Worth, Texas, the computerized cable

system usually comes on at Channel 6, the weather channel.

"But this time, it came on at ACTS (Channel 47). They were showing 'The Word of Life' with Joel Gregory preaching, and he was talking about suicide and how your life is worth something. It really touched me. I took those pills and right then flushed them all down the commode. Then I came back and sat down. I must have cried for hours," Stephanie said.

The following Sunday, she went to Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, where Gregory is pastor. There, she made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized into the fellowship of the church.

Soon, Stephanie showed up at the RTVC offices in Fort Worth and volunteered her services.

"They gave me back my life and my self worth," she said. "I wasn't doing anything and I decided to come as a volunteer for ACTS."

## Missionary Blanche Groves dies at 97

DALLAS (BP)—Blanche Groves, a Southern Baptist missionary educator and evangelist who spent 39 years working in China, Hong Kong and Hawaii, died Sept. 13 in Dallas. She was 97.

Groves went to China in 1920. She taught at two schools in Soochow and briefly was interned by Japanese occupation forces early in World War II before being repatriated to the United States. After returning to Soochow in 1946, she led a church while supervising extensive relief work at three nutrition centers and a hostel.

She left China in 1950 after the beginning

of the communist era and taught briefly at a Hawaiian Baptist academy. She transferred to Hong Kong in 1954 and began a Bible study in the Mandarin-speaking North Point area. By 1983 that work had grown to nearly 1,500 members.

Groves retired in 1959 but continued to travel and speak about missions as long as she was physically able.

Born in Bridgeport, Texas, Groves graduated from Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She taught school in Texas and Oklahoma before missionary appointment.

## Former Arkansas teacher appointed to mission field

Mr. and Mrs. D. Wade Watts were among 21 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Sept. 9. They will work in Peru, where he will teach secondary students and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. He had previously been a teacher in West Memphis.

The Watts will go to Rockville, Va., in October for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field.

## Late check keeps CP 7th on all-time list

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A late check held Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program receipts for August at seventh on the all-time monthly list, almost \$1 million behind what it might have been.

August receipts for the convention's voluntary unified missions, education and ministries budget were \$10,256,116, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Contributions from one state Baptist convention—\$915,403—were sent to the Executive Committee's former address, returned to the sender and failed to arrive at the Executive Committee by Aug. 31, said Tim Hedquist, the committee's vice president for business and finance. Hedquist declined to name the state convention.

If the check had arrived on time, the August total would have been \$11,171,519, making it the third-highest monthly Cooperative Program total and 2.38 percent ahead of the same period last year.

Instead, the monthly total lagged 6.01 percent, or \$655,787, behind August of 1985.

Eleven months into the 1985-86 fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts total \$113,870,863, an increase of 5.65 percent over the same period in 1984-85. The annual goal is \$130 million.

For August, several states' contributions were below their August 1985 contributions, Hedquist noted. "Obviously the oil economy continues to impact the Cooperative Program, and I'm sure the general economy is a factor," he explained.

"We're continuing to hope for a good month in September," Bennett said. The convention's fiscal year ends Sept. 30, and all Cooperative Program checks received by the Executive Committee by that date will be counted toward the current year.

Bennett and Hedquist noted several factors which could help the September total, particularly receipts from the fifth Sunday in August, which primarily arrived in September, and the \$915,000 August check which will be added to the September total.

# New committee named to nominate Home Mission Board leader

by Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP)—A new seven-member search committee has been appointed to nominate a president for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, replacing another committee asked to resign by a 40-36 vote of HMB directors in August before the committee had presented its first report.

New committee members were appointed unanimously by the five officers of the board, who had been asked by the directors to select a new committee "that will give fair representation and proper balance to all members of the board."

Six members of the original search committee resigned because of perceived lack of trust among board members and because they felt the board would not elect any nominee they recommended.

One of the seven committee members, M.A. Winchester, a medical doctor from Whitley City, Ky., declined to resign as requested by the board "for reasons of personal integrity" and will continue to serve on the search committee.

According to the bylaws of the mission agency, a new president must be nominated by a search committee of not more than seven members appointed by the officers (chairman, first and second vice chairmen, secretary and assistant secretary). The committee is not elected by the board, but appointed by all its officers.

In addition to Winchester, two other members of the original search committee who had resigned in August were asked to serve on the new, reconstituted committee.

Troy L. Morrison, director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Baptist State Convention in Montgomery and a member of the original committee, was appointed chairman of the new group.

Lula D. Walker, a lay leader at First Church, Beaverton, Ore., was also reappointed.

