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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 24

December 1, 1994



Partnership
personalizes
annual foreign
missions focus for
Arkansas Baptists



Arkansas native Mike Kemper and his wife, Kathy, began serving this year as missionary associates in Bucharest, Romania, where he is pastor of the English language International Baptist Church.

Southern Baptist surgeon: Gospel worth risk in Gaza

By Mike Creswell

SEB Foreign Missions Board

GAZA (BP)—Imagine you arrived at work and had to follow a trail of fresh blood from the parking lot into your office.

This has been a repeated occurrence for Dean Fitzgerald, a Southern Baptist representative in Gaza who works as a surgeon at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. Fitzgerald and his wife, Dona, have lived in that silver of land beside Israel since 1978.

As the Palestinians have fought for rights and better lives, violence has routinely grabbed world headlines.

Conditions improved and spirits soared after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed a self-rule pact May 4. Still, the peace that followed has been delicate as Palestinian factions have argued among themselves over leadership.

Violence shattered Gaza City Nov. 18 after Palestinian police and demonstrators clashed. Fifteen people were killed and more than 150 were injured; 26 of them were treated at Fitzgerald's hospital.

Recently Fitzgerald recalled the many nights and days of white-knuckles tension when his quick surgeon's stitches guided by Christian compassion hung onto life for many who would have died otherwise.

Between 1987 and May 1994 the Palestinians carried out the "Intifada," a

resistance to Israel's occupation of Gaza. Often for weeks at a time curfews kept the Fitzgeralds mostly indoors; strikes closed shops and businesses. Anyone on the streets illegally risked being attacked by bands of roaming Palestinians.

Being in Gaza, period, was enough to guarantee a life ever on the edge of danger. But as a surgeon Fitzgerald virtually tip-toed on the knife edge between life and death as he ministered to those caught up in the periodic outbreaks of fighting. In 1988-89, he and other doctors at Ahli Arab Hospital treated about 600 patients wounded by plastic bullets fired by Israeli soldiers.

Even arriving at the hospital after clashes was traumatic. "Sometimes it was controlled chaos, sometimes uncontrolled," he recalled.

"There were times I thought, man, I'm out of here. This is just too much," he said. "But for me personally, my Christian faith helped me maintain my sanity. I felt like I was doing the Lord's work. I would remember that Jesus healed the people before trying to talk to them."

Christian witness is never easy in a Muslim land. But Baptists have ministered in Gaza for 40 years through medical ministries and nurses' training.

They have stayed amid war and rumor of war, because they believe the Christian gospel is worth the risk.

Risk

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

Dec. 4-11, 1994

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$86 million
Arkansas Goal: \$3 million

Cover Story

ABN photo / Travels Henderson



Partners in ministry 8-11

Mike and Kathy Kemper, missionary associates in Bucharest, Romania, are among 4,000 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries who benefit from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Arkansas Baptists' current missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention provides churches and individuals an opportunity to personalize the annual foreign missions emphasis.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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Missions department outlines '95 Iowa needs

Churches preparing for missions projects in 1995 have several options in Iowa, according to Arkansas state missions department leaders. The opportunities are a part of the five-year partnership between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Opportunities range from revival teams to a new church-starting initiative to summer volunteers working in Vacation Bible Schools and summer festivals.

Jimmy Barrentine, director of the ABSC missions department, said Arkansas efforts in Iowa in 1995 "will revolve around involvement in key partnership projects." Many of the projects can be filled through the newly completed *1995 Projects Directory*, which lists construction and ministry requests from Iowa churches.

Andrea Ramage, a US-2 home missionary assigned to the department, said the directory is available from her office upon request. She said it is a listing of 59 projects divided by Iowa associations and Arkansas districts. It has a brief project description and an Iowa contact person.

"Once the directory is out of our office," she explained, "it is the responsibility of the Arkansas team leader, church leader or individual to contact the Iowa contact person and work out the details of what they want to do."

Barrentine reported Arkansas Baptists completed 35 of 50 requested projects last year. "Most of the uncompleted projects were very small construction and repair requests," he added.

Noting that she receives requests each month, Ramage said, "Feel free, if you don't find anything in the directory you would like to do, to call me and find other requests we can fill for your church."

Barrentine said the highest number of

project requests are for Vacation Bible School leaders.

"Vacation Bible School is critical to the partnership," he emphasized. "Education is important to Iowans and they see religious education as a viable tool. They will allow their children to attend a VBS when they won't let them go to any other (church-related) event. It is the single most effective outreach tool we have."

Ramage said the projects she is "most excited about are requests for teams to help with county fair and Fourth of July celebrations," providing church groups an opportunity "to sing and do clowning or drama as an outreach tool."

Church-starting teams

Among other new partnership projects is a call for 50 church-starting teams to work in the northeast part of Iowa.

"We need at least 50 teams to work for one week or more at a time doing community canvassing, Backyard Bible Clubs and other cultivative ministries," Barrentine explained. "This is an ideal project for Campers on Mission members and others with recreational vehicles."

Ramage said the church starter teams will go for longer periods of time because relationships are necessary to help start new congregations. "Churches can sponsor a retired couple who go and stay for a month or two in the summer, or they can sponsor two college students, a staff person and wife to do a project, or an association can sponsor a couple."

Barrentine reported success with "Project 15," an ongoing statewide Iowa church-starting effort. "This is a concerted effort to form partnerships with Iowa associations to start new churches in Iowa counties without a Southern Baptist

presence," he said. "We have already established at least one church in five counties."

He said churches or associations wishing to join the Project 15 program "must be ready for a long-term commitment" of two or three years.

Also new to partnership requests is a call for 1995 Here's Hope revival teams.

Ramage said evangelism teams for the revivals have been "highly requested. There are a lot of requests for revivals in April and May for evangelism teams consisting of a preacher and music leader to lead weeklong revivals."

"In some cases," added Barrentine, "the pastor and music leader will want to take up to two others to serve as outreach leaders for community contacts."

Barrentine said for pastors and staff members available to stay longer than a week, Iowa has requested volunteer interim staff. He said positions are open for six-to-24-month terms and encouraged volunteers to contact him immediately.

Barrentine and Ramage urged Arkansas Baptists interested in missions work in Iowa to contact one of eight district partnership coordinators in Arkansas.

Coordinators include: Harold Gateley, Northwest District, phone 521-1295; Ed Powers, North Central District, phone 453-2575; Harold Ray, Northeast District, phone 935-5134; Jeff Cheatham, West Central District, phone 967-1792; Marvin Peters, Central District, phone 834-6060; Jim Edwards, East Central District, phone 676-6558; Don Jones, Southwest District, phone 845-3236; and Lonnie Latham, Southeast District, phone 226-7534.

For general information about the partnership, contact Barrentine or Ramage at the ABSC missions department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5193.

Philippine Baptist prisoners in Saudi Arabia freed

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA (BP)—Two Baptists jailed for holding a Bible study in Saudi Arabia were released and sent home to the Philippines Nov. 16, church workers report.

The two Philippine Baptists, Joel Cunanan and Jun Moya, were freed unharmed after nearly three months in custody.

Five other Filipinos were released shortly after the Bible study was broken up Aug. 26 by Saudi Muslim "religious police."

The fate of another Philippine Christian, one of eight detained by the Saudis, remains unclear.

The eight were arrested for conducting a private home Bible study attended only by Philippine Christian contract workers. Saudi Arabia strictly forbids the evangelizing of Saudi Muslims, who can face death for converting to Christianity, along with those who influence them to convert.

After his arrest, Cunanan was placed in solitary confinement for 17 days for preaching to other prisoners. He told of being interrogated and asked if he believed Jesus Christ was God. When he answered yes, a guard lifted his weapon to hit him. But the interrogator, he said, put off his hand and stopped the guard.

Other Philippine Christians have experienced beatings or even death for practicing their faith in Saudi Arabia.

Cunanan is a member of Magalang Baptist Church in the Mount Pinatubo area of the Philippines. While in prison, he wrote to his non-Christian parents and adult brothers and sisters, asking them to attend a Bible study led by his pastor. On returning home, he found his parents and three siblings had accepted Christ as Savior.

Many Philippine Christians and missionaries are calling the release an answer to prayer. The case attracted international attention. The American Center for Law and Justice offered to assist the Philippine government in seeking the release of Cunanan, Moya and other Philippine Christians held for practicing their faith in Saudi Arabia. The center is a public interest law firm that defends the rights of religious believers in the United States.

Religious prisoners in Saudi Arabia, especially those from developing nations like the Philippines, have long suffered physical and psychological torture, according to human rights groups.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

Reports at our annual convention revealed that Southern Baptist work is growing in the state and beyond. It can only be because of the Lord's mercies. We know ourselves to be unworthy of the blessings of our Almighty God. We give praise and glory to Him who is worthy.

Why does He use us as Arkansas Baptist churches? It seems He has "placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name" (Rev. 3:8).

One thing that has made it possible for God to use us is our commitment to missions. From the first constitution in 1848, the convention's purpose has been centered in the promotion and support of missions around the world. The present document states, "The purpose of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is to assist the churches of the Convention in fulfilling their mission, and to encourage cooperative support of and involvement in our world mission enterprise."

This is being done, yet much remains to be done. Mission education is being grossly neglected in most churches. People can be enlisted to cook, mow, paint, drive and coach, but it is difficult to find people who will lead missions organizations. Other organizations are being introduced into our church ministries in place of missions organizations that have no connection with SBC missions. Mission offerings are being merged and mission studies are being ignored. We must pay the price to enter the doors He is opening.

Our members gave only 2.38 percent of their income to the Lord's work last year. Think what the reports might have reflected if tithes had been given! A massive Lottie Moon Offering is needed this year to undergird the work of foreign missions. Who will lead this effort in your church?

Pastors, deacons and finance committees bear the burden for growing or shriveling a missions people. "Just Down The Street" is a new video you can use to lead members to greater mission support. You can order it from our offices.

SHERRY GRIFFIN

Woman's Viewpoint

'O come, let us adore Him'

One of the most wonderful times in life is that joyful occasion when a baby comes into our world.

We are reminded as we hold this newborn child of how precious life really is. What joy fills our hearts as we gaze at the perfect fingers and tiny eyelashes! What proof of God's pure love all wrapped in a bundle in our arms. What attention, care, preparation and love is poured on these small but perfect humans at Christmas time.

We are reminded of the Baby Jesus and how His birth fulfilled the prophecy of God's salvation. How much fuss and care do we pour over Jesus each day? Do we speak to Him sweetly and profess our love to Him as we would an infant? Does Jesus know we are so thankful for His birth and blessed by His presence?

As you celebrate this Christmas season, pay special attention to the words of our joyful carols. "Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light. With the angels let us sing alleluia to our king. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

We can be just as near to Jesus as we can be to a newborn, and He is waiting to hear our soft songs of adoration this Christmas.

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

Personal perspectives

"We have such an opportunity to influence much of Europe for Christ far beyond the relatively small numbers that are in our churches. We believe these opportunities are going to expand throughout the partnership (with Arkansas Baptists)."

—John Merritt, general secretary, European Baptist Convention

"God has opened up new doors beyond our greatest expectations. Every week we see His hand working out His plan."

—Tom Hill, pastor, Bethel International Baptist Church, Frankfurt, Germany

"Be obedient not only to what our Lord calls us to do, but which He enables us to do and equips us to do. The opportunity is here. The commission is here. The door has opened already....Be brave enough to take the first step."

