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9-11-1986

**September 11, 1986**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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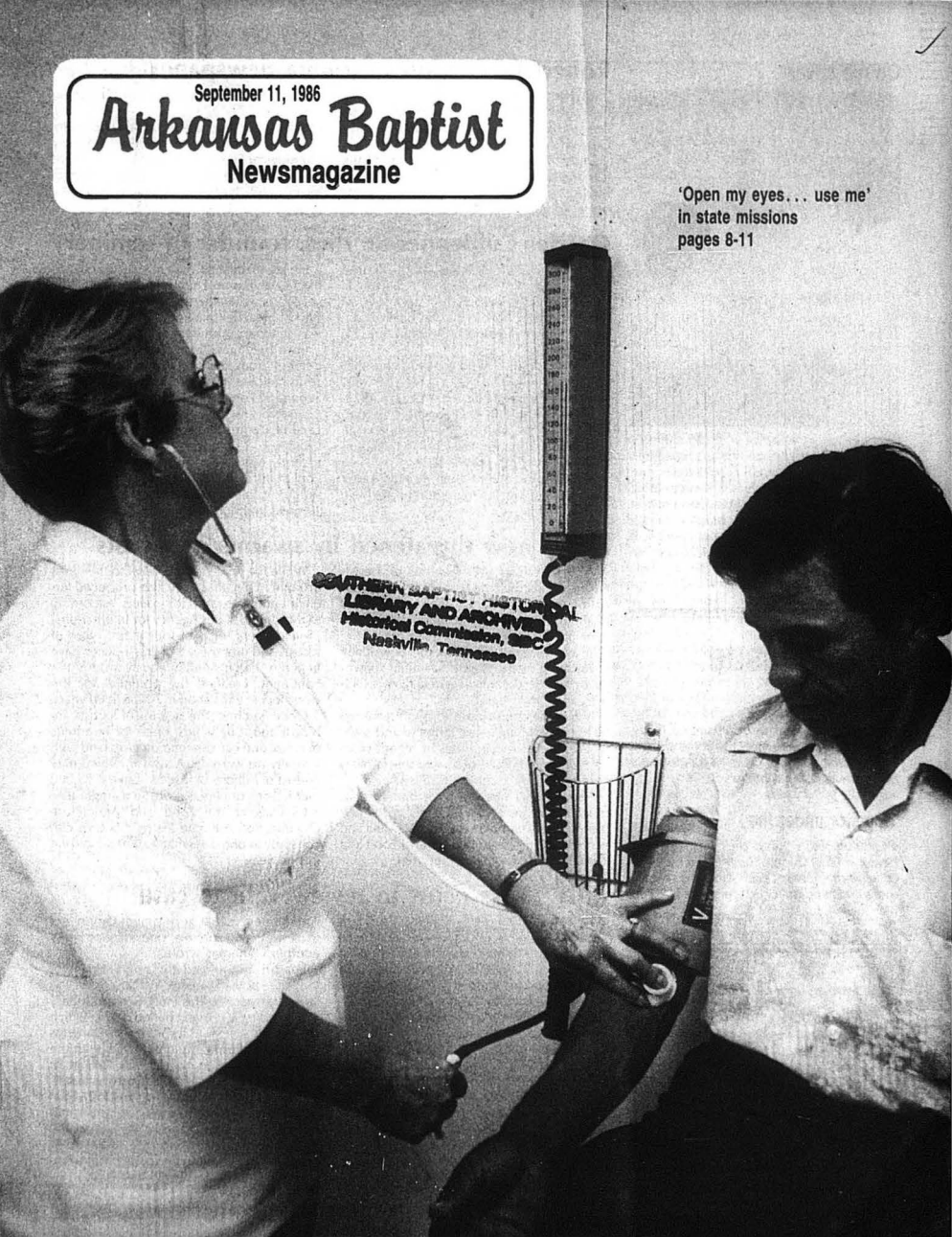
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September 11, 1986

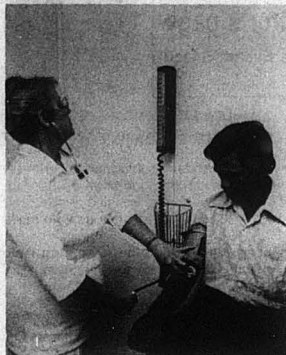
# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

'Open my eyes... use me'  
in state missions  
pages 8-11



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

## On the cover



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

Ministry to migrant farm workers is but one of the many ways Arkansas Baptists touch mission needs in the state. A free medical clinic at the *Batholomew Baptist Mission Center in Hermitage* provides the focus of this week's emphasis promoting the annual *Season of Prayer for State Missions* Aug. 21-28 and the *Dixie Jackson Offering* (pp. 8-11).

## In this issue

### 5 quick cooking

People always seem to be in such a hurry, rushing from work to meetings at the church. This regular feature offers suggestions for quick meals using a microwave.

### 12 editor under fire

The board of directors of the *Christian Index*, newsjournal of Georgia Baptists, has established a five-member review board to oversee the *Index* and its editor for 20 years, Jack Harwell.

## Robert Dilday joins Virginia newspaper

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Robert H. Dilday has been named associate editor of the *Religious Herald*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Dilday has been associate editor of the *Christian Index*, newsjournal for Georgia Baptists, since August of 1984. He also has been an intern for the *Arkansas Baptist*

*Newsmagazine*, newsjournal for Baptists in that state.

Dilday is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, the former Nancie Wingo, have a son, Harrison, who was born this summer.

## Charles Culpepper Sr. dies; founder of seminary

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Retired Southern Baptist missionary Charles L. Culpepper Sr., known as the "stackpole" of Taiwan mission work in his day, died of congestive heart failure in San Antonio Aug. 21. He was 91.

The Texas native, who spoke in churches as recently as July, began a 42-year missionary career with his wife, Ola, in 1923. They served first in China, where he participated in the historic Shandong Revival, preached and started churches in the countryside, served as president of two China seminaries and spent seven months under house arrest by Japanese forces early in World War II.

He left mainland China in 1950 and began the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary two years later, when there was only one Chinese Baptist preacher in all of Taiwan. Culpepper was seminary president for 12 years.

Born in Shiner, Texas, Culpepper earned degrees from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, the former Ola Lane of Center Point, Texas; two children, Charles L. Culpepper Jr. of San Antonio, recently retired as a missionary to Taiwan, and Mary (Mrs. William L.) Walker, missionary to Japan; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

## Africa now threatened by swarms of locusts

WASHINGTON (BP)—Swarms of locusts are devouring the crops of at least six African nations, threatening to wipe out already fragile food supplies and plunge the continent back into a severe hunger crisis.

In a cruel twist of irony, the potentially devastating locust plague has been spawned by the desperately needed rains which fell earlier this year.

Two of the countries seriously threatened by the locust plague are Ethiopia and Mali, where foreign missionaries in recent years have utilized millions of hunger relief dollars contributed by Southern Baptists.

Also, locusts already have damaged as much as 60 percent of Chad's crops and have severely harmed crops in Botswana and central Sudan, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported.

While the rains brought relief to the worst drought in decades, they also produced fertile breeding grounds for insects. According to the United States Agency for International Development, eggs of four major types of locusts and one species of grasshopper have begun to hatch simultaneously around the continent, creating the potential for the worst locust infestation in Africa in 60 years.