Four new members were named. They are: M.O. Owens Jr., of Gastonia, N.C., retired pastor of churches in North Carolina and Belgium; Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church, Austin, Texas; Brad Allen, pastor of First Church, Duncan, Oklahoma; Searcy S. Garrison, retired executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention and administrator of Georgia Baptist Homes in Atlanta.

In announcing appointment of the committee during a meeting of the Home Mission Board Executive Committee, HMB chairman Clark Hutchinson of Marietta, Ga., read a brief statement from the officers pointing out they were unanimous in the selection of the new search committee.

"It was our prayerful desire that the search committee be representative of the constituency of the Home Mission Board," the statement said.

Asked by reporters after the meeting if he felt the new search committee was balanced in representation of theological points of view, Hutchinson said he "was not going to

respond to that" and repeated the prepared statement.

Hutchinson also would not predict when the search committee might make a recommendation for the presidency. "We don't want to put any pressure on the new committee," he said. "Everyone wants a new president as soon as possible, but we have great confidence in the interim leadership being given by Bob Banks." Banks, executive vice president, has been performing the duties of president since William G. Tanner resigned June 15.

In announcing appointment of the new committee, the officers requested any Southern Baptist wishing to recommend a person for the presidency of the Home Mission Board should submit his or her suggestions to the new search committee chairman.

"It is necessary that any previous recommendations be resubmitted to the committee chairman, as well as any new recommendations," the officers said. "Recommendations may be addressed to the chairman as follows: Dr. Troy L. Morrison, P.O. Box 11870, Montgomery, AL 36198-0001; office phone: (205) 288-2460, ext. 212; home phone: (205) 279-7108."

At the close of the board's executive committee meeting, Hutchinson read the brief statement from the officers, but added no additional comments. There was no action taken by the executive committee on the appointment of the new committee.

In other business, the executive committee elected a new associate vice president,

a new assistant director in the special mission ministries department and appointed 35 missionaries.

Margrette Stevenson, director of the board's personnel division for the past four years, was promoted to a new position as associate vice president in the board's services section, effective Oct. 1. The new position was created by board action in August.

Stevenson, a native of Texas, has been a member of the board staff 11 years. Prior to election as director of the personnel division in 1982, she was director of the board's business services division and director of payroll and employee benefits.

The executive committee also elected Valerie J. Hardy, currently minister to youth at St. John's Church, Charlotte, N.C., as assistant director of the agency's department of special mission ministries.

Hardy, a native of Oklahoma, has been youth minister for churches in Wichita, Kan.; Arkadelphia, Ark., and Louisville, Ky. She also has been director of weekday activities for First Baptist Church, New Albany, Ind., and a psychiatric aide for a hospital in Louisville, Ky.

In other personnel matters, the board appointed 15 new missionaries, eight missionary associates, and 12 church planter apprentices; and approved financial aid to 79 mission pastors, language pastors, and other field personnel in cooperation with state Baptist conventions.

Jim Newton is editor, news and information services, SBC Home Mission Board.

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## Widow tripling 'mites' to support mission work

DALLAS (BP)—When the bank teller in Shepherd, Texas, empties a jar full of coins and counts out change for Agnes Jarboe, he is counting a widow's mites.

Like the biblical character who cast her savings into the temple treasury, Jarboe of First Church of Shepherd sacrifices daily for missions.

Each day she has any change, the 86-year-old East Texan drops her coins into a jar set aside for the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions. When the jar is full, she takes it to the bank, exchanges the coins for paper money and begins filling the jar again.

"I've practiced it a long time," she says. "I knew it was the only way I could triple."

Like thousands of other Texas Baptists, Jarboe accepted the challenge last year to triple her 1984 gifts to state missions and then triple again for the 1986 offering. Through the Mary Hill Davis Offering, Texas Baptists are seeking to start 2,000 new churches by 1990. The strategy for reaching the unprecedented goal is to "triple/triple."

Jarboe succeeded in tripling her \$15 offering for 1984 by giving \$45 in 1985. But living on a fixed income, she realized her personal goal of \$135 in 1986 would be difficult to reach.

"I get a Social Security check, and I

receive a small (Veterans Administration) pension. Other than a little money I get from writing for the newspaper, that is it," she says. Although nearly blind, Jarboe dictates a weekly personal column for the San Jacinto, Texas, *News-Times*.

She began saving her money in a fruit jar in order to triple her offering. At last count, she is about halfway to her goal. "Sometimes I put in a \$5 bill or a \$1 bill. I don't handle that much money, so I don't have change all the time. If I were just saving change, I would never reach the goal," she notes.

Saving for the state missions offering is only one aspect of Jarboe's missions involvement. She was a charter member of the Woman's Missionary Union at First Church, which was formed in 1921.