—Pavel Vychopen, general secretary, Baptist Convention of the Czech Republic

"There have been several times when I was involved in ministry where the Lord would say, 'This is why I brought you here.'"

—Mike Kesper, pastor, International Baptist Church, Bucharest, Romania

It's worth the risk

"Risk", the theme for the 1994 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions echoes Arkansas Baptists' 1993 state missions theme, "Take the Risk." Another familiar aspect of this year's Lottie Moon emphasis is the focus on Europe during the annual foreign missions study.

Many of the countries highlighted in the study are the same nations where Arkansas Baptists have an opportunity to become involved through church partnerships, prayer support and personal participation in mission projects as part of our three-year missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention.

In today's world, foreign missionaries are at the forefront of taking the gospel into areas of risk. While those of us on the home front provide prayers and financial support to undergird worldwide ministry efforts, our missionaries and their families sacrifice the comforts and security of home in response to God's call.

Among the day-to-day risks faced by many of our missionaries are religious

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



persecution and misunderstanding, civil war and other armed conflicts, escalating crime, poor health care and the threat of widespread disease. In the face of such challenges and danger, why do missionaries persevere? Because of God's clear call.

Former Arkansas Baptist pastor Mike Kemper, who began serving earlier this year as a pastor in Romania, described the

recent professions of faith in Christ by two young men in his congregation. Affirming that such victories help confirm his decision to serve God overseas, Kemper added, "There have been several times when I was involved in ministry where the Lord would say, 'This is why I brought you here.'"

Even with the risks faced by foreign missionaries, we must remember that geographical distance is not the primary factor in obedience to God. The key is discovering and fulfilling God's will wherever He has placed us. For most of us, that includes faithful support of Southern Baptists' 4,000 foreign missionaries through diligent prayer and generous financial gifts. For some, it means joining the ranks of fellow Christians who are serving God around the world as career missionaries and mission volunteers.

Whatever God calls you to do during this year's foreign missions emphasis, make a commitment to respond effectively and enthusiastically. It's worth the risk!

Letter misses the mark

As reported in an article on page 19 and a letter to the editor on page 5 in the October 6 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, Dr. Keith Parks, 13-year president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, recently spoke in Arkansas.

While the page 19 article was factual and straightforward, the letter from Warren Watkins was confusing. Reading his letter makes it hard to realize that he and I sat near each other during this meeting.

Mr. Watkins suggests that the meeting was "an organizational meeting to raise grassroots support for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" and "this was confirmed" during the meeting. However, I did not hear or see any evidence of a move to organize anything nor anyone. There were no actions, stated or implied, regarding the formation of any organization. His use of the phrase "donations were solicited" to describe subscriptions to a periodical is a bit far-fetched.

In addition, other statements attributed to Dr. Parks missed the mark. He did not predict that the "Cooperative Program would become fragmented in the future to the point of uselessness."

All Southern Baptists believe in proper control and accountability for each SBC-supported entity. Through the years this has been vested in boards and commissions. Historically, we have relied on the recommendations from a broad-based network of spiritually motivated groups and individuals to fill these positions. Now,



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the leadership of the Holy Spirit has been replaced by a political process that is controlled by a few.

Mr. Watkins wonders why he was sent an invitation to "this dismal gathering." How was it he did not hear that CBF is working to take the Good News to the 25 percent of the world's global population who have never heard the gospel.

Dr. Parks was very clear when he said, "I have been, am now and will continue to be a Southern Baptist." All who know Dr. Keith Parks realize that Mr. Watkins either did not hear what Dr. Parks said or intentionally misrepresented him.

Trudy Thomason
Pine Bluff, AR

No need for resurgence

For many years politicians have been aware of "The Big Lie" technique. If you say a lie loud enough and often enough there are always some people that will believe it. This technique has been used recently in our Southern Baptist Convention with the term "conservative resurgence." It has become the politically correct term to use if you want to get appointed to a convention board or get invited to speak at a conference. In fact,

there has been no conservative resurgence in our convention.

There has been no need for a conservative resurgence in the institutions I have been associated with. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention was just as conservative in the '60s and '70s as it is today. Under the leadership of conservative scholars such as Russell Dilday, the seminary I attended, Southwestern, has never wavered from its commitment to conservative Bible-based theology. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has always been theologically conservative and trustworthy. There may be isolated areas in our convention where there has been a conservative resurgence; however, the only resurgence we have experienced recently is one of dishonest labeling, ego-centered politics and fear.

I have noticed many of the people using the term "conservative resurgence" are from non-Southern Baptist seminaries or from churches that have not been strong supporters of our Cooperative Program and missions efforts. It may be that there was a need for a conservative resurgence in their schools and churches or that they are not well informed about the SBC.

The best way to help our convention remain conservative would be to allow each state convention a voice in selecting their representatives on SBC boards and commissions. This would keep any one political organization from controlling the appointment process.

Ron West
Booneville, AR

Marriage enrichment? No excuses

Editor's Note: Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine associate editor Russell Dikay and his wife, Suzanne, a high school English teacher, attended Arkansas Baptists' first-ever Fall Festival of Marriage in Hot Springs Oct. 28-30. Following is their first-person account of the event:

Russell: We both had a list of several excuses for not going to the Fall Festival of Marriage, although we had heard many good things about it. But, as is usual with excuses, there was little substance to them once we got there and started having fun.

Suzanne: One of our main excuses was that it's always tough to take a whole weekend out of our schedule to devote to one activity.

R: In addition to the time factor, we anticipated an "older" set of participants that we wouldn't relate well with. Suz is 27 and I'm 30 and we don't have any children, so we anticipated spending the festival trying to relate to parents who were running away from their kids for a weekend.

S: It wasn't hard, though, to convince me to spend a weekend in Hot Springs. The Sunday School Board really picked a great location to hold the first Fall Festival held in the state. There are a variety of activities that appeal to a wide range of interests: great restaurants, shopping and historical sites and the weather was perfect for being out-of-doors hiking and walking around town.

R: I noticed that a lot of other people agreed with you. In fact, 561 people attended the event (the sound operator was single, making it an odd number). It was the largest first-time Fall Festival ever held at a hotel location. Event planners noted that participants came from 11 states and ranged from Shawn and Michelle Preston from Tennessee, who had been married four months, to Daniel and June Barrencamp from Texas, who had been married 44 years.

Gerald Jackson, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention discipline and family ministry department, was pleased with the attendance. "The Arkansas Festival Task Force said if we had 150 couples, it would be a rousing success for a first-time festival in Arkansas," he said. "We were real pleased with attendance. It became obvious that it would go way over 150 when the early registrations came in."

S: Once we registered at the Arlington Hotel where the Festival was held, we noticed dozens of couples outrage. I talked to Gerald, who said he was "amazed" at the number of couples "younger than me



and Ruby (Jackson's wife), I think there were only three couples there who had been married longer than we have been," he told me.

He added, however, that "marriage enrichment is for couples of all ages."

R: I noticed the younger couples, too. David Huebner, Fall Festivals coordinator for the Sunday School Board, told me, "The median age for the festivals is ages 26-44." It was a surprise for me. He also noted that "the fastest-growing group of participants were age 60 and above." Finding that time spent in Hot Springs was worthwhile and that there were plenty of other participants our age had shot down two of our excuses for not going.

"We anticipated spending the festival trying to relate to parents who were running away from their kids for a weekend."

S: But we also didn't look forward to spending hours sitting side-by-side in conferences. We would rather enrich our marriage spending time together than for someone else to take conference time to tell us how to do it.

According to David, most participants agree. "Free time to be together is ranked number one on the majority of our evaluation forms," he said. "Workshops are ranked second."

I was pleasantly surprised to discover that an entire afternoon of free time was

scheduled on Saturday. It was a welcome break from the workshop activities.

R: The workshop material was interesting, mainly because we were able to choose from 21 different topics. David told me that is by design.

"We are the only marriage enrichment retreat that blends small group, one-on-one and couples share time," he told me. "We are also the only one that doesn't parent people or tell you where to go. You choose the conference workshops yourself."

S: Russ and I chose to attend several workshops, including "Celebrating Sex in Marriage," because we thought it would spice up this editorial (Russ' mother reads the *Newsmagazine*). We also attended "Communication: The Key to Friendship," "Friendship Builders: Becoming Your Spouse's Best Friend" and "From Good Sex to Great Sex." They seemed to relate to us better than others offered, like "Becoming Friends with Your Preteen Child" or "How Your Past Affects Your Marriage."

R: Others thought the workshops we attended were interesting, too. They were packed. Some of the workshop leaders were unprepared for the numbers of people who attended. One leader told our workshop that he had planned to break us into a few small groups for discussion, but had reconsidered when he saw 150 participants lining the walls of the conference room. It's a good problem to have, at least.

S: Did you see any that weren't good?

R: I want a retreat to be less commercial, I guess. We were swamped with Sunday School Board promotional materials for Board programs and literature and two of our workshops included visual bibliographies of books located at the Baptist Book Store at the festival. I went to get away from commercials and focus on us.

S: That didn't really bother me. So many other good things such as the music and drama team of Steve and Patti Gabrielse, meeting new friends and having someone else make up the bed for me made the weekend that much more enjoyable.

R: Next year sounds like it will be just as good. It will be held again at the Arlington Hotel and Gerald said the theme will be "Regarding Romance." He said the keynote speakers will be Otis and Deigie Andrews from Macon, Ga., co-authors of *Husbands and Wives: The Best of Friends*.

By the way, what was your favorite part of this year's Festival?

S: Spending time knee-to-knee with my best friend.

R: Amen.

BSSB's Draper appoints Warren as interim CEO

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Baptist Sunday School Board president James T. Draper Jr. has announced he will recommend to trustees the creation of the position of chief operating officer among actions to strengthen the board's financial operations for 1995 and beyond.

Draper said he is creating the position and taking other steps to improve budget management in light of 1993-94 financial results in which the board generated record revenues of \$224.6 million but operated at a loss of \$8.2 million.

The 1993-94 revenue total of \$224.6 million represents an 8 percent increase over 1992-93 revenues of \$208 million. The negative \$8.2 million in funds provided from operations compares to a negative \$2.1 million in 1992-93. Board reserves totaled \$49.5 million at year end.

Ted Warren will assume the chief operating officer's post immediately on an interim basis, pending trustee approval in February 1995. Warren has been chief financial officer and vice president of the business services group since February, 1994.

Warren, 47, will have responsibility for daily operations of the board and will report to the president. Draper said the new structure will "enable me to focus more on development of strategies, formulation of policies and strengthening of convention relationships."

Vice presidents Gene Mims and Charles Wilson and executive director for corporate affairs Mike Arrington will report to Warren. Draper said Warren will continue to direct the business services group while a search is begun for a replacement.

"While the board is in the enviable position of having resources to absorb this kind of loss for the short term, we are taking immediate steps to change the way we do business and improve results for 1994-95," Draper said.

He said his proposed actions received the endorsement of the trustee officers and committee chairmen and vice chairmen during a Nov. 15 meeting in Nashville.



Warren

Tucker to retire as head of ABSC chaplaincy, continuing education

Carter Tucker, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. Tucker, who has served on the convention executive board staff since 1989, is the director of chaplaincy ministries and continuing theological education. Marion Reynolds will succeed him effective Jan. 1.