Once hatched, the swarms of locusts are blown about by winds, often for hundreds of miles, and can descend on crop land with virtually no warning. A swarm, which may consist of billions of insects, can eat 80,000 metric tons of cereal crops in a single day.

Officials at the Food and Agriculture Organization estimate a single swarm can consume in one day what 40,000 people eat in one year.

## BJCPA asks court to review Vatican case

WASHINGTON (BP)—Calling President Reagan's appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican a "blatant violation" of the First Amendment's demand of government impartiality toward various faiths, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has asked the Supreme Court to review lower decisions upholding the action.

In a friend-of-the-court brief written by its general counsel, Oliver S. Thomas, the Baptist Joint Committee argued the high court should review the case because Reagan's action more than two years ago conferred upon the Roman Catholic Church a status not enjoyed by any other religious group.

"Perhaps the most fundamental guarantee of the establishment clause of the First

Amendment is that government cannot act in a way that prefers one religion over another," Thomas wrote.

Reagan announced the appointment of long-time political adviser William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See in January 1984, ending a 117-year period during which the United States was forbidden by Congress to establish formal diplomatic ties with the Vatican. An action by the U.S. Senate in November 1983 cleared the way for re-establishing such ties by repealing the 1867 ban.

Wilson resigned his post earlier this year, leaving a vacancy Reagan has yet to fill. Although numerous religious bodies have urged the president to leave the position vacant, he is expected to fill it.

## Generosity without calculation

One of the most significant roles of a Christian is to help others. In so doing, we are expressing the true nature of a child of God. In a very real sense, the way we treat others is the way we treat the Master. Jesus said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

One of the most significant addresses ever given by our Lord is found in Matthew 25:31-46. Its message is quite clear. It forcibly declares that the individual who has had a true experience with the Lord will be ready to assist those who have human need. While salvation is not attained through good works, the individual who has had an experience with the Lord will be aware of and ready to help those who have need.

The Christian is ready to help in the simple things of life. The examples Jesus gave are intended to illustrate the activity of the individual who has had a true experience with the Master. Help was given to the hungry, a drink was given to the thirsty, a welcome was extended to the stranger, assistance was given to the sick and a visit was made to the prisoner. All of these are things which anyone can do. It was not the matter of giving away thousands of dollars or being able to accomplish feats that would engrave our names in the annals of history. It is simply caring enough to help in the everyday struggles of life.

Further, the help was given in an uncalculating manner. Those who had helped didn't recognize that they were helping Christ. There was no desire or idea of obtaining reward or merit for themselves.

There is a striking contrast between the attitude of those who helped and the attitude of those who failed to help. Those who failed to help said, "If we had known we were helping someone who was important, we would have gladly done it. But we thought it was only some unimportant individual who was not worth helping." There are still those in today's world who are willing to help if they receive proper praise but are unwilling to help when no one knows about it.

Finally, Jesus tells us that when we give help to others we are helping him. How can this be? If we really wish to delight the heart of a parent and if we really want to receive his gratitude, the best way to do it is to help his child. God is our Heavenly Father. The way to delight the heart of God the Father is to help one of his children, our fellow man.

There are numerous ways of helping the needy. The primary intent should be to bring the non-Christian to know Christ and

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



to assist the one who is already a believer to obtain Christian maturity.

Helping opportunities run the gamut of human experience. There are those who need food, clothing, job training, etc. But, whether or not they lack financial resources, troubled people need understanding. They need to know there is someone who really cares.

If we are to be successful in helping others, we must have a true loving interest in people. God cannot use us in this ministry unless we really are willing.

A Christian becomes more successful when he sees the individual rather than the problem. A particular situation may be only a symptom of a much deeper need. Yet, if a person has serious emotional stress, an immediate solution must be found.

In relating to others, we must learn to listen. Selective listening in which the troubled person is confronted with alternatives is helpful.

As helpers we cannot make the decision for other persons. We may assist in clarifying possible courses of action, but the decision must be made by the involved person.

Some words of caution are necessary in counseling others. Keeping confidences is most important. This rule applies to persons guiding friends in need and to pastors, as well as professional counselors. If a confidence is broken, our friend will lose faith in us. His problems also may be intensified by the sharing of his secrets with others. Certainly, he will have the added difficulty of not being able to trust a friend.

We as Christians can make ourselves available to others. But we should remember that all help, to be effective, must be sought. We must never try to push ourselves on others. We can be accessible to others by maintaining an open attitude and becoming involved in ministries which will bring us in contact with people who hurt.

We should always be aware that the problem of others may be so involved that professional help is necessary. Many pastors are skilled in counseling and may be able to assist. In other instances, a professional psychologist or psychiatrist may be required.

When we learn that generosity without calculation helps men in the simplest things of life, we too will know the joy of helping Jesus Christ himself. Remember our Lord said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85

NUMBER 35

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Mark Kelly ..... Managing Editor

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

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## Letters to the editor

### Great American holocaust

It's open season on the unborn, endorsed by Americans who traditionally go to the polls blindfolded.

Tiny lifeless bodies not sold for cosmetics are dumped into garbage. 1.5 million slaughtered annually. Our contribution? Taxes. Thus, wallowing in the most abominable of sins, we, in self-righteous indignation, boldly chastise South Africa for lesser sins.

Useless to blame our colossal massacre on "The Great Society." They don't know any better. Women's lib? They are ignorant, too. The heathen have no conscience, so we Christians must bear the burden of guilt.

As God's witnesses, we knew his word, which was, is, and always will be "Thou shalt not kill."

Had we exercised our God-given wisdom to distinguish right from wrong, courage to face the truth, boldness to give it the title it deserved, that ungodly piece of legislation would never have materialized.

Where were we when God was expelled from school? Where'll we be when he's banned from church? You don't think so? Think again! Did we not passively watch them violate our children?

Rebels take the spotlight screaming "Separation of church and state." Intimidated, we retreat to our closets to pray, wait for God to zap 'em, but we do nothing!

Does the Constitution say when a citizen becomes a Christian his citizenship is therefore terminated?

United, unbelievers brought America to her knees; united, Christians can reinstate

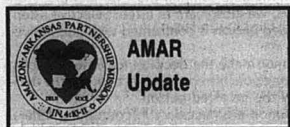
her.

Not to suggest we converge on the White House bearing signs and yelling obscenities. Attack the source from where the corruption evolved.

How many Christians are in America? Consider the effect of a truckload of letters, handwritten in one accord, dumped on your legislators, then do it!

My son once said, "Mother's created a mountain she can't move." So I have.

Surely there's someone out there with the ability to bring about an awakening of the God-fearing citizens of America to the fact that if we fail to exercise our right to become actively involved in the affairs of our country, we will awake one day in a whole new world created by dedicated workers of iniquity.—**Laura Puryear, Bryant**



**Marianna First Church** mission team, composed of Rev. and Mrs. Ted Houston, Mrs. Clyde Jaco and Martha Hogan, has returned from a 10-day trip to Belem, Brazil.

**Park Hill Church** in North Little Rock had five divisional teams in Brazil Aug. 17-27 to assist with outreach in the areas of recreation, construction, education, evangelism and general missions emphasis. There were 27 members composing these teams.

For information about the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission, contact Glendon Grober, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501) 376-4791.

