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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 92, Number 26

December 30, 1993



*"I am
fearfully
and
wonderfully
made."*

(Psalm 139:14)

**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
January 16, 1994**

'Grassroots' prayer emphasis held at Park Place, Hot Springs

A call to prayer for leaders of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention was held Dec. 10 at Park Place Church in Hot Springs. The prayer service, organized by Park Place pastor Mike Petty, was attended by approximately 120 people.

Highlighting the theme, "Committed to Be Found Faithful," the gathering was planned as "a worship service of commitment and dedication."

Petty, who mailed out approximately 250 to 300 letters of invitation, described the ABCS annual meeting in November as "great days for our convention." Noting that "the Lord is very much at work in Arkansas Baptists for His glory and our good," Petty said he "had a burden that we have a time of honoring the Lord and committing ourselves to Him for our convention."

Rex Holt, pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro, was the featured speaker for the service. Emphasizing the need for "fierce loyalty," Holt said, "This is an hour when our churches need to come together in incredible support of the denomination God has called out."

Describing the Old Testament example of King Hezekiah, Holt said Hezekiah "was used of God to cleanse the people of God." Comparing modern-day America to the time of Hezekiah, Holt added, "This is a day of national emergency and urgency. We're looking at the wrong solutions. We're looking to the world to solve problems that can only be solved in a spiritual way."

"Our only hope," Holt declared, "is that God would send a great, mighty awakening to the church and send revival."

Preaching from Matthew 6, Holt high-

lighted the importance of giving, praying and fasting in the life of Christians. "Jesus always goes for the motive. He looks at the heart," Holt noted. "When we seek His heart, then our heart is right and what we do is prompted by the Spirit of God."

Noting that acts of righteousness must involve a spirit of secrecy, intimacy and urgency when seeking God's heart, Holt said, "God is a rewarder of those who seek Him diligently....The problem is getting our lives right with the Father's heart."

Emphasizing the need to live for God's acceptance, approval and applause, Holt concluded, "That's the call of the Father. He's calling you to seek His heart. You can trust the Father's heart and your life will be changed."

Following Holt's message, Barry King led a call to prayer for elected officers of the state convention and pastors' conference. King, pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, nominated Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, as state convention president during the recent annual meeting.

In addition to Rogers, other officers attending the prayer service were first vice president Jim McDaniel, pastor of Brinkley First Church, and pastors' conference vice president Gary Pridmore, pastor of Beryl Church, Vilonia. As the three men stood at the front of the sanctuary, Bill Howard, pastor of Salem Church, Benton, led in the prayer of dedication.

Petty, who described the service as a "grassroots" effort, concluded the event by noting that "these are urgent days, great days. We have yet to see what God is going to do."

Cover Story



Sanctity of Life Sunday

Focusing on the theme, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," from Psalm 139:14, Southern Baptists will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 16, 1994.

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST

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FMB appoints three couples with Arkansas ties

Three couples with Arkansas ties were among 29 people recently named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Kirk and Karen Bullington will serve in the Dominican Republic, John and Sherri Herod will serve in Tanzania and Dennis and Cynthia Jones will serve in southern Africa.



Kirk and Karen Bullington

John and Sherri Herod

Dennis and Cynthia Jones

The Bullingtons consider Arkadelphia their hometown and First Church their home church. He will promote music in churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Bullington is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Bill Bullington of Richmond, Va., who were missionaries in west Africa from 1966 to 1987. His father, who has served as FMB vice president for Africa, has been named vice president for overseas services.

Bullington earned the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the master of music degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as minister of music at Ash Creek Baptist Church in Azle, Texas, and as minister of music and youth

at First Baptist Church, Los Alamos, N.M.

Mrs. Bullington is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williams of Arkadelphia. She earned the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita and the doctor of medicine degree from the University of New Mexico Medical School in Albuquerque. In June she completed a family practice at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

They have one child, Ashley Ann. Herod, who has been pastor of Bluffton Church since 1990, will start and develop churches in Tanzania. He and his wife also will be involved in outreach ministries.

Herod earned the bachelor of arts degree from East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

southern Africa and they will be involved in outreach ministries.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Union University and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of First Church, Corning, and minister of evangelism at Central Church, Jonesboro. He most recently has been pastor of State Boulevard Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss.

Mrs. Jones attended New Orleans Seminary and was an optometric assistant.

The Joneses have three children: Andrea, Rachel and Morgan.

All three families will go to Rockville, Va., in January for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Arkansas church ministers at gas station, trailer court

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

JACKSONVILLE, AR (BP)—When the owner of a gas station and pool hall asked members of Second Church of Jacksonville to pick up area children for Sunday School, the church offered to take Sunday School to the kids.

The middle-income congregation now holds two Sunday School classes outside the church building, attracting low-income children and parents they could not otherwise reach, said Dale Sykes, minister of education.

"It's allowed us to reach people that would never come to our church," Sykes said, adding that the ministry strategy seeks to "take the church to their culture rather than expecting them to come to our culture." Sykes said he gained the idea during a church growth conference he attended last year in Texas.

Second Church's project began in April, with members going to the Shamrock gas station and pool hall each Sunday and setting plywood and tablecloths over the pool tables for makeshift classrooms.

While the location may be unorthodox, Sykes said it is less intimidating to residents who might be uncomfortable at a traditional church service. The second site was added in September at the Hallelujah Trailer Court.

The classes have a combined average of 40 people each week,

accounting for more than 10 percent of Second Baptist's Sunday School attendance, he said. Both are in low-income communities and reach mostly children 12 years old or younger, he said.

"Our church is not a rich church, but we don't know lower income people personally, basically because we don't come into contact with them," said Sykes. "This gives us an opportunity to know them personally."

"We're on their turf," emphasized pastor Ron Raines. "There is a large segment of people out there who Southern Baptists are not going to get into the four walls of our churches."

Members have held several events for the two classes, including a fall festival and Thanksgiving dinner. In December, the church sponsored birthday parties for Jesus with gifts for the children and a Christmas play.

"Their basic need, when you get right down to it, is exactly the same as ours. It's the need for God," Sykes said. "We can meet some physical needs and then get to the basic need that we both have....They need Christ; we've got Him and we need to share Him with them."

The classes have opened other members' eyes to area needs and offered ministry opportunities to members who might not otherwise be involved, he added. Plans already have begun for a third class.

"I hope we can do it all over town," Sykes noted. "I hope Second Baptist Church meets on every square block in the city."

