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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 25

December 16, 1993



"For God so loved
the world,
that He gave..."

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David Moore unanimously elected head of Arkansas Baptist Foundation

W. David Moore, pastor of Immanuel Church in Pine Bluff, has been unanimously elected president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

Moore, 44, who was elected to the post Dec. 9 by the Foundation board of directors, will begin his duties Jan. 1, 1994, as president-elect. He will assume the position of Foundation president May 1 following the April 30 retirement of current president Harry Trulove.



David Moore

Search committee chairman Byron Eiseaman, a member of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, told board members that the committee sought "to find the person the Lord would have become the new president of our Foundation." Describing the search process as "a rewarding and remarkable experience," Eiseaman said committee members "were all in unanimous agreement that David was the person the Lord was leading us to offer the position to."

Moore, who has been pastor of Immanuel Church since 1987, previously was pastor of churches in Alabama and Virginia. He also currently is president of TV-65 in Pine Bluff, where he hosts a weekly talk show and oversees other local programming. Moore is a graduate of Samford University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion degree from Baylor University.

He and his wife, Becky, have two daughters, Holly and Joy.

Trulove said he is "very pleased" with

the selection of Moore as his successor. "He brings to the position a background of financial experience and estate planning that is not common to one in pastoral ministry," Trulove remarked. "I was very impressed with his vision statement and emphasis on the ministry aspect of the agency."

In his four-page vision statement, Moore said his goal is for the Foundation "to present an image that it is accessible, caring, professional and secure."

Describing his new position as "a deliberate journey God has led us on," Moore noted, "This kind of work touches on my interests, spiritual gifts and inherent skills and lets me use

them in ministry. What Foundation work does is allow me to touch people in ministry for years and years. That's exciting."

Moore said another goal as Foundation president will be to encourage "every Arkansas Baptist adult to have a will whether they leave anything to Baptist causes or not."

In other Foundation business, board members elected officers for the coming year, with Eiseaman elected as board chairman. Jim Lanier, a member of Russellville First Church, was elected vice chairman and Allen Thrasher, a member of Fayetteville First Church, secretary.

Board members also heard a report from attorney Jim Harris about the "Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1993" and heard a report from Trulove that assets managed by the Foundation are expected to reach \$40 million by the end of the year.

Cover Story



The greatest gift

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Greg Kirby, Benton, president; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Lucie C. Hagins, Fortyce; Cliff Palmer, Rogers; Brenda Bruce, Newark; Mark Baber, Marion; David McCormick, Dardanelle; James Preston, Stamps; and Ode Turner, Arkadelphia.

Executive Board organizes for coming year

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

LITTLE ROCK—Meeting Dec. 7 for their annual organizational meeting, members of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board heard a report from executive director Don Moore and approved committee assignments for the coming year.

Reporting to board members two weeks following the death of his wife, Shirley, Moore remarked, "I'm indebted to you and so grateful for the freedom you have given me during these months to take care of my wife."

Acknowledging that "I feel like I have been through a war for eight months" during Mrs. Moore's battle with cancer, Moore added, "Your prayers have made all the difference."

"Moment by moment, God, amazingly and wonderfully, has enabled me to do things that I could not do, but because of Him, I have," Moore affirmed. Citing Psalm 34:1, he added, "Nothing has changed about the worthiness of God to be praised. I am glad to be His and I'm glad to be yours and in your care."

Board members responded by voting to encourage Moore to take some personal time away from the office. Executive Board president Rich Kincl, pastor of Central Church in Magnolia, said the action demonstrates the board's "love, admiration and appreciation to Dr. Moore."

Moore also assured board members that "the work of the convention has gone on unhindered and uninterrupted because of the able staff you have employed and because of their commitment to God, to me, to Shirley and to the convention."

"Their load has been very heavy but they have carried it well," Moore said. "They have just been tremendous. They have been family in every sense of the word."

Citing recent ministry statistics, Moore said Executive Board staff members have preached 900 times, witnessed 275 professions of faith in Christ and held 6,808 individual consultations during the first 10 months of the year.

He said Cooperative Program receipts for the first 10 months totaled 100.38 percent of the budget needs, for a total of \$72,000 over budget. Although that is not a large gain, "when you hear what is happening in other state conventions that are experiencing budget shortfalls, 'it's still phenomenal what God's people are doing in Arkansas,'" Moore declared.

Moore said Arkansas Baptists also are reporting a slight increase in the number

of baptisms over the previous year compared to a projected 5 percent decline across the Southern Baptist Convention. "Once again, Arkansas Baptists are being signally blessed of God," he said. "I thank Him and praise Him and commend you for your part in all this."

Moore also announced that Bernice Jones of Springdale, a frequent Arkansas Baptist benefactor, has agreed to fund the construction of a children's worship center at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs. The facility is expected to be completed in 1995.

"It's still phenomenal what God's people are doing in Arkansas."

— Don Moore

ABSC executive director

In other business, board members voted to allow exceptions to a ministerial scholarship policy that provides scholarship funds to ministerial students attending Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College. The policy's requirement that a local church provide \$125 for the student to be eligible to receive the state convention funds can be waived if school officials determine that specific exceptions are necessary.

Board members also voted to change the name of the Church Music department to Church Music Ministries. According to the recommendation, the change is designed to emphasize that "music does indeed fill a ministry role within the church and the lives of people, and that music addresses the full range of ministries of the church." Moore added that the change is in keeping with the title used on the national level by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Board members also authorized a called Executive Board meeting to be held early next year in order to consider individuals to be recommended for the positions of ABSC Sunday School department director, crisis support ministry director and language missions associate. Moore explained that the interviewing process is still under way and that the meeting probably would not be held before March.

Board members debated whether to handle the personnel matters with a called meeting or by mail, citing the cost and time involved in an additional meeting. Following discussion, the called meeting gained approval on a show of hands with some opposition.

Committee assignments for the coming year include:

Operating Committee

1994: Betty Dally (Dist. 7), Ben J. Rowell (Dist. 1), Rex Home (Dist. 5), Rich Kincl (Executive Board president), Ronnie Rogers (convention president).

1995: Billy Kite (chairman, Dist. 8), Mitch Tapson (Dist. 6), Larry Loggins (Dist. 2).

1996: Bob Floyd (Dist. 4), Ken Overton (Dist. 3).

Program Committee

1994: Refus Caldwell, Dick Finley, Bill Hilburn, Scott Hinton, Alice King, Roland Loe, Manuel Macks, A. Kay Mansell, Charles Osborne, Danny Ponder, Bruce Rayle, Eugene Ray, Don Rose, Eleanor Sykes.

1995: Gary Akers, Nadean Riley Bell, Terry Eaton, Bob Fisher, Jody Gannaway, John Haughton, Randy Hogan, J.R. Hull, Robbie Jackson, Eugene Johnson, H.D. McCarty, Meric Milligan, Jerry Mixon, Carolyn Pendergrass, Phil Whitten.

1996: Greg Stanley (chairman), Bruce Bond, Otto Brown, Lee Clark, Jim Edwards, Leslie Elam, Carroll Evans, Marck Gibson, Lance Hudnell, Don Jones, Larry Jones, Randy Maxwell, Raymond McMaster, Gerald Perry, Pete Ramsey, Ed Smith, Clyde Spurgin, Ira Taylor.

Finance Committee

1994: Stanley Ballard, Charles R. Bonner, Tom Calhoun, G.A. Dover, Tommy Garner, Bob Harper, Captain Lovell, Jim McDaniel, Joy Miller, Don Phillips, David Pierce, Marvin Reynolds, Lowell Snow.

1995: Jere Mitchell (chairman), Dennis Cottrell, John Greer, Barbara Hassell, Cary Heard, Tim Hight, Johnny Hutchinson, Bob Kinnett, Ronald Loe, Dillard Miller, Jeff Paxton, Pat Robinson, Gearl Spicer, Bruce Tippit, Sedric Wesson.

1996: Travis Beeson, Phillip Boudreaux, Gary Burney, Harrel Cato, Steve Emerson, Mike Henderson, Don Hubbard, J.B. Lovett, Dan Minton, Stan Parris, Jamie Powell, Ed Saucier, Mary Schroeder, Don Settles, David Simpson, Gene Thomas, Wayne Williams, Pam Worrell.

Executive Committee

Rich Kincl, Executive Board president (chairman); Ronnie Rogers, convention president; Don Phillips; Greg Stanley; Jere Mitchell; Billy Kite.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

Some may not like the way this is said, but I must say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away." No, I am not the first to say it. Job (1:21) was the first. Cancer is not sovereign. God is sovereign. Life is God's to give and His to take away. Since His choices are governed by perfect wisdom and perfect love, it is safe to trust His decisions about our loved ones. And so with Job I further say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

In Shirley the Lord gave. To me He gave a wife who would be an ideal companion to share life's purest joys and severest pains. To the children He gave a devoted mother and godly example. To our churches He gave a sterling friend who dearly loved them. To the convention He gave a loving friend and loyal pray-er. One of her last prayers was that "after you are through with me, please direct the prayers of all who have prayed for me to pray as unitedly for spiritual awakening to come to our churches." To pastors' wives He gave hope and encouragement through her warm and loving example. To the Kingdom He gave the handmaid of the Lord, a woman without guile.

It was my glorious privilege to be entrusted with her care from our marriage, May 1, 1955, until her departure, Nov. 23, 1993. I have a little insight into how Jesus loved the church because He said we are to love our wives in the same way.

Of the options, God chose the best. If she had lived a while longer it would have been without mental capacities, communication or consciousness. Your prayers were not in vain. They helped her down the path of endurance as pain tore at her body. Then God did heal her in His way. He has also sustained me. Your prayers have doubtless been the bridges over the dark chasms I have had to cross.

So, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Ps. 34:1).

God bless you everyone, throughout the breadth of this state and nation, for your faithful support. All of my family join me in saying thanks and God bless you.

RONNIE ROGERS

The President's Corner

To Don and Shirley Moore



"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones" (Psalms 116:15). We thank our Lord Jesus for the peace we have in knowing that when Shirley Moore left this world, it was a precious homecoming in the sight of God.

Cindy and Jeff, you are upon our hearts and in our prayers. Although your mother is now with our Lord, her influence in your daily lives will still be evident, and a reminder of her deep love for you. We grieve with you in your loss, and rejoice with you for the privilege God gave you in being able to call Shirley Moore, Mom.

We are saddened, and grieve with you, Don, our executive director and brother in Christ, because we know you have lost a faithful and loving companion. Woman was God's answer to man's loneliness in the garden of Eden, and Shirley was God's answer for yours. We know you have lost a comrade in the faith. We know there have been many battles as you have faithfully served our Lord Jesus, and at times you probably felt it was only you, Shirley, and Jesus. Thank God you could always count on both of them. We know you have lost a confidante, whom you could trust with your problems, needs, stresses, weaknesses and

failures. We know Shirley's contribution to your great leadership is incalculable; thank God He did not ask you to serve alone for those many years.