### missionary notes

Dr. and Mrs. William P. Steeger, missionaries to South Africa, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 313 N. 5th St., Arkadelphia, AR 71923). He was born in New York. She is the former Susan Bowman of Alabama. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

### Safety instruction offered

Any church operating buses or vans are invited to contact Glenn Toler, manager public safety, Union Pacific Railroad Company, for a free "Operation Lifesaver" presentation. This safety instruction is offered to church bus and van drivers to prevent possible train and bus collisions at railroad crossings. For more information call (501) 373-2125.

### Seminary extension classes to be offered this fall

Arkansas Baptist associations will provide ministry education opportunities in several locations again this fall. They will be part of a nation-wide network of more than 300 centers affiliated with the Seminary Extension Department. Each center offers one or more seminary-type classes on a pre-college or college level for pastors and other persons engaged in some form of ministry.

Associations which have scheduled classes within the past year include: Buckner, Calvary, Clear Creek, Independence, Mississippi, North Arkansas, Rocky Bayou, Tri-County, and Washington-Madison.

For specific details regarding this fall's classes, interested persons should contact their own director of missions or the associational office in one of these locations.

Seminary Extension courses usually are offered on a weeknight in a local church or the associational office. Courses range from biblical to theological and practical ministry subjects. Seminary-trained pastors from the area most often teach the courses.

Lehman Webb serves as Seminary Extension consultant on the staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



**Dedication and appreciation**—New London Church near Strong held a dedication-appreciation service Aug. 10. The church has completed an extensive remodeling program that included the addition of a fellowship hall, kitchen, nursery, two Sunday School rooms, a new baptistry, arched entry way and remodeled auditorium. The exterior was bricked and re-roofed. Pastor Harold Diffie also was recently recognized by the congregation for 20 years of service. He was presented with an appreciation plaque and love offering.

Don Moore

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

Somehow we tend to feel the big needs and the dramatic experiences happen in a distant place.

Let me share some facts that will bless your heart. During the past year our two migrant centers at Hope and Hermitage have seen 321 people come to Christ. A tremendous witness and ministry is carried on through our two missionaries and their families. There is seldom a church in Arkansas that will see as many saved in one year as these two ministries.



Moore

There are over 50 congregations that use a different language in their worship than those of us who use English. Six new language congregations have been begun this year. During the year, 67 have found the Lord through these ministries. Six new works have been started.

Ten small congregations have been helped with buildings through the revolving loan fund. Twenty congregations have received grants that total \$44,500 this year. Pastoral aid has been given to 47 congregations who are too weak to provide even a part-time salary. We have spent \$107,175 for 11 mission sites. Sixteen sites need new churches started. New missions begun this year now total 14.

The five Executive Board employed chaplains have seen 341 professions of faith this year. We work with 47 other volunteer chaplains over the state who are having good ministries.

Two used mobile chapels and one new mobile chapel have been bought for use in mission work this year.

This will give you an idea of what the Dixie Jackson State Mission offering accomplishes. Many needs exist in these areas mentioned, as well as in the three other areas of State Missions which have not been highlighted.

These ministries can't continue without a great State Missions offering this year. The reason? Forty-two percent of their support comes from the Dixie Jackson offering. Forty percent comes from the Cooperative Program and 18 percent from the Home Mission Board.

Pastors, please share this with your people and let them give.

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



## Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

### Quick cooking

Everyone seems to be in a hurry. If you are active in your church, you are very busy. To help with your active schedule, this month we are giving recipes for quick cooking in the microwave oven.

This corn chip pie features an easy way to remove most of the fat from ground meat. It can be served with a green salad for a fast meal when time has slipped away from you.

#### Corn chip pie

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef                        | 1 1/4 teaspoon salt        |
| 1 medium onion, chopped                  | 1 tablespoon chili powder  |
| 1 16 oz. can stewed tomatoes             | 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder |
| 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce                 | 1 tablespoon cumin         |
| 1 15 oz. can chili beans                 | 1 tablespoon flour         |
| 1 small green pepper, chopped (optional) | 1 tablespoon sugar         |

Crumble meat into a plastic collander (microwave proof). Place on a glass baking dish and microwave on high for 5 minutes. (Grease from the beef will drip through the collander and can be discarded.) Pour into a 2 quart baking dish. Add seasonings and flour; stir. Add tomatoes, tomato sauce and pepper. Microwave on high 10 minutes. Stir in beans and microwave on high 1 minute. Allow flavors to blend 5 minutes before serving over corn chips. Serves 4-5.

Perhaps your mother or grandmother made an old fashioned lemon cream pie? This recipe has been adjusted for microwave cooking. Share a slice with an elderly neighbor or friend.

#### Lemon cream pie

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 9 inch pie crust, baked | 2 egg yolks, slightly beaten   |
| 3/4 cup sugar             | 1/4 cup lemon juice            |
| 4 tablespoons flour       | 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind |
| pinch of salt             | 2 tablespoons margarine        |
| 1 1/2 cups milk           |                                |

In a 2 quart glass baking container, combine sugar, flour, and salt. Add 1 cup of milk and mix. To the beaten egg yolks add 1/2 cup milk and mix well. Add this to the flour and sugar mixture and mix. Cook on high for 3 minutes. Stir. Cook 2 minutes more on high (until thickened). Mix in lemon juice, margarine, and lemon peel. Pour into baked pie shell. Cover with a meringue made from 2 egg whites. Bake for 10 minutes, or until tan, in 350 degree oven.

Almost everyone likes peanut brittle. Share some with a friend.

#### Microwave peanut brittle

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups raw peanuts | 1/2 cup corn syrup |
| dash of salt           | 1 cup sugar        |

Mix together in a 2 quart glass baking container. Cook on high 7 minutes. Have ready 1 tablespoon margarine and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add to hot mixture and stir. Immediately return to microwave and cook 2 minutes on high. Add 1 teaspoon baking soda and stir. Quickly spread on a buttered metal tray. When cool, loosen from pan, turn over and crack with a knife. It is important to work quickly and be careful with the boiling syrup.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.



# Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Mike Huckabee** has announced his resignation as pastor of Pine Bluff Immanuel Church, effect Sept. 21 to become pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. A native of Hope, Huckabee is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He currently serves as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Pastor's Conference and president of ACTS of Arkansas. He and his wife, Janet, have three children, John Mark, David and Sarah.

**Ralph William (Bill) Holloway** has accepted the call of Stuttgart First Church to serve as minister of education, effective immediately. He comes to this position from a Foreign Mission Board assignment as director of Nagoya Friendship House in Nagoya, Japan, where his wife, Linda, served as assistant director. Holloway is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Northern Arizona University. He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Holloways have two children, Shana Kay, a student at UALR, and William Kyle, a high school senior.

**Charles Lewis** has joined the staff of El Dorado Second Church as minister of education and outreach, moving there from Salem. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor and minister of education in Texas and Arkansas churches. He and his wife, Barbara Ann, have two children, Mary Gay and Steven Paul.

**Tom McGehee** is serving El Dorado Second Church as minister of youth. A native of Ozark, he is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Dennis LaCook** of Perry is serving as pastor of Union Valley Church at Perryville.

**Jeff Lawson** has accepted the call to join the staff of Horseshoe Bend Church at minister of music and youth. He and his wife, Nancy, will move there from Tucson, Ariz., where he served as minister of music at First Southern Church.

**Gary Burney** has been called to serve as full-time pastor of West Fork First Church where he has been serving as interim pastor since April. He has served as pastor of both Arkansas and Oklahoma churches. He and his wife, Anita, have a son, David Lee.