As chaplaincy director, Tucker has supervised 10 ABSC staff chaplains, including five full-time chaplains. "We are probably the only state convention that has any staff chaplains," he noted. He said full-time ABSC chaplains are ministering in two prisons, a human development center, a rehabilitation center and a youth services center.

He also has been responsible for enlisting and training volunteer chaplains for law enforcement and fire departments and serving as a resource for military chaplains in the state.

Tucker said helping the chaplaincy ministry has been the most rewarding part of his tenure at the convention. "Chaplains have the opportunity of taking the gospel to people who can't or won't go to church.

"The world really doesn't go to church," he noted. "So chaplains take the church to the world.

"We've averaged about 800 professions of faith annually," Tucker said of the chaplaincy ministry. "That's just our employed chaplains through sheer old personal work."

Department director Jimmy Barrentine said Tucker "has excelled in everything he has touched. Everything he has done he has done at a high level, especially with the enlistment, training and encouragement of volunteer chaplains."

Barrentine noted he recently received a letter from an Arkansas sheriff who said "the best thing he ever did was bring on a chaplain" who had been recruited by Tucker.

John Belken, chaplain for the Arkansas Department of Corrections North Central Unit in Calico Rock, said Tucker "has been a pastor to the chaplains in the state. He's like a tow truck pulling a tow truck; a helper helping a helper. He's more than a supervisor, he's a friend to the chaplains.

"Carter Tucker knows firsthand what it's like to be on the front line of ministry," Belken said. "Not only from prison ministry, but literally in Vietnam. Because he's been a pastor, Army chaplain, prison chaplain

and a Baptist employee, he's like Paul — he's been all things to all men."

Tucker was a United States Army chaplain for 15 years, serving in the U.S., Germany and in two tours of duty in Vietnam. He retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1981.

"As far as a feel-needed service, my tours in Vietnam were the most rewarding," he said. "Back then there was so much turmoil, but guys were so open to the gospel. I baptized guys in shell holes and canals, even off China Beach."

Tucker, a native of Monticello, also has served as pastor of churches in Dumas, Melbourne, El Dorado and in Weinert, Texas, and as chaplain for the Arkansas Department of Corrections Cummins Unit.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas; the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and the master of arts degrees from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and Long Island University in Brooklyn, N.Y.

As ABSC director of Continuing Theological Studies, Tucker has supervised the Little Rock-based work of Boyce Bible School, Southwestern Seminary's branch studies, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's doctor of ministry program and Seminary Extension.

"I've seen a lot of good things happen with Seminary Extension in the prisons," Tucker affirmed. "I've seen it go from zero to about a dozen enrolled."

Tucker has had the theological studies job a year, said Barrentine, noting that he "has done a good job of recruiting teachers and organizing curriculum."

One of the "highlights" of his five-and-a-half year tenure working for Arkansas Baptists has been "rubbing shoulders with the many people who work at the Baptist Building," Tucker said.

"Often denominational servants are looked at askance," he noted. "But they are real servants."

Tucker will move to Georgia following his term of service. "It's the only way I can get close to my grandkids," he said of the out-of-state move.

Emphasizing that Tucker's service has been one of care, Barrentine said Tucker "genuinely cares for people. Carter Tucker is the chaplain of the state missions department. He's our chaplain quite literally and frankly."



Tucker

European Baptists shift focus from military to internationals

By Treannis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"You either adjust to your culture or you die," explained Mike Hester, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Madrid, Spain. His congregation and others throughout the European Baptist Convention have chosen to adjust.

The adjustment has been the convention's gradual move from ministering primarily among American military families to an intentional focus on reaching the English-speaking international community. The EBC, which was established in the 1950s, currently has more than 60 congregations throughout Europe.

"Changing to international churches is the future of the EBC with the downgrade of the military," Hester said. "English has become such a strong, strong second language throughout Europe. The opportunities are greater as God is shifting our focus to those people."

Although the shift toward an international focus has been a long-term goal, convention leaders agree that the end of the Cold War and the drawdown of military personnel has increased the urgency of implementing the new vision. In fact, several congregations located near military bases were unable to survive the drawdown.



Through a determined effort to plant new churches in key cities throughout Europe, however, the EBC has experienced a net growth in congregations. Fifteen new English-language churches have been started in the past three years in such cities as Moscow, Kiev, Ukraine; and Waterloo, Belgium. New works are expected to begin soon in Rotterdam, Netherlands; Nice, France; and Bratislava, Slovakia.

EBC general secretary John Merritt

described international ministry as "a great, great opportunity for Christian witness," adding that "the national Baptist unions see this as a great open door to witness to foreigners who come into their country."

Along with the positive opportunities, Merritt acknowledged that the loss of some established churches has hurt the EBC financially, with current receipts funding only about 83 percent of the budget. Messengers to the recent EBC annual meeting approved a 1995 convention budget of \$350,000, a cut of more than \$43,000 from the '94 budget.

Despite the financial pinch, the new budget will move the convention closer to self-support by funding the salary of the general secretary. Through 1994 Merritt has received his salary from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He termed the move a "giant step forward" as the convention "reaches another level of autonomy."

Merritt said the three-year missions partnership with Arkansas Baptists has come at an ideal time as the EBC seeks to strengthen existing churches and continue planting new congregations in major European cities.

Urging Arkansas Baptist churches to respond to specific partnership requests, Merritt said current ministry opportunities provide "a new frontier. We have such an opportunity to influence much of Europe for Christ far beyond the relatively small numbers that are in our churches. We believe these opportunities are going to expand throughout the partnership."

Military drawdown hits European Baptist churches

How do congregations cope when 90 percent of their members are transferred out of the country? "The main thing," according to international pastor Mike Hester, "is to get on your knees and pray...and move where God is working."

Hester, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Madrid, Spain, doesn't mean move to another congregation; he means move the focus of ministry in response to God's leadership.

"God did not call me here to watch a church die but to reach out to internationals," Hester explained. When he and his wife, Suzie, arrived on the church field in 1989, 90 percent of the 60-member congregation was military.

"We were immediately faced with the fact the military was drawing down," he said. Within a year, the church still had 60 members but the makeup of the congregation was now 100 percent international. "That's a lot of growth even though it doesn't show," Hester affirmed.

Although the church faced an obvious "crisis point," Hester said, "We've made the turn. It's really exciting to be here."

Describing his "new" congregation as "a taste of heaven," he pointed out, "We have literally red and yellow, black and white." He said a recent service included 80 people from 19 countries.

"God gave us a vision when we first got here," Mrs. Hester said. "When God gives a vision, He is going to fulfill it."

Tom Hill is pastor of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany, one of the two founding churches of the European Baptist Convention.

"My commitment to an international church was made when I interviewed with the search committee at Bethel in 1990," Hill said. "My stance was if the Lord calls me to Bethel, we ought to be an international church regardless of what happens to the military because Frankfurt is one of the greatest mission opportunities I know of."

Noting that "the drawdown has hit Frankfurt full force," Hill explained, "By the summer of 1995, Bethel will be devoid of an American military presence. If we had clung to the concept that our ministry and our future is related to the American community — especially the military — we might well be contemplating closing our doors within the next year."

Instead, Hill added, "Last Sunday, an Army colonel said the drawdown has been a great blessing to Bethel because it is moving us to reach out and truly become international which we should have done all along."

Although attendance has declined with the loss of half the church's resident members in the past six months, Hill said Bethel continues to attract new families. "In a recent month, we had three families come into the church representing six nationalities."

Despite the obvious challenges, he added, "Because our people have reached out and God has brought people to us, I feel our greatest days are ahead...God has opened up new doors beyond our greatest expectations. Every week we see His hand working out His plan."

Arkansans encourage European partners

Arkansas Baptists played prominent roles in two recent convention gatherings. In addition to last month's Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, Arkansas Baptists participated in the Oct. 26-27 European Baptist Convention annual meeting in Metterich, Germany.

The EBC, an organization of more than 60 English-language churches throughout Europe, is in the first year of a three-year missions partnership with Arkansas Baptists. Focusing on the theme, "Dare...To Ask...To Knock...To Seek...To Receive," messengers from more than 40 churches in a dozen countries were represented in the convention's opening roll call.

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, was a featured speaker during the EBC annual meeting. He also preached three sermons during the EBC Evangelism Conference which preceded the annual meeting. Rob Hewell, director of the ABCS church music ministry department, led music for both events.

The Evangelism Conference also featured messages by Jim Lagrone, pastor of First Southern Church in Bryant, and Paul McClung, an associate in the ABCS evangelism department. Other Arkansas Baptists participating in the meetings were Doyle Plummer, interim partnership coordinator, and Trennis Henderson, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine.

Horne urged international Baptists to adopt a lifestyle of evangelism that draws people to Jesus.

"If people are going to be reached in large numbers, they are not all going to be reached by preachers but by reachers," Horne explained. Citing the example of Philip serving as a "preaching layman," Horne said: "In every place he preached.... In every order he was obedient.... For every man he had a message.... In every Scripture he saw the Savior."

Challenging laypeople to follow Philip's example, Horne emphasized, "We have to rediscover the gospel is good news. We're not trying to force on people something that is bad."

Noting that "God is at work all over the world," McClung told European Baptists, "I believe there is another great awakening yet to come. I don't know what it's going to take to bring about the next great awakening but I do know who's going to send it if it comes. It will come from the supernatural power of Almighty God.

"God's people are going to have to be right with God and they're going to have to be right with their fellow man" in order to help facilitate spiritual awakening, he added.

"The lost world is hungry for the gospel



European Baptist Convention general secretary John Merritt (at pulpit) introduces new pastors and wives during the recent EBC annual meeting.

and they've got to see that gospel in us," McClung said. "If God is your heavenly Father, act like it."

Lagrone urged fellow believers to "preach Jesus unapologetically, with boldness, in season and out of season." Affirming the need to "preach Jesus without hesitation," he added, "God has put us here to do a job and we've got to do it."

Lagrone said keys to effective church growth include the pastor's desire for church growth, the people's desire for church growth and a willingness to work. "Great things of God do not happen without effort," he acknowledged. "It takes sweat, it takes time, it takes effort."

Describing Jesus' willingness to serve His disciples by washing their feet, Lagrone concluded, "Jesus wants us to pick up our towels and get down on our hands and knees and be what He has called us to be."

'Impossible possibility'

EBC president Bill Clark Thomas, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Paris, France, challenged messengers to seek the "impossible possibility" of God's holiness. Acknowledging that holiness "is humanly impossible," he added, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

Emphasizing that the key to achieving holiness is God's decision to set apart His chosen people, Thomas urged fellow believers to pursue holiness "by righteous living in the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us."

Paul Box, who is concluding seven years of ministry in Europe, shared during the convention sermon about lessons he

has learned as a missionary pastor in Singapore, Malaysia and Germany.

"I have learned to trust and honor and rejoice in the presence of God," he affirmed. "If there is anything I know, it is that He is present."

"You can trust in not only the presence of God but the power of this book," he said of the Bible. "All I know is the book is true and when people get into the book, they are forever changed."

"I praise God's wonderful name for the church," Box continued. "And He is not finished with His church — not in China, not in Russia, not in Romania, not anywhere in the world."

Messengers also heard a message from Pavel Vychopen, general secretary of the Baptist Convention of the Czech Republic. Describing "50 years of isolation under the communist regime," Vychopen said Czech Baptists "lack qualified leaders in practically all areas."