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABCS Executive Director

As the emphasis, "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name" was launched at the 1993 state convention, two things were brought together in my mind. Henry Blackaby stated that "the first line of ministry with Jesus was with His own." Paul also said that we should "do good unto all men but especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).

The other thought that came to bear upon my mind was, "Who in the household of faith do we tend to neglect?" We do not neglect the newborns, the accident victims, the cancer, heart and surgery patients. We tend most to neglect those who have paid the highest price to make the church what it is today. They have grown too old and feeble to carry the load they once did. In fact many cannot even attend services. Those who lead the church today are not aware of who kept the church going in the past. They are not aware that these faithful saints continue to give their tithes of their meager income while receiving almost no ministry from the church they support. The laypeople who know them believe they are big enough Christians that they will understand and accept being neglected without complaining. And they do. They are not troublemakers. They are builders and helpers, supporters and boosters. Yet, they suffer in all too many instances alone.

Ideally, the Homebound Department would meet the needs of these people. If a church does not have a Homebound Department, the Lord will call someone or some class to see to these needs.

How does all of this fit into fulfilling the mission assignment of reaching the lost? Jesus knew! In John 17:9 He prayed for His own because it was through His own that the world would come to "know that thou hast sent me" (John 17:24). When the love of God is visually demonstrated within the body of Christ it silences the scoffers. When the people of God reveal a quality and meaning of life filled with far more compassion and concern than they can find anywhere else, they are sure to be open to considering the better life in Christ.

J.B. FOWLER

Guest editorial

Will Baptists be the only ones in heaven?

Martin Luther said he once had a peculiar dream.

As he slept, he dreamed that he died and went to heaven. When he asked the angel at the gate if there were any Catholics there, he was told there weren't. That dismayed Luther considerably because he was a Catholic.

Inquiring further into the matter, Luther asked if there were people from any other denominations in heaven and the angel said there weren't.

"Then who is here?" Luther asked. And the angel replied, "Only Christians."

I have been a Baptist long enough that I can talk about them. And sometimes Baptists act as though they are going to be the only ones inside the pearly gates.

But we won't be. So why don't we practice getting ready for heaven by being more patient with others who might disagree with us at a point or two? Some of us Baptists are so orthodox we wouldn't move an inch in any direction however good the cause. And that's the nub of the problem we have wrestled with for a decade.

There's little danger that we are going to forsake "the faith once delivered to the saints" or our great doctrinal distinctives. Our temptation is to make mountains out of molehills and mark everyone off who won't climb our molehill with us!

Sure doctrinal purity is important. Who would challenge that? But remember that Paul said, "The greatest of these is love."

To sacrifice love and compassion on the altar of orthodoxy is to commit the same sin of which the Pharisees were guilty. One doesn't help the kingdom of God any if he is as straight as an arrow doctrinally but is mean or little in spirit.

We Baptists need to learn that some issues about which we get all excited are actually non-issues. A good many things that have divided Baptists over the years really weren't worth the effort.

Learning which is important and majoring on that comes with maturity. And that kind of wisdom and maturity ought to characterize followers of Christ.

J.B. Fowler is editor of the *Baptist New Mexican*.

Personal perspectives

"Use of time, money and personnel reveal priorities. We've got to get evangelism in the church calendar."

—Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism

"If we preach the gospel in the power of the Spirit, somebody is liable to get saved."

—Johnny Jackson, Arkansas Baptist evangelist

"God, in all His wisdom, chose His people to do evangelism. If we don't do it, it doesn't get done."

—Paul McClung, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism associate

"Their basic need, when you get right down to it, is exactly the same as ours....They need Christ; we've got Him and we need to share Him with them."

—Dale Sykes, minister of education, Second Church, Jacksonville

A look back at 1993

From the church house to the White House, Arkansas Baptists have witnessed and experienced a number of historic events during 1993. The following excerpts from the pages of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* provide a brief overview of memorable news items at home and around the world during the past year.

JANUARY: Christian clubs are mushrooming in secondary schools in Arkansas, according to Randy Brantley, associate director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.... Missionaries to the world's unreached people groups head the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's "help wanted" list for 1993....Arkansas Baptists contributed a record \$15.02 million through the Cooperative Program in 1992....The executive committee of Woman's Missionary Union took action Jan. 10 to enlarge its base of operations, no longer to work exclusively with Southern Baptist Convention entities....Former Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton took office Jan. 20 as the 42nd president of the United States and the third Southern Baptist to govern from the White House.

FEBRUARY: Focusing on the theme, "Ye Shall Be My Witnesses," a series of 20 messages and testimonies by 14 speakers highlighted the 1993 Arkansas Baptist Evangelism Conference....Southern Baptists started 1,138 new congregations in 1992, compared to 1,021 the previous year, according to Home Mission Board statistics....Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists both registered gains in eight of 10 key reporting areas in 1992, according to Uniform Church Letter statistics. Arkansas Baptists reported 13,009 baptisms, a gain of 627 over the previous year.

MARCH: "The almost 14-year controversy (in the SBC) could be solved overnight," declared Baptist statesman Herschel Hobbs. "But it waits on the human element...." The Home Mission Board has removed Gary Leazer, director of its interfaith witness department, from an ad hoc committee preparing a report and recommendation on Freemasonry for the SBC....Sixteen federal agents wounded in a shootout at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, were treated at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco....A "Power Team" crusade held at First Church, Springdale, resulted in a total of 2,625 professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

APRIL: Al Mohler, a 33-year-old conservative theologian and Baptist editor, has been elected president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary....Jeff Cheatham, director of missions for Arkansas River Valley Association, has been honored as Arkansas Baptists' 1993 "DOM of the Year"....Passage of an underage DWI bill and the failure of video poker and statewide lottery proposals were among highlights of the 79th Arkansas Legislature, according to Christian Civic Foundation executive director Larry Page....The Russian government has granted Southern Baptist missionaries the legal right to operate in Russia as a non-profit religious organization.

MAY: Two Southern Seminary deans and three trustees have resigned, citing ideological differences with president-elect Al Mohler and the board of trustees....Scores of Arkansas senior adults traveled to Atlanta to participate in the three-day national Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention which attracted more than 20,000 participants from 31 states....More than 290 students from 11 Baptist Student Union campuses in Arkansas participated in spring break mission trips throughout the nation and three foreign countries....Thirty-seven jobs, representing 8 percent of its 450 home office positions, are being cut at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

JUNE: Two Fort Smith congregations—East Side and Flanna Hills—are providing free health care clinics for children and expectant mothers....When Chris Rice received his diploma from Ouachita Baptist University, he joined his 10 brothers and sisters as college graduates, including nine of the 11 who are graduates of Ouachita....Southern Baptists' "True Love Waits" campaign teaches teenagers that sexual abstinence is okay....Seven Arkansas Baptist congregations are among the top 100 Southern Baptist churches in total Cooperative Program giving for the past year....Baptisms in Guatemala increased 300 percent during the three-year Guatemala/Arkansas Partnership.