Huckabee



Holloway



Lewis



McGehee

**Homer Rich** resigned as pastor of Black Oak Church at Fayetteville Aug. 10 to move to Garden City, Kan.

**Larry Duke** has resigned as pastor of Mill Creek Church, Hot Springs.

**Mary B. Luck** of Magnolia has been approved by the Foreign Mission Board to serve overseas under the auxiliary personnel program. She is at Sonnenberger Strasse 60, 6200 Wiesbaden, Federal Republic of Germany.

**Marianne Colbert Rollins** recently received an award for completing of 25 years of service as a missionary for the Home Mission Board and Alaska Baptist Convention. She received her service award at the 41st annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention. A native of Little Rock, she is the daughter of O. H. Colvert, a member of Little Rock Second Church.

**Mark Brim** has resigned as minister of music and youth at Warren First Church to join the staff of First Church in Claremore, Okla.

**Rita Frazier** resigned Sept. 7 as youth director at Rosedale Church in Little Rock.

**Bert B. Dominy** is serving as interim pastor at Little Rock Calvary Church. He is a member of University Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he serves as associate professor of New Testament. Dominy and his wife, Anna Jo, have two children, Steven Clay and Susan Rae.

**Eunice Ashcraft Balfour** of Little Rock died Aug. 26 at age 72. She was a member of Little Rock Immanuel Church and co-owner of Balfour Printing Company. Survivors include two daughters, Joan Balfour of Nashville, Tenn., and Jean Metz of Madison, N.J.; four brothers, Charles Ashcraft of El Paso, Texas, former

executive secretary of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Morris Ashcraft of Winston Salem, N.C., Herman Ashcraft of Malvern and Thomas Lee Ashcraft of Pine Bluff; two sisters, Sammie Pickard and Shirley Pike, both of Albuquerque, N.M. and two grandchildren.

## briefly

**Union Avenue Church** at Wynne observed homecoming Aug. 3, according to Pastor Shelby Bittle who has served there for 15 years. Keith Sandefur, pastor of Saltillo Heights Church in Conway, who was ordained by Union Avenue Church in 1977, was guest speaker.

**Wilmot Church** recently closed a revival led by Ken Jordan of Conway, evangelist, and Bobby Keene of Crossett, music director. Pastor Philip Bowles reported five professions of faith and five other additions.

**Aulds Church** at Portland will observe homecoming Sept. 14, according to Pastor John Harris. Newton Smith, a former pastor, will be speaker. Musicians will be the Marton Family of Monticello, the Macedonians of Oak Grove and the Hackett Family of Dermott.

**Fayetteville University Church** collegiate choir, The New Creations, launched its 1986-87 work with auditions Sept. 4-8, according to Michael J. Bedford, music and worship pastor.

**Horseshoe Bend Church** recently subscribed to Baptist Telnet. Equipment is now being used for an educational tool for workers. Six weeks ago the church began broadcasting its Sunday morning worship service and is receiving a good response from listeners, according to Pastor David Johnson.

**Pleasant Grove Church** at Perryville will ordain Ray Brownholtz to the preaching ministry Sept. 14.

**Claud Road Church** in Harmony Association has expanded its missions education program through the organization of a Brotherhood.

**Sheridan First Church** observed "Salute to the Schools" Sunday Sept. 7. Teachers, administrators and all school personnel of the Sheridan School District were special guests. David Robinson, superintendent, was a program participant.

**Cross Road Church** in Little Rock children will present "Kids Praise Too—The Joyfullest Noise" Sept. 14 at 7 p.m., Steve and Penny Taylor, children's church workers, will serve as program directors.

**Booneville First Church** will enlarge its Sunday School organization in October through the addition of a single adult division.

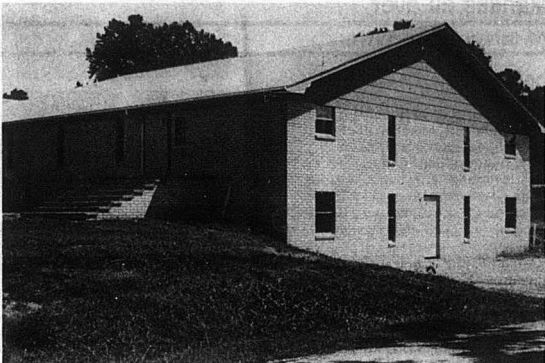
**Dumas First Church** is preparing for a Lay Renewal Weekend Oct. 24-26 to be led by Bill Bledsoe of Hot Springs. Jim Palsa is serving as weekend coordinator. Committee chairmen include Charles Coffield, Ted and Lynn Thompson, Dee Nuckols, Bobbeye Gill, Mary Mullins, Lynn and Romona Weatherford, John Priddy, Sybil Denver, Pat and Anna Johnson, James and Dixie Turnbo, Pauline Tucker and Ann Brigham.

**Fayetteville First Church** conducted U of A Day Sept. 7 to welcome new and returning University of Arkansas students. Activities included Bible study, a morning worship service, a noon meal and afternoon contemporary Christian music concert by David Martin.

**Corning Calvary Church** conducted a backyard vacation Bible school Aug. 11-15 on the parsonage lawn. Leaders were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hunt and Winnis Richardson.

**Cabot Second Church** honored Pastor and Mrs. Dave Griffin at an Aug. 31 fellowship, recognizing their five years of service to the congregation. John Char-ton and his daughter, Lori, of Cabot First Church, provided special music.

**Crystal Hill Church** in Little Rock will observe homecoming Sept. 14. Don Moore, executive director of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will speak at the 10:45 a.m. worship hour, according to Pastor Sid Carswell.



**Facilities dedicated**—Hatfield First Church dedicated a 3,648 square-foot building Aug. 24, housing a fellowship hall, educational space and a basement to be used as a youth and activities center. Gilbert Nichols, director of missions for Ouachita Association, was speaker. Building committee members were R.L. "Doc" Hamilton, Clarence Morrison, Mike Holder, David Clayborn, LaVeta Watkins and Carol Fields. Bryan Webb is pastor.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



**Worship seminar**—Calvary Church in Little Rock was the meeting site Aug. 26 for a worship seminar sponsored by the Church Music Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention. More than 135 persons participated in the seminar led by Fred Kelly of the Music Department of the SBC Sunday School Board. Some participants served as choir members as Kelly shared creative ideas for an in-depth worship experience through a church music program.

## Volunteers needed, support group offered

Advocates for Battered Women, Inc., a non-profit organization for battered women and their children, is seeking volunteers. ABW needs volunteers to staff a shelter evenings and weekends and help with childrens' program. Training will be provided in mid-September.

The organization sponsors a weekly sup-

port group for women in abusive relationships. There is no charge for the group, which will be lead by two trained volunteers. The format of the group will be supportive and informational and all participants can be assured of confidentiality.

For more information regarding the group or volunteering, call (501) 376-3219.



## Arkansas, the land of missions opportunity

It probably has happened to most of us. You're driving to or from work on your all-too-familiar route and all of a sudden you see something you haven't seen before. When you check it out, you discover that it really wasn't all that new. It was just a matter of your not "seeing" it. It had been there for some time, but you had not yet found it.

Arkansas, the land of missions opportunity, is well-sprinkled with all kinds of hurting, needy and lost people that Arkansas Baptists have not yet "seen." "Open my eyes... use me" seems a most appropriate theme for the 1986 Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering.