Currently, Jarboe is enjoying taking part in the "100 Days of Praise and Prayer" for state missions. Though her age and health present physical limitations, she participates through a telephone prayer chain.

Although she lifts up many individuals in prayer daily, her only prayer request for herself is that she will be able to reach her triple goal this year. "It isn't easy with my health being what it is. There have been a lot of expenses," she says. "But I hope and pray that I'll make it. I really believe I will!"

## Honeycutt asks seminarians to be committed to truth

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—"There are few more dangerous individuals in society than cowardly persons who fear all the truth, lazy persons who are satisfied with half the truth and arrogant persons who believe they know all the truth," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told students at the Louisville, Ky., school Sept. 2.

Speaking during a convocation marking the start of the academic year, Honeycutt encouraged Southern Seminary students and faculty to enlarge their vision of God's purpose for their lives and work together with others in accomplishing that plan.

"It is no sign of weakness to say that we need one another," Honeycutt said. "Accomplishing God's purposes always involves partnership."

In a four-part challenge to the seminary community, Honeycutt called on his listeners to affirm the Lordship of Christ and the authority of Scripture, to live as Christians and affirm their Baptist heritage, to abandon stereotypes and rediscover one another as persons and to embrace the whole of God's truth.

While stressing the important of academic quality, Honeycutt insisted "there is nothing of greater priority for any of us than the Lordship of Jesus Christ. From that fountainhead flow all worthy commitments to which we give our energies."

Because of Southern Seminary's commitment to Scripture, he said, students will be called on "to study and treasure it with appreciation."

Honeycutt encouraged the seminary community to live as Christians both in personal morality and in relationships with others. He gave special emphasis to the need for Christian relationships between ministers.

"Almost daily I am reminded that we ministers are more critical and harsher in our comments about one another than any other profession," he said, adding, "I cannot imagine a doctor, a dentist, an engineer going into public print to criticize one another in the way in which ministers have done in recent years."

He also encouraged the students and faculty to protect their heritage as Baptists, which he says is "more and more rapidly slipping away."

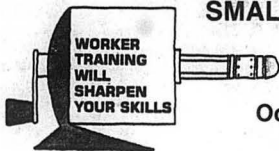
Asserting there is no conflict between spiritually and intellectual honesty, Honeycutt urged the seminary community to be open to all of God's truth. That includes rejecting the claims of those who believe they have acquired all truth, he added.

"Theological egotists believe that God has not only closed the canon (biblical books) but closed the commentaries, and they are the final arbiters of God's revelation," Honeycutt stressed. He reminded his audience, "None of us knows all the truth. No one knows it all except God."

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# Southland Corporation helps fund pro-lottery campaigns

by David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southland Corporation, which earlier this year won praise from religious groups for its decision to pull Playboy and Penthouse magazines from the shelves of its 7-Eleven stores, may now be pushing its luck with those same groups by supporting lottery campaigns in two southern states.

In telephone interviews with Baptist Press, Southland officials acknowledged the company has contributed more than \$140,000 to pro-lottery efforts in Florida and Texas.

Jim Willett, assistant manager for media relations, verified campaign disclosure statements which show Southland has channeled \$100,100 into Florida's EXCEL—"Excellence Campaign: An Education Lottery." The EXCEL political action committee has spearheaded a successful petition drive to put a lottery referendum on the November ballot.

In Texas, Southland President Jere W. Thompson sent a telegram to state legislators urging them to put the lottery issue on the November ballot. The measure, however, failed to pass the Texas House during the special session called by Gov. Mark White.

Leaders of the coalition Texans for the Lottery declined to release information about contributions, but Bill Fisher, legislative adviser for Southland, said the company had contributed "about \$40,000 to this point."

Fisher said the money was given for lobbying efforts during the state legislature's special session. He said he expects the pro-lottery coalition to be more involved during the legislature's regular session, "and that we will spend more then."

In Florida, contributions from Southland and Circle K, another convenience store chain, provided more than 30 percent of EXCEL's budget. Lottery-related businesses, led by G-Tech of Providence, R.I., and Scientific Games of Atlanta, accounted for more than half of EXCEL's income.

Florida is considered a critical state by strategists on both sides of the lottery issue since it would offer the gambling industry a toehold in the South which stubbornly has resisted the lottery push.

Willett acknowledged Southland's 7-Eleven stores stand to profit as potential ticket outlets if a lottery is approved. He said 7-Eleven stores already serve as ticket outlets in 17 of the 23 states, plus the District of Columbia, which now have state-run lotteries.

In addition to the customary 5 percent commission on every dollar of lottery tickets sold, 7-Elevens would benefit from increased "store traffic" as ticket buyers also pick up groceries and other items.