Challenging Christians to "dare to knock on doors of opportunity in Europe," he added, "Such opportunity exists nearly everywhere on the continent of Europe."

"A completely new horizon has opened before you to serve those who speak English in Europe," he said. "Your task is really unique to offer a network of churches all over Europe in major cities to contribute to the new spiritual face of Europe."

"Be obedient not only to what our Lord calls us to do, but which He enables us to do and equips us to do," Vychopen urged. "The opportunity is here. The commission is here. The door has opened already.... Be brave enough to take the first step."

'This is why we came'

Arkansan leads international Baptist ministry in Bucharest, Romania

By Treanni Henderson
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Bucharest, Romania, is a city of contrasts. Horse-drawn wagons compete with taxis and buses on narrow, pothole-riddled streets. Stylish teenagers stroll past elderly, impoverished street vendors. And the lavish People's Palace, constructed by former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu who was executed in 1989, stands in stark contrast to rows of cramped apartments built during the communist era.

In an Eastern European nation still struggling with the blessings of political freedom and the curse of runaway inflation, Arkansas native Mike Kemper and his wife, Kathy, provide yet another contrast to life in the capital city.

In their mid-40s, after years of serving churches in Arkansas and Tennessee, the Kempers were appointed as Southern Baptist missionary associates to Bucharest where he is pastor of the English-language International Baptist Church. No spur-of-the-moment midlife decision, Kemper said he first sensed God's call to missions a dozen years ago following a volunteer mission trip to Burkina Faso.

Although Kemper was "ready to pack up and go" to the mission field, Mrs. Kemper acknowledged that "I wasn't quite as excited about it." After additional mission trips and the decision to eventually pursue missionary appointment, she said God finally confirmed her call at a prayer garden in Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. Sensing God's assurance that He would take care of the couple's two adult children, Mrs. Kemper said, "My biggest concern was my kids. That was a confirmation for me.

"We're teaching our children faith in the Lord by what we're doing," she added.

When the Kempers arrived on the field in January, he became the congregation's first full-time pastor. The church shares the facilities of Popanus Baptist Church, a Romania congregation affiliated with the Romanian Baptist Union. Kemper said the national union initiated plans to start the English-language work in an effort to reach professionals and students.

After ministering for two years as an informal fellowship group, the congregation constituted as a church a few months after the Kempers arrived. "We're pretty



A storage room doubles as a Sunday School class for International Baptist Church in Bucharest, Romania. The facilities are shared with a Romanian congregation.

diverse with internationals and Romanians, Baptists and non-Baptists," Kemper said.

During the past year, "there have been several times when I was involved in ministry where the Lord would say, 'This is why I brought you here,'" Kemper reflected. "Two weeks ago when two young men from Ghana accepted the Lord, I again felt this is why we came."

Working alongside the Kempers is Boyd Hatchel, a 24-year-old missionary journeyman from Plano, Texas. Serving as the Foreign Mission Board's coordinator for volunteer projects, Hatchel works closely with both the international congregation and Romanian churches.

"I work with every volunteer that comes in under a board-sponsored project," he explained. "When the curtain fell all across Eastern Europe, all types of evangelicals

started coming to Eastern Europe. In Romania, there were so many coming but there wasn't a consistent focus and channeling of resources. A lot of people were stepping on the cultural toes of Romanians, sometimes not knowing what they were doing."

As a result, Hatchel was appointed earlier this year to coordinate the work of Southern Baptist mission volunteers coming into the country. He also teaches English twice a week in a school for Gypsy children and helps tutor in Romania and math.

"Before the revolution, anything

Western was forbidden. After the revolution, anything Western was treasured," he pointed out. Emphasizing that English-language services are an effective outreach tool among Romanians, he added, "English is the language of commerce and business. Many of the Romanians know that learning English is almost required if you're going to do anything in business, especially outside the country."

Hatchel said he was attracted to Romania because "I knew there were Romanians who had never heard an evangelical witness." Affirming the urgency of reaching young people in both the Romanian and international communities, he said, "Democracy is so new, they want it right now but the changes will probably take a generation. Our churches are trying to show young people they have the greatest potential for change with a hope that doesn't depend on political structures."

For most Romanians, Hatchel said, changes have come so rapidly that "they're looking ahead five minutes rather than five years." Preaching during a recent service at International Baptist Church, he reminded the congregation that the key to the future is personal faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus "came to solve the biggest need that we have in our lives — our relationship with the Father," Hatchel shared. "Our faith finds security in Him."

Lili Ascolese, a Romanian member of the congregation who is married to an American, noted that the church's ministry impacts both Romanians and internationals. "Foreigners need to be fed spiritually where they can understand the worship," she said of the English-language



services. "Romanians are much more drawn to an American church," she added. "Americans are loved here as friends."

Navy Commander John M. Brown, the U.S. Embassy's naval attaché to Romania, is International Church's volunteer music leader. "We feel at home here," he explained. "I love Mike's preaching. I'm excited about the potential for what the church can do. It's a new work that can develop in a lot of directions. It can fill a lot of voids."

Brown is representative of the governmental and business leaders who provide lay leadership in English-language congregations affiliated with the European Baptist Convention throughout Europe. Explaining his local church involvement even while on assignment in a foreign culture, Brown said, "In the embassy, I'm just the naval attaché but according to the gospel I'm an ambassador for Christ so I have a different portfolio."

Diane Dokmo and her husband, Charles, World Vision International's program director for Romania, are among vocational Christian workers who visit and worship at International Baptist Church.

"As Christian workers, we're always giving out," Mrs. Dokmo said. "Somewhere we need to be fed. For us, an international church is key to our survival not only for spiritual reasons but for the fellowship with other leaders."

"We find our family that way," she pointed out. "We're all away from home and here we can find people of like heart."

As the Kempers and others seek to spread the gospel among Romanians and internationals alike, the former Arkansas pastor stressed the importance of ongoing support from fellow Southern Baptists back home, particularly during the annual Lottie Moon foreign missions emphasis.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering "is really, really important," he noted. "It's urgent that we do all we can because nobody knows how long this will be possible....We've already missed some opportunities."

Along with the financial support, the Kempers stressed that they also rely heavily on faithful prayersupport. "Some Woman's Missionary Union groups are praying for us on a regular basis," Mrs. Kemper said. "We're very thankful for that."

As Southern Baptists focus next week on the concept of "Risk!" — this year's theme for the Foreign Missions Week of Prayer — the Kempers are living examples of what it means to leave the comforts of home to risk answering God's call.

"We got rid of a lot of possessions but we got to a point where things didn't really matter," Kempersaid. "The Lord has proven to us He will take care of things if we'll step out on faith."



An estimated 100,000 children, most of them abandoned, live in Romanian orphanages.

Plight of Romanian orphans prompts volunteer ministry

Serving in an English-language church in Romania doesn't limit Mike and Kathy Kemper to ministry among English-speaking internationals. One of their most compelling ministries is to children and staff of a pediatric hospital/orphanage in an impoverished area of Bucharest.

Their first visit to the facility "broke our hearts and gripped up," Kemper said. "We felt like we had to get involved."

The small, understaffed hospital is responsible for 20 sick children and 60 special needs children. Kemper said the youngsters were spending all day in dirty, urine-soaked beds. "We started visiting them every week, bathing about 30 every week."

According to Sandy McLaughlin, program director for Holt International Children's Services in Romania, more than half of the estimated 100,000 children institutionalized throughout Romania are abandoned by their parents.

"Abandonment starts in the maternity hospitals where women walk out in the middle of the night and leave their babies," McLaughlin said. "Their idea of protecting

children is to do so within institutions rather than families. They're trying to change all that now but it's very slow."

Mona Petra, the pediatrician who heads the facility where the Kempers minister, said the country's health system "is in the middle of transition and reform." Noting that many of their special needs children come to them from other orphanages, she added, "Some of them have parents, others no. The parents know they are in the orphanage but they don't come here. They know here they receive good care."

Despite limited funds, equipment and staff, Petra said she finds "big satisfaction" in her work. "For me the satisfaction is when I'm on duty, when I treat and cure children."

Mrs. Kemper said she and other volunteers have begun to see a change in both the children and the staff. "We are trying to show the love of Christ to the staff so they may come to know Him as their Savior. We feel that if the doctors and other staff members come to know the Lord, that will make the biggest difference in the children's lives they work with."

Revivals

Greenlee Church of Pine Bluff held a revival Oct. 23-25 that resulted in five professions of faith, one addition by letter and four rededications, according to pastor Warren Watkins. Larry Beatty, staff evangelist for Victory Church near Dumas, was the revival leader.

Emmanuel Church of Forrest City held a revival Nov. 13-16 with Jack Stanley of Wild Peach, Texas, as evangelist. Clyde Cranford of West Memphis directed music. Brad Banks is pastor.

Immanuel Church in Rogers launched a two-week revival crusade Nov. 27 with the musical, "America, You're Too Young to Die," presented by the Life Action Singers of Buchanan, Mich. A 32-member Life Action Ministry team is conducting the crusade services Nov. 27-Dec. 11.

Ordinations

Haven Heights Church in Fort Smith ordained Brian Powell to the gospel ministry Oct. 2. Powell is pastor of Rock Creek Church in Buckner Association.

Calvary Church near Booneville ordained Dan Clark to the deacon ministry Oct. 9.

Hardy First Church ordained Bruce Morris Sr. and Harley "Bo" Ford to the deacon ministry Oct. 16.

Marmaduke First Church ordained Kevin Murray, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Piggott, to the ministry Oct. 23.

Havana Church ordained Bill Dickey and Paul Storts as deacons Oct. 23.

Community Bible Church of Glenwood held a service Oct. 23 to ordain Nolan Smiley as a deacon.

Beech Street First Church in Texarkana ordained David Bain, Burns Barr, Delbert Dowdy, Shane Mills and Mike Treadway to the deacon ministry Oct. 30.

Mount Gilead Church of Norman ordained Jim Cogburn as a deacon Oct. 30.

Sonora Church of Springdale ordained Tony Long to the deacon ministry Oct. 30.

Pine Bluff First Church ordained Bobby Gill and Dwight Miller to the deacon ministry Oct. 30.

Cross Roads Church near Blytheville recently ordained pastor M. T. King to the ministry.

DeQueen First Church held a service Nov. 6 to ordain John Partain, Dave Maddox



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and Harold Roberts to the deacon ministry and Ron Paul to the gospel ministry.

Grubb Springs Church near Harrison recently ordained Joe Terry to the deacon ministry.

Forrest Park Church in Pine Bluff ordained a father and son, Bob and Keith Wallace, as deacons Nov. 6.

South Highland Church in Little Rock ordained Larry Rowland, Larry Redmon and John Farrell to the deacon ministry Nov. 6.

Dermott Church ordained Smiley Acord to the deacon ministry Nov. 6.

River Road Church at Redfield ordained pastor Dickie Echols to the ministry Nov. 6.

Naylor Church at Vilonia ordained pastor Kim Leach to the gospel ministry Nov. 6.

Oden First Church ordained Don Ford to the deacon ministry Nov. 6.

Glenwood First Church ordained Margarito Ramirez to the gospel ministry Nov. 13. Ramirez is pastor of the Glenwood church's Hispanic mission.

Royal First Church near Hot Springs ordained interim pastor George Lynch to the ministry Nov. 13.

Mountain Home First Church ordained Joe Taylor and Bentley Glover to the deacon ministry Nov. 13.