The Lord could certainly use our Baptist people to minister to and share the good news with those who need someone to care. God does care for them and we need to be ones to "flesh out" this message of love.

We have literally thousands of new people moving to our state each year. Many of them are ethnics who know very little about Jesus. Others may have been here for years but still have not responded to the message that God is concerned about them.

The Missions Department is committed to helping churches and individual church members make an aggressive and appropriate response to the mission needs across the state.

We are available and anxious to share the state missions story with churches and associations when called. We are deeply indebted to the state WMU office and staff, along with those who write the materials, for their support. The financial support we receive from the Baptists of Arkansas has a direct bearing on what we are able to do. The offering will provide 42 percent of our department budget for this year.

Can we count on you to let the Lord open your eyes so that you may be used to share his love with the lost and needy of Arkansas? — **Conway Sawyers, director, Missions Department**

# Open my eyes

## Arkansas Baptists minister to migrant workers

by Mark Kelly

Things are slow this time of year at Hermitage. The tomato harvest is over, and it's too early for the pine tree planting, so many of the migrant laborers who provide the manpower for those big chores have drifted off temporarily.

But an outsider would have had a hard time believing things were any slower than usual on Labor Day weekend at the Bartholomew Baptist Mission Center in Hermitage.

The center was hopping as time approached for the afternoon worship service. Children ran in and out the doors, laughing and playing. A low buzz of conversation, all in Spanish, filled the air.

By the time the song service began, 138 people had crowded into the hall, a long room fronted with the flags of the United States, Arkansas, and Mexico.

Attendance was off, according to Ariel Hernandez, director of the center. Usually, attendance runs up around 165. But, despite the lull in the work season, people had driven to Hermitage for the service.

They came from all over. Many drove 60 or 70 miles from towns such as Dermott, Jerome, and Montrose. And they came for one reason: the mission center offers the only comprehensive Hispanic ministry within reach.

The center, a ministry of the Bartholomew Association in Warren, is supported in part by funds provided by Arkansas Baptists through the annual Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions. (The offering provides 42 percent of the annual budget for statewide missions ministries.)

The mission center touches the lives of the migrant farm workers—90 percent of them undocumented Mexicans—in a broad range of ways.

Literacy classes minister to a real need. Family and youth counseling also reach peo-

ple at a point where they struggle. Hunger funds are available to help families in crisis.

As one of the few Spanish-speaking ministers known to area authorities, Hernandez is called regularly to area jails and hospitals, even as far away as Hamburg or Hot Springs.

In addition, the center offers sewing classes for the women, recreation such as basketball and soccer, weekly worship services and Bible study classes, and a class for new converts, who are baptized into appropriate area churches.

One of the newer ministry developments at the center was the July 6 dedication of a 625-square-foot annex housing a medical clinic staffed by volunteers.

The annex houses a reception area, pharmacy, and two examination rooms. Another unfinished room eventually will be fitted for dental examinations.

Volunteer services are donated by three area physicians: a general practitioner, John Miller, Camden First Church; an internist, James Weedman, El Dorado Immanuel Church; and a surgeon, Bill Scurlock, El Dorado First Methodist Church. Dixianna Clayton, a licensed practical nurse from Warren Westside Church, assists the physicians.

The pharmacy is stocked with free samples and donated medications. The exam rooms are furnished with donated equipment.

In 1985 the nurse and physicians at the mission center clinic treated 285 patients on the 42 Sunday afternoons it was open. During the 1986 tomato season (March-July) they treated 126 people for a range of conditions one would expect to see in any clinic: skin rashes, high blood pressure, ear and stomach problems, etc.

All services, except when hospitalization is required, are given free of charge. Even surgery costs the patient only the hospital charges.

# ... use me

es . . .

## needs through clinic

The need for a medical ministry became immediately apparent to Hernandez when he came to the center in 1981.

"I saw a real need for a clinic," recalls Hernandez, who himself finished two years of medical school before entering seminary to prepare for ministry. "I saw people who were sick and not doing anything about it. There was a lack of means, a lack of transportation, a lack of communication that prevented them from getting the help they needed."

Hernandez invited John Miller to begin working with him as he visited laborers in the fields. At first, Miller examined and treated patients in the field. Later they moved to a Methodist chapel at Johnsville where migrants were meeting for worship, and Miller used a pew as an examining table.

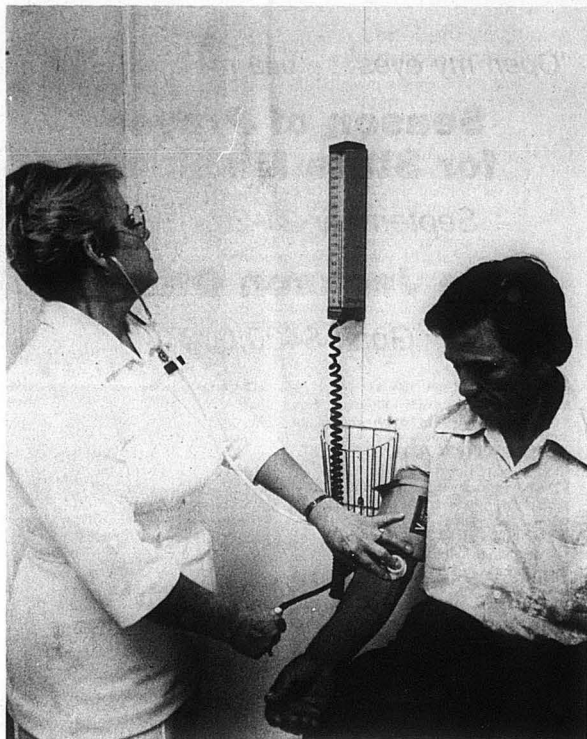
In 1984 funds from the Dixie Jackson State Missions Offering purchased a mobile home for children's educational space at the Bartholomew center. Miller, now working with Weedman and Scurlock on a rotating basis, used a tiny room in the trailer as a clinic.

In July the clinic moved into its new quarters, built with funds provided by El Dorado First Methodist Church and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, again using funds provided by the state missions offering.

Hernandez is glad Arkansas Baptists can see the needs at Hermitage and are willing to let God use them to minister to migrant farm workers there. Most of the laborers take a risk just by their presence.

"It takes courage for undocumented workers to come here, knowing anything can happen," Hernandez points out. "We're just here to meet the needs they have, whether they are spiritual, material, or physical."

Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

*Dixianna Clayton, a licensed practical nurse and member of Westside Church, Warren, checks blood pressure for migrant farm workers at the Bartholomew Baptist Mission Center clinic in Hermitage. Three physicians work on a volunteer basis, donating all their services, to care for farm laborers in southeast Arkansas. The clinic is part of a broad range of ministries to migrants at the Hermitage center, which is supported in part by gifts to the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions.*

## Season of Prayer for State Missions

September 21 - 28, 1986

Dixie Jackson Offering

Goal: \$430,000

# Lord!

*'Open my eyes . . . use me'*

## Season of Prayer for State Missions

September 21-28, 1986

### Dixie Jackson Offering

Goal: \$430,000



(Left) Pastor Sang Kee Lee shares the Scripture with members of the Korean congregation in North Little Rock. Lee is the new pastor of the congregation, which meets in a theater building owned by the Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the SBC Home Mission Board assist the congregation with pastoral salary aid. The five-year-old congregation can claim as members almost half of the area's estimated 250 Koreans. Funds provided through the annual state missions offering also help foster mission work with Vietnamese, Laotians, and Hispanics in Fort Smith, Blytheville, Little Rock, and Lake Village. (Above) In any language, music lifts praise to God and deepens the believer's commitment.