According to Fisher, Southland owns and operates about 1,800 stores in Florida and Texas. The 7-Eleven chain has been a financial bright spot for Southland, which reported operating losses of nearly \$90 million for the first quarter of 1986.

Despite the potential financial dividends, Willett stressed benefits for public education through lottery proceeds is the "primary reason" for Southland's involvement in the lottery campaign in Florida.

"Florida has a long history of close association with our company," he said. "An issue close to the hearts of Floridians is education, and we see the lottery as the most viable alternative to funding education in Florida."

Education Commissioner Ralph Turlington, a Southern Baptist who has led the EXCEL campaign, and other lottery proponents claim a lottery will add \$300 million in annual revenue for education.

Critics point out \$300 million represents only a fraction of the state's \$5 billion education budget and lottery publicity would make legislators and taxpayers less receptive to requests for more state and local tax money for schools.

Citing polls in both states indicating widespread public support for a lottery, Willett dismissed the possibility that Southland's lottery support could backfire with religious groups.

"We're simply aligning ourselves with the majority of the customers and the people in those neighborhoods where we do business," he said.

But gambling opponent Larry Braidfoot of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission disagreed.

"Having gained some favorable publicity, Southland is positioning itself to take advantage of a more financially lucrative activity through the sale of lottery tickets in two states blanketed with 7-Eleven stores," said Braidfoot. The commission's general counsel and director of Christian citizenship also coordinates the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, an organization composed of anti-gambling leaders from 19 states.

Braidfoot pointed out many of the same religious groups which applauded Southland for its decision to discontinue sales of sexually explicit magazines also have been leaders in campaigns against the lottery and other gambling initiatives.

Southland officials decided last April to pull Playboy and Penthouse from its sales racks after monitoring reports of the Attorney General's Taskforce on Pornography which cited ties between pornography and sexual violence and crime. Company spokesman Doug Reed added, however, "weakening support of the sale of adult magazines" also was a factor.

Playboy's circulation reportedly has declined by about 1.5 million in the last five years and Penthouse's circulation has dropped by more than 1 million.

**David Wilkinson is director of news services for the SBC Christian Life Commission.**

Brotherhood Commission photo by Jim Burton



**Roman Catholic-Southern Baptist hay lift**—Putnam County, Ga., farmers Everett Lowe (foreground), Charles Linch (at left in boxcar) and Roger Lamar, unload hay in Madison donated by Roman Catholic Dairy farmers in Iowa to dairy farmers in Georgia. Southeastern farmers have suffered the effects of a summer drought and do not have adequate feed for livestock. Lamar, a Southern Baptist who attends Jefferson Church, says the hay lift, "displays Christianity. People are reaching out to share their love in the community." Fifteen boxcars of hay were delivered to 15 Georgia counties, according to Cameron Byler, Baptist Men's director and national disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tenn. Madison was one of six drop points.

# Texas, Missouri Baptists fight economic battles

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Crises in the agricultural and petroleum industries have created a vexing problem for Southern Baptists—how to minister to friends, neighbors and fellow church members who have been strangled financially.

The problem has been acute the past couple of years. The price of oil has scraped the bottom of the barrel. Family farms have been plowed under in record numbers.

Two states epitomize the plight. Texans are trying to fight off the double-whammy effects, since their state's economy has been dependent on both farming and oil. Missourians have lost more family farms than their peers in any other state.

But Baptists in both states have not given up. Instead, they have crafted approaches to their situations which may become models for ministry in broad-scale economic crisis.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has responded by forming an economic crisis task force to handle problems created by the agribusiness recession and a collapse in oil prices.

Created in March as the more-narrowly focused farm crisis task force, the group included the state convention's area/associational missions coordinator as its chairman as well as the director of the state missions commission and representatives from the Texas Christian Life Commission, the church ministries section and church stewardship department of the state convention.

"The purpose of the task force is to gather and disseminate pertinent information about the Texas economic crisis and to discuss appropriate responses for individual churches, associations and the state convention to take in ministering to those who are hurting," said Ken Coffee, task force chairman.

Listening was the single agenda item when the task force met for its first meeting with a rural West Texas pastor, a director of missions and representatives from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas A & M University in College Station and the department of rural-urban ministries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. In that four-hour meeting, participants attempted to identify the various facets of the economic crisis in Texas and to talk about appropriate ways to minister.

After noting the effects on the state economy of a collapse in oil prices, the task force agreed by common consent its recommendations should address the larger economic crisis and not be limited solely to agricultural issues.