Obituaries

Edgar F. Nix of Camden died Oct. 26 at age 82. He was a former pastor of Eagle Mills Church in Carey Association and was retired from International Paper Company Bag-Pak.

Mary Agnes Whitlow of Little Rock died Nov. 7 at age 82. She was the widow of Arkansas pastor John P. Whitlow and the mother of June Whitlow of Birmingham, Ala., associate executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and Samuel R. Whitlow of El Dorado, pastor of Harmony Church. Other survivors are a son, James M. Whitlow of Little Rock; a daughter, Nancy Whitlow of Alton, Ill.; and one grandson, Jeffery P. Whitlow of

Little Rock. Memorials may be made to Markham Street Church in Little Rock where Whitlow was a member and where her funeral services were held Nov. 9.

Glenn Jay "Joe" Orr of Jonesboro died Oct. 11 at age 72. He was a member of Strawfloor Church where he had served as a deacon since 1975, as a Sunday School director, Disciple Training director and as a teacher. He was a member of the Baptist Men and executive board of Mount Zion Association. Survivors include his wife, Ruth I. Orr; two sons, Jerry D. Orr and Stephen Jay Orr, both of Jonesboro; one daughter, Karen S. Johnson of Clarksville, Tenn.; two sisters; and eight grandchildren.

Staff changes

Royce Sweatman became director of missions for North Arkansas Association Nov. 1. He previously served for five years as director of evangelism and outreach for First Church in Harrison. Sweatman also serves as a member of the Arkansas Disaster Relief Team and is a board member of the American Red Cross. In addition, he has served as a church staff member for churches in Ohio and North Carolina. Sweatman is a graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, N.C. He and his wife, Carolyn, are parents of two sons, R.J. and Kyle.

Kim Leach has begun his first ministry as a bivocational pastor, serving as pastor of Naylor Church in Faulkner Association. He was ordained to the ministry by his home church, Enola, Nov. 6. Leach, who attended the University of Central Arkansas, is an instructor for the Conway Human Development Center. He and his wife, Annette, have three children, Matthew, Marcus and Madison.

James Preston completed his service Nov. 23 as pastor of First Church in Stamps to move to Holt Summit, Mo., where he has accepted the call to become pastor of Union Hill Church. Preston, who has been a member of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* board of directors, is a graduate of Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Rachael, was 1994 president of Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives. They are parents of three children, James, Katherine and Rebecca.

David Ballard, who has been serving as interim pastor of Runyan First Church in North Little Rock, became permanent pastor there Oct. 16. He and his wife, Sheila, have a daughter, Kaitlyn.

Glenn Hickey has announced his retirement as director of missions for Pulaski Association, following more than 12 years of service. Hickey, who is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been pastor of Texas and Arkansas churches. In addition, he and his wife, Dorothy, were appointed in 1964 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to serve in Recife, Brazil, where they both taught in the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary. He also was pastor of Central Church of Ibura, Recife. While serving Pulaski Association, Hickey has led in the beginning of Southern Baptist black work with three predominately black congregations; a fire station chaplaincy ministry; multifamily housing ministry; the acquisition of Sonshine House and assistance in its ministry to abused and neglected children; the development of a program of association-based partnership missions through RockBuildings; and the involvement and participation in the association in a number of community service projects and helping agencies. The Hickeys were honored with a reception Nov. 13 at Markham Street Church in Little Rock.

Joe W. Atchison has announced his retirement as director of missions for Northwest Association, effective April 1, 1995. Atchison, who will have served the association for 10 years, previously served for 34 years as pastor of churches in Texas, Arizona and Arkansas. In addition, he has served on the state executive board in Arizona and as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission. He also has served on numerous state convention committees and on the SBC Committee on Boards. Atchison is a graduate of Texas A & M University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Bettye, are parents of three adult children, Debbie, David and Dawn.

J. Wayne Kocourek is pastor of Forest Tower Church in Little Rock, coming there from Perry Church. He also has served Himrod Church and as a church starter with Bethel Church in Jacksonville. Kocourek is a graduate of Arkansas State College. He and his wife, Kerri Lynne, have three daughters, Hannah Ruth, Jessie Lynne and Joanna Claire.

Dennis Jacobs recently resigned as music and youth director at Calvary Church in Osceola to join the staff of First Baptist Church in Batesville, Miss.

Robert Ellis resigned Nov. 13 as music director for First Church in Mena. He and his wife, Bonnie, and their son, Rob, have moved to Monticello due to the illness of their parents. The Ellises also have a married daughter, Beth Grosse.

Steve Cole is serving as youth and music director for Trinity Church in Benton. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

L.B. Atchison, who recently resigned as director of missions for North Arkansas Association, is serving as interim pastor of Cross Road Church in Little Rock.

John Kimbrell has resigned as pastor of Solgohachla Church, following more than three years of service.

Fred Oaks resigned Nov. 13 as pastor of Harmony Church in Conway-Perry Association to do mission work in New York.

Dolphus Bannister joined the staff of Northside Church in Monticello Nov. 2 as part-time minister of youth. He is a freshman at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro began his service Nov. 6 as interim pastor of First Church in Manila. Herring is pastor emeritus of Central Church in Jonesboro.

Bob Martin has resigned as pastor of East End Church at Hensley to serve a church in Clinton, Miss.

Bill Holcomb has joined the staff of Central Church in Pine Bluff as part-time minister of music. A native of Paragould, he is a graduate of Williams Baptist College and currently is attending Ouachita Baptist University. Holcomb spent two years in evangelistic music and has also served as a staff member of other churches in the Pine Bluff area. He is married to the former Brenda Hodges of Pine Bluff.

Darren Ayres has resigned as pastor of Chapel Hill Church at DeQueen to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jim Wells has resigned as pastor of New Antioch Church at Brookland, following 13 years of ministry. He and his wife, Katie, will continue to live in the Brookland area.

David Jeans has resigned as bivocational pastor of Egypt Church to return to full-time employment. He and his wife, Lovernie, reside in the Jonesboro area.



Caroline Association recently burned a note to celebrate early debt retirement for the association missions center in Lonoke. Mitch Tapson, pastor of Mount Carmel Church in Cabot, served as building committee chairman for the 2,800-square-foot building, constructed in 1991 at a cost of \$110,000. Other committee members were Don Hubbard, pastor of First Church in Carlisle; Tom Hoskins, pastor of First Church in Biscoe; Otha Jones, a deacon at First Church in Cabot; and Jim Edwards, director of missions. Participants in the noteburning were (left to right) Hubbard; Tapson; John Evans, pastor of Keo and the newest pastor in the association who represented the future work of the association; and Jones.

Church news

New London Church observed its 151st anniversary of ministry Oct. 23 as part of its annual homecoming. One of the oldest churches in Arkansas, it was organized in the autumn of 1843. C. Norsworthy served as the first pastor with Jesse Hartwell, the first president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, serving as the third pastor. The anniversary was celebrated with dinner on the ground and an afternoon program. Harold Diffie is beginning his 28th year as pastor.

Union Church at El Dorado recently held a Sunday School attendance recognition service in which Ida Pink Hargett was given a 15-year bar to add to her 14-year pin and Leo Launius received a four-year bar. Pastor Steve Pelz and Sunday School director Carl Smithwick led the service.

Tyronza First Church celebrated 75 years of ministry Sept. 18. Pastor Al Presley moderated anniversary services that featured furloughing foreign missionaries Steve and Kathy Dewbre from Transki, South Africa, and former interim pastor Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro as speakers. The afternoon musical program was presented by soloists Mark Dewbre and Tom Cantrell, both of Nashville, Tenn.; Helen Heal of Lepanto; Joe Landrum of Germantown, Tenn.; and Barbara Jones Warfel of Fayetteville, Ga. Nina Ruth Tatum of Harrison, Emily Balcom Lloyd of Little Rock and Dolores Bodry were the instrumentalists.

Melbourne First Church observed the 104th birthday of W.O. Taylor Oct. 22 with a reception at the close of the morning service for which Taylor was the speaker. Doync Robertson is pastor.

Watson Chapel Church of Pine Bluff has organized a citywide men's prayer ministry. The weekly meeting is being held each Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Exxon office area on Jefferson Square, according to pastor M.L. Falser.

Hillside Church of Camden held a Nov. 6 reception for Doris Beeson in recognition of 35 years of service as organist.

Springdale First Church broke ground Nov. 13 for "The Master's Plan." This building program will add approximately 80,000 square feet of facilities to the church's 32-acre campus that currently accommodates the 8,000-member congregation and Shiloh Christian School. Ronnie Floyd is pastor. The church music ministry will present its seventh annual production of the Living Christmas Tree Dec. 10-13 at 7 p.m. with a 3:30 p.m.



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By MILLIE GILL

matinee performance Dec. 11. The program will include a 300-member adult choir and orchestra, children's choirs, drama cast and crew.

Trinity Fellowship Church in Pottsville recently purchased acreage for further building expansion. Ron Graham is pastor.

Wynne Church sponsored an Abortion Alternatives workshop Nov. 18-19. The comprehensive study of the crisis pregnancy ministry was led by Sylvia Boothe, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's abortion alternatives ministry. Mark Tolbert is pastor.

Bluff Avenue Church in Fort Smith observed Rosemary Bateman Day Oct. 16 in recognition of her 50 years of service as

a Sunday School teacher in the children's department. She was presented with a plaque of appreciation in the morning worship service for which her son, Rick, from First Church in Kellyville, Okla., was speaker. Her daughter, Candi, and her family who are furloughing from their foreign mission field in Suriname, were also special guests. Family members, friends, former pupils and church members were guests for a luncheon that was given for Bateman.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock music ministry will present A Christmas Celebration Dec. 11-12 at 7 p.m. The 200-member cast and crew will include the Sanctuary Choir, Young Musicians Choir, handbell choirs, a 32-piece orchestra, multimedia presentation, drama and pageantry. Minister of music Joe A. Fitzpatrick will direct performances.

Osceola First Church honored Marion Teaford with a luncheon Nov. 13 in recognition of her retirement as church pianist. She was presented with a love offering from the congregation.



First Church in Forrest City honored D.C. McAtee with "Bro. Mac Day" Nov. 6 on the 54th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry. The surprise event, that included an afternoon reception and program, was planned by pastor Rick Hedger and Wayne Jones, acting president of East Arkansas Community College and Baptist Student Union director during McAtee's tenure there as part-time BSU director. Special guests included those surrendering to preach under McAtee's ministry, those in BSU while he was a director and family members. McAtee was presented with a leather keepsake book of letters and photographs. Program participants included (left to right) Jones, Ashley County Association director of missions Billy Kite, McAtee and Hedger.

CP is top topic for state conventions

The Cooperative Program was a primary focus of many state convention annual meetings held recently throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Actions ranged from Arkansas Baptists' resolution reaffirming "firm support for the Cooperative Program as the exclusive means to fund our mission endeavors" to Texas Baptists' decision to redefine their CP giving to include "Texas only" gifts as well as church-directed gifts to such causes as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Baptist World Alliance. Messengers in Nevada, North and South Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming voted to increase the SBC portion of their Cooperative Program gifts by one-half percent for next year.