JULY: Southern Baptist messengers elected Ed Young by acclamation to a second term as SBC president....Veteran Southern Baptist missionary Jerry Rankin has been elected Foreign Mission Board president on a 59-14 vote....SBC messengers took a strong stand against President Bill Clinton's policies on abortion and homosexual rights....Arkansas Baptists and other volunteers have responded to the flood emergency in the Midwest....Arkansas ACTS affiliates in Fort Smith and Little Rock have earned awards from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

AUGUST: Arkansas Baptist volunteers helped lead hundreds to faith in Christ during crusades in Latvia....Russian President Boris Yeltsin has refused to sign a controversial new law restricting religious freedom....Gary C. Huckabay has been unanimously elected president of Williams Baptist College, succeeding Jimmy Millikin who resigned in February....Baptist leaders from around the world pledged to fight racism and poverty during the Baptist World Alliance's general council meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

SEPTEMBER: The Baptist Sunday School Board has eliminated 45 positions to reduce corporate overhead costs....Challenging religious leaders to help him "recreate a common good in America," President Bill Clinton said the political world is "entirely too secular" and that faith has a role to play....Thousands of students throughout Arkansas and across the nation gathered Sept. 15 for the annual "See You at the Pole" prayer emphasis....Southern Baptist workers in the Middle East described the September peace pact between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization as "a new day" in the region.

OCTOBER: The Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch in Harrison reached a milestone with the completion of phase two of its building program....An educational exchange agreement between Ouachita Baptist University and Moscow State University came one step closer to reality with a recent signing ceremony....Preparation for the 1995 "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals got under way in Arkansas with a meeting of the 24-member state steering committee.

NOVEMBER: Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees denied tenure to professor Wilburn T. Stancil, citing concerns about Stancil's views of inerrancy, baptism and other theological issues....Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs, was elected Arkansas Baptist State Convention president by a vote of 384-347....Arkansas Baptist messengers voted to establish a three-year partnership with European Baptists and approved a 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$15.96 million.

DECEMBER: Shirley Moore, wife of state convention executive director Don Moore, died Nov. 23 following an eight-month battle with cancer....Passage and signing of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was described by observers as a "landmark" event for religious freedom....Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board have approved an increase in retirement benefits.

Evangelism leaders evaluate projected decline in baptisms

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (BP)—Confronted with two consecutive years of decreased baptisms, Southern Baptist evangelism leaders called for intentional soul winning to be every church's priority.

The estimated number of baptisms for 1993 is 350,000, down 5 percent from 367,000 baptisms in 1992. Steve Whitten, director of the Home Mission Board's program research department, presented the statistics during a recent meeting of state evangelism directors held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"My heart is deeply burdened, grieved and broken because of what (the estimate) reflects," said Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism. "It is indicative of a desperate need for revival."

The two years of decline follow four years of increased baptisms which peaked at 397,000 in 1991. Despite the national declines, preliminary statistics indicate Arkansas Baptists will exceed last year's total of 13,000 baptisms in the state.

Whitten based his estimate on interviews with state directors of evangelism. The official baptism count, based on

Uniform Church Letters, will be prepared by the Baptist Sunday School Board and presented early next year.

Every church needs an intentional strategy for evangelism and a goal for baptisms, Robinson said. Without a focus on the biblical doctrine of salvation, churches can become more interested in creating a climate of warmth and friendliness than approaching people about their need for Christ, he said.

Priority perspectives

Churches also need structures that underscore evangelism. "Use of time, money and personnel reveal priorities," Robinson pointed out. "We've got to get evangelism in the church calendar."

Evangelism must be relational and intentional yet confrontational, said John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention. He said Southern Baptists must deliberately reach out to others, even people who seem religious, such as members of cults. But he said Christians can't evangelize without confronting people with their need to repent.

Terms such as target audience, niche marketing, homogenous churches and user-friendly churches indicate Southern Baptists are in danger of developing a

theology of exclusion, Sullivan said. Rather than market the church, he said, "We ought to church the market."

Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president, offered five suggestions to increase baptisms:

- Start satellite units. Lewis recommended the "key church" concept as a model for churches to use to start other congregations. First Baptist Church of Dallas reported more than 900 baptisms in 1992, Lewis noted, and more than 600 of those were from its 31 off-campus congregations.

- Soul-winning modeled by leaders. Lewis cited Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as an example because of Young's commitment to spend two nights a week in evangelistic visitation.

- Learn from other denominations and para-church groups reporting increases in professions of faith.

- Have a major evangelistic thrust every year. Southern Baptists sponsored simultaneous revivals in 1991, the last year Southern Baptists reported an increase in baptisms. Another simultaneous evangelistic effort is scheduled for 1995.

- Use Sunday School as the major outreach force in the local church. Since nearly every church has Sunday School, it is counterproductive to create an evangelistic focus that circumvents Sunday School, Lewis said.

Study reveals 6,001 churches reported no baptisms last year

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (BP)—A study of 1992 baptisms in Southern Baptist churches shows 6,001 churches baptized no one, while less than 3 percent of the churches accounted for nearly 24 percent of the baptisms.

Produced by Steve Whitten, Home Mission Board director of program research, the study was based on Uniform Church Letter data. It was presented during the recent meeting of state evangelism directors in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Other figures from the report include:

- Half the churches reporting no baptisms had fewer than 100 members, yet 18 percent of the churches with no baptisms had 200 or more members.

- Most churches reporting no baptisms are rural, although 14 percent of the churches without baptisms are in communities of 10,000 or more.

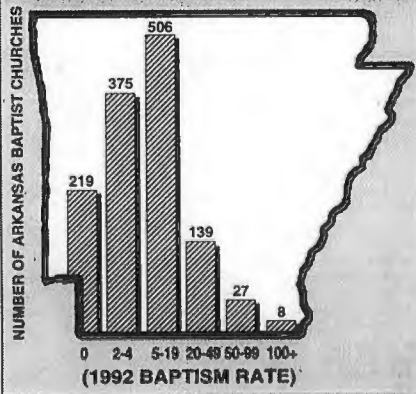
- Churches reporting no baptisms are typically older than churches with baptisms. The average age of churches reporting no baptisms was 70 years.