Renamed the economic crisis task force, the group met again in May to discuss recommendations by members. The task force agreed to promote and coordinate Texas Baptist participation in interdenominational events related to the economic crisis, including the annual Town and Country Church Conference and a series of one-day

workshops sponsored by the Texas Conference of Churches and to recommend Texas Baptist participation in sponsorship of the Farm Crisis Hotline.

The task force also made plans to produce a resource packet that would be made available upon request for pastors ministering in parts of the state particularly hurt by the recession. The group agreed the packet should include a briefing paper on the Texas economic crisis, meeting models for churches wishing to hold special events related to ministering in tough economic times and tracts on stewardship and money management. Also to be included was information about videotapes related specifically to the farm crisis.

In mid-July, the task force met to finalize its plans on the resource packet. The group agreed to distribute the briefing paper on the economic crisis in a statewide pastor mailing and to make the complete packet available upon request from the state convention after Aug. 15.

In Missouri, one telling statistic particularly is bleak. Between 1980 and 1985, the Farmers Home Administration repossessed 325 Missouri family farms totalling 79,369 acres.

Both of those figures led the nation, so Missouri Baptists felt it was up to them to lead the way among Baptist conventions responding to the farm crisis. The Missouri Baptist Convention executive board voted in July 1985 for the convention's missions department to create programs that would develop public awareness and provide training for religious leaders "to be supportive of people in their religious and emotional needs who are facing economic or vocational crisis."

The initial response to that action was production of a 30-minute documentary, "Come Before Winter: Missouri Baptists Relate to the Farm Crisis." The program has aired on 17 television stations in Missouri and surrounding states since its debut last October, reported Don Evans, associate director of the convention's missions department and producer of the "awareness video."

Additionally, Evans noted, Missouri Baptists have printed about 224 copies of the video to distribute nationally, and he has shown it more than 50 times this year.

The purpose of the video is to "enable and equip others to reach out in ministry," Evans said. "Our ministry concept is where there are hurting people, there is a real need for ministry. The convention has made an effort to multiply its ministry by equipping pastors and directors of missions to meet the needs of rural farm families and churches they are a part of."

The video, jointly funded by Missouri Baptists' state missions offering and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, features inter-

views with pastors, farm implement dealers, bankers, teachers and, of course, Missouri farmers.

According to Quentin Lockwood, director of the Home Mission Board's rural-urban missions department, "'Come Before Winter' creates an awareness of the crisis not only financially, but the crisis in the lives of the people and the needs of the church to minister to spiritual and emotional needs.

"It shows these are real people caught up in a crunch beyond themselves. These are good people, many of them brothers and sisters in Christ, who are hurting, and the rest of the family needs to be supportive."

The awareness video "has been a good tool to give to people to help create interest," Lockwood added. "It's something that didn't exist until Don (Evans) put it together."

Along with "Come Before Winter," the Missouri Baptist Convention also has produced six educational videos dealing with such specifics as counseling, stress, family tensions, bankruptcy and changing careers.

"We have developed the education videos to equip leaders, pastors and persons involved with rural families to better understand them and get a handle on how to minister to one another," Evans explained. He said the videos and farm crisis conferences sponsored by the convention help convention staff members become enablers and equipers.

"Rural people have been so much a part of Missouri Baptist life," he emphasized. "The people who had been the pillars of our rural churches have found themselves on the opposite end, in need rather than the givers."

As Evans prepared to complete another awareness video, this one dealing with what happens to farm families when they leave the farm, he added, "Our role is to make available tools for churches to use. It remains up to the local church to avail itself of the tools and to reach out in ministry."

**Ken Camp writes for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Trennis Henderson is associate editor of Word and Way, newsletter of Missouri Baptists.**

## New mission field added

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has transferred a missionary couple to a new mission field, St. Martin. Missionaries Bill and Elba Womack have moved to the Caribbean island to start Baptist churches. St. Martin, located about 150 miles east of Puerto Rico, has a population of 30,000 people. The southern half of the island is governed by the Netherlands Antilles; the northern half is a dependency of Guadeloupe. The Womacks will begin work among primarily English-speaking people in the southern area. The Womacks, both of Fredericktown, Mo., formerly worked in Antigua and Barbados.

## Convention Uniform

### *A covenant to live by*

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passages: Exodus 19:20-24

Focal passages: Exodus 19:1-6; 24:3-8

**Central truth:** People who want to be useful to God in accomplishing his purpose must be obedient to him.

With this lesson we begin a new series of four studies on the theme, "Covenant and Kingdom," in which we will be taking a look at God's dealings with the ancient Israelites as his chosen people to learn what we can about our own relationship with him as a part of his chosen people in our day.