We rejoice in the many years Shirley knew and faithfully served our Lord Jesus, the countless lives He influenced for the Kingdom, the privilege of having known her, whether from afar or near, her example of a Proverbs 31 woman who stood by, served with and supported her husband.

What is a great loss for Don, family and Arkansas is a great gain for all of Heaven. Shirley will be missed, but not forgotten. We are all sad, but not without hope. "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her...a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:10-11, 30).

From the Arkansas Baptist family, we love and thank you, Shirley, for your godly example, and we say goodbye for now.

To our brother Don, we cannot replace Shirley, nor would we even try, but we do commit to continue to love and pray for you.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, was elected last month as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal perspectives

"In the realm of world evangelization, small is heretical because it does not take seriously the divine command that the gospel is universal."

—Denton Lotz, general secretary, Baptist World Alliance

"With all the advantages that my church has, Arkansas Baptists have and Southern Baptists have, so many of us are not content. What's really important is to be in the center of God's will."

—Ken Blackwood, pastor of Marvell First Church, reflecting on "Crossover India" mission trip

"God found me and allowed me to be the instrument He used."

—Former prison inmate Mary Kay Beard, founder of Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree ministry

Music, memories and a manger

What is your favorite part of the Christmas season?

Beyond the obvious—and appropriate—highlights of celebrating Christ's birth and enjoying family get-togethers, many people are partial to the festive decorations, the holiday parties and scrumptious goodies or the endless gift-giving. Some folks even seem fond of the frenzied, last-minute shopping blitz that draws elbow-to-elbow crowds to every shopping mall and discount store in the country.

As I pause to focus on the rapidly approaching holiday, a few of my perennial Christmas favorites are the music, the memories and the manger.

From "Jingle Bells" to Handel's "Messiah," music is an integral part of the holiday celebration. A rich blend of sacred and secular Christmas tunes can be heard on the radio, in stores, in civic programs and elsewhere. Carolers sharing holiday cheer with shut-ins and nursing home residents and countless church choirs presenting the gospel through cantatas and pageants add to the chorus of holiday music.

The hymns and carols being sung this month in churches around the world are vivid testimonies to the arrival of the Christ Child. It would be hard to imagine a traditional Christmas celebration in an Arkansas Baptist congregation without the familiar strains of "Silent Night," "Joy to the World!" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

The musical sounds of Christmas, like the enthralling account of the first Christmas in Luke 2, help set the mood and reaffirm the priorities of what Christmas is really all about. Music also triggers the next entry on my Christmas favorites list—memories.

By Robert J. Hastings
Editor Emeritus, Illinois Baptist

More than 37,000 Americans now living have noted their 100th birthday. And you thought you were getting old?

At age 93, Norman Vincent Peale shared his thoughts about aging in a new book, *The Ageless Spirit*. Peale, with his wife, Ruth, co-founded *Guideposts* magazine, claims if you say, "Now I'm retired and I'm an old man," your mind will accept what you say about yourself. And in truth, you become "an old man."

The late Frank Bering gave Peale some valuable advice: "Live your life and forget your age." After all the times our parents

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TREANNIS HENDERSON

Emphasizing the link between music and memory, Wes Forbis, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music ministries department, recently described hymns as "a portable gold mine of God's Word."

"It is through the singing of hymns that God's Word is thrust deep into our spiritual memory banks," Forbis pointed out. "In times of stress, failure, challenge, triumph and joy, they call forth the words that illuminate God's promises for you."

The same is true of Christmas memories. The joyful lyrics of Christmas carols and hymns can instantaneously transport us back to childhood Christmas scenes or help us more clearly visualize the sights and sounds of that secluded Bethlehem stable.

Christmas memories are significant to me because I associate the Christmas season with the love and security of growing up in a Christian home where Christ was at the center of our family celebration. Now as a parent with two young daughters, my goal is to help make the Christmas season a cherished time for them as well. Beyond Santa and parties and presents, I want Emily and Audrey to

continually see the Christ of Christmas.

That brings me to the final and most significant Christmas favorite on my list—the manger and all that it symbolizes.

One of the first things I think about as I reflect on the manger scene is sacrifice. God sacrificed His Son's presence in heaven, Christ sacrificed the comfort and splendor of that life and they both faced His eventual sacrifice on the cross. Church members today who whine and complain about the sacrifices of living the Christian life in 20th century America need only to look to the manger—and the cross—to be reminded of what true sacrifice is in the eyes of God.

The manger also is a testimony to servanthood. As Christ declared in Matthew 20:28, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." His earthly life of service, which began in the manger, remains a challenging example to follow today. For those who are tempted to ignore Christ's example and instead pursue power and prestige, Jesus admonished, "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:27).

Finally, the manger is a reminder of the gift of salvation. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son," John 3:16 begins. From that humble entry into the world, the Son of God began His mission to provide salvation to all who would turn from their sin and accept Him as their personal Savior.

As you reflect on your favorite parts of the Christmas season, remember that the music, memories and manger can point you to the sacrifice, servanthood and salvation embodied in Jesus Christ. And as you celebrate, renew your commitment to "tell the good news to everyone."

'Live your life and forget your age'

warned us while growing up to "act your age," are we now to forget our age? Yes, because toward the end of life there's no more time to "act," only time to "live."

In a recent issue of *Modern Maturity* magazine, Malcolm Boyd quotes a reader burdened by anxiety over getting old, an anxiety that speeds up her heartbeat and causes her to hyperventilate. Boyd replied by citing his own fears when he reached only 50. To look younger, he changed his appearance. But when he looked in the mirror, he saw a stranger! At that moment he made the decision to be himself, including his age.

Recently I saw a television ad for an "age-denial" face cream. Presumably, it's

for a person of any age who wishes to deny how old he or she is.

Now I believe in looking our best, because the person who enjoys being sloppy and unkempt may have poor self-esteem. But there's a difference in looking one's best and trying to look 18.

It's poor psychology for anyone to practice "age-denial," whether he's 7 or 70. One proof of maturity is the ability to accept and make friends with one's self.

And that's exactly what Frank Bering meant when he advised Dr. Peale to "forget your age and live your life."

Yes, there's more to life than counting birthdays. And I'll tell you what it is: "Make every day count!"

Keys to coping with grief during the holiday season

By Joe Gross

Director of Pastoral Care and Counseling
Baylor University Medical Center

DALLAS (BP)—During the past year, Stan's twin brother was killed in a tragic accident, Marge's mother died, Christine's husband succumbed to heart failure and George and Martha endured the death of their youngest child. Between the holidays last year and the approaching Christmas season this year, many people have experienced the death of someone whom they loved and cherished in a special way.

For those whose loved one has died, this year's holidays will be different. The traditional festive season filled with street and home decorations, special church programs, parties at work, the arrival of Christmas cards and shopping may evoke a great sense of dread rather than celebration or joy.

The holidays are a special time of year because they are related both to our culture and our faith. But it is the people we love who cause the holidays to take on unique meanings. The permanent absence of those who have shared previous holidays may create in some persons a desire to skip December altogether.

How grieving families and individuals face the first holidays after a significant loss varies greatly. The same is true of birthdays, death anniversaries and other significant days of the year. Some attempt to act as if nothing has changed. Others seek to ignore the holidays completely. An emotionally healthy and spiritually mature response is most likely somewhere between those two extreme approaches.

For those who are among the bereaved, some careful reflections and deliberate planning before the holiday season can do much to lessen any sense of anxiety, fear or dread. Consider the following suggestions and be creative in shaping things unique to your life and family.

■ Be aware that holidays and other special days, such as birthdays and anniversaries, will reawaken and intensify your grief pain. Memories of previous holidays will cause you to hurt and to feel incomplete and sad. These are memories made from hearts of love; embrace your pain, permit yourself to cry and to find times to be alone. But also give thanks for the time you had together. The hurt of grief is real, but the passage of time and the grace of God bring healing.

■ Develop a specific plan for how you will handle each holiday. Such a plan will

often require some frank and open discussion with other family members. Many persons are hesitant to discuss a plan for fear of causing other family members to cry or be upset. Remaining open and honest with one's feelings is a key to coming to terms with the loss.

Children do not always handle surprises as easily as adults. They need to know how things are going to be different, what traditions are to be kept or not kept and that it is okay not to be sad all the time. Some older children will want to avoid the holidays, and younger ones may act out their feelings through being overly moody, irritable and uncooperative. Planning helps to maintain open and clear communication between adults and children, and such an approach may help avoid many problems for children during the holidays.

"The hurt of grief is real, but the passage of time and the grace of God bring healing."

■ Seek to be conscious of your expectations and determine if they are realistic. Christmas is one of those wonderful days that is too often loaded with unreal expectations — even in times when a death has not occurred. You may tend to get caught up in a "Hollywood" or fairy-tale fantasy of how Christmas "should be" as opposed to how your family actually functions. The coming of Christmas Day does not necessarily mean that family members are going to be drawn together full of love and laughter.

Coping with grief during such holidays has the potential of creating even greater stress upon oneself or the family system. The expectations of other family members and friends who are further removed from the pain of your loss can also be problematic. Their plans for you may conflict with your plans and thus create confusion or disappointment between you. All plans need some built-in flexibility, but only you can determine what is best for you.

■ Avoid being alone on the actual holiday if at all possible. When your grief is deep and very painful, the tendency to

avoid others can be strong. Sitting alone during these days can make you more miserable. Hopefully there will be those who, like you, have previously confronted their first holidays and will reach out to you. Take all offers even if you don't feel up to it. Staying around the house alone usually increases one's sense of isolation. This is a time to force yourself to get out and to be with others.

Patti, whose children lived out of state, had enough trust in her friendship with Belinda and Ron to call and invite herself to spend Christmas Day with them. Her presence enriched their day and Patti grew in her self-confidence and hope for the future. The healing of grief requires some risk-taking on the part of the bereaved person, and the holidays provide some relatively safe and healthy ways of taking risks.

■ Resolve to be kind and gentle with yourself. Remember that you already have your emotional plate full during these holidays. The second-guessing that so frequently accompanies grief in the form of "if only" and "what if" can cause you to begin to beat up on yourself or to question your sanity. These "ifs" and "onlys" can be compounded during the holidays.

The greatest fear experienced by some is Christmas shopping. The crowds, the music and other noises, the decorations and other symbols may feel overwhelming. Remember that the mere sight of some things may evoke a flood of tears and sadness and may even be accompanied by a sense of shame and guilt. Such feelings are common during this first holiday season.

■ Remember the faithfulness of God and the power of your faith. Let prayer be a ready resource to you in your difficult moments and days. In times of profound grief, many people report they "don't feel like praying." One suggestion is to simply seek to learn to pray what is known as The Serenity Prayer:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

This season also provides opportunities to explore and to claim the biblical promises of God's presence and care. In doing so, you might wish to visit with your pastor and seek in every way to share these days in the fellowship of your church and Christian friends.

The first holidays after the funeral may or may not be especially difficult for you. In any case, this is a time when your trust in the power of the resurrection of Christ and the certainty of eternal life can be felt at new levels. May this be true for you this year.