- Churches baptizing no one were 16.5 percent of all Southern Baptist churches. Churches which baptized two to four people were 30.7 percent of all churches.

- There were 910 churches with at least 50 baptisms; 239 churches with 100 or more.

- Almost half the churches, 47.2 percent, accounted for only 7 percent of the baptisms.

RATE OF BAPTISMS IN ARKANSAS CHURCHES



Associational leaders hear 'Hope' plans

By **Trennis Henderson**

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Focusing on the theme, "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," 128 participants from 28 Arkansas Baptist associations gathered for the state convention's 1993 Evangelism Workshop.

The two-day workshop, held Dec. 9-10 at Camp Paron, offered associational "Here's Hope" steering committees an overview of Southern Baptists' evangelistic emphasis which will culminate in 1995 with simultaneous revivals.

The annual workshop, coordinated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department, featured a series of messages and training sessions ranging from witness training and revival preparation to prospect discovery and church enlistment. Featured speakers included Home Mission Board evangelism leaders Richard Harris and Howard Ramsey, who served as the initial "Here's Hope" national chairmen when planning began in 1990, and state convention president Ronne Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs.

Paul McClung, an associate in the ABCS evangelism department, told participants, "It will be amazing to see what God can and will accomplish as the weeks and months go by as we cooperate together."

Challenging pastors to "preach to evangelize" during the "Here's Hope" emphasis, Arkansas evangelist Johnny Jackson declared, "Evangelism is the plan of Jesus. Evangelism is the agenda Jesus has given to every one of us.

"There is no place we should not evangelize," he added.

In order to evangelize effectively, Jackson noted, ministers must preach with authority, clarity, compassion, expectancy and dependence on God.

"We don't need to be timid when we're

preaching the gospel," Jackson insisted. "Don't preach your doubts; preach your convictions....We have the authority of the Word of God."

Challenging pastors to "have the compassion that Jesus had," he asked, "Do you have a heart that's breaking for the lost when you preach?"

"If we preach the gospel in the power of the Spirit," Jackson concluded, "somebody is liable to get saved."

Describing the importance of prospect visitation, McClung noted that "43 percent of the population of Arkansas has no relationship with any church of any kind and never has had in their lives....The prospects are out there. We've got to identify them. We've got to discover their spiritual condition."

Keys to prospect discovery

McClung said the first key to effective prospect discovery is identifying the local church field, "starting with the first house you see as you stand at the church's front door."

Affirming that "Sunday School is and must always be the outreach arm of the church," McClung added that prospect cultivation "has to be intentional."

"God, in all His wisdom, chose His people to do evangelism," McClung emphasized. "If we don't do it, it doesn't get done."

Sonny Simpson, advisory council chairman for the "Here's Hope" state steering committee's church enlistment emphasis, compared the evangelistic effort to the challenge faced by Nehemiah in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Noting that Nehemiah "was burdened when he heard the people were in distress," Simpson added, "He began to pray. He began to seek God. Nehemiah's heart began to be focused on that work that needed to be done."

Simpson, pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock, declared, "I'm convinced that 'Here's Hope' depends upon the work of God in the hearts of His people.

"Here's Hope" is going to take everyone coming to the work with the same dedication and the same commitment," he said. "It takes everyone coming to the wall of work, the wall of opportunity."

Delivering the workshop's closing challenge, Howard Ramsey emphasized that revival "is not going to happen unless there is a fresh touch from God."

Sharing examples of Jesus' ministry recorded in Matthew 9, Ramsey said, "There was hope because Jesus was there. There was no hope unless Jesus was there."

Challenging Christians to capture the compassion demonstrated by Jesus, he pointed out, "When you have compassion, you're going to do something."

Noting that Jesus multiplied His ministry by training His disciples, Ramsey said the ministry of the gospel continues to spread today through Jesus' followers. "Everything Jesus is, is in your heart," he affirmed. "Wherever you go, there is hope because Jesus is there."

Agreeing that "there is hope because Jesus is here," state evangelism department director Clarence Shell told participants, "I hope that all we say and all we are and all we do focuses on reaching the lost people in Arkansas."

As associational leaders enlist and train local church members for the "Here's Hope" emphasis, Shell added, "I hope and pray we will strongly emphasize not only people being saved, but following in baptism and church membership." Highlights of the national campaign will include a three-week "People Search" emphasis, 60 days of personal witnessing beginning in January 1995 and a series of Harvest Simultaneous Revivals in local churches in March and April.

Here's Hope materials available free to churches

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (BP)—To encourage advance planning for the 1995 "Here's Hope" evangelistic emphasis, \$60 worth of training and resource material is available free to every Southern Baptist church.

The material includes guidelines to increase promotion, prospect cultivation and church member participation. It also includes sample products for adults, youth and children, guides for conducting a 60-day soul-winning thrust, suggestions for follow-up revivals and how to start churches through evangelistic efforts.

"Any pastor who will review this material will find a tremendous help for his whole ministry, not just Here's Hope," said Gene Jorgenson, retired Oklahoma and Texas pastor who helped develop the material.

Produced by the Home Mission Board, the material is being distributed in cooperation with state evangelism directors.

The theme to encourage church members to participate is "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." The theme to reach the public is "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You."

The plan calls for churches to train

members in soul-winning in 1994. Church members will be asked to share Christ at least 60 times in 60 days from Jan. 9 to March 9 followed by harvest revivals between March 12 and Sept. 30.

Ten churches participated in a pilot project for the 60-day soul-winning commitment this spring. They reported 733 professions of faith and 359 baptisms.

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis urged Southern Baptists to participate in "Here's Hope" because "the love of Christ constrains us," not because it is another strategy or program.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Church news

Harvey's Chapel Church of Hot Springs held a "Save Your Family Revival" Nov. 14-18 that resulted in 28 professions of faith. Tom and Kay Cox of Mountainburg were revival leaders. Jerry R. Cooper is pastor.

Tichnor Church held a revival Dec. 12-17 with Dickson Rial of Duncanville, Texas, as evangelist. Dan Tibbett of DeWitt is pastor.

Eastside Southern Church in Cave City honored church treasurer Jim Robins Nov. 28. Pastor Jim Tircy presented him with a plaque and Bible in recognition of 14 years of service as church treasurer.