Another common theme was repenting of the sin of racism, with messengers in Georgia, Illinois, New England and Pennsylvania/South Jersey adopting resolutions to that effect. The Illinois Baptist resolution declared "our corporate repentance before God for the sins of our forefathers and of ourselves" regarding racist attitudes. Among other actions taken by Baptist messengers throughout the nation:

■ **GEORGIA:** John Yarbrough was elected president of the Georgia Baptist Convention by a margin of 34 votes. Confusion about how to mark ballots resulted in messengers having to vote twice; an audit committee was called in to review several ballots.

Yarbrough, pastor of First Baptist Church, Perry, received 2,566 votes while the other candidate, Jim Ramsey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Albany, received 2,532 votes. Yarbrough was backed by conservatives and Ramsey was endorsed by moderates.

In other action, messengers rejected an attempt to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program dollars staying in Georgia from 45 percent to 70 percent.

Messengers also approved with no debate a report clarifying that a "cooperating" Georgia Baptist church is based on affiliation with a local association and/or financial contributions to Georgia Baptist causes. The report urged that committee nominations "seek to reflect the diversity of this convention."

■ **INDIANA:** Messengers unanimously approved a motion to "maintain our present policy regarding gifts to the cause of Christ as sent by our churches throughout the Cooperative Program." The motion thanked Indiana churches for their support of the Cooperative Program without any negative designation.

Resolutions unanimously approved by messengers opposed gambling and Medicaid funding of abortion, and called on Congress and President Clinton to "heed the 'Contract With America' lest a lack of confidence become firmly entrenched." The resolution offered by David Wood, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Floyds Knobs, urged "those in the House and the Senate to frame this new legislation within the clear precepts of the Word of God" and called for prayer for elected leaders.

■ **KENTUCKY:** Messengers charted a middle-of-the-road course at their annual meeting, electing a centrist candidate as president and rallying around a massive partnership missions project with Russian Baptists. The 2,235 messengers applauded appeals for Christian unity but soundly defeated a proposal to form a special committee to help increase harmony among people of diverse theological and political views.

■ **MISSISSIPPI:** Following intense debate, Mississippi Baptists declined to change the way they fund Mississippi College. Trustees of the college changed their charter in September to establish a self-perpetuating board with only one-fourth of the trustees elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. That charter change was amended after negotiations with convention leadership which would allow for joint approval of trustees by the MC trustees and the convention's nominating committee.

Resolutions applauded the negotiations that brought Mississippi College back into convention governance and expressed discontent with the MC trustee actions. Messengers again expressed disapproval of gambling in the state which now is rated as the number two gambling state in the nation.

■ **MISSOURI:** Messengers defeated a motion that would have required people to be members of churches that support the Cooperative Program before they could be nominated for service to boards and commissions of Missouri Baptist institutions.

Messengers passed a motion calling for a study on increasing the state convention's percentage of CP giving from now until the year 2000. Action was delayed until the 1995 meeting on a motion to require people nominated for state convention service to acknowledge inerrancy of the Bible.

In other actions, the messengers approved a \$15.2 million budget for 1995. This will be the fifth consecutive year the budget goal has been \$15.2 million, a goal not yet achieved.

■ **NORTH CAROLINA:** Messengers approved a 1995 budget totaling \$29.4 million in three different giving plans available to churches. The giving plans range from the SBC Cooperative Program budget to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship support.

Messengers also passed a motion instructing the convention's general board to adopt a plan that would fund Baptist students attending North Carolina Baptist colleges and universities equal to the amount sent to the SBC for theological education.

The student funding proposal came in response to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's recent establishment of a college-level program which will be subsidized by Southern Baptist CP funds, lowering tuition and placing the seven Baptist colleges in the state at a disadvantage for recruiting students.

The SBC Cooperative Program allocates about \$6,000 per year for each seminary student, while the seven colleges currently receive about \$350 per student from the state convention.

■ **OKLAHOMA:** Messengers adopted a resolution pledging "to love, live and work in harmony with all our fellow Oklahoma Baptists" through the Cooperative Program, in an effort to achieve "even greater levels of cooperation in fulfilling God's Great Commission." Other resolutions endorsed the national "Here's Hope" campaign and opposed the RU-486 abortion pill.

■ **VIRGINIA:** Virginia Baptists voted to base representation from their churches on gifts to state causes alone, instead of contributions to state, national and international ministries. Similar proposals had received majority votes each of the past two years but fell short of the required two-thirds.

The action is the first by a state Baptist convention to make contributions to state ministries the sole basis for church representation. Unlike many other conventions, BGAV churches qualify for representation only through financial contributions, not through a combination of money and membership.

Messengers also adopted a \$15 million budget for 1995 — \$500,000 less than the '94 budget. The national and international ministries portion of the budget will continue to be distributed according to one of three "giving tracks" selected by Virginia churches or through specialized plans crafted by congregations.

The resolutions committee received no resolutions other than the traditional expression of appreciation for the host city and convention organizers. Messengers did adopt a recommendation from the religious liberty committee praising the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs "for their effective leadership in securing passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act" and thanking "each Virginia member of Congress who voted" for the RFRA.

Four Acteens named to state advisory panel

Four Arkansas Baptist Acteens have been selected to serve on the 1994-95 Arkansas Acteens Advisory Panel. The panelists will be available to speak at associational and local church Acteens activities.

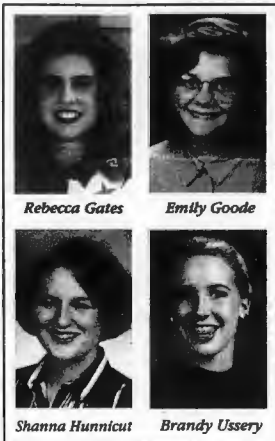
Panelist applications are sent out statewide during the summer. Girls who meet the requirements and are interested complete the application and submit it to the state Woman's Missionary Union office. The State Acteens Committee then selects four panelists and one alternate.

The Acteens will help plan the Acteens Encounter, March 31 to April 1 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, and have high visibility during that event. The planning has already started with an orientation retreat held in November with state Acteens leader Angela Lowe.

"I think they have a lot of enthusiasm; their commitment to the Lord really came through in their plans. They want people to be directed toward the Lord," Lowe said.

"The Acteens Encounter will have a worshipful feel," she continued. The event's theme, "Will You Be the One?" is a personal challenge to girls to share the gospel message at this point in their lives. Lowe pointed out. This year's panelists include:

■ Rebecca Gates of Second Church in El Dorado. Rebecca is a senior at El Dorado High School where she is involved in choir, orchestra, National Honor Society and Theatians. She has been in Acteens for five years and has completed the Queen Regent level in Studiaact. "I'm really looking forward to reaching out to people and



Rebecca Gates

Emily Goode

Shanna Hunnicut

Brandy Ussery

bringing myself closer to God through Acteens," Rebecca said.

■ Emily Goode of Benton First Church. Emily is a sophomore at Benton High School where she is involved in band, Student Council and Key Club. She has

been in Acteens for three years and had completed the Queen level of Studiaact. "Something I noticed at the retreat was the differences in Acteen groups," she pointed out. "But we can come from different backgrounds to form a team and work together for the same goals."

■ Shanna Hunnicut of Central First Southern Church, Lavaca. Shanna is a senior at Lavaca High School. She has been involved in Acteens for five years and has completed all levels of Studiaact. She is currently working on her Arkansas Citation. "I expect it to be an exciting and fun year and I hope to get to know other people through my experience," she said.

■ Brandy Ussery of Calvary Church in Paragould. Brandy is a freshman at Marmaduke High School where she is involved in band, gifted and talented program and AEGIS. She has been in Acteens for three years and is working on the Service Aide level of Studiaact. "I hope to talk to a lot of people in my association and get them excited about Acteens," she commented. "I hope the Encounter will be even better than last year."

Julia Garcia of Antioch Church in Royal has been selected as an alternate. She is a junior at Lake Hamilton High School.

Acteens is the missions organization of WMU for girls ages 12-17. There are more than 2,000 girls involved in Acteens in Arkansas.



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Student missions conference set for Dec. 27-31

Encouraging Arkansas college students to attend "Mission 95," Diane Parker emphasized the event "is for all students." Mission 95 is a global missions conference scheduled for Dec. 27-31 at the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Ky.

Parker, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention student ministry department, said Mission 95 "is not just for students called to career missions. It's for

all students interested in what God is doing around the world and who want to be involved at the local level."

Parker said the Arkansas student ministry department hopes to send 400 Arkansas students to the event, which is held only once every five years.

"This is a once-in-a-college-generation opportunity," she said. "The opportunities will include a week of focusing on global missions and being with 5,000 other

college students who have their same interest."

Mission 95 is sponsored by National Student Ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Board in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

Program features will include general sessions, a walk-through Global Encounter display that samples world missions, small family groups for participants, seminars, concerts and world updates.

The program will feature evangelist Sammy Tippit; futurist Tom Sine; Leroy Gainey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Vacaville, Calif.; and Erwin McManus, senior pastor of The Church on Brady in East Los Angeles.

Worship will be led by Louie Giglio, director of CHOICE ministries in Waco, Texas, and dramatists Paul and Nicole Johnson.

The registration cost for Mission 95 is \$100 per person. Participants are responsible for their own meals and lodging. A meal package of \$54 per person is available and the host hotel, the Galt House, offers a special rate of \$61.74 per person per night for lodging.

Additional information about Mission 95 is available by contacting Diane Parker at the ABSC student ministry department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5142.

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Annuity Board addresses abortion, CBF

DALLAS (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board prepared responses to two requests from the SBC Executive Committee and to a June 1994 action of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustees also approved a 1995 operating budget of \$36.65 million and heard reports of growth in benefits and contributions.

The spending plan for 1995 represents a 5 percent increase over 1994, with much of the increase related to growth in number of participants served and expenses related to the transition to a new customer service system. No Cooperative Program funds are received for operating costs.

Total retirement contributions were \$175.8 million through nine months, a 6.6 percent increase over the same period last year, and total assets of the board stood at \$4.472 billion on Sept. 30.

Investment performance increased substantially in the third quarter, but still reflected the generally depressed performance of stock and bond markets for the year. The Fixed Fund earned 1.42 percent in the quarter and remains on target for its estimated earnings of 5.15 percent to 6.15 percent for the year. The Balanced Fund earned 1.95 percent for the third quarter, but remains at a negative 1.74 percent year-to-date. The Variable Fund posted a 4.03 percent gain in unit value in the third quarter but remains just below the break-even point for the year. The Short-Term Fund earned 0.83 percent in the quarter, bringing its cumulative earnings to 1.85 percent for the year.

The SBC Executive Committee asked

the Annuity Board to report in writing its "involvement" with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and to forward to the committee copies of all contracts with the CBF. A second action by the Executive Committee asked Annuity Board trustees to add "abortion" to the list of "industries" prohibited for investments, and to specify "contributions" of a corporation as reason to prohibit holding that company's stock.

Powell told trustees he will report the Annuity Board provides a Convention Annuity Plan and traditional group insurance products to the employees and missionaries of the CBF and would send a copy of the Convention Annuity Plan document to the Executive Committee.

In another matter related to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, trustees

voted to honor the directive of the Southern Baptist Convention not to accept future relief contributions channeled by churches through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, but to accept such gifts currently held by the CBF as designations for the Annuity Board.

Trustees agreed to amend the investment guidelines to include abortion industry as a prohibited investment, but declined to change the term "activities" to "contributions."

Annuity Board president Paul Powell reminded trustees the Annuity Board is still searching for an alternative investment fund for the apparent limited number of participants who desire a fund that would have a much broader screening for such concerns as charitable contributions.