Unlikely angel dreamed of gifts for inmates' kids

By Tim Palmer

Missouri Word & Way

JEFFERSON CITY, MO (BP)—The angel who dreamed up Angel Tree was once an unlikely angel indeed. But because God gave her the dream and blessed it, hundreds of thousands of the world's children have a merrier Christmas every year.

Angel Tree, a ministry of Prison Fellowship, coordinates the purchase and delivery of Christmas gifts for the children of prison and jail inmates. More than a quarter-million children benefited last year.

The founding angel is Mary Kay Beard, who spent six Christmases behind bars herself. A native of Missouri, Beard left home at age 15 to live with a married sister in Illinois. A dozen years later, she was wanted by law enforcement authorities in four states. Taken to the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham, Ala., a few days before Christmas 1972, she was surprised to see a Christmas tree in a hallway with wrapped gifts beneath it. Local churches had brought the inmates presents.

Although she was moved by the gesture, Beard recalled, she kept her feelings to herself. As a hardened, violent prisoner, she spent five months in solitary confinement. She did take advantage of the one chance she had to leave her cell each week — a 7 a.m. Sunday School class organized by the same churches that had brought the Christmas gifts.

Beard was raised a Southern Baptist. She was a charter member of GAs and the first GA queen at her church. Her mother was president of the Woman's Missionary Union.

"I already knew the Roman road, and it didn't seem to have worked for me," she said. She also knew "Churchianity" — how to talk, act and look like a Christian — and that's what she expected from the Sunday School group.

What she got was a woman who told her, "We love you enough to come and tell you about Jesus."

Back in her cell, Beard asked herself, "If you're so smart, what are you doing here?" She surrendered her life to Jesus.

Saved in March, she was convicted in June. Her sentence for armed robbery and grand larceny was 21 years and a day.

As her first Christmas in the Julia Tutwiler State Prison at Wetumpka, Ala., approached, Beard noticed "every kind of church" visited and brought little gifts, served cookies and Kool-Aid and sang carols. "And we wouldn't see them again until the following year."

Even the most cynical women inmates attended every such party and accepted



Mary Kay Beard, the founder of Prison Fellowship's annual Angel Tree ministry, has seen her idea grow to aid thousands of needy children around the world.

every gift they could get. Beard learned the women weren't collecting stuff for themselves. It was for their children. The inmates could be quite creative in wrapping and decorating items such as soap, toothpaste, hand lotion and shampoo. On the last visiting day before Christmas, the women would give out the presents.

Although the once-a-year charity of the visitors enabled the inmates to give their children Christmas gifts, the people the prisoners respected were those who came every week. "In prison, perseverance is what's significant."

Beard persevered in her faith, growing in the Lord and working to better herself. When she was paroled in March 1978, she had completed two years of college with the support of Centercrest Baptist Church of Birmingham. "I was their missions project."

The project was a success. Beard won a full scholarship to Auburn University in Alabama, where she completed her bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1979 and a master's degree in psychology/counseling in 1982.

Also in 1982, she became the first woman in the United States to be named a state director for Prison Fellowship. In August of that year, Beard spoke to a Christian businesswomen's group. Her purpose was to recruit volunteers.

A woman interested in working with children suggested getting them Christmas gifts. She actually was talking about juvenile offenders, but Beard misunderstood her to mean the children of inmates.

Prison Fellowship was looking for a

Christmas project already, and Beard's advisory board gave her the go-ahead. "We decided to put Christmas trees at two malls — one in Montgomery and one in Birmingham."

She went to the prisons and got names and addresses of inmates' children. Volunteers called the youngsters and found out what they wanted for Christmas. An angel — red for a girl and green for a boy — was hung on a mall tree for each child. Each angel had that child's wish list. Shoppers were invited to "come and buy Christmas for an angel."

The response from the public was immediate. So many people stepped forward that Beard had to go back to the prisons to get more children's names. "It just touched the hearts of people."

At the prisons, Beard reported, January and February Bible studies tripled in attendance because the inmates wanted to meet the volunteers who had provided Christmas for their children. Beard found herself scheduling additional Bible studies and seminars to meet the demand.

"Our goal was to provide Christmas for the children," she said. "God had a much greater impact planned."

Today, Angel Tree is active in all 50 states and in a number of foreign countries. It served 271,000 children in its 10th anniversary year, Christmas 1992. The goal for this year is 350,000.

Beard continues to be amazed at what Angel Tree has become. But she won't take credit for being its founder.

"God found me," she explained, "and allowed me to be the instrument He used."

India Baptists hear challenge to evangelize

By Wendy Ryan

Baptist World Alliance

CALCUTTA, INDIA (BP)—Two hundred years after English Baptist missionary William Carey landed in Calcutta to preach the gospel, more than 3,500 Indian Baptists and their guests celebrated Carey's life and Savior and were challenged by Baptist leaders to evangelize India.

While the poverty on the streets of Calcutta, the largest city of India, was an ever-present reminder of the needs there during the Nov. 13-14 gathering, and firecrackers from the Hindu Diwali festival of lights exploded outside, there was a festive mood to the Christian celebrations under a red, blue and white striped tent.

Choirs, special music, tribal dancing and drama praised Carey who brought the gospel to modern India but also reflected the diversity of Baptist life in India.

However, while Baptist leaders from around the world spoke of Carey's legacy of preaching, evangelism, education, social justice, Bible translation and even his love of plants, all of the messages focused on the challenge of evangelism for a minority Baptist community of more than a million people in India, a country of more than 890 million, 80 percent of whom are Hindus and 11 percent Muslims.

Knud Wumpelmann, president of the Baptist World Alliance, described the challenge for sharing the gospel in India and around the world as "breath-taking."

"But God will prepare the way in spite of problems and difficulties," Wumpelmann said. "You are never alone."

Wumpelmann advised Baptists in India to preach the gospel as Carey did, with respect for the devotion of religious people in India.

"Today, people in India are honestly seeking the truth," Wumpelmann said. "Like Carey did, they must be met with great respect for who they are, then we can preach the gospel to them."

Nilson Fanini, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Niteroi, Brazil, pleaded with Indian Baptists to work together if they are to evangelize India for Christ. "The church of Jesus Christ in India is more important than any other thing," Fanini said. "While we are different, God has just one family. Together we must evangelize and send missionaries or die."

Fanini said he often asks God, "Why did Carey who had so little do so much and we



Sunnie Gail Pound of Gatton, S.C., a "Crossover India" volunteer, enjoys teaching a song to a crowd of children outside a church in Bangalore, India.

who have so much do so little?"

"We spend so much time discussing and arguing as Baptists when souls are dying, dying, dying," said Fanini who called on Baptists around the world to break down the cultural, social, geographic and economic walls that divide and "build bridges of love and prayer" for evangelism.

"Who will take the place of William Carey?" Fanini asked, as people streamed to the front of the tent in response to his invitation to pray for India.

Tony Cupit, BWA director of evangelism, reminded Indian Baptists that while Carey brought a revolution in missions, "it was Jesus Christ who was and is the Light of the world."

Cupit urged Baptists to bring the light of Christ to bear on the hopelessness, militarism, racism and other social needs today.

"Jesus Christ makes a world of difference," Cupit said, as he gave examples of "the radical, transforming power of the Holy Spirit seen in lives around the world."

"Too often, Cupit said, Christians choose darkness rather than living in the light which God's Word brings. "Sons and daughters of India, turn your eyes to the Sun of Righteousness," Cupit said.

In his address, Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, stressed four principles of the gospel that Carey preached: growth, justice, its universal appeal and command.

"In the realm of world evangelization, small is heretical because it does not take seriously the divine command that the gospel is universal," Lotz said.

"There is no place in the church for segregation, separation of outcasts and

upper classes, between black and white, rich or poor, educated or uneducated," Lotz said, "and it is to this degree that we embody this kingdom in the church that the church will be successful in communicating to a world desperately in need of love and justice."

"This has helped me," said one Indian pastor. "I have rededicated my life to the task."

"I will try to improve my ministry," said another Indian pastor. "The main purpose of my life now is to preach the gospel."

For some pastors, it was a new thing to hear about the life and work of William Carey. "I have been blessed as I heard the background, ministry and challenges of William Carey," said one pastor. "These are the challenges of my life."

"The highlight of the trip was probably the William Carey celebration," noted "Crossover India" volunteer Patty Floyd, a member of Concord Church in Van Buren. "The power and presence of the Holy Spirit was definitely there."

Several events before and after the main celebrations also added to the success of the effort. One hundred fifty Indian leaders attended an Evangelism and Mission Conference sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance and the Asian Baptist Federation, Nov. 10-12.

During the conference, Baptist leaders from almost every group reported on the wave of Indian missionaries going throughout their country and beyond.

Immediately following the celebrations, 1,000 Indian leaders participated in a Pastors and Leaders Conference hosted by Southern Baptists.

Arkansas Baptists among India volunteers

Seventeen Arkansas Baptists were among more than 200 Southern Baptist volunteers who recently traveled "to the ends of the earth" to participate in "Crossover India." The nationwide partnership evangelism project coincided with the 200th anniversary of pioneer missionary William Carey's arrival in India.

The volunteers, who came from 26 states and Canada, formed more than 70 teams that worked with Indian pastors and lay leaders. In the predominantly Hindu country of nearly 900 million people, participants shared the message of Jesus Christ through interpreters in house-to-house visitation, revival meetings in churches and tents, presentations in schools and factories and dedications of homes and church buildings.

More than 45,000 people attended the revival services and were visited in their homes, with more than 4,000 professions of faith in Christ reported.

J.W. and Virginia Carney, missionaries to Bangladesh in the 1960s, were immediately interested when they heard about the opportunity to participate in "Crossover India." Assigned to a small fishing village in rural India, the Carneys traveled from Calcutta three hours by car, an hour and a half by boat and then walked the final two miles to Jota Baptist Church.

Despite the rustic setting, including sleeping in a hut with a dirt floor and thatched roof, Mrs. Carney said the trip was "a wonderful experience."

"I'm a medical doctor but I went as a preacher," noted Carney, a member of Newport First Church. Preaching in a

church that held about 200 people, Carney said up to 700 people crowded around the building to hear the services.

"People came and jammed the roads up and down," Mrs. Carney recalled. "There were people as far as you could see.

"There was a lot of response but we're not too sure how much they understood," she acknowledged. "Hindus accept many gods until they realize you have to let the other gods go."

'A new sense of urgency'

"I gained a new sense of urgency to the fact that even though we went halfway around the world, there are people in our own backyards who need to know the gospel as well," Carney said. "There are people back here I need to witness to also."

"It really changes your perspective on material things," Mrs. Carney pointed out. "The people we served among basically had nothing but they sacrificed to make it comfortable for us."

Bob and Patty Floyd, members of Concord Church in Van Buren, served in Good News Baptist Church in Bangarpet, where they witnessed 290 public decisions, including 220 professions of faith. Noting that they prayed for nearly a year about participating in the trip, Mrs. Floyd said, "We made a commitment to go in the name of Jesus."