Immanuel Church of Little Rock observed its 23rd Demonstration Day Dec. 5. An offering totaling more than \$396,000 was given for this faithfulness in stewardship observance. In addition, a Sunday School attendance of 1,881 reflected the church's second largest in its 101-year history, exceeded only by the 1991 attendance of 2,038. Rex M. Horne Jr. is pastor.

Dollarway Church of Pine Bluff held a 23-day "Wake Up Pine Bluff" revival Nov. 7-Dec. 1 in an effort to seek revival for the city. Speakers included two fulltime evangelists, 11 pastors and one Baptist Student Union director. The effort resulted in 10 professions of faith and 100 rededications and commitments. Ed Harrison Jr. is pastor.

Trinity Church of Texarkana observed "Pastor Appreciation Day" Dec. 12 in recognition of 15 years of service by pastor Wallace Edgar. A reception honoring Edgar, his wife, Mary, and their sons, John and Nick, was hosted by the church in the Family Enrichment Center. They were given an album of notes and letters of appreciation. Edgar was presented a love offering by chairman of deacons Tom Carter.

Obituaries

J.D. Webb, age 75, of Texarkana died Dec. 5. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister and a member of Beech Street First Church, Texarkana, where he previously had served as associate pastor of senior adults. In addition, he had been pastor of Central Church, Mineral Springs; Dallas Avenue Church, Mena; First Church of Biscoe; First Church of Fouke; and Oak

Grove Church, Ashdown. He also had been interim pastor of churches in Texarkana, Ashdown and Stamps. Survivors include his wife, Loretta Webb of Texarkana; two daughters, Willena Herman of Fairfield Bay and Lori Uemura of Fukuoka, Japan; and two grandsons.

Evie Elder Wilkins of Russellville died Dec. 6 at age 95. She was the widow of Charles F. Wilkins who was pastor of First Church in Dardanelle for 13 years and First Church in Newport for 23 years. She was recognized for her work in primary and youth programs, and in church music. Survivors are a son, Charles F. Wilkins Jr. of Russellville; three daughters, Ann Russell of Jonesboro, Billie Sue Monk of Hope and Rebecca Marando of Cabot; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to local Baptist churches.

Randy Mooney of Benton died Dec. 7 at age 36. He was a member of First Church in Benton where he was director of the youth department and a deacon. Survivors are his wife, Nicki Mooney; two daughters, Leslie and Andrea Mooney; his father, George Mooney; and a sister. Memorials may be made to the youth programs of First Church in Benton.

Lloyd M. Patterson, age 72, of North Little Rock died Dec. 6. He was a member of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock where he was a deacon and served for 38 years in numerous leadership positions, including director of the Adult Six Sunday School department and working with the homebound. Survivors are his wife, Emarene Smith Patterson; a son, Phillip Patterson; a granddaughter; and one brother. Memorials may be made to Baring Cross Church.

Mildred Rowland Greenhill of Tichnor died Nov. 30 at age 78. She was a member of the Tichnor Church where she served as church clerk and a Sunday School teacher. Survivors include her husband, Lee Roy Greenhill; three sons, Ray Sweetin of Stuttgart and Donald Sweetin and Wendell Greenhill, both of Tichnor; one daughter, Sharon Wheatley of Texarkana, Texas; three sisters; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Dick Bumpass, former Baptist Student Union director at Arkansas State University, died Dec. 7 at age 60. Bumpass, who served since 1969 as a home missionary and campus minister for the Baptist

Convention of Maryland/Delaware, was campus minister for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. A graduate of Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Union Seminary, Richmond, Va., he was a founding member and former president of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers. He is survived by his wife Nancy "Dixie," a daughter, Tiffan, both of Annapolis; a daughter, Lori, and two sons, Nick and Kelly, all of Texas. Memorials may be made to the Annapolis BSU Alumni Association.

Ordinations

Valley View Church of Harrisburg ordained pastor Philip Bynum to the gospel ministry Nov. 14.

Concord Church at Van Buren ordained Buddy Belt to the deacon ministry Dec. 5.

Omega South Church of Eudora ordained pastor Doyle Pardon to the gospel ministry Dec. 12.

Searcy First Church recently ordained Tim Chapman and Jeff Moore to the deacon ministry.

Staff changes

C.A. Johnson announced his retirement as pastor of First Church, Paragould, effective Dec. 31. He has served there since December 1991 and previously was there in 1969. Johnson, who has been in the ministry for 46 years, also has been a director of missions for Baptist associations and has served churches in California, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas. He and his wife, Patsy, will retire in Fort Worth, Texas, to be near their children and grandchildren.

Dean Newberry recently retired as industrial chaplain for Hudson Foods, Inc. of Rogers. The Chaplains Commission of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board presented him a retirement certificate for his 17 years of service.

Robert E. "Rob" Young will join the staff of Second Church in Hot Springs Jan. 1, 1994, as minister of music, coming there from St. Petersburg, Fla., where he has been associate pastor of music and evangelism at Azalea Baptist Church. He previously served on the staff of Texas churches. Young is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas,

and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Tula, have three children, Robyn, Rachel and Randall.

Freddie Pike joined the staff of Second Church in Conway Dec. 8 as associate pastor of education. Pike, who recently resigned as director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Sunday School department, is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He previously served on the staff of both Watson Chapel Church, Pine Bluff, and First Church, North Little Rock. In addition, he was director of missions for Harmony Association. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, Melodie and Stephen.

Clark Colbert has resigned as minister of youth at First Church, Augusta, to continue his education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Joe Morris resigned Dec. 26 as music and youth director for Berry Street Church of Springdale to enter the field of music evangelism.

Michael A. Brown recently resigned as pastor of Emmanuel Church in Forrest City to become pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Pikeville, Tenn.

Terry Tacker of Lepanto is serving as pastor of Rivervale Church in Trinity Association. He previously was in Illinois.

James F. Taylor Jr. will join the staff of First Church, Mountain Home, in January as minister of youth and media. He is a graduate of Toy State University in Troy, Ala., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Taylor and his wife, Nancy, have one child, Jayme.

Kirk Wooldridge has resigned as minister to youth at Immanuel Church in Little Rock to continue his education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hug Radler has resigned from the staff of Elmdale Church in Springdale where he served for more than five years as minister of youth and activities. The church honored him and his wife, LuLong, and their children, Sawyer and Micah, with a reception Dec. 19.

Johnny Parrack is serving as pastor of Bellaire Church, Dermott. He moved there from Corinth, Miss., where he had been a fulltime evangelist for 12 years.