(1) Arriving at Sinai (Ex. 19:1-2)

The first significant stop for the Israelites following their crossing of the Red Sea was to be at Sinai. This part of their journey took three months, and since God was leading them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, he apparently was using the time to get them ready for what turned out to be a most significant rendezvous.

(2) Preparation for the covenant (Ex. 19:3-6)

The message that came to the erstwhile slaves through Moses, from his meeting with God on Sinai was: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians (in delivering you out of slavery)... if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant... ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." To Israel's credit, she agreed to take part in a covenant with God before knowing what the terms were.

(3) A covenant ceremony (Ex. 24:3-8)

In their new freedom, the people did not have God's commandments imposed upon them. The basis of the covenant was voluntary acceptance. So it is with the covenant of grace (Christ's sacrificial death at Calvary). The lost are not coerced into a relationship with God, but we are moved to action by God's tender mercies; it is by the free exercise of our wills we surrender our lives to God, in repentance and faith.

When Moses "came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments," the people answered, "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do."

Unfortunately, both in the case of Israel and in churches today, there are many of us who seem to "grow weary of well doing," falling far short of our commitments and opportunities for Christian service. We need to remember that God's throne of grace is always open for reconciliation.

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## Life and Work

### *Prayer of thanksgiving*

by Janet Hamm Williams, Calvary Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Focal passage: Psalm 103:1-5; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; 1 Timothy 1:12-14

**Central truth:** God's people are to thank God for all his blessings.

"Thank you, God, for everything. Amen." Such words are often our condensed version of a prayer of thanksgiving. We are aware of our need to express gratitude to God but unwilling to spend time and thought in the process.

We must acknowledge that all blessings come from God. The psalmist enumerates specific reasons for thanksgiving (Ps. 103):

(1) God forgives our sins—infinity as far as the east is from the west (v. 12). He provides spiritual blessings through salvation, assurance and growth.

(2) God heals our diseases. Although he does not promise unlimited physical health, he provides strength for us to deal with disturbances which come our way. We can be grateful for the ways he restores us, whether physical or otherwise.

(3) He keeps us from the grave. He gives a promise of eternity. Life itself is a gift from God.

(4) God blesses us with love and mercy. The psalmist compares the greatness of God's love to the height of the sky above the earth (v. 11). We are unworthy of his endless blessings. How we take for granted such gifts as mental and emotional capabilities!

(5) He fills our lives with good things. The joy of fellowship with other believers is a priceless gift. God enables us to find fulfillment in whatever the circumstances where his will leads us. An analogy is made to his keeping us young and strong like an eagle (v. 5).

Paul exemplified an attitude of thanksgiving as he acknowledged the growth of the Christians at Corinth. Likewise, he thanked God for the strength to do his work. May we also identify specific blessings for which we are grateful.

As we enumerate God's acts of kindness toward us, let us seek to develop a consistent expression of gratitude in our daily living. Thanksgiving is not just for the mountaintop moments but for the rough spots as well!

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## Bible Book

### *Warning and encouragement*

by W. T. Holland, Boyce Bible School, Little Rock

Basic passage: Malachi 2:17-4:6

Focal passage: Malachi 3:1-4,7-12a; 4:4-6

**Central truth:** Malachi's prophecy about tithing and God's messenger of judgment teaches that tithing is essential for receiving God's blessings and that God judges all who refuse to repent and turn to him.

Malachi's message centers in the faithfulness of God in contrast to the unfaithfulness of his people.

Faced with the perennial problem, the apparent prosperity of the wicked (Job 21:7-16; Hab. 1:2-4,13), the people were cynical asking, "Where is the God of justice?" (2:17b). God's answer is in his promise to send a prophet to prepare the way for the Lord's coming (3:1). This is distinctly messianic fulfilled when God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus (Isa. 40:3; Matt. 11:10; Luke 1:17,76; 7:27).

But this promise is also a warning, "But who can endure the day of his coming...? (3:2). He will purify the sons of Levi (3:3) and 'draw near... for judgment' (3:5). He will be a swift witness against all those who do not fear him.

A convincing proof of the nation's turning aside from the Lord's statutes was in their failure to bring "the full tithes into the storehouse" (3:10). To the Old Testament Jew the tithes was the law (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21-24), to the New Testament Christian the tithes is to be the minimum response to grace (Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42). The proportionate amount is to be "as he may prosper" (1 Cor. 16:3).

On an annual basis a family of four with an income of \$20,000 a gift of \$2,000 would be worthy, for the same size family with an income of \$200,000 a gift of \$20,000 would be less than worthy. Now, as then, the blessing that comes to those faithful in "tithes and offerings," whether individuals or churches, is for the most part spiritual.