MK prayer calendar

Missionary kids with birthdays in December attending college in Arkansas include:

■ Dec. 1 — Dan Pinkston, OBU Box 3217, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; senior from Ivory Coast.

■ Dec. 6 — Tim Akins, OBU Box 4360, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; sophomore from South Brazil.

■ Dec. 12 — Debbie Packwood, OBU Box 3245, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; senior from Ecuador.

■ Dec. 20 — Audrea Farris, OBU Box 3929, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; freshman from South Brazil.

■ Dec. 24 — Derek Erwin, OBU Box 3499, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; junior from Mali.

■ Dec. 26 — Laura Cartwright, OBU Box 4366, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; senior from Philippines.

■ Dec. 27 — Greg Brown, OBU Box 3025, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; freshman from Austria.

■ Dec. 27 — Ben Robertson, Rural Route 2, Box 497, Arkadelphia 71923; junior at Henderson State University; from Senegal.

■ Dec. 30 — James Scarbrough, OBU Box 4467, Arkadelphia 71998-0001; junior from Belize.

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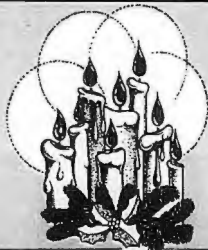
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Ouachita Baptist University

Festival of Christmas — The School of Music and Department of Theatre Arts of Ouachita Baptist University will present the third annual Festival of Christmas program in Jones Performing Arts Center on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. The 150 performers in the program will present favorite secular and sacred Christmas selections ranging from simple carols to the classics. The public is invited to the free performance.

Psychology professor to edit publication — Randy Smith, professor of psychology and chairman of the department of psychology at OBU, has been named editor-elect of *Teaching of Psychology*, the American Psychological Association's official journal of the division of teaching of psychology. Smith, an OBU faculty member since 1977, has been serving as a consulting editor on the journal.

Music scholarship auditions — The School of Music at Ouachita Baptist University has scheduled music scholarship auditions on Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 1995. Scholarships are available in voice, piano, organ, strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

Auditions begin at 3:30 p.m. each day and are for students planning to enroll at

Ouachita for the 1995-96 academic year. Individual appointments on other days can be made through the office of Charles Wright, dean of the Ouachita School of Music. Additional information and audition application forms are available by contacting Wright at OBU, P.O. Box 3771, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; phone 501-245-5129.

Knight named biology chairman — Tim Knight, assistant professor of biology at OBU, has been named chairman of the Department of Biology.

Knight succeeds Kenneth Sandifer who retired from the faculty this past spring. Knight, a member of the Ouachita faculty since 1989, is a graduate of Ouachita and the University of Texas at Dallas.

Steeger has works published — Bill Steeger, chairman of the division of religion and philosophy and the W.O. Vaught Professor of Bible and director of the Center for Christian Ministries at OBU, has had two commentaries published.

Steeger's commentaries on the Old Testament books of Habakkuk and Naham appeared in the November 1994 edition of *Mercer Commentary on the Bible*. The commentaries were sponsored by the National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion.

Williams Baptist College

Sutton, Jones honored — Little Rock attorney William "Buddy" Sutton has been named Man of the Year by Williams Baptist College. Bernice Jones, a philanthropist from Springdale, was recipient of the Woman of the Year honor. Sutton and Jones were honored recently at the Southern Senators Banquet on the Williams campus.

Weru wins national honor — The United States Achievement Academy has named Jane Weru a United States National Collegiate Award Winner. Weru, a senior majoring in psychology at Williams Baptist College, is a native of Kenya, Africa. The academy selects winners upon the recommendation of school faculty or staff and based on the academy's selection standards.

Community work day — Students, faculty and staff at Williams recently participated in the college's first annual Community Service Day. Afternoon classes were canceled Nov. 16 to allow involvement in the project.

The college coordinated with Walnut Ridge mayor Tommy Holland to establish service projects including cleaning, raking and trimming around the train depot and courthouse as well as helping hang Christmas lights.

Lewis named distinguished DOM — Williams has named Norman Lewis the 1994 Distinguished Director of Missions. Lewis is DOM for Black River Association, which includes churches in Lawrence and Randolph counties. The award was presented to Lewis during the Williams Founders Day celebration this fall.

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Southeast Arkansas fellowship service to be held Dec. 5

National and Southern Baptists in southeast Arkansas will have the opportunity to participate in a joint fellowship service Dec. 5. Describing the service as "a wonderful opportunity to initiate and nurture interracial relationships," cooperative ministries leader Jack Kwok said the event at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Eudora is one of 11 sponsored this year by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and three Arkansas National Baptist conventions.

Kwok, director of the ABCS cooperative ministries department, said the Eudora fellowship is an outlet for "National and Southern Baptists to encourage righteous race relations" and to "affirm their unity and appreciate their diversity." He said the fellowship also will encourage participants to "take a personal role in confronting the heresy and sin of racism."

Highlighting the fellowship, he said, will be the introduction of the "Harare Declaration." The declaration is an anti-racism statement adopted by the Baptist World Alliance in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1993. Kwok said the statement "declares the worth of each human being as made in the image of God and denies racism."

The keynote speaker for the fellowship will be Tim Vining, pastor of Dermott

Church. The program also will feature members of the Consolidated Missionary Baptist, Regular Arkansas Missionary Baptist and General Missionary Baptist state conventions.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a fellowship with refreshments. New Zion Church is located on Highway 65 in Eudora.

For additional information about the event, contact Kwok at the ABCS cooperative ministries department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5159, or John Hall, director of missions for Delta Association; phone 538-5187.

Evangelists plan December retreat

The Arkansas Baptist Evangelists Association will host its first retreat Dec. 16-17, launching the event with a dinner at Sonshine Mountain Retreat Center, located north of Mountainburg on Highway 71.

Speakers will be Sam Cathey of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Ron Pledger of Stone Mountain, Ga., president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists; Bob Shelton, pastor of First Church in Alma; Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, secretary/treasurer of the host association; and Tom Cox of Mountainburg, state president. Music will be provided by Arkansas music evangelists.

Other activities will include ministry reports from state evangelists.

For sale — 35 used choir robes and stoles; maroon robes, white and gold stoles. \$12.50 each OBO. 887-6696.

For sale — 1982 Ford van, 15-passenger, good condition. FBC, Farmington. 267-3159, 8-11 a.m. only.

Part-time youth director — Personnel Committee, Fairfield Bay Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1029, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088 is accepting resumes for part-time youth director.

Minister to Christian education and administration — First Baptist Church, DeQueen, is seeking resumes for the position of minister to Christian education and administration. Resumes may be sent to: Search Committee, FBC, 321 West Gilson, DeQueen, AR 71832.

Wanted — Youth director (married). First Baptist Church, Lowell, AR. Part-time position. Send resume to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, AR 72745.

Accepting resumes for pastor — Send to Pastor Search Committee, FBC, 201 W. 7th, Smackover, AR 71762 by Dec. 31.

FT minister of music/youth — Calvary Baptist Church, Enid, OK. Please send resumes to: Staff Search Committee, c/o James See, 831 E. Broadway, Enid, OK 73701.

Piano/keyboard position available — for Sunday evening worship service and youth choir rehearsal. Contact Dennis Bergfeld, Conway Second, 327-6565.

Part-time music director needed — Send resumes to: Indian Springs Baptist Church, P.O. Box 486, Bryant, AR 72089.

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FMB to accept matching funds to build churches in Romania

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has agreed to accept matching funds from a private foundation to help fuel post-communist evangelism in Romania.

Among other things, the funds could enable Romanian Baptists — one of the largest and most influential evangelical groups in Eastern Europe — to build up to 100 churches.

Under the program, Baptists in the Eastern Europe nation will provide land and build a foundation for each church. The Foreign Mission Board, aided by the matching funds, will pay \$15,000 each for prefab construction of church buildings big enough to seat 100 people.

"Southern Baptists could influence the whole course of Romanian history with this many new churches," said Don Kammerdiener, the board's executive vice president.

The matching funds, not to exceed \$1 million, will come from the Maclellan Foundation. The foundation was formed in 1945 to meet physical and spiritual

needs worldwide, said Thomas McCallie, its executive director. It awards about 150 grants a year, totaling about \$12 million.

"We have appreciated what we have seen going on in overseas churches Southern Baptist missionaries work with," McCallie said, adding that the FMB "has done some fantastic work, and we appreciate its leadership around the world."

The foundation, which first approached the board several months ago, will give 50 cents for every dollar Southern Baptists donate to Romania through the Foreign Mission Board. Board officials believe the projects being funded are in line with their overall strategy for Romania and Eastern Europe.

In addition to churches, funds also will support a Romanian Baptist publishing effort and two educational institutions. One institution is the Bucharest Christian University, which the Romanian Baptist Union is developing in cooperation with the University of Bucharest. The other is Emmanuel Bible Institute, owned by the Second Baptist Church of Oradea.

Michael's at LaQuinta

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Convention Uniform

The ministry of mystery

By Ed Saucier, pastor,
Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith
Basic passage: Matthew 11:2-15
Focal passage: Matthew 11:2-6
Central truth: Beliefs should never
be based on circumstances.

John is in prison. He's a rugged out-doorsman, used to the wide open spaces, coming and going as he pleases. But no more. The outdoors have given a way to the lock up, the blue skies and starry nights have been replaced by a cramped jail cell, and in the place of personal freedom there's stocks and bonds. Why?

John's a preacher. He's been preaching some truths (true things, by the way) that don't sit too well with the big shots and now he's paying the price. If you think it was easy for him, you're dead wrong. It made him doubt everything he thought he knew about his beloved Messiah.

When the going really gets tough, stranding us in terror and paralyzing us with fear, we frequently do the same thing John did. We start to doubt. John knew Jesus was the Messiah, had baptized him and heard God call him, "My beloved son" (Matt. 3:13-17). But now he's not so sure and he sends some friends to ask Jesus the unthinkable: "Are you really the Messiah?" (v. 3). Ever wondered? Me too.

"Jesus, if you really loved me, you wouldn't have let this happen." Sound familiar? Probably so. Maybe John thought that way too: "I'm the Messiah's fore-runner, and the Messiah wouldn't leave me in this prison. But I am being left in this prison." Therefore, "He must not be the Messiah."

If we allow circumstances to formulate our theology, sooner or later we're going to come to a similar conclusion. Either He's not much of a God or, if He is, He doesn't love me very much. Those are both erroneous conclusions. But I'm willing to speculate that you've had them creep up on you over the years.

Reading between the lines we see that Jesus had an answer for John and He has one for you too: "I have the power to do anything I want. But what I do, or don't do, isn't a question of power, it's a question of purpose. And sometimes my purpose is beyond your ability to comprehend. When you can accept that without being offended at me, then I can bless you, even now, right where you are. I love you, I know what's best. Trust me."

Life and Work

The criteria of judgment

By Rick Hyde, pastor,
Malvern Third Church
Basic passage: Micah 6-7
Focal passage: Micah 6:1-8
Central truth: The only evidence of
repentance is changed lives.

"You're under arrest." How many people have trembled when they heard these words?

"I'll take your case." How many breathed great sighs of relief when they heard those words from a capable lawyer?

There are those times when God's people are reprimanded for unconfessed sin. There are also those times when God's people are reminded of the requirement of uncompromised standards for sanctified living. The book of Micah contains a courtroom-type scene of confrontation between God, His prophet and His people.