Sam Parker is serving as bivocational pastor of Bigelow Church, going there from Perry Church. Parker is employed by Arkansas' conservation services. He and his wife, Mary, have three children.



Paul Roaten (center) welcomes visitors to the migrant missions center in Hope.

Migrant ministry shares comfort, clothing, Christ

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

HOPE, AR (BP)—On a stretch of U.S. 67 in southwest Arkansas, home missionary Paul Roaten looks out a window from the white-box building that houses the Southern Baptist migrant missions center.

Across the road this morning, kids play outside the government-owned rest stop for farm laborers. Here migrants celebrate the halfway point of their two-day journeys to and from farms by catching a few hours sleep or washing a load of laundry.

On Roaten's side of the road, the missions center offers comfort, clothing and Christ through refreshments, hygiene bags and nightly worship services.

"Our approach here is to present Christian love and see their response to it," explained Roaten, 56, a former foreign missionary to Uruguay.

About 2,700 families visited the center last year. Parents can sip coffee while talking to Roaten and others or make selections from the free clothing closet.

Children can burn restless energy through sports or games, much to the relief of road-weary parents who still have long drives ahead.

This year, 340 volunteers from 41 churches in five states worked at the center, which witnessed more than 100 professions of faith.

"As the opportunity opens, then we share the gospel with them," said Roaten,

who came to the center in October 1991.

Roaten, a native of Mississippi, was a foreign missionary for 20 years when in 1989 his son, David, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Roaten and his wife, Betty, returned to the United States, where he served in Texas and Mississippi before becoming director of the migrant missions center in Hope.

Aside from living in a different culture, Roaten said it is difficult to find distinctions between home and foreign missions. "Some of the same things we learned or experienced in years of work there in Uruguay we've recognized here."

Built in 1972; the Baptist center gets more than 7,700 visits annually, Roaten noted. The government's "farm labor center" across the street has 230 beds. It stays open around the clock from March 1 through Dec. 31 and receives more than 25,000 visits annually.

Migrants pay \$3 for 12 hours use of a room with two sets of bunk beds, he said. "There will be nights in June they'll have 650 people registered."

The mission center distributes Bibles and other religious materials in addition to hygiene items and clothing. This year, the American Bible Society donated 1,500 English and Spanish Bibles.

"We try to make sure every family either has a Bible or gets one before they leave here," Roaten said. "We have given out close to 4,700 Bibles and New Testaments as they came through this year."

FMB sets appointment record, restructures vice presidencies

By Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees heard reports of a record year in appointment of mission personnel and elected four veteran board administrators to new vice presidencies during their Dec. 6-8 meeting.

A record annual total of 495 mission workers culminated with the appointment of 32 missionaries at the December meeting. That total — 223 career and associate missionaries and 272 two-year personnel — exceeds 1985's record of 429. The 1985 total included 304 career and associate missionaries, still a record in that category, and 125 two-year personnel.

This year's appointments are expected to leave the FMB with a slight increase in the total missions force. Accounting for retirements, resignations and other departures, agency officials are projecting about 3,945 missionaries in service by year's end, up slightly from 1992's figure of 3,893.

Deaf missionary appointed

New missionaries appointed include the board's first deaf career missionary, Yvette Aarons, 34, a Jamaican-born Southern Baptist from Brooklyn, N.Y., will work among the deaf in Trinidad, where she has been a volunteer through the board's International Service Corps for three years.

Moved by a report from Kenya about sacrificial giving by missionaries to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, trustees responded to a challenge issued at their October meeting to give sacrificially themselves.

Fifty-five trustees pledged to contribute \$88,500 to the annual offering through their churches, according to trustee chairman John Jackson.

David Barrett, world-renowned in Christian missions as a researcher and strategist, received a plaque honoring his nine years under contract with the board as consultant to its World Evangelization Research Center.

FMB executive vice president Don Kammerdiener cited Barrett as a noted researcher, strategist, thinker, scholar and missionary spokesman who championed people in "World A" — that portion of the globe with little or no access to the Christian message.

Barrett's work and influence brought the board into closer relationships with

other evangelical Christians and spurred it into serious involvement in World A, Kammerdiener said.

Four former FMB regional vice presidents were assigned to new posts under Avery Willis, new senior vice president for overseas operations. The changes follow a reorganization that ended the board's Global Strategy Group of top administrators and the role of regional vice presidents.

Bill Bullington, former vice president for Africa, was elected vice president for overseas service. He will work as a liaison with 10 overseas area directors to meet field needs. Bullington, a missionary and administrator for 27 years, will oversee missions research, evangelism and church growth, human needs, overseas media services, the board's Jenkins Research Library, missionary health and family services and missionary information analysis.

Sam James, former vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, was elected vice president for creative leadership development. He will lead in developing church growth strategies overseas, evaluating FMB training programs for overseas personnel and evaluating board involvement in leadership training of Christians overseas.

Bill Wakefield, former vice president for Asia and the Pacific, was named vice president for international outreach. In cooperation with others already involved in international ministries, he will develop strategies to relate and minister to international people in the United States.

Lewis Myers, former vice president for Cooperative Services International, will become vice president for World A strategies. He will develop strategies to keep board staff, missionaries and Southern Baptists focused on the challenge to reach World A.

In other action, trustees accepted an invitation from the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference to hold a missionary appointment service during its meeting in Orlando, Fla., next June in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The trustees voted to meet in Orlando June 10-12 and conduct the appointment service during the June 12 evening session of the conference.

Rankin said the invitation from the Pastors' Conference was one of a number of signs he sees that Southern Baptists "are entering a new era of partnership in which the resources, programs and activities of Southern Baptists can be focused on our overseas task."

SBC leaders meet for prayer, encouragement

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Eight Southern Baptist Convention officials of missions-oriented agencies met Dec. 13 in a prayer retreat with an emphasis on "hopes, dreams and visions for world missions."

The informal retreat at the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in nearby Rockville, Va., was primarily for prayer, participants told Baptist Press.

"Our purpose was to pray and seek God's face for renewal and spiritual awakening in light of enormous changes in the world, the nation and the convention," said Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president for overseas operations.

Also attending were Jerry Rankin, FMB president; Larry L. Lewis, Home Mission Board president; James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president; Dellanna W. O'Brien, Woman's Missionary Union president; Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president; James T. Draper Jr., Baptist Sunday School Board president; and Henry T. Blackaby, consultant in prayer and spiritual awakening in a joint project for the HMB, FMB and BSSB.