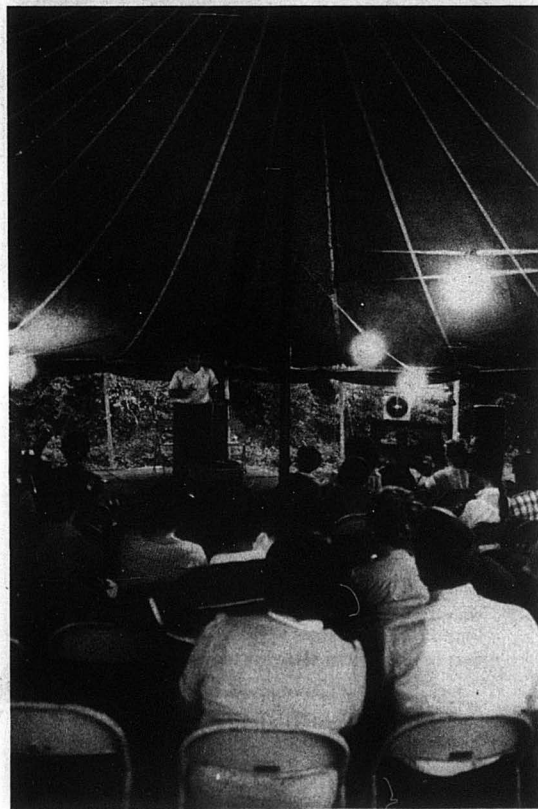


(Right) A major thrust in state missions is the placement of mobile chapels to help new works get off to a good start. This unit was purchased with state mission funds and placed on a site at Gamaliel, north of Lake Norfork on Highway 101. Floyd Tidsworth, church extension director for the ABCS Missions Department, preached the dedicatory message for the chapel Aug. 3. The new chapel is sponsored by Eastside Church, Mountain Home, and was launched with surveys and backyard Bible clubs conducted by two seminary volunteers.





(Left) In April Arkansas hosted its first statewide orientation for persons interested in long-term volunteer mission service through Mission Service Corps, a program which recruits self-supporting volunteers to work full-time on mission projects lasting a year or more. On Aug. 23 a volunteer missions awareness conference at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, drew 19 persons seeking information about volunteer mission opportunities. A second conference is scheduled for Oct. 25 at Sang Avenue Church, Fayetteville.



The Macedonian Mission Plan, Arkansas' most recent strategy for starting new churches, combines the resources of three churches in the challenge of starting a new work in a strategic location. Three congregations link up for a period of three years to provide prayer support, financial assistance, and human resources to get a new chapel off to a good start. Arkansas Baptists need to start 25 new churches each year to keep up with population growth in the state. Presently, new works are beginning at a rate of five per year. (Left) Lynn Worthen, pastor of Arkadelphia First Church, delivers a message in a series of tent revivals at Bismarck. Malvern First Church, Prescott First Church, and Arkadelphia First are sponsoring the new work in Red River Association, which also is providing financial assistance.

### **Because God used you in state missions last year. . .**

. . . more than 320 migrants made professions of faith through migrant missions.

. . . the 1985 Dixie Jackson Offering goal was surpassed, providing \$15,000 for the Revolving Loan Fund which helps young congregations construct their first church building.

. . . 341 people accepted Jesus as Savior through the ministries of our chaplains.

. . . First Church, Mountain View was able to purchase six acres of property for a new mission.

. . . six new Seminary Extension Centers were started.

## Review board to oversee 'Christian Index,' editor

ATLANTA (BP)—A five-member review board to oversee the "editorial policies, practices and personnel" of the *Christian Index*, the newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention, has been named by the Index board of directors.

The action was announced Aug. 26, after a special called meeting of the 10-member Index board and followed four months of closed-door investigation by a special study committee into charges levelled against the Index, the oldest state Baptist newspaper in the Southern Baptist Convention, and its editor, Jack U. Harwell.

Harwell, 53, who has been associated with the Index since 1957 and its editor 20 years, has been under fire since 1979. That year, a joint CBC-Index committee affirmed Harwell's freedom to discuss issues deemed "to be of interest and concern to Georgia Baptists" but instructed him to be governed by the Baptist Faith and Message statement and to "reflect the spirit and theological position of Georgia and Southern Baptists."

The statement issued following the Aug.

26 meeting reaffirms the 1979 statement but asks "that the editor conform in both the letter and the spirit of this declaration."

While the 1979 study was launched after an effort had been made to fire Harwell at the annual meeting of the Georgia convention, the current controversy boiled over in May 1986 after Harwell wrote an editorial critical of the nominations of the SBC Committee on Boards, which was chaired by Lee Roberts, a Marietta businessman.

Roberts prepared and distributed a 32-page document to the study committee detailing complaints against Harwell, including an allegation Harwell had misrepresented circulation figures for the Index, and also questioned the editor's Christian ethics, fairness and effectiveness.

The businessman, a member of Eastside Church of Marietta, called for "replacement... of Harwell, "not restrictions."

*Christian Index* Board Chairman George

Barnett, pastor of Noonday Church of Marietta, in late May appointed a seven-member special committee "to make a serious study of the problems relating to the editorial policies, practice and personnel" of the Index.

Although no one involved revealed specific charges against Harwell, the *Atlanta Constitution* reported Aug. 25 there were six primary issues: "That circulation failed during Harwell's editorship; that Harwell has served as a director of a potentially competing newspaper, *SBC Today*, an independent, Decatur-based journal that favors the moderates; that he has lost his objectivity and sides frequently with moderates; that he labels people unfairly in his editorials, making too free use of terms like fundamentalist and 'militant'; that he is not accountable to anyone; and that he has been too aggressive in helping seminary graduates find churches to pastor in Georgia."

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## Southern Baptists concerned over depth and breadth of farm crisis

by Sherri Anthony Brown

ATLANTA (BP)—More than most denominations, Southern Baptists have reasons to be concerned about the depth and breadth of the current American farm crisis, not only because they are food consumers, but also because they are food producers. More than two-thirds of the 14.4-million-member denomination live in rural areas or towns with under 10,000 population.

Many of these Southern Baptists will go through the "deep agony" of bankruptcy, loss of a career, change of lifestyle and home. "Churches are being challenged to ministry," says Gary Farley, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's rural-urban department.

But farmers are "staunchly independent and will not accept assistance," points out John Hopkins, director of Christian social ministries for Southern Baptists in Kansas and Nebraska. "We're trying to sensitize local churches to go to farmers. Farmers won't come to them."

In the five hardest-hit farm states, nearly three-quarters of a million Southern Baptists live in rural areas; in Missouri, the state suffering worst from farm foreclosures, Farmers Home Administration has acquired 325 farms since 1980.

Authorities predict whole communities will dry up. Businesses, schools and churches will suffer. Some feel the crunch already.

In West Texas bivocational pastors have replaced full-time pastors because loss of farm families moving in the economically depressed area has hurt churches, says Director of Missions Herman Lancaster. In one case, Lancaster convinced two churches to merge, using the same pastor.