The Floyds served with Monty Richards, an 83-year-old retired minister from Texas. Mrs. Floyd said they witnessed in the slum areas of Bangarpet where the response to the gospel was "excellent."

"We were very touched by the people of the area and how very much they wanted to hear the good news," she affirmed. "Their only hope is in Jesus."

Ken Blackwood, pastor of Marvell First Church, served on a three-member team assigned to Bangalore. Working with four churches served by one Indian pastor, Blackwood preached in a rented hall, a tent and twice on the roof of a Christian family's home. His team led 64 people to faith in Christ during the week.

"One of the things that really impressed me in the homes of the Christians is that these people serve God even though it's not convenient to do so politically or economically," Blackwood said. Christians in India "live very humbly and have very few resources but they still are faithful."

Noting that church members expected him to preach at least one hour during each service, Blackwood added, "The people of India want to hear the Word of God. They would always listen reverently. I really was humbled by their dedication."

Reflecting on the personal impact of the trip, Blackwood said, "I was convicted that with all the advantages that my church has, Arkansas Baptists have and Southern Baptists have, so many of us are not content. What's really important is to be in the center of God's will. The message I got is that contentment is in the Lord."

Affirming that "the Lord definitely opened up the doors for me to go," Blackwood added, "I was privileged to go. Anybody could have done what I did if the Lord had called them to go. God can and will use anybody who is willing."

Southern Baptists celebrate Carey's ministry

By Brian Smith

SBC Foreign Mission Board

BANGALORE, INDIA (BP)—In November 1793, British pioneer missionary William Carey arrived in Calcutta. In November 1993, Baptists from all over the world gathered in Calcutta to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his arrival.

Although known as the father of the modern missionary movement, Carey wasn't the first missionary in modern times to venture forth from his homeland. He wasn't even the first Protestant missionary to go to India.

Yet his admonition — "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God" — in founding the Baptist Missionary Society has become the motto for the modern missionary enterprise.

Carey worked in India 41 years, leaving a legacy of ministry and social advances in India and the world alike. Christians celebrate him as the father of modern missions but in India he is also revered as an educator, industrialist, agriculturist and promoter of social justice. He founded India's first university, translated the Bible into more than 40 languages, wrote grammar books and dictionaries in Bengali and Sanskrit and introduced the printing press, steam engine and savings bank concept.

His five-acre garden at Serampore was considered one of the finest botanical collections in Asia. He fought against the practices of infanticide and suttee, the burning alive of a woman on her husband's funeral pyre. For these and his many other accomplishments, Carey earned the title, "Friend of India."

Yet for all his accomplishments, the words he spoke on his deathbed echoed his life's commitment: "When I am gone, say nothing about Carey. Speak instead of Carey's Savior."

Four busloads of Southern Baptist short-term volunteers spent Nov. 12, the eve of the anniversary celebration, visiting Serampore College, which he founded in 1818 to train young Indians in both theology and the arts and sciences. They also visited Carey's first residence, now a mission church, and his final resting place, a humble tomb in a corner of Serampore's unkempt cemetery.

"Visiting those places was like walking through history," said Arkansas Baptist volunteer Ken Blackwood, pastor of Marvell First Church.

For Laura Moore of Meridian, Miss., the opportunity to walk where Carey walked was a dream come true. "I've wanted to come to India since I was 16. The Lord finally gave me the chance and I can't thank Him enough for it," she noted. "It's just been tremendous."



Arkansas Baptist home missionary Diana Lewis receives the Home Mission Board's annual Clovis Brantley Award from Tommy Goode, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention missions department.

Diana Lewis receives national HMB award for missions service

By David Winfrey

Special to the Arkansas Baptist

Home missionary Diana Lewis received the Clovis Brantley Award for home missions during last month's Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The annual award is given to a home missionary who "discovers and uses their spiritual gifts to display the true love of Christ through community ministry." Award recipients are chosen by the Home Mission Board's church and community ministries staff.

The award is named for Clovis Brantley who worked as a home missionary for 16 years and for the Home Mission Board's church and community ministries staff for 20 years. A mission center in New Orleans is named after him.

Lewis, a home missionary for two years, has worked three and a half years with low-income residents in the Dixonville community.

What began as summer feeding project for children in 1989 evolved into a year-round ministry to Dixonville residents as Central Association placed a 60-foot trailer in the neighborhood of 45 families.

In addition to the summer feedings, which use world hunger offering funds, other work with children includes a

clothing ministry, tutoring and the donation of toiletries.

"We try to keep the kids in school shoes and warm clothes. When we started going there, we met kids that didn't have toothbrushes," said Lewis, a member of Benton First Church.

Physical needs are not the only concern of Lewis and others working in Dixonville.

"I also see spiritual needs. Most of those children have not grown up going to Sunday School, or have never been to Vacation Bible School. They didn't know the words to 'Jesus Loves Me,'" she said.

"These kids are starting to realize that God loves them, whoever they are. It doesn't matter if they don't have running water or a bathroom or if people in other places make fun of them."

Lewis also leads a Wednesday morning women's Bible study at the center.

The weekly meeting includes lessons on gardening, home budgeting, nutrition and other topics, she said. "That's been a real successful part of our ministry. Last May we had a lady become a Christian as a result of the Wednesday ladies' group."

Lewis said the Dixonville ministry has resulted in about a dozen professions of faith. Other concerns for residents include better housing and a soon-to-begin adult literacy program, she added.

International students 'make a difference'

More than 180 participants from 33 countries attended the International Student Conference held at Camp Paron Nov. 12-14. Jointly sponsored by the state Baptist Student Union department, Woman's Missionary Union and state missions department, the conference focused on the theme, "Making a Difference in Our World."

One of the popular speakers was Lloyd Lunceford, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Southern Mississippi and a former missionary to Taiwan. "He was very humorous," noted Diane Parker, an associate in the state BSU department. Lunceford used his Taiwan experience to illustrate cultural and language adjustments to the internationals. "They knew he was relating to them in a real way through the experiences he had — and he explained ways to get through tough times," Parker noted.

Lunceford told the students to concentrate on building bridges, not barriers. Language, culture and relationships can all be bridges or barriers, he said. "He encouraged the students to use all their senses to discover where they are — to take full advantage of their time in America to learn and experience as much as possible," Parker related.

A seminar on slang, entitled "What Do You Mean?" also was very popular with the international students. David McKinney, associate BSU director at the University of Arkansas, helped increase students' familiarity with the meaning of U.S. slang phrases.

In addition to free time where the students could fellowship and learn personally about cultural differences, an international talent show showcased different ethnic art forms.

Others on the program were Frecc and Betty Clower, former missionaries to Sierra Leone, now at Ouachita Baptist University; Carter Tucker, ABSC coordinator of chaplaincy ministries; Elias Pantoja, from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board; and Scott Willis, BSU director at Arkansas Tech University.

Parker said the conference "is one of the best opportunities we have in student ministry in Arkansas to really touch the world, because most of these students will be going back to their home countries when they graduate."

Baptists in Bulgaria avoid deportation

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SOFIA, BULGARIA (BP)—A former Arkansas Baptist pastor and his wife were granted another 60 days to minister in Bulgaria after narrowly missing being deported.

James and Audrey Duke, who formerly served at Bismarck First Southern Chapel, got a call from police in Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria, in late November confirming they had won their hard-pressed request to remain in the country.

Duke currently is pastor of the English-speaking International Baptist Church in Sofia. He is backed by the European Baptist Convention, a fellowship of 60 English-speaking Baptist churches across Europe which recently entered a three-year missions partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Two volunteers sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board don't know how long they will be allowed to stay in Bulgaria. Stan Meador and Bruce Cassels were denied permission to work in two Bulgarian towns near the Romanian border.

After both reapplied to live and work elsewhere, Meador received verbal notification from police Dec. 1 that he also could remain in Bulgaria for another 60 days. Cassels' visa status is not known. The tense residency permit situation has involved lengthy discussions with Bulgarian authorities in recent weeks. It comes amid a yearlong anti-evangelical smear campaign apparently orchestrated by the government and the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Prayer called key factor

Prayer was a key to the permits, Duke said. "We spent (many hours) in prayer and fasting, but all the Baptist churches throughout Bulgaria were praying for the situation, too," he said in an interview.

Duke told his congregation Nov. 21 he didn't know if he would be there the following Sunday or would be deported during the week. The Dukes have been in Bulgaria since March, but their final residency permit was to have expired early in December. They had been told it would not be renewed.

FMB missionaries Bill and June Wardlaw, based in central Bulgaria, managed to secure one-year visas for themselves and four other Southern Baptist volunteers earlier this year. But their long-term residence also remains in doubt.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bulgaria's five evangelical church groups met with two

members of parliament and members of the government's commission for religious affairs Nov. 17. They lodged an official complaint about the heavy media campaign against them and asked that it be stopped.

The leaders also asked to see copies of a new law regulating religion, said to be under discussion in the parliament. According to one published report, the proposed law would limit church property ownership to the Orthodox Church.

Shown a newspaper article accusing evangelicals of endangering state security, one parliament member told the evangelicals bluntly, "I agree with (the writer). All sects are a danger for the security of the Bulgarian state."

"These are the words and accusations we heard during communist times, and now we are hearing them from the people who have to protect us," said a worried Theodor Angelov, president of both the Bulgarian Baptist Union and the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance. "The thinking of these people made me very afraid."

Angelov and the other church leaders also had asked parliament to intervene in the case of the Dukes.

FMB volunteer Cassels had been assigned to Montana, a city north of Sofia. But local police refused to give him residency documents and told him not to bother to submit application forms again. Similarly, Meador was told by police in nearby Lom that he couldn't live there.

The two were prominently cited in newspaper stories warning about the influence of "sects" that appeared across Bulgaria in late October and early November. Both were mentioned by name and one story even included Meador's address.

The owner of Meador's apartment asked Meador's language teacher if the young American was like David Korresh, the leader of the Branch Davidian cult who died in the fire that destroyed the cult compound in Waco, Texas.

Evangelicals were linked to the suicide of a young woman in one account and the near-suicide of a woman in another version. The stories grouped evangelicals with Hare Krishna followers, Bahais, Mormons and other groups. Ironically, evangelicals themselves are concerned about the influx of such groups into the country, since their teachings run counter to Christianity.

Both the government and the Orthodox Church are trying to outlaw any non-Orthodox teachings and look with suspicion on any non-Bulgarians.

One newspaper article on Baptists and Jehovah's Witnesses stated, "The most

dangerous is the second one, the Baptists." A boldfaced section asked, "Must we wait on an incident in which somebody dies to take care of the dangers which are coming to our city? The police must answer this question before it is too late."

The most outlandish charge appeared in a Varna newspaper earlier this year. It accused Baptists of eating babies for breakfast.

Baptists leaders battle 'lies'

Baptist leader Angelov dismissed all the stories as "full of lies." The media campaign against Baptists and other evangelicals "blames us for all possible sins," he said.

Angelov and other Baptists also are incensed to be considered Johnny-come-lately in their own country. The first Bulgarian Baptist church was organized in 1865 by Ivan Cargill, a Russian Baptist missionary.