"We are very much aware of the high priority of prayer in staying on track as Southern Baptists with the work of God and His mission in the world," Rankin said. "Our time together in a day of prayer was a significant opportunity for sharing, encouragement and bonding together."

"We talked about our hopes, dreams and visions for world missions," Chapman said. "I was struck, particularly, by two common threads... a burden to see God move among Southern Baptists in a mighty and fresh way and the desire of each person there to rely wholly on the Lord in fulfilling our leadership responsibilities."

Lewis said it was the first time the group has ever met just to pray with one another and "pray for one another."

"Prayer was the sole agenda item. We've met with other agenda items before, but that doesn't bind you together spiritually like being on your knees in prayer," Lewis said.

Clinton: Churches must help combat violence

By Pam Parry
Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The nation's streets, schools and homes will be safer when its churches and synagogues become more active in the fight against violence, according to President Bill Clinton.

Clinton emphasized the religious community's involvement with the crime issue during a Dec. 17 media roundtable with nine religion reporters in the Cabinet Room of the White House.

The church is perhaps the only institution that can hold life together as economic and family structures continue to crumble, the president said.

"And it seems to me that to turn it around going to require a massive, highly concentrated effort by all Americans, starting with the president but going down to every community...but also really it requires almost a spiritual change."

Clinton met with representatives from Jewish, Catholic and Protestant news media, including Religious News Service, Associated Baptist Press, Catholic News Service, *Christian Century* and *Christianity Today*.

Government policies alone will not curb violence, he said. Some churches are doing more than others on this issue, he added.

"I think that they (churches) can weigh in heavily on behalf of all the efforts that

are being made to make the streets and schools more secure — putting more police officers on the street and having alternative punishments for young people that have a higher probability of working, the drug courts, boot camps and things like that."

Many churches could reach out more to troubled children and get them involved in their programs and worship services, he said. Some churches could be more involved in neighborhood activities designed to help citizens take back their streets, he said.

'Rebuild young people's lives'

"I'm convinced that first we have to reimpose security, but then we have to try to rebuild the lives of these young people."

In part, schools need to instill basic civic values that teach respect for democracy, honesty, self, others and the environment, he said. The schools can help carry the load, he said, but without a strategy that includes the family and churches.

"We ought to do everything we can to make sure that people can have a successful family life and a successful work life and that our policy ought to be that in America people should be able to succeed as parents and as workers. If they only succeed at one, whichever one it is, we are impoverished by that."

Clinton, who said his faith has sustained

him during turbulent times, urged Americans to see violence as a personal affront. As part of a larger humanity, violence against one diminishes all, he said.

Clinton encouraged each American to "make the most of your life and the lives of those within your direct charge.... And then try to have the best possible connection with the larger humanity of which you are a part."

"It would be very difficult to define your lives solely in individual terms. And to me that is one of the teachings of the Scriptures."

Responding to a question about how to reduce hate crimes, Clinton said he tries to set an example that promotes respect and diversity. Schools and churches also could be involved in teaching children and youth how to respect good people who are different from them.

People can have divergent religious views, but if they share civic values, honor the law and respect others, then they can bridge those differences, he said.

"America has the opportunity to become the world's first truly multiethnic rainbow society where we can embrace our differences — this is not an easy thing, by the way."

"If we get this done, I think, we will have to draw on the strength of our religious heritage and our basic sense of human kindness."

Supreme Court debates curbs on anti-abortion violence

WASHINGTON (ABP/BP) — Can a law originally designed to curb mob activity also be used to restrain violence at abortion clinics?

That question was before the U.S. Supreme Court this month as the court once again debated whether an existing federal statute can be used to diffuse violence at abortion clinics. In the last term, the court ruled that a 19th century civil-rights law could not be used in these instances.

This term, the court is examining another statute, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) which makes it illegal for an "enterprise" to use a "pattern of racketeering" activity. A pattern of racketeering requires two or more crimes.

At issue in the case is whether or not economic gain has to be the motivation behind the enterprise or pattern of activity.

Fay Clayton, representing the National Organization for Women and the clinics, contended that the statute does not require an economic motivation.

She said that some pro-life groups have crossed the line from protests that are protected by the First Amendment to a campaign of violence that depends on "terrorist tactics." Some pro-life groups, she said, have engaged in a national campaign to shut down clinics through multiple illegal activities, such as extortion, vandalism and arson.

"This law cannot be applied this way without risking the destruction of every protest movement in this country that in any manner, shape or form causes (economic loss)," Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue and a defendant in the case, told reporters.

Robert Blakey, a Notre Dame law professor who wrote the RICO statute as a Senate lawyer, noted, "This appeal is about a misguided effort to evoke a powerful statute in the face of a social protest movement." Evoking this statute would ultimately affect all protests — even non-violent ones, he said.

He summarized the statute in two words: "illicit gain." His clients are not

seeking personal gain, he said, adding that the statute requires an economic motivation before it can be used to prohibit an activity.

Clayton disagreed. "We do not want to infringe on First Amendment rights," she said, "but when they give up that speech and turn to force and violence ... their advocacy can cross the line."

Justice Antonin Scalia, who was the most aggressive questioner during the one-hour arguments, said the term "enterprise" does have an economic connotation. He also expressed concern that interpreting the statute too broadly could adversely affect legitimate anti-abortion protests.

After the arguments, Clayton said she thinks the justices are sensitive to the argument "there are no First Amendment issues here."

Blakey told reporters, "White-collar crime is in this statute. Organized crime is in this statute. Protest is not in this statute, and if it is in, it's a sad day for the First Amendment of the United States."

The court is expected to rule on the case by next summer.

Southeastern Seminary regains accreditation from SACS, awaits ATS

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has been removed from probation, reaffirmed in its accreditation, and reestablished as a member in good standing with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

That announcement was made Dec. 16 at the annual meeting of the regional accrediting association in Atlanta.

Southeastern president Paige Patterson said he "profoundly appreciated" the accrediting agency's affirmation of the seminary's academic program, and he saw it as "an invitation for the school to expand rapidly."

SACS placed the seminary on probation in December 1991, principally citing trustee involvement in administrative practices and lack of long-range planning as the major reasons for the action.

Patterson said throughout the probationary period nothing SACS asked the seminary to do was beyond reason. He said the seminary actually fulfilled most of the requests last year; however, SACS wanted to see Southeastern go through a one-year cycle, utilizing its new procedures.

Although SACS has removed Southeastern from probation, the seminary is still on probation with the Association

of Theological Schools (ATS) in the U.S. and Canada.