Concerned about the fate of 1,065 rural churches in Missouri, state Rural-Urban Missions Director Don Evans, has begun developing programs to aid struggling farm families. With \$50,000 from Home Mission Board hunger funds, Evans began distributing food, food vouchers and money for garden seed to families in need.

Evans also has produced six educational videotapes on the farm crisis and its repercussions. "These tapes have gone all over the country," he reports. "It is one way we can get information out quickly and efficiently." Evans now is working to get legal aid for farmers in transition, whether that transition is voluntary or involuntary.

Yet his actions run counter to skeptics who proclaim, "If a farmer's in trouble, it's his own fault. He got greedy."

For some that's true, but why kick someone when he's down?" Farley asks. "Besides, I don't see their dream as any different from the rest of America. If you criticize them, you criticize the whole capitalistic society." Concludes Farley, "The attitude, 'They made a mistake. Let 'em go down, isn't Christian.'"

Farley does not suggest churches bail farmers out. "It would take all the money all the churches collect all year long to begin to pay off the farm debt," he notes.

In fact, total SBC receipts represent about one-sixtieth of the \$213 billion farm debt. But paying for the debt may not be as important as proving "Southern Baptists care for the farmers like they care for anybody that's hurting," Farley says.

He points to models like Evans and to the ministry of congregations like First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, which sponsored a Farm Jubilee Weekend. Seminars on finances, relocation and other options—plus counseling opportunities—helped farmers from across the nation have a better outlook.

First Baptist Church of Lamesa, Texas, conducted a similar nondenominational weekend event called West Texas Farm Family Weekend. "We knew the church couldn't do much about the financial side of the crisis, but we could help our people handle the stress," says Pastor C.H. Murphy Jr. The church also held four follow-up meetings for the 600 people who attended.

In Georgia, now a national disaster area, drought coupled with mounting farm debts caused the state convention to sponsor a day of prayer for farmers. Reidsville pastor Sterling Barger, who encouraged the state to hold the day of prayer, says, "I hope it's helped. But I haven't seen much rain lately."

Allen and Dolores Baugh, co-directors of missions in Sevens Valley Association in Elizabethtown, Ky., have begun holding rallies for farmers. With the help of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the association sponsored its first rally in February. Five hundred farmers attended. The Baughs, who make their living as farmers, have felt the need for helping the farmers. They are planning at least two more rallies this summer, offering aids on farm money management and stress management.

In Mississippi, Director of Missions M.C. Johnson also has provided stress conferences for hard-hit farmers in his North Delta Association. "They need to talk about their needs and problems," he says.

### Cameron death toll includes 80 Baptists

SOUBOUM, Cameroon (BP)—Eighty or more members of a Baptist church in Souboum, a small village near the site of a volcanic eruption of lethal gases in northwest Cameroon, were among 1,500 persons who died in the disaster Aug. 21.

The church is one of 525 Baptist churches in the country affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Cameroon, a member of the Baptist World Alliance. Working with the English-language convention are 50 missionaries from the North American Baptist Conference based in Oak Brook Terrace, Ill.

His association has provided food and clothing for farm hands and their families. "The farmers can't help them out in the winter anymore, and they sure can't afford to lose these workers," explains Johnson.

Stress—monetary, emotional, physical—can be crippling, farmers say. And it hides not only on farms, but in churches as well. "Imagine the tensions that can surface in a church," says Farley, "when its members include the banker—who is foreclosing, the sheriff who's serving the papers and the family who's losing its farm. 'How does a church handle that?'" he asks.

Often overlooked in the farm crisis is the banker, almost as victimized by the shifts in land values and mounting debt as the farmer. Southern Baptist Charles Brazeale, president of The Paris National Bank in Paris, Mo., points out the locally owned institution suffers with the downfall of each family farm.

"It doesn't always seem that we're looking at all sides of this problem. But people need to realize when farmers go under we suffer a considerable financial loss, too," he insists.

Beyond the professional loss is the personal pain Brazeale must handle. "I'm very much aware of the farmers' feelings," he says, noting that he's had farmers break down in his office. "I see all this crying; they offer all these promises that they'll do this or that. I try to help, but there's very little I can do..."

Brazeale has found farmers "get down on themselves when they lose their farm. I tell them they're still important. They still matter."

"I try to be Christian," he concludes. "I have to convince them they can't save their farm. And then I serve communion with them on Sunday. It's hard."

Farley agrees. But he adds, "loving your neighbor as yourself is what Christianity is about. God forgives. The farmer should be able to forgive himself, and we should be able to forgive and help each other. Ours is a gospel of grace."

Sherri Anthony Brown writes for Missions-USA, published by the SBC Home Mission Board, from which this article was adapted.

The European Baptist Mission also has about 50 missionaries in the country, but in areas to the north and south, according to Max Staubli, associate general secretary of the mission based in Bad Homburg, West Germany.

No Southern Baptist missionaries are stationed in the west African nation.

The Baptist World Alliance has allocated \$5,000 in emergency funds for Cameroon.

About 15 North American Baptist Conference missionaries live within 30 miles of the disaster site.



"Study to show thyself approved . . ."

2 Timothy 2:15

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## International

### Making a fresh start

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, editor emeritus

Basic passage: Genesis 6:1 to 9:17

Focal passage: Genesis 9:1-15

**Central truth:** God offers a way for persons to make a fresh start after they have sinned.

(1) The dominion of humanity (Gen. 9:1-3) Once the flood was over and Noah and his family—a total of four couples—were ready to come out of the ark and make a new beginning. God gave them the same command he had given Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth." But now there was a strange, new direction connected with their dominion over the "beasts of the earth, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea." All of these creatures now were to be food for the human race. The harmonious relations that had existed between humans and animals before the flood now were gone. From this time forward, earth's creatures would fear man.

(2) The sanctity of life (Gen. 9:4-7)

The sacredness of life was emphasized in God's direction concerning the new meat diet. As animals were slaughtered for food, their blood was to be held sacred, as a symbol of life itself, and was not to be eaten. Nor was man's blood to be shed, either by man or animals, for man had been made in God's image. Whoever or whatever took a human life—man or beast—was to be put to death.

(3) God's covenant (Gen. 9:8-11)

Through Noah and his sons, God established a covenant that was also extended "to every living creature." Never again would "all flesh" be "cut off any more by the waters of a flood." And, as Peter reminds us (2 Pet. 3:9), God keeps his promises. This reminds us of the new covenant eventually to be established with the coming of earth of Christ to die for all of us, thus providing an atonement for our sins and a way of escape from the penalty of death through a whosoever will gospel.

(4) The token of promise (Gen. 9:12-15)

Whether or not this was the first time there had been a rainbow, from this time forward this beautiful natural wonder was to be a reminder of God's promise. The symbols for the new covenant established with the coming of Christ are the cross, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Whereas we are reminded by the rainbow God will never destroy the earth again by flood, these symbols remind us of his abiding remedy for spiritual death.

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## Life and Work

### Prayer of confession

by Janet Hamm Williams, Calvary Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Psalm 51

Focal passage: Psalm 51:1-13

**Central truth:** Confession of sin to God is an essential part of Christian prayer.

The prayer of confession always accompanies true repentance and is an essential ingredient of the conversion experience. The psalmist prayed, "God, have pity on me, a sinner;" he received pardon and "was in the right with God when he went home" (Luke 18:13-14).