A week after the anti-evangelical articles appeared in Montana, authorities there stopped Baptists from renting a public building. Members of the congregation arrived for Sunday morning services to find themselves locked out of the building they have rented since September 1990.

When pastor Rumien Iliev contacted city officials, he was told the city would not rent facilities to "sects" such as Baptists anymore.

Currently church members meet in an unheated factory room, the only space they've been able to find in the city. Baptists in Blagoevgrad also were turned out of a rented public building earlier this year. The building manager declined to explain why the rental was stopped. The group now meets in a rented bar.

After more than four decades of communist oppression, many evangelicals do not have their own church buildings. Many groups have met in private homes for decades.

Other evangelical groups in Bulgaria report similar problems with renting meeting spaces, buying property and getting visas for foreign missionaries.

Leaders of the five leading evangelical groups in Bulgaria organized earlier this year, but the government refused to officially recognize them, Angelov said.

Evangelicals are convinced the Bulgarian Orthodox Church is jockeying for power because its leaders feel challenged by the rapid growth of evangelicals across the country.

In July an amendment to media laws gave the Orthodox Church the right to TV and radio time for the stated purpose of opposing "religious sects which have spread throughout this country."

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Church news

Des Arc First Church held revival services Nov. 14-17 that resulted in 89 professions of faith and 25 rededications. The congregation, currently without a pastor, planned the revival under the leadership of chairman of deacons Jerry DeVorak. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was the evangelist and Kenny Daniels and Tony Lawton of Mountain View were responsible for revival music. DeVorak reported that decisions are continuing to be made and revival results are being noted and responded to throughout the community.

Lowell Church observed the Thanksgiving holiday by feeding more than 500 people in the convention center of Springdale. The outreach effort, coordinated by Charlie Gray, a church member and businessman, resulted in three professions of faith. Gary Thomas is pastor.

People

Norman Lewis, director of missions for Black River Association, was honored Oct. 18 during the association's annual meeting at First Church, Black Rock. Following a motion by H.E. Williams of Walnut Ridge, messengers voted to name the associational office, located at Hoxie, the "Norman Lewis Building," as an expression of appreciation for funds contributed by Lewis to retire the building debt. A plaque honoring Lewis will be placed on the outside of the associational office.

J.R. DeBusk observed his fifth anniversary of service Dec. 5 as pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff, as well as the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the gospel ministry. The church honored him and his wife, Bobbi, with an afternoon reception.

Obituaries

Henry Raymond Chesser of Searcy died Nov. 27 at age 70. He was a Southern Baptist minister who had been pastor of First Church of McRae and Second Church of Searcy. Chesser was a member of Temple Church of Searcy, an Army veteran of World War II and a Mason. Survivors are his wife, Betty Chesser; two daughters,

Deborah Daley of McGehee and Linda Maddox of Searcy; one son, Buddy Chesser of McGehee; four brothers; and six grandchildren.

Robert Bradley Dickson Jr. of White Hall died Nov. 28 at age 74. A Southern Baptist minister for 45 years, he had been pastor of Evergreen Church, Pine Bluff, for 23 years. He previously had served churches in Delta Association and in Mississippi. Survivors are his wife, Jennie Lou Dickson; two sons, Robert Dickson and David Dickson; one daughter, Virginia Ruth Dickson; two brothers; and one sister.

Ordinations

Owensville Church ordained Doug Roundtree and Bruce Westerman to the deacon ministry Nov. 7.

Southside Church in Booneville ordained Billy Joe Krebs to the deacon ministry Nov. 14.

Central Church in North Little Rock ordained Matthew Greene, John Langston, Mike Tedford and Gary Wright to the deacon ministry Nov. 21.

Siloam Springs First Church ordained minister of youth Kevin Chenoweth to the gospel ministry Nov. 28.

Staff changes

Jack J. Bledsoe has announced his retirement as director of missions for Carey Association, effective March 31, 1994. Bledsoe, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, previously served as pastor of Des Arc First Church. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he also has been pastor of churches in Camden, Sardis, Waldo, Danville, Monticello and Marianna.

Steve Harrelson, a member of South Highland Church in Little Rock, will begin serving Dec. 5 as pastor of Northside Church in Monticello. Harrelson, who attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Boyce Bible School, previously was pastor of Northpoint Church in Little Rock. He and his wife, Cindy, have three children, Brooklynn, Hannah and Daniel.

Clark Colbert has resigned as minister to youth at First Church of Augusta, effective Dec. 6. He and his wife, Melissa, will move to Fort Worth, Texas, where he will continue his studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Colbert is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Bob Ivy is serving as bivocational pastor of Beech Grove Church near Paragould. A



Eagle Heights Church in Harrison broke ground Oct. 24 for an 11,000-square-foot educational building, which will be built at a cost of approximately \$450,000. A "Faithful to the Future" fund-raising campaign has been conducted for the building which will provide space for 18 additional classrooms, a nursery and office suite. Participants in the ceremony were members of the building and fund-raising committees. Stanton Cram is pastor.

native of Jonesboro, he is employed by Paragould City Light and Water. He and his wife, Pat, have two adult daughters, Teresa Dowdy of Jonesboro and LaDonna Bass of Paragould, and two grandsons.

Dwvnynd Nelms is serving as pastor of New Friendship Church, Paragould. He and his wife, Lori, previously lived at Marmaduke where he was youth director at First Church. He also has served on the staff of Immanuel Church, Paragould.

Mike Welch is serving as pastor of Center Hill Church in Greene County Association. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children, Michael, Erica, Ashley and Dustin.

Jeff Paul has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Fair Oaks Church. He previously was pastor of Emmanuel Church near Blytheville.

Eddie Clemons is serving as pastor of Gosnell Church, coming there from Calvary Church in Osceola.

Ted Brown has retired as pastor of Wardell Church, following 11 years of service. The church presented him with a plaque and a money tree.

Alfred Major II is serving as pastor of Turner Church. He attends Memphis Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Penny, have three children, Tristan, Anna and Jeremy.

Tommy Gerrish is serving as bivocational pastor of New Hope Church, Sparkman. He teaches in the Sparkman School District.

Barry Bates has joined the staff of First Church in Sparkman as minister of music and youth, coming there from Texas. He and his wife, Vicki, have two children, Traci and Kelsey.

Bill Griffith is serving as pastor of First Church in Green Forest, coming there from Southside Church at Bee Branch.

Tom Reiff is serving as pastor of Lakeland Church in North Arkansas Association. In addition, he is a caseworker for the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Boys Ranch at Harrison.

Matt Porter has joined the staff of First Church in Berryville as minister of music. He and his wife, Terri, moved there from Hot Springs where he served on the staff of Lakeshore Heights Church.

Charles Jones is serving as bivocational pastor of Rock Hill Church near Lockesburg. He is a faculty member in the Saratoga School District and previously worked in wildlife management. Jones and his wife, Doris, have three adult children.

Dean Whitener is serving as pastor of Oden Church near Mena, going there from Immanuel Church, Newport.

Darwin Meighan has resigned from the staff of First Church in Hot Springs, effective Dec. 31. Meighan, who first served the church for four years as minister to youth, has completed one year as minister of education.

Clyde Vire began serving Dec. 1 as director of missions for Clear Creek Association with offices in Ozark. He came to the association from First Church of Paris where he has served as pastor for more than 10 years. He previously served Archview Church in Little Rock, Bakers Creek Church in Russellville and Bethlehem Church in Gurdon as well as churches in Texas and Oklahoma. Vire is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Janet, have one son, John.

Mark Williams joined the staff of First Church in Camden Dec. 7 as minister of student and family ministries. He came to Camden from First Church of Yazoo City, Miss., where he served as minister of youth. Williams, a native of Newport, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bill Steeger began serving Dec. 5 as interim pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. Steeger is the W.O. Vaught professor of Bible at Ouachita Baptist University.

Rosemary Dauber has resigned as music director of Barcelona Road Church, Hot Springs Village, following 13 years of service.

Stephen Dumas has joined the staff of First Church of Mayflower as music and youth director. Dumas will be assisted by his wife, Patty. He previously was youth intern for South Highland Church in Little Rock and First Church of Camden, as well as serving as worship leader for Caddo Valley Church, Arkadelphia. Dumas is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Jeffery Simpson began serving Dec. 5 as pastor of Monte Ne Church at Rogers where he previously served as minister of music. He and his wife, Marla, have four children, Jesse, Nathan, James and Rebekah.

Eddie McCord has announced his retirement as director of missions for Independence Association, effective Dec. 31. He and his wife, Margie, will reside in Mount Ida. McCord, who served the association for more than eight years, came to Batesville from Benton where he was pastor of Highland Heights Baptist Church. He has served in numerous leadership positions with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, including serving as first vice

president, a member of the Executive Board and as chairman of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* study committee. He currently is chairman of the state convention's 150th anniversary committee.

Gary Stewart began serving Dec. 5 as pastor of First Church of McRae, coming there from Winthrop. He and his wife, Cynthia, are parents of three children, Christopher, Scotty and Brindy.

Mason Bondurant is serving as interim pastor of First Church of Gravel Ridge. He previously was at Highway Church in North Little Rock.

Taylor preaches on 103rd birthday

W.O. Taylor, who was ordained to the gospel ministry Nov. 5, 1913, recently observed his 103rd birthday by preaching during the morning worship service of First Church, Melbourne, where he is a member.

Focusing on "The Meaning of the Name," Taylor preached from Psalm 103 and Isaiah 7:14. "Jesus is called by some 200 different names, such as Lord and Master, Lord of Lord and King of Kings," he said. "However, His most important name is Jesus, because that name had been given to Him from eternity.

"When that eternal name was bestowed upon Him, a command was also given," Taylor emphasized. "As that name was given, He was commanded to save His people throughout eternity. Today He challenges you to hear that command and give Him your life so that you may spend eternity with Him."

Taylor, who was born Oct. 23, 1890, near El Dorado, became a Christian in 1907 and was licensed to the ministry in 1912. His ordination in 1913 was at Sweet Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Arkadelphia.

Taylor has served numerous churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, as well as serving as an associational missionary. He also has led in establishing associational camps at Black Ford, Bella Vista and Ravenden Springs.

He has published three books: *Clardy Heirs; The Old Timers Did It This Way and Seventy Years in the Ministry*.

The Melbourne church honored Taylor with a churchwide dinner to conclude the birthday recognition.

Conference emphasizes revival preparation

The 1994 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference is preparing the way for a great evangelistic year in 1995 which will climax the national "Here's Hope" emphasis, according to Clarence Shell, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Evangelism department. The conference, held jointly this year with the state's three national Baptist conventions, will be held Jan. 24-25 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

The conference theme, "Prepare for Revival and Harvest," relates directly to preparing for the major evangelistic thrust in 1995. "1994 is the preparation conference, and 1995 is the motivation conference," Shell explained. "We want to prepare those attending the conference to go back and prepare people for the major 'Here's Hope' emphasis."