The prophet turns again to the cynics who say, "It is vain to serve God" (3:14). In contrast to the arrogant (3:15) he points to a faithful remnant who "feared the Lord" (3:16a) and supported one another. Not only is God merciful to them, their names are written in a "book of remembrance" (3:16b). They are his special possession (3:18a). God distinguishes "between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who does not" (3:18b).

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## Convention Uniform

## Celebrating justice

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: Leviticus 25

Focal passages: Leviticus 25:8-12, 25-28, 39-42

**Central truth:** In recognition of their dependence on God, people should be fair and generous in their dealings with one another.

Along with his giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses at Sinai, God gave other laws, including those affirming his ownership of the land and emphasizing nature's need for periods of rest and recovery. Highlighting today's study is God's concern for the unfortunate and oppressed and his calling for compassionate dealings by the "haves" for the "have-nots."

(1) Jubilee, a time of renewal (Lev. 25:8-11) The number seven was of great spiritual significance for the Hebrew people, being rooted in God's rest from his creative efforts on the seventh day of the creative week. Not only did God direct his chosen people to turn from their labors for a day of worship and rest each week, but he provided for a "sabbath of years," with the land to lie fallow every seventh year. Now the year of jubilee was to be a special year of celebrating liberty each 50th year. Persons were to be freed from social bondage and the seventh year rest for the soil was to be observed during this jubilee.

(2) Help for the poor (Lev. 25:25-28) The case is presented here of a person who had been compelled by poverty to sell his land. The year of jubilee gave opportunity for him or a relative in his behalf to buy the land back. In such transaction, the settlement was to be fair and equitable to all parties.

(3) Prospect for freedom (Lev. 25:39-42) The Bible's recognition of the practice of slavery is not to be seen as God's approval of this evil. This is something else that must be attributed to the hardness of men's hearts (Matt. 19:8). For the one caught in the tentacles of slavery, the year of jubilee was to bring release and, if he had been a family man, reunion with his wife and children.

God reminds us (v. 42) that our treatment of one another is to be determined by our acknowledgement of his goodness and mercy. We are never to lose sight of what the heavenly Father has done for us, through Christ, in saving us from the bondage of sin and death.

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## Life and Work

## God's good creation

by Bradley A. Rogge, Brookwood First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Genesis 1:1-25

Focal passage: Genesis 1:1-4, 7, 16-18, 21, 22-25

Central truth: God created a good world.

I grew up in one of the most beautiful places in our country. Before the hotels, restaurants and condos, Destin, Florida's white beaches, deep blue Gulf of Mexico waters and golden sun reflections in the early morning, were proof enough of God's creative power.

This passage tells us that all God had created was good. As I watched the fishing fleet leave each morning, I had a sense of peace and order within me.

Recently the scientific community watched with great interest as Halley's Comet sped through our solar system. Man has always been interested in the "lights" that were about the heavens. At one time people thought the universe had earth at its center; but with more knowledge came more understanding. Now we know that there is much we do not understand and the more we learn the more we can see the hand of God at work.

This passage points out so much we can be thankful for. All that has been created was created to provide for God's most marvelous creation, man.

We can be thankful for sunlight and air. We can praise God for water and food. We can say to God, "Without your creative plan, I would not have had the joy of these loved ones that surround me."

We know humans have been placed in a wonderful world. A world whose resources we have not always been good stewards of. We have polluted our air, water and land. But we as children of God can restore much that has been lost to waste.

As parents we expect our children to clean up their rooms, hang up their coats and act responsibly. God expects no less from his children than we expect from ours.

Thank you Lord for the earth, the sky and all creation. May we be good stewards of your gift.

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## Bible Book

## Jesus the eternal Word

by WW. Dishongh, Lancaster Road Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 1:1-18

Focal passage: John 1:1-18

Central truth: Jesus, the Word, is all that God is and the complete expression of him.

This passage tells us that Christ existed before the world was formed and through him all things were made. He is the light and life of men.

John knew that "the word" was significant to the Jew because of the Targums, the translation of the Old Hebrew to Aramaic. He knew the Greek term for "Word" was *logos* and to the Greek meant reason. The "Word" or "reason" of God is the controlling power that helps us discern between right and wrong. This knowledge should enable us to commit our lives to God's authority. The "Word" was not a created thing, it being with God in beginning. Here "the Word" is being applied to Christ who was before the world was formed. John's language tells us that "the Word" was the same character, quality and essence of God. Jesus is so perfectly the same as God in mind, heart and being that in him we see perfectly what God is like.