In Psalm 51 David admitted his sins to Nathan but he confessed his sins to God and asked his forgiveness. God did not (and does not) measure the size of the sin. Just as a tiny pebble in one's shoe will slow down the journey as much as a larger stone, a "tiny sin" will destroy one's journey as much as a "greater sin."

Some of the stages indicated by David's prayer give us guidelines to confession: (a) recognition of God's unchanging love (v. 1); (b) awareness of the power of sin in one's life (v. 3); (c) understanding that sin is against God (v. 4), regardless of others who may be affected; (d) acceptance of full responsibility for one's sin (v. 4b); (e) acknowledgement of being undeserving of God's mercy (v. 5).

Healing requires cleansing the wounds first. David uses several references to cleansing as he petitions God to "wash away my sins," "make clean;" "remove my sin;" "wash me," and "wipe out all my evil."

In response to God's forgiveness, David commits to "teach sinners" (v. 13), to "proclaim righteousness" (v. 14), and to "praise" the Lord (v. 15). Further, he makes the commitment to have an humble spirit, characterized by a willingness to conform to God's will.

David's prayer of confession breaks down the barrier erected by sin; produces immediate blessing and peace; and heals the wounds incurred in his heart.

David's experience reminds us that the prayer of confession is more than a statement of our sins. It is necessary as the Christian seeks restoration to useful and meaningful service. May we apply some of the insights which David's prayer provides as we grow in awareness of our need for confession.

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## Bible Book

### God's response

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

Basic passage: Joel 2:18-3:21

Focal passage: Joel 2:18-19, 28 to 3:3, 16-17

**Central truth:** Joel's prophecies of restoration and protection, which are fulfilled in Christ, provide assurance that God accepts and redeems all who turn to him.

In most of our lives there come periods which, as far as productive labor, happiness in our hearts, or worth to the kingdom of God are concerned, are lost years. Joel speaks of such a gap in the life of his nation as "the years which the swarming locust has eaten" (2:25).

The hinge on which Joel's message turns from his people's calamity to God's compassion is "Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people" (2:18).

God's first answer to their repentance and cry for mercy was in restored vegetation (2:19a), the removal of international reproach (2:19b), and the utter extermination of the plague of locusts (2:20).

Whereas the ground did "mourn" (1:10), it is now to "fear not" (2:21a); whereas the beasts did "groan" (1:18) and "pant" (1:20) after water beside dry brooks, they are now told to "fear not" (2:22a); whereas "all the inhabitants of the land" were to sanctify a fast and assemble in "the house of . . . God . . . and cry to the Lord" (1:14), they are now told to "be glad . . . and rejoice for the Lord has done great things" (2:21). What an idyllic picture of pastoral prosperity the prophet paints in two paragraphs (2:24-27).

God's second answer to their repentance and prayer for mercy was to be in the outpouring of the Spirit (2:28-32) upon his people. Two applications of this prophecy are appropriate. The prophet says that together with physical "portents in the heavens and on earth" (2:30) of the coming "of the great and terrible day of the Lord" (2:32) there is the gift of the Spirit on "all flesh."

In the Old Testament the Spirit of God was usually given to certain individuals with special tasks in mind. Joel's prophecy represents a reversal of this pattern for the Spirit would affect all members of the nation without regard to age, sex or social standing.

Taken as a whole the theme of Joel is "The Day of the Lord." This means judgment or blessing for men or nations according to their response to God. He is the master of the universe.

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## Tennessee appeals court reverses PAC decision

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—The Tennessee Court of Appeals' western section has reversed a chancery court decision that had declared churches which speak out on referendum issues must file financial disclosure statements.

On a 2-1 vote, the three-member Court of Appeals ruled the Tennessee Campaign Financial Disclosure Act is unconstitutional as applied to referendum elections because it violates the First Amendment right of free speech.

However, the appeals court judges did rule such churches are "political campaign committees" — political action committees — under the disclosure act.

In the majority written opinion, justices noted the "Campaign Disclosure Act contains definite infringements upon free speech."

The majority opinion said, "Since the risk of corruption is not present in a popular vote on a public issue such as a liquor-by-the-drink referendum, we find that the state has not proved a compelling interest which is necessary to survive the exacting scrutiny required for state-imposed restrictions on freedom of speech."

A dissenting opinion noted the majority's

statement that risk of corruption is not present in a liquor-by-the-drink referendum fails to recognize "that from time immemorial the liquor industry has been subject to some of the most stringent rules and regulations of any industry in our society. Various controls have been adapted and maintained in the face of constitutional challenges because of the evils inherent in the industry. . . . Any referendum dealing with the sale of liquor is fraught with the peril of special interests who would surreptitiously infiltrate legitimate financing sources."

Although the original class-action lawsuit and the appeal were based on the churches' responsibility to speak out on moral issues, the Court of Appeals' Aug. 21 ruling dealt with all political action committees on referendum elections, removing the requirement to file reports of receipts and expenditures.

However, if a church helps finance a political candidate, it would be required to file disclosure forms, said Michael Tabor, a Jackson attorney who represented the churches in the legal battle.

The Tennessee attorney general said the Court of Appeals' ruling would be appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court.

## RTVC restructures debt, obtains \$10 million loan

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—A \$10 million loan to restructure debt incurred with the start and operation of the American Christian Television System has been obtained by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

The loan, which will allow the commission to refinance \$8,516,000 in short-term loans and general obligation notes, also will provide slightly more than \$1 million for operation of the two-year-old network.

Fred Roach, a Dallas homebuilder and chairman of the commission finance committee, said: "This loan will give us breathing room. The (debt) restructuring process puts the financial affairs of the RTVC in a more ordered way."

According to Jimmy R. Allen, president of the commission, the loan "drops the monthly debt service pressure. We will be paying about \$128,000 per month on this loan and that will be about \$200,000 per month less pressure on us."

In September of 1985, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a plan permitting the commission to restructure its debt by seeking a \$10 million loan with a 10-year payback and starting a special solicitation campaign to attempt to raise \$10 million.

Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, said the action does not obligate the SBC or its Executive Committee to pay the loan in the event of default by the commission.

Under terms of the loan, the commission will pay the 1 percent above the bank's

prime interest rate, which at the time of closing was 8 percent. The payments will be made for 84 months (seven years) at which time a "balloon" note of about \$3.5 million will be due. Also included are loan costs of \$175,000, of which one point—\$100,000—is an origination fee and the remaining \$75,000 is attorney's fees and title insurance.

According to loan summary information, the commission pledged \$14,197,166 as collateral, including about \$8.5 million in real property in Fort Worth, \$3.1 million in equipment and \$2.3 in programming inventory.

Allen said ACTS programming is currently available to about 3.9 million households in the United States through cable television systems and an estimated 800,000 homes through two full-power and four low-power stations.

Both Allen and Roach said the number of households with access to ACTS has not grown as fast as anticipated and Allen said the 3.9 million cable households "is hitting our most conservative level of anticipated growth." Allen, however, said projections indicate the network will be reaching 12 million households by September of 1988, the minimum number necessary for significant advertising revenues.

Two other avenues by which to raise money for the network—capital campaigns and sale of programs to other broadcasters—also have not produced the dollars anticipated. Both Roach and Allen, however, emphasized the fund-raising campaigns and the effort to syndicate the five programs is being studied and will be modified.

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