Special session themes of prayer, power, prospecting, preaching and personal expectancy also relate directly to what the conference is seeking to accomplish, Shell observed. The opening session will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Monday afternoon, with sessions continuing through Tuesday night.

Speakers from the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist conventions will explore the revival and harvest theme. Richard Harris from the SBC Home Mission Board, who is also the national chairman of the "Here's Hope" steering committee, will speak on revival meeting preparation and revival in the nation. Other national speakers include Bobby Boyles, a former Arkansan, currently pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., who will give special emphasis to personal evangelism. Charles Roessel, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla., will emphasize ministry evangelism and Chuck Kelley, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological

Bivocational ministers' dinner scheduled

The third annual Bivocational and Small Membership Churches' Ministers and Wives Fellowship dinner will be held in conjunction with the Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference Jan. 24-25 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. The dinner will be served in the church fellowship hall at the close of the Tuesday afternoon session.

"The dinner is a fellowship opportunity," said L.B. Jordan, director of the Church Leadership Support department. "Bivocational ministers

need special opportunities to form friendships with other bivocationalists."

Three years ago, the Arkansas Bivocational Ministers Fellowship was formed and the dinner is the annual opportunity for members to get together, Jordan explained. "A special feature this year will be the election of a new president-elect," he noted. State convention leaders also will bring greetings to the group.

For more information, contact Jordan at 376-4791, ext. 5148.

Seminary, will address spiritual awakening.

Two Arkansas Baptist pastors, Greg Kirksey, pastor of First Church in Benton, and Ed Saucier, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, are also featured on the program. An Arkansan layman, John Ward, circuit judge for Pulaski County, will share a testimony emphasizing revival in the home and on the job. Voicing enthusiasm about Ward's participation, Shell pointed out, "John Ward has brought many people to Christ through his legal profession. I expect this to be one of the real highlights of the conference."

The black National Baptist conventions — the General Missionary Baptist State Convention, the Regular Arkansas Baptist

State Convention, and the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention — also are providing theme interpretations. In addition to four Arkansas pastors, T.R. Ramey, Curtis Rideout, Robert Handley and W.W. Walker, two out-of-state speakers will share a national perspective. Harry Blake, pastor of Mount Caanan Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., will provide a special emphasis on prayer for revival. Joe Roscoe Gant Jr., pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, also in Shreveport, will speak on the power of the Spirit and personal witnessing.

Additional information is available by contacting the ABCS Evangelism department at 376-4791, ext. 5132.

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Naylor regains India medical license

BANGALORE, INDIA (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary doctor Rebekah Naylor officially regained her Indian medical license Nov. 25 following a surprise overruling of the Indian national medical council, which denied her a license last October.

"I was of course rather stunned," Naylor said of the reversal decision, made by India's top health official, Secretary of Health R.L. Mishra.

Naylor, the only Southern Baptist missionary living in India, first learned of the decision in a Nov. 12 meeting with Mishra in Delhi. But she couldn't practice medicine or comment publicly until she received official notification.

The good news falls short of total victory, however, because the new license is good for only one year.

"It's a big problem. Last time they gave two years and this time they've only given one year. And the medical council has told us that they were very negative about future (renewals)," the missionary surgeon said.

A renewal next year appears even more doubtful since Mishra will retire from his position as health secretary in early 1994. Naylor already has begun inquiring if there is a way to extend the new license to two years.

Philippine missionary stabbed during riot

AMAS, PHILIPPINES (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Thurmon Braughton of Hot Springs was stabbed Nov. 23 during a prison uprising in Amas, Philippines.

As Braughton and a Christian team from Malaysia held a Bible study in a small prison, several prisoners attempting to escape attacked the visiting Christians. One of the prisoners, armed with a handgun, grabbed a woman from the Christian team and attempted to take her hostage.

Braughton moved toward the gunman and offered to exchange places with the woman. When the gunman refused, Braughton grabbed his arm and freed the woman. But as she struggled with the inmate, someone stabbed the missionary.

The flesh wound, just under his ribs, did not damage any vital organs, mission officials said. Braughton, 60, was treated overnight at a local medical facility and released the next day.

Press reports said three of the escaped inmates were killed by government troops. Officials also captured one escaped prisoner, but several others remain free.

Nursing Fellowship notes anniversary

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—The Baptist Nursing Fellowship celebrated its 10th anniversary by formalizing a disaster relief agreement with the American Red Cross and voting to become an international organization.

The BNF met recently in Birmingham, Ala., for its annual meeting in conjunction with the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship. Marjorie Grober, president of Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, was chosen BNF's president-elect for the coming year.

The BNF, sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, is an organization which provides nurses with Christian professional fellowship, promotes continuing professional education for its members and missionary nurses and encourages nursing service evolving from a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. BNF has a membership of more than 900 active and retired nurses.

During the annual meeting, BNF members voted to accept an agreement with the American Red Cross which will allow the group to participate in an official capacity with the Red Cross during disaster relief efforts and at other times.

The group also voted to become an international organization. BNF accepted an invitation from the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance to launch the endeavor at the 1995 BWA Congress meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

FMB receives \$1 million for Soviet work

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—A Southern Baptist family from Mississippi has anonymously given \$1 million to the Foreign Mission Board to support rapidly growing mission work in the former Soviet Union.

In a gift sent through the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the donors designated the money to meet 10 specific needs in the region through the Foreign Mission Board. "This was just a lifesaver," said John Floyd, FMB area director for Europe. "We've been asking the Lord for provisions."

Alerted in advance that someone wanted to make the donation, Floyd contacted mission leaders in the former Soviet region in mid-October about key ministry needs. Then he prepared a list of recommendations on how to spend the money if it were given.

The donors studied the recommendations and found them exciting, noted William Causey, Mississippi Baptist Convention executive director. In a letter to the Foreign Mission Board, Causey said he joined in their prayer "that God may use this to bring spiritual awakening to that part of our world."

Baptists to help rebuild village in India

HYDERABAD, INDIA (BP)—Baptists have taken the first steps toward rebuilding homes in one of the villages devastated by the Sept. 30 earthquake in India, which killed nearly 10,000 people.

Indian Baptist relief workers and Southern Baptist representatives completed a survey of the region in November. Now the team hopes to begin building homes this month, explained Ernest Myers, one of the two Southern Baptist representatives who made the trip to India.

"We're identifying villages that need help the most," said Myers. "We drove into a village that had upwards of 60 houses and not one of the structures was standing."

"Even though we arrived one month to the day after the earthquake hit, there was still a stench of death in the air."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has set aside \$100,000 in relief funds for the building project. Through October the board has appropriated almost \$7 million for human needs worldwide. The money for India supplements relief efforts of Hyderabad Baptist Church, a 6,000-member congregation located south of the quake area.

WMU seeks missionary vacation housing

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union is looking for Southern Baptists who have vacation or second homes which they would share on a short-term basis with furloughing foreign missionaries and vacationing home missionaries.

Since 1990, WMU has coordinated and distributed a master list of furlough houses available to Southern Baptist missionaries. WMU leaders want to add vacation homes to the list.

"We are interested in vacation homes across the country," said June Whitlow, WMU associate executive director responsible for the function of missionary housing. "Missionaries furlough, vacation and live in every area of the United States, therefore, we are interested in all areas—near the ocean, in the mountains, near tourist attractions, on lakes, in the country and even in the city."

Anyone interested in more information about sharing vacation housing with missionaries should write to Barbara Yeager, WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

Blackaby to broaden work in spiritual awakening

By Martin King

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Henry Blackaby, director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will begin a joint assignment with the HMB, Foreign Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board Jan. 1.

At the request of the presidents of the three Southern Baptist agencies, the HMB executive committee voted Dec. 7 to allow Blackaby to broaden the scope of his ministry and develop a global response to prayer and spiritual awakening.

Blackaby is one of the most sought-after speakers and conference leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention. He co-authored the "Experiencing God" study course in 1990 and follow-up materials released in 1993 called "Fresh Encounter" which have been used around the world.

A joint agreement among the three agencies calls for Blackaby to maintain his role with the HMB but allows him to serve as a special consultant to the presidents of the other two boards. All three agencies will evenly share his salary and benefits.

"We believe God is moving across the United States and around the world and that Henry Blackaby is on the crest of that movement," said Larry Lewis, HMB president. "God is expanding Henry's role beyond the Home Mission Board, and we must not wrest him away from that."

BSSB president Jimmy Draper agreed, saying, "The winds of revival and spiritual awakening are blowing across the country and around the world. Henry Blackaby has been uniquely used to find where God is working and become involved."

FMB president Jerry Rankin said he is excited at the prospect of using Blackaby to "bring people to renewal and spiritual awakening."

"He will be a valuable asset to our missionaries and staff as we seek to remain focused on God and appropriate His power for evangelizing a lost world," Rankin said.

Blackaby told Baptist Press the agreement by the three agencies "shows the urgency of the hour in our nation. I can't think of any area more significant for them to function together in than prayer and spiritual awakening."

Commenting on the new challenges the agreement presents, Blackaby said, "The task is of such a magnitude only a sweeping of God could ever be adequate."

He requested prayer to determine God's priorities as he addresses a larger scope of responsibilities. "I know I will have to

concentrate on those activities which are most strategic. We must train key leadership because revival comes from the leadership. We must learn how to multiply ourselves. I want to be a good steward of the opportunities God gives me."

Blackaby, 58, is a native of British Columbia, Canada, and a graduate of the University of British Columbia and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Blackaby has served as pastor of churches in California and Canada, as president of Canadian Baptist Theological College and, prior to joining the Home Mission Board in 1988, was director of missions for Capilano Baptist Association in Canada.

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Supreme Court may revisit key church-state test

WASHINGTON (ABP/BF) — The U.S. Supreme Court has indicated it may re-examine its long-held but controversial test for assuring church-state separation.

The high court agreed to review lower-court decisions that struck down creation of special New York public school districts to accommodate the religious needs of a Hasidic Jewish community.

Two of the parties appealing the case — New York Attorney General Robert Abrams and the new district's school board — asked the high court to reconsider its landmark 1971 ruling in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* that has been used to ensure governmental neutrality toward religion.

To comply with the First Amendment's church-state separation requirements under the three-part *Lemon* test, governmental actions must have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion, and avoid excessive entanglement with religion.

The high court's decision to accept the case may signal it will address the *Lemon* test, since the court said its review will not be limited to the issues raised in the New York dispute.

The case is expected to find the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs arguing opposing sides on maintaining the court's test on separation of church and state.

In two previous briefs, the CLC has called for the replacement of *Lemon* with a test enabling government to accommodate religious expression without establishing religion. The CLC has criticized *Lemon* for requiring secular purposes and permitting only secular results.

The BJCPA has defended *Lemon* as an appropriate establishment clause standard.

'Not a foregone conclusion'

"It is not a foregone conclusion that the court will re-examine *Lemon*, though it appears to be on the table," said Brent Walker, BJCPA general counsel.

Even if the court revisits *Lemon*, Walker said, it may be to reaffirm it, not abandon it. "It is far from clear that the court will use this case to lower the wall separating church and state," he said. "The *Lemon* test was developed over a 10-year period

and embodies teachings as old as the republic itself—a mandate of governmental neutrality with respect to religion."