The complaint of the people was meaningless. "O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me" (v. 6:3, NKJV). The people blamed God for all of their troubles. The Lord invited them to "make their case." He is willing to listen to their complaints, no matter how unjustifiable they may be.

The conversation of the Lord was memorable. "I (the Lord) redeemed you from the house of bondage" (v. 6:4b). The only evidence at this hearing was the evidence of God's love and grace. The people had no case. Even the prophet Micah, called by God to announce the message of judgment to the people, acknowledges the need of the people: "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High God?" (v. 6:6).

The conclusion of the matter was measurable. "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (v. 6:8). Even though the people had failed and had been found guilty, Micah offered words of hope. We can measure up to God's standards with His help.

The Perry Masons and Ben Matlocks of television fame never lose a case. Thank God that despite overwhelming evidence, Almighty God listened to the intercession of the prophet. The people were guilty, but God's pardon was generous.

Bible Book

Pressing on to the goal

By W. David Moore, president,
Arkansas Baptist Foundation
Basic passage: Philippians 3:1-4:1
Focal passage: Philippians 3:2-4,
7-14, 17-19
Central truth: Despite enemies and
opponents of the cross, believers
must strive to press on toward the
true goal of knowing Christ.

There have always been opposing viewpoints. Many of our college students have been confronted with world religions and cults which challenge the doctrines they have been taught in church.

Paul uses some choice language for those who would so pervert the gospel of God. Many of these enemies of the cross are serving the flesh and putting confidence in themselves.

The apostle reminds the readers that he has many reasons to be confident in the flesh. Paul's pedigree was practically perfect. He had all the right credentials. Yet he had learned that the only thing that matters in this life is knowing Christ. Everything else is "rubbish" (v. 3:8) compared to knowing Christ in the power of His resurrection.

Every believer needs to reconsider his goal in life. What are your priorities? A friend challenged me recently to think about my life's priorities.

I realized again that if I am going to be successful in God's sight, my life has to be more than the pursuit of houses, land, cars, stocks, bonds and fame. The greatest need in my life is knowing Christ.

Now if I am to know Christ, I must lay aside the past with all of its troubles and mistakes, "forgetting what is behind" (v. 3:13 NIV). I must have a forward view to press on toward the right priorities and goals.

I must realize that such a goal requires sharing in His suffering and in the power of His resurrection. Therefore, I cannot afford to be self-satisfied and I cannot be dissatisfied with the past. I can, however, realize that there is so much more of God than I will ever attain. So I keep pressing on to know Him more fully.

What are your priorities in life? There is no better time than now to evaluate the values and goals that are worthy of your time and effort. Well...?

Convention Uniform

What's she doing here?

By Ed Saucier, pastor,
Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith
Basic passage: Matthew 1
Focal passage: Matthew 1:5
Central truth: God is very
unconventional and unpredictable
in His work.

Maybe you've never thought too much about her. Maybe none at all. Maybe you've never even heard her story. Her kind is an embarrassment to most of us. She was born on the wrong side of the tracks, knew the wrong people and made her living in the world's oldest profession. Her name was Rahab. She was a hooker and Christmas is the perfect time to introduce you to her.

She's first mentioned way back in the Old Testament. She's the one who stared death in the face when she dared to defy the king of Jericho by assisting Joshua's secret agents in their escape (Josh. 2:1-7).

She's also mentioned in the New Testament. James mentions her as an example of a true believer whose own life was an illustration of what she claimed to believe (James 2:25).

The book of Hebrews has her listed in the 11th chapter. The 11th chapter? Yeah, verse 31. Wait just a minute! What's she doing in there? That's God's "Hall of Fame" isn't it? Uh-huh. So what in the ecclesiastical world is the name of a prostitute doing alongside names like Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Gideon and David? Beats me.

I'll go you one better than that. She's also listed in the first chapter of Matthew. You know what that means? That means that Rahab the hooker, with all her bad upbringing and trashy living, was one of Jesus' great, great, great, grandmothers! Yikes! You've got to be kidding! Surely there's a mistake. No, I'm afraid not. Fact is, three of the four women listed in the genealogy of Jesus were adulteresses!

I just have to ask this question: "What's a girl like you doing in a place like this?" Normally we ask that of a rose among thorns. But here we just want to know what a loser like Rahab is doing with such a high falutin' slot in the Bible!

Maybe she's there to shatter the barriers of religion's self righteousness; to help us do away with the "be like me" mentality and teach us that we all stand on common ground in need of God's grace. Whatever — there wouldn't be a Christmas without her.

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Life and Work

The climax of judgment

By Rick Hyde, pastor,
Malvern Third Church
Basic passage: Micah 4-5
Focal passage: Micah 4:1-5, 5:1-4
Central truth: God's will is
accomplished in time.

"You can count on it...sooner or later." These can either be words of warning or words of assurance. We have studied the prophet Micah's words of warning. Now we look at his words of assurance as we close our study of the book. Micah offered words of security regarding God's never-failing promise to Israel and to all people who trust in Him.

■ *God is in charge alone.* "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established" (v. 4:1, NKJV). The verse does not say "it might come to pass" but "it shall come to pass." Many speculations can be made concerning the events of the latter days, but one thing is certain: God is in control of the events. One purpose for the conclusion of time is for God to judge all people and all nations. "He (God) shall judge between many peoples" (v. 4:3).

■ *God is in His children alone.* "For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever" (v. 4:5). When the end of time does come, the only ones who will share in God's judgment and victory are His people. Notice that "his god" is not capitalized, but "the Lord our God" is capitalized. Another purpose for the conclusion of time is for God to exalt His people.

■ *God is in Christ alone.* "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler of Israel, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting" (v. 5:2). The birth in the manger of Bethlehem signaled the beginning of the message of judgment in the person and work of Christ. Just as He transcended the earthly kingdom of Israel, He transcends the kingdoms of earth today.

The Christmas season brings good feelings to many people. However, the only people who can celebrate the Christmas season with assurance are those who, like the prophet Micah, have acknowledged that the Lord is God and those who follow Him are His people.

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Bible Book

The results of joy

By W. David Moore, president,
Arkansas Baptist Foundation
Basic passage: Philippians 4:2-23
Focal passage: Philippians 4:4-13,
16-19
Central truth: The results of joy are
a peaceful attitude, a disciplined
mind, a contented heart and a
generous wallet.

When a believer learns to be joyful in his relationship to Christ, then circumstances will not disturb his joy. Instead, he will have an ability to commit his concerns to God in prayer and he will do so with a thankful spirit.

Then the results will begin to flow. God will give him an inner peace that the world does not understand. A counselee walks in and begins to explain his depression. "It is because _____ has happened to me." We always seem to blame our depression on some event or person in our life. The truth is that others have the same event or type of person in their lives and they are not depressed.

In other words, God can give a peace and joy that overcomes events and people. Additionally, He begins to focus our minds on the things of discipline (v. 8). Our God is a rational God who changes lives as He changes minds. Candidly, right thinking produces right actions!

Joy also produces contentment. In all circumstances, we can learn to be content (vv. 11-13). If our joy and peace are internal, then our contentment can be secure in spite of the world crashing in around us.

Many folks think that more money will make them content. Yet contented people are found in rich and poor homes alike. It is not how much money you have, but your attitude that makes the difference.

Did you realize that joy will also lead to a generous spirit? Paul commends the Philippians for their generosity and support of his work. He has learned that God is able to meet his needs and supply those needs in abundance.

Across the world, there are more than 4,000 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries who depend on us to be joyful so that we can give with a generous heart. The Lottie Moon offering is one way to illustrate our joy and contentment in Christ. We give, and God uses that gift to meet the needs of our ambassadors to foreign lands.

Are you filled with joy? If so, you know these results!

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NEWS DIGEST

Southern Baptist volunteers begin relief work in Haiti

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—As the C-97 cargo plane loaded with more than 30,000 pounds of supplies took to the air for a humanitarian mission to Haiti, Brotherhood Commission staffers breathed a sign of relief. It took a heroic effort, but in 10 days all the supplies to do renovation work on the Baptist Convention of Haiti annex offices in Port-au-Prince were gathered and loaded onto the plane headed to Haiti.

The convention annex will be used as a staging area for volunteers and supplies in relief efforts to come, including food distribution, water well repair and medical teams. During the food distribution effort, 17 teams of 10 people each will be needed, with the first team already on the field.

In early 1995, volunteers with plumbing skills will be needed for repair and replacement of about 500 of the country's water wells. Plans also call for medical teams to work with Haitian churches and schools early next year. By the end of the project, more than 200 Southern Baptist volunteers will have served in Haiti.

Baylor regents decline action on Corts' nomination

WACO, TX (ABP)—The governing board of Baylor University met to elect a new president Nov. 17-18 but adjourned without a decision.

Thomas Corts, 53-year-old president of Samford University, was nominated by a presidential search committee to take the helm of Baylor, the nation's largest Baptist college with 12,000 students. But the Baylor board of regents, after a protracted two-day meeting, apparently deadlocked over the nomination.

The regents left the Waco, Texas, campus after issuing a two-sentence announcement: "The Baylor University board of regents has adjourned its special two-day meeting after receiving a report from its presidential succession committee. There will be no news conference and no statement from the board or Baylor University."

Corts is neither a Baylor graduate nor a Texas native—factors some regents said were crucial. Others reportedly worried that he is too conservative for the Baylor constituency.

Hudson Baggett, Alabama editor, dies of heart attack

POINT CLEAR, AL (BP)—Hudson D. Baggett, editor of *The Alabama Baptist* since 1966, died of a massive heart attack Nov. 17.

Baggett, 71, and his wife, June, were visiting Point Clear, Ala., for a day's vacation following the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

According to family sources, Baggett had taken a walk before breakfast and returned to his hotel room. Shortly afterward, he suffered a massive heart attack and died.

"Hudson Baggett not only edited *The Alabama Baptist*, but he was Mr. Alabama Baptist," said Mike Shaw, chairman of the newspaper's board of directors and pastor of First Baptist Church, Pelham. "There was not a more beloved personality in Alabama Baptist life than Dr. Baggett."

Before coming to *The Alabama Baptist*, Baggett was a professor in the department of religion and philosophy at Samford University from 1958-1966. He was a graduate of Howard College (now Samford University) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Billy Graham's Atlanta crusade draws record crowds

ATLANTA (BP)—The Atlanta Billy Graham Crusade is history, but the results of the fall harvest in Georgia will be felt possibly for generations.

The average evening attendance—at 62,500—was a record high for a Billy Graham Crusade in the United States and Canada, according to a Billy Graham Evangelistic Association official. An overflow crowd of more than 78,000 for the Saturday youth night was the largest ever for a single event at the Georgia Dome.

The response to Graham's invitations was equally strong. A total of 17,259 decisions were registered during the crusade services, plus 1,800 at a Saturday children's crusade.

Court to hear dispute over funding religious journal

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether the separation of church and state permits a university to refuse to subsidize a student-run religious publication. Justices announced they would review lower court rulings that upheld a ban on the use of student activities funds for religious activities at the University of Virginia.

The appeal, by a group of students at the Charlottesville, Va., school, is to date the only church-state dispute the high court has agreed to review this term.

A federal appeals court agreed that the university's policy discriminates against religious speech but held that the policy is justified by the state school's need to comply with the First Amendment's requirement of church-state separation.