The "Word" was life and light. Light implies revelation which reveals the life that is in Jesus. This light puts chaos to flight. The darkness did not put out the light. A Christless life is a life in the dark. Christ's light shows things as they are and strips away any disguise and shows the very nakedness of sin. Life denotes salvation as provided by Christ's atoning death. This life is not just eternal existence, but a high quality of life lived on a high plane.

John the Baptist was a witness of the light, however we are not redeemed automatically for redemption comes through faith in Jesus. Christ's own refused him, but those who received him were given life. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" is literally "the Word became a person and took his abode in our being." Christ was God from all eternity, yet he came into sinful humanity in the incarnation. Jesus as God-man possessed all the attributes of deity and all the attributes common to man other than sin for he was sinless. Christ had to be sinless to die for man, but it was essential for him to be God to make the death effective. John bore witness. We are to bear witness verbally and with life; we must project Jesus as the eternal Word.

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## Second teacher group begins work in China

NANJING, China (BP)—A second group of foreign teachers invited by the Amity Foundation, a service organization established by Chinese Christians, has started a year or more of work in China.

The group, which includes seven Southern Baptists, swells the ranks of Amity-sponsored foreign teachers in China to 55. Along with teachers from the first group who are beginning a second year, the new group will be teaching English, German and Japanese language courses at 36 colleges and institutions in Shanghai and the provinces of Jiangsu, Fujian and Zhejiang.

Chinese Christians formed the Amity Foundation in 1985 to undertake health, education and social services in China. It is an independent organization not formally connected to Chinese churches. Its efforts, like the Amity Teachers Project, are open to Chinese and foreigners.

The new teachers attended a four-day orientation in late August at the newly opened conference center of Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. They heard presentations on the current situation in China, educational reform, language teaching, the Amity Foundation's work and Christianity in China.

"Now you have come to work with the Chinese people from within," said Ting Yen

Ren, Amity educational consultant. "In coming to China, many of you leave your families behind and you are prepared to adjust to a simple, harsh life in a Third World country." Amity staff members, he told the teachers, "really appreciate your spirit of self-sacrifice."

The 55 Amity teachers now in China were recruited by 14 different church-related agencies in nine countries, according to Philip Wicker, the organization's overseas coordinator. The seven Southern Baptists are related to Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptists' office for involvement in countries such as China where there is no missionary presence.

Another developing Amity project, a printing press for Chinese Bibles and Christian literature, recently changed sites. Foundation officials will cooperate with the Jiangning Industrial Corporation near Nanjing in constructing a plant for the press. Nanjing Normal University, the original site, withdrew from the project because it was unable to meet the technical needs of the press operation.

The Amity Printing Press, jointly supported by the foundation and the United Bible Societies, also will print other materials "of service to society," according to Amity officials.

## Killing of health workers reported in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)—First Baptist Church in Managua, Nicaragua, held a memorial service Sept. 11 for Baptist health worker Nestor Antonio Castiblanco and three other men reportedly killed by contra guerrillas.

Surviving family members told representatives of Proadvenic, the medical relief agency of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, that about 100 armed men came into San Jose de la Mula, an isolated mountain area in the province of Matagalpa, late on the night of July 31.

The men abducted Castiblanco, his brothers Daniel and Filemon and a brother-in-law, Jesus Barrera. Reports said the armed band also took clothing and valuables from each of the four men's homes and burned one home to the ground. One account added the band ransacked a small Baptist clinic operated by Castiblanco.

A search party found the bodies of the four abducted men the next morning. The bodies had multiple stab wounds and bore evidence

of torture, witnesses said.

Proadvenic officials in Managua, Nicaragua's capital, said they didn't learn of the killings for nearly two weeks because of the isolation of the region. A Proadvenic delegation later visited San Jose de la Mula to confirm the killings. One report said some 400 villagers fled the area after the killings.

Castiblanco had worked in the Matagalpa region since 1981, according to Proadvenic, helping improve health standards for children and families and promoting better food production. His two slain brothers worked with CEPAD, the Nicaraguan evangelical relief agency. Barrera was identified by Church World Service as a Roman Catholic social organizer.

Motives for the killings remain unclear. Contra guerrilla spokesmen consistently have denied charges that they kill or torture civilians. But they often accuse CEPAD officials and other religious workers of pro-government activities.

## Summer conference center attendance up slightly

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A combined summer attendance of 60,676 at Gloriaeta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Centers recorded a slight increase over 1985 attendance of 59,284, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board records show.

The 1986 total represents an increase of

1,392, or 2 percent, over the 1985 attendance figures.

At Ridgecrest, attendance was 32,183, an increase of 4 percent over the 1985 attendance of 30,964; the Gloriaeta total was 28,493, an increase of 1 percent over last year's figure of 28,320.

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