According to CLC general counsel Michael Whitehead, however, "If the justices wish to affirm the *Lemon* test, they could have simply refused to hear the appeal. The fact that the court agreed to hear this case shows that at least four justices disagreed with the way *Lemon* was applied" by lower courts.

"Those who say that this law had the primary effect of advancing religion need to remember that we are talking about the New York legislature and Gov. Mario Cuomo," Whitehead said. "No one will accuse them of being fundamentalists seeking to establish a state-endorsed religion. They obviously did not think this law violated church-state separation."

The New York legislature created the special school district encompassing the village of Kiryas Joel in Orange County to resolve a conflict over providing special-education services to handicapped students of the village, which is inhabited almost exclusively by Hasidic Jews.

Although the Monroe-Woodbury Central School District previously offered education for handicapped students through the private Hasidic schools, that practice was outlawed by the Supreme Court.

The school district's solution — to offer classes through its other schools — proved unsatisfactory to the Hasidic students, so the state legislature established the special school district encompassing the Hasidic community, which allowed education for the handicapped students within the Hasidic environment.

Officers of the New York State School Boards Association filed suit charging that the special district violates the First Amendment. To this point, courts have agreed.

The New York Court of Appeals said the principal effect of the creation of the special school district "is to advance religious beliefs."

Lawyers for the special school district argue both that *Lemon* was misapplied by the lower courts and that it should be discarded.

"The village citizens pay over \$1.4 million in taxes and have a state constitutional right to a free public education for their children," Whitehead said. "These citizens also have a right to preserve religious liberty in the education of their children."

Walker said the court could decide the New York case without utilizing *Lemon* by following another case that bars favoring one religion over others.



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Weaver added to staff as area director

Mark Weaver, a former Arkansas pastor, recently joined the staff of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries as the El Dorado area director. His duties also will include supervising the Promise House, Arkansas Baptists' home for unwed mothers and the Camden Emergency Receiving Home.

"Mark brings to the job a heart for the ministry of counseling and has well-qualified himself to reach out effectively to children and families in our state," said David Perry, director of program and staff development for the agency.

Weaver, 38, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in Salem and Lowell, and served on church

staff in Rogers. He also has been a houseparent at the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children at Monticello. He and his wife, the former Cathy Hartin of Pine Bluff, are the parents of two children.

"I am an El Dorado native so this has been a homecoming for us," Weaver noted. "God placing us in this position was beyond what we could think to ask."

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Area seminars provide current tax information

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

Arkansas Baptist pastors, staff members and other interested persons recently were provided the opportunity to glean the latest in tax information prior to the approaching tax season. Tax seminars, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's stewardship/annuity department, were held in four different areas Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

James Walker, ABCS stewardship/

annuity department director, coordinated the seminars which were held in Texarkana, Pine Bluff, Little Rock and Walnut Ridge, and attended by more than 100 participants. Walker said the seminars were designed to help participants learn how to avoid unnecessary taxes.

Noting that the seminars included "basic information on how churches and ministers can comply with IRS regulations," Walker added, "Compliance depends upon the churches knowing what the IRS requires of all churches."

Walker was assisted with presentations in three locations by Harvey Wright, a regional vice president for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. Samuel Coleman, a representative from the educational division of the Internal Revenue Service's Little Rock district, was the speaker for the Little Rock seminar which was held at Markham Street Church.

'An ounce of prevention'

"I encourage you to use an ounce of prevention in tax preparation," Coleman said. "Your first concern should be that your income is properly reported. If it isn't, then everything is incorrect."

Evaluating taxable income, Coleman pointed out that an ordained person's income is different from anyone else's. "All income, if it is in relation to services, is considered taxable unless it is specifically excluded or a specific deduction applies to it," he noted.

Among taxable income are financial gifts received for performing marriages and funerals, he explained. "An excludable income is a housing allowance," Coleman added. "However, this has to be designated by the church and has to be spent for actual housing and utilities. If an ordained person lives in a rent-free parsonage, then utilities are deductible."

He said travel allowance is another deductible item, encouraging those in attendance to be paid on actual expenses incurred. "When expenses are paid in this manner then they do not have to be reported anywhere," Coleman noted, adding that IRS Publication 917, "Business Use of a Car," provides specific information concerning that deduction.

Coleman's final topic of discussion concerned churches and employment taxes. He explained that an employer nine-digit identification number is needed and could be requested on Form SS-4, that all salaries must be reported on a W-2 form and that employees' taxes must be automatically withheld. "Pastors also can request that taxes be withheld and churches can make the decision to not withhold Social Security," Coleman added.

He said IRS Circular E, "Employer's Tax Guide," provides information on withholding, depositing, reporting and paying employment taxes. It also includes tables for the percentage method of withholding and payroll period information. Additional IRS information may be obtained by calling 1-800-829-1040 or 1-800-829-3676.

Walker also may be contacted for additional information at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5114.



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YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD

Williams Baptist College

New WBC staff members — Williams has announced the addition of two administrative staff members. Scott Wright has been named director of admissions. A native of Texas, he is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and has been assistant to the vice president for student affairs at Dallas Baptist University.

Brett Cooper has been named director of public relations and alumni affairs. A native of Mountain Home, he is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Southwestern Seminary. He has been a news producer at a radio station in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Lecture endowment established — Nell Mondy of New York has made a gift to Williams Baptist College that will fund the endowment of the D.D. and R. Ethel Mondy Lectureship. The gift comes in the form of a house in Pocahontas, given in memory of Mondy's parents, who one lived in Pocahontas. The value of the endowment is estimated at \$20,000, and is expected to fund a lecture annually or biannually at WBC. Mondy is professor emeritus of nutritional science, food science and toxicology at Cornell University.

Spears' composition premiered — A composition by Gay Holmes Spears, assistant professor of music at WBC, recently premiered at the University of Connecticut. The composition, known as "Tapestries," is Spears' dissertation work.

Magee's works published — Writing by WBC music professor Bob Magee recently have been published and will be distributed

on three continents. The Spanish-language book is titled *Lecciones Practicas para Leer Musica* (Practical Lessons for Reading Music). The work is being published by the Spanish Publishing House in El Paso. Magee is chairman of the WBC choral music department.

Ouachita Baptist University

Coulter named AACUBO president — Ed Coulter, OBU vice president for administration, has been named president of the Arkansas Association of College and University Business Officers for 1993-94. Coulter said one of AACUBO's goals during the coming year is to honor former business officers of Arkansas' colleges and universities.

Garner named president of ASBAP — Randy Garner, OBU director of admissions counseling, has been named president of the Association of Southern Baptist Admission Professionals for 1993-94. ASBAP is a national organization open to admissions professionals of all 63 Southern Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries. Garner said the purpose of the organization is to help advance the admissions counseling profession within Baptist institutions.

Homecoming queen and court named — Tiffany Thompson, 21, of Searcy, a junior speech major, recently was crowned as the 1993 OBU Homecoming Queen. Other members of the court were Rachel Ward of Texarkana, Kaye Boone of Smackover, Jenna Schwaller of North Little Rock, and Julie Snider of Rosebud.

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Joint conferences celebrate unity, diversity in Christ

More than 600 participants attended recent National-Southern Baptist area fellowships held in El Dorado, Hot Springs and Lewisville. The events are among 10 regional conferences held throughout the year, according to Jack Kwok, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Cooperative Ministries department.

Kwok said the fellowships provide National and Southern Baptists the opportunity to worship together and "celebrated

their oneness in the family of God." He said the gatherings also provide a time to "affirm their unity in Christ and to appreciate their diversity in Christ."

Jerry Wilson, pastor of West Side Church in El Dorado, was the featured speaker at the fellowship held at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in El Dorado. Noting that three empty chairs on the platform represented commitment, compromise and conflict, Wilson described

the slide from commitment to compromise to conflict in the life of the individual, family, church and nation. He said the way out of conflict is to re-establish commitment to biblical truths and principles.

Retired National Baptist pastor Noble B. Russey spoke at the fellowship held at Hot Springs First Church. Focusing on the theme, "Yet They Fought On," Russey encouraged participants to remain faithful in the cause of righteousness.

James Preston, pastor of Stamps First Church, preached at the fellowship held at the Lafayette-Miller Association office in Lewisville. Noting that racism stands in the way of revival and the outpouring of God's blessing, Preston said, "Reconciliation comes from forgiveness. Forgiveness comes from justification. Justification comes only from the atoning work of Jesus Christ."

Preston challenged National and Southern Baptist participants to overcome racism through Jesus Christ by repenting of the sin of racism.

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Convention Uniform

Jesus and the Holy Spirit

By Lonnie W. Latham, DOM,
Bartholomew Association

Basic passage: Luke 3:21, 22; 4:1-15
Focal passage: Luke 3:21, 22; 4:1, 14
Central truth: The Holy Spirit shared in Christ's ministry.

Luke proclaims the Holy Trinity of God in 3:22. Obedience always results in such a proclamation. Jesus never acted capriciously. Every word, every thought and every action was in absolute obedience to the perfect will of His Father. Baptism was no exception. The place, the mode, and John were all parts of the Father's perfect plan for His beloved Son Jesus. No debate on the part of Jesus. The heart of the Father and the heart of the Son beat as one. Of course the thought resulted in the action.

And who was there to confirm this powerful picture of obedience? The Holy Spirit. Jesus is in the water, the Father's voice is heard and the Holy Spirit's presence is seen. He came as a dove, the symbol of peace. Isaiah's prophecy about the Messiah being the Prince of Peace is confirmed. The Holy Spirit always confirms Jesus and the Holy Scriptures.

Luke 4:1 reveals the commissioning power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not wander into the wilderness. Being "full of the Holy Ghost," He was led into the wilderness. The Holy Spirit commissioned every step Jesus took, every action Jesus made. Moses went through the wilderness led by a cloud by day, a fire by night. Jesus was led through the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. When the Tempter and the three temptations came, Jesus was not alone. The Holy Spirit was there.

With the commissioning of the Holy Spirit came the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Examine Luke 4:14: "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee..." When anyone obeys the Father's will for his life, power follows. The power to reason, the power to choose correctly, the power to act, react and speak God's Word come from the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit confirms, commissions and empowers.

Life and Work

Standing amazed

By Martin Babb, minister of education/
youth, Pulaski Heights Church,
Little Rock

Basic passage: Luke 2:39-52
Focal passage: Luke 2:39-52
Central truth: Christ's presence inspires us for Christian living.

If you want a pattern for living you need look no further than today's lesson. Now we have a chance to do something about it by looking at Jesus' example and His leading out in three important ways:

(1) Learning—Jesus begins His preparation at an early age (vv. 41-47). He recognized the importance of study. We cannot serve God by giving Him less than our best. If you have a position of leadership in your church I hope you take it seriously and give it your best shot. But do not limit it to just church work. I think the principle applies to whatever career you have chosen for your life's work. We need to study to be the best that we can be.

(2) Leading—Jesus gives us the premier example for leadership in verse 49. Whatever Jesus did in His life God would be first. What a novel ideal! We, as Christians and as a local body of believers, need to be about doing God's business. We get into trouble when we stray very far from that. If we are not doing God's business then we are failing as a church.

(3) Living—What better words could be spoken of someone than "he increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (v. 52). Are you growing in every area of your life? The basic staples of the Christian diet are Bible study, worship, fellowship and ministry. How's your health? We are never too old to learn about living, especially when we are learning from the Master.

There are many awe-inspiring events and characters in the history of our world that make us want to stand in amazement and take in the magnificence of the moment. We should be awed by the presence of Christ in our lives but in a different way. It should inspire us not to stand around and gaze but to go and live in the name of Jesus. If we are going to follow the example of Jesus to its fullest, we can do nothing else.

Bible Book

God's faithful leaders

By Don Carter, pastor, First Church,
Eureka Springs
Basic Passage: Deuteronomy 32:48 -
34:12

Focal passage: Deuteronomy 32:48-52,
33:1, 34:1-12
Central truth: We must never act for God but instead allow Him room to work.

Leadership is a quality of service that is directly related to following the Father. Jesus constantly looked to the Father to emulate His character, His personality. It is much that same following characteristic that Moses exhibited.

Moses is told by God of his death in chapter 32:48-52. At 120 years old, Moses would only be allowed to look upon the promised land but would not enter. This is the result of his lack of faith in the wilderness when he struck the rock to get water. A leader cannot take God's place or make decisions for God (see Num. 20:12). This is not an evil punishment, rather God's righteous discipline.

In Deuteronomy 33, Moses blesses all the tribes of Israel, except Simeon. (The tribe of Simeon is later incorporated in the tribe of Judah). This blessing is Moses' final gift of leadership to the children of God.

The Lord shows Moses (34:1-12) all the promised land - the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God allows Moses to view the vision that has kept them going for years and years. The wait was over. Moses dies on Mount Nebo and the Israelites mourn for 30 days.

Joshua receives the gift of the Spirit of wisdom for leadership. The people of Israel accept him as their new leader. This special empowering of Joshua is the anointing of God's chosen leader by His own hands.

The greatest epitaph for anyone is found in verses 10-12. This is the ultimate reward for a follower of God. Moses is proclaimed as the greatest prophet in Israel. He was highly revered due to his life and calling. God had used Moses in a mighty way. Moses had received a special privilege of meeting God face to face on holy ground.

Moses is known throughout the Bible as one of the greatest patriarchs of faith. His example as a leader of Israel, the on-again, off-again nation, is a sterling testimony of the character of Moses to follow God no matter what.

Convention Uniform

Christ's gracious words

By Lonnie W. Latham, DOM,
Bartholomew Baptist Association
Basic passage: Luke 4:16-28
Focal passage: Luke 4:22
Central truth: Christ's gracious words
are not always well received.

Jesus went home, home to Nazareth, home from the wilderness, home. His mother was there, brothers and sisters too, and childhood friends. After hard days and trying battles, home is a welcomed harbor. The Bible reminds us of His commitment to the weekly synagogue. "As his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day" (Luke 4:16). Strange to think of God as needing to be in weekly worship, especially in light of all our excuses for not going, but there He was at synagogue. A far lesser person would have justified an absence in light of the spiritual battle fought in the temptation, but Jesus knew the importance of obeying. He went to His home away from home, worship.

He stood to read Isaiah 61:1 and then announced that this verse was fulfilled that very day. The people marveled at "the gracious words" (Luke 4:22) of Jesus. This was not a hell-fire and brimstone sermon. No watch stem turner as a friend of mine likes to say. Yet these gracious words were brief, profound, simple and rattled the foundation of one small town called Nazareth.

Everyone was talking about this presumption on the part of Jesus. All they could see was the boy Jesus, who went through His teen years, right into His young adult life without being a great deal different from the rest of the town's young men. He was, after all, a carpenter's son and a carpenter as well. What could He mean that this messianic prophecy was fulfilled that day?

The marvel turned to questions, captious questions. And the questions led to rejection (v.24). No words of Christ calmed their wrath (v.28). Their convictions about God, scripture and prophecy demanded condemnation of Jesus. He did not fit into their theological puzzle. This strange piece was taken out of the city to be thrown over the side of the hill, but God worked an unexplained miracle. He walked through them and went His way, never to return to Nazareth. How strangely men react to God's gracious words.

Life and Work

Need-meeters

By Martin Babb, minister of education/
youth, Pufaski Heights Church,
Little Rock
Basic passage: Luke 4:14-44
Focal passage: Luke 4:17-24, 40-44
Central truth: Christ alone meets every
need.

People all around us are crying for help. Today's lesson begins a unit entitled "In Need of the Savior." The people who are crying the loudest are not all homeless, poor, hungry or ethnic. The one crying may be your spouse, your best friend, a parent or someone sitting next to you in Sunday School. The crying is not always obvious. Here are four reminders for us as we attempt to meet people's needs:

(1) Recognize God's purpose. In verses 17-21, Jesus tells His listeners why He has come. Nothing is mentioned in these verses about judging people or condemning the world. Notice the words used to describe His efforts—"heal," "deliver," "recover" and "free." In other words, He came to share the good news of redemption to those in need.

(2) Receive Jesus completely. When Jesus finished talking, the people were impressed but they did have some doubt (v.22). He anticipated their question and answered it before they had time to ask (v.23). Hearing about Jesus today does not seem to be a problem. Almost everyone we come in contact with has heard of Him. The problem is that our hearing does not always reach our hearts. We must accept Him completely.

(3) Respond to human needs. We skip a few verses and find that Jesus has not gone to Capernaum (v.31) and is continuing His ministry of teaching, preaching and healing (v.40). Wherever Jesus went, He responded to needs around Him. Discover the needs of the people around your church and develop a ministry to meet those needs.

(4) Reach new heights. Basically in this passage Jesus just restates the Great Commission (v.43). As Christians we have an obligation to ourselves, our neighborhood, our community and the entire world.

To discover whether or not we as a church are accomplishing God's purpose one question remains. Are we meeting needs or are we just needing meetings? If our answer is wrong, Jesus can meet that need also.

Bible Book

The Word exists

By Don Carter, pastor, First Church,
Eureka Springs
Basic Passage: John 1:1-18
Focal passage: John 1:1-18
Central truth: The Word exists to make
His Father known to their creations.

The pre-existent nature of Christ is a fitting preamble for John's gospel. There is little doubt for the reader that John will continue his theme of the holiness of Christ. The first five verses emphatically state that the Word was an integral part of the creation of the world.

Without Christ the world would not exist. Without Christ, now, there would be no life, light or understanding. John the baptizer came to point the way to this light (v.6-9). He knew that he was not the light but came as witness of the true light - the Word.

Verse 10 is a sad commentary on the world. When the light came into the world they couldn't recognize Him. This was the One and Only who had come from God. He was also the Creator of everything that existed. And they couldn't even recognize Him. Things haven't changed much since then.

Jesus came as the One and Only Child of God to bring adoption papers for the rest of the world. Any who could see Him for who He really was would become a child of God. Only Christ has the authority to give this right of adoption to those who believe in His name.

The incarnation (v.14) shows the supreme love and sacrifice of the Creator to become one of His own creations. The purpose was clearly to show the *shekinah* glory of the Father through this act of obedience. Becoming flesh and dwelling within His creation portrays the correct attitude of the One and Only Son of God (Phil. 2:1-11).

The Incarnation was the only way for God to ultimately redeem mankind back unto Himself. Without Christ's supreme sacrifice of love, we would have no hope for everlasting life. The Word transcends all human comprehension.

John knew full well (vv. 15-18) that Christ must come to be Grace and Truth. The Word was life, light, understanding, grace, truth and the Way. No one has ever seen God. But through God, the One and Only Son, we can know the Father.

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NEWS DIGEST

SBC Cooperative Program gifts down during November

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for the second month of the 1993-94 fiscal year were 6.32 percent below receipts for the same month last year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The CP gifts for November 1993 totaled \$10,992,852 compared to \$11,734,974 for the same month last year. The monthly requirement for the SBC Program Allocation Budget is \$11,519,561.

For the first two months of the current fiscal year, CP gifts were 3.07 percent below the previous year. Designated gifts also were down for the month: \$1,874,230 compared to \$2,384,109 last year, or a 26 percent decrease.

Baylor regents begin search for Reynolds' successor

WACO, TX (BP)—Herbert H. Reynolds has announced his retirement as president of Baylor University effective May 31, 1995.

Thomas R. Powers, chairman of Baylor's board of regents, said a search committee has been named to recommend Reynolds' successor. Baylor regent A.W. "Bill" Bailey Jr., chairman of Bailey Insurance and Financial Services of Waco, will chair the search committee.

Reynolds has been president of Baylor, Texas' oldest institution of higher learning and the world's largest Baptist university, since 1981. Following his retirement, Reynolds will become chancellor of the university on June 1, 1995, with principal responsibilities related to the further advancement of the university with all its constituencies.

Prague chosen as new home for Ruschlikon seminary

DIDCOT, ENGLAND (ABP)—Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, has been selected as the new site for European Baptists' international seminary.

The executive committee of the European Baptist Federation, meeting in Didcot, England, in late November, gave provisional approval for the Baptist Theological Seminary to move to Prague from its current site in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. Following consultation with the member unions of the EBF, final confirmation of the decision is expected in May.

The move is expected to help resolve the financial distress the seminary has suffered since 1991, when the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which founded the school, withdrew all funding.

The European Baptist Federation, which now owns the school, plans to sell or lease the Ruschlikon property to fund the move. The Swiss site, overlooking Lake Zurich, is valued at about \$12 million.

Brotherhood's 'Men's Ministry' rallies introduced

MEMPHIS, TN (BP)—The introduction of "Men Making a Difference" rallies in Memphis and Jacksonville early next year is only the first indication the Brotherhood Commission is eager to move ahead with new options for men's ministries, according to agency president James D. Williams.

The "Men Making a Difference" concept made its public debut at a meeting of state convention executive directors at the Brotherhood Commission Dec. 1.

"These rallies are the first indication that the Brotherhood Commission intends to give strong leadership to men's ministry throughout the convention, and provide materials that tie male development issues and other interests of men together with support for global missions," Williams said.

The one-day events will begin with a breakfast meeting featuring a widely-known motivational speaker. This will be followed by seminar sessions on such topics as parenting, marital relationships, and the Christian man as a business leader.

Administration restores funding to family planning group

WASHINGTON (BP)—The federal government, fulfilling a policy change initiated by President Bill Clinton 10 months earlier, recently gave \$13.2 million to an international family planning organization shut out of United States' funding for nearly a decade.

The U.S. Agency for International Development announced it had given the money from the 1993 federal budget to the International Planned Parenthood Federation as the first part of a five-year, \$75 million commitment to IPPF.

While the agreement includes language preventing use of USAID funds for abortion-related activities, pro-life organizations contend the grant promotes abortion because it enables IPPF to devote other money to such activities.