"ATS, of course, is the next item on the agenda," said Patterson. "We hope to have our probation with them resolved within the next six months."

Building conference scheduled for Jan. 20

Pastors, church staff and church building and grounds committees will have the opportunity to build their knowledge at the Maintaining Your Church Building and Grounds Conference Jan. 20 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

The conference, sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Leadership Support department, will feature Jim Ryan, a consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board church leadership team.

L.B. Jordan, director of the Church Leadership Support department, emphasized the need for proper maintenance of church buildings. "Church growth experts are telling us that the upkeep and appearance of church property is a key factor in whether or not to grow," he pointed out.

Participants will receive *Maintenance Manual for Southern Baptist Churches*, compiled by Tim Holcomb, and the BSSB informational brochure, "Church Property and Space Committee." Jordan said both publications will be used as curriculum for the conference.

The cost is \$15 per person, which includes materials and lunch. The conference session begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact Jordan at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, phone 376-4791, ext. 5148.

MK prayer calendar

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas with birthdays in January:

■ Jan. 6, Paul Capps, OBU, Box 3072, Arkadelphia, AR 71998; senior from Singapore.

■ Jan. 22, Tim Gary, OBU, Box 3921, Arkadelphia, AR 71998; sophomore from French West Indies.

■ Jan. 23, Clinton Brubeck, John Brown University, Box 2154, Siloam Springs, AR 72761; freshman from Tanzania.

Classifieds

Youth Minister—Calvary Baptist Church, 2301 Midland Blvd., Ft. Smith, AR 72904, is now accepting resumes for a bi-vocational youth minister.

Organist Needed—South Highland Baptist Church, L.R. Call 225-3991.

Bi-Vocational Music Director Needed—Send resumes to Immanuel Baptist Church, 2201 S. Dallas, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 80 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.



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06120 The Doctrine of Salvation
Dr. Dale Wicker
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MISSIONARIES

Missionary Sherry Akins dies in Brazil

BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Sherry Akins, 47, died of a heart attack Dec. 4 at her home in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Family members believe her death was related to complications from scleroderma, a disease that can cause chronic hardening of the skin and organ systems. Akins was diagnosed with scleroderma in 1992. An autopsy was being performed in Brazil.

Nearly 1,000 people attended a memorial service for Akins in Belo Horizonte. Akins' husband, Wade, shared the gospel at the close of the service and invited people to accept Christ as Savior. A young woman approached him afterward and said she had accepted Christ.

Akins, the former Sherry Deakins, and her husband were appointed missionaries

to Brazil in 1982. Following Portuguese language study, the Akinses lived in Belo Horizonte, where she was a church and home worker. She was a leader in MasterLife discipleship training and worked with her husband in church planting and leadership training.

Before missionary appointment, Akins was a Foreign Mission Board journeyman in Nigeria from 1968-70. She taught children of missionaries in Oshogbo. She met her husband, a journeyman in Vietnam during those years, in the Foreign Mission Board's journeyman training program.

Akins is survived by her husband; three children, Christy, 21, and Timothy, 19, who are both students at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, and Jason, 16; her parents; and two sisters.

Retired missionary nurse Ruth Womack dies

McMINNVILLE, TN (BP)—Ruth Womack, a retired Southern Baptist missionary nurse known for her battle against infant malnutrition in Nigeria, died in a car accident Dec. 13.

Womack, 73, was driving home alone on a two-lane state highway after visiting a sick cousin. She ran a stop sign and was struck on the driver's side by a car crossing the intersection. She died less than 20 minutes after being taken to River Park Hospital in McMinnville, Tenn., her hometown.

Appointed a missionary in 1947, Womack helped establish medical work in Joinkrama, Nigeria. She directed the Kersey Children's Home in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, from 1955 until her retirement in 1987.

At the Kersey home, Womack developed infant nutrition programs for the area. When she began her work with malnourished children, about half the children in the Ogbomoso area died

before they were old enough to start school. By the early 1980s, losses had dropped to 30 percent. Womack also worked to place motherless babies with their relatives or in foster homes.

A native of Alabama, Womack was a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Baptist Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing in Memphis, Tenn. She also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

She is survived by her sister, Mildred Womack, a Southern Baptist home missionary in Florida.

Missionary notes

Darrel and Judy Garner, missionaries to Malawi, are in the States (address: 629 E. Wright St., Sulphur Rock, AR 72579). He lived in Huntsville while growing up. The former Judy Brown, she was born in Independence County and lived in Walnut Ridge and Fayetteville. The Garners were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

Elton and Dottie Dray, missionaries to Japan, are in the States (address: 717 N. Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72208). He is a native of Tennessee, and she is the former Dottie Evenson of Mississippi. They were appointed as FMB missionaries in 1970.

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After His departure from Nazareth, Jesus established His home base in Capernaum in Galilee. Again on the Sabbath He taught those who gathered at the synagogue. They also marveled at "His doctrines" but unlike the faithlessness of the Nazarenes, their faith allowed Christ to prove the power of His words.

The clear demonstration of the power of Christ occurred that very day in the very synagogue where Jesus taught. A man, we are not privileged to know his name, came to synagogue that Sabbath. He had a tremendous need. The Scriptures do not reveal whether he was aware of his condition or if anyone else was aware, but Jesus knew. The man had a demon dwelling in him.

The Bible states that this unclean devil called out with a loud voice, asking Jesus by name what He intended to do to them. Basically Jesus told him to be quiet and come out of the man. The devil left him. What a contrast between the loud screams of devils and the soft voice of Jesus. Jesus did not have to raise his voice to remove the demon, none of the show was necessary to dress up the service. Real power is never showy. It does not have to be. It is the power. Just as Jesus spoke, not yelled to the winds and the waves and they were still, even so Jesus spoke and it was so. That's power.

His power went into the house of Simon before he became Peter and healed his mother-in-law. That same powerful Jesus healed anyone who was sick, and the power of Jesus made other demons vacate many. And still this was not enough. Jesus said that He had to, He must preach the kingdom to other places, because that is why He was sent. Preaching became His greatest miracle and still is. Godly, authoritative, life-changing preaching still is His greatest miracle. Preaching supersedes healings for they are temporary and casting out of demons for they are limited, because real preaching carries us into the eternal realm to deal with eternal matters.

Life and Work

Forgiven forever

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

Basic passage: Luke 5:17-32

Focal passage: Luke 5:18-25, 29-32

Central truth: Forgiveness is for everyone.

Have you ever been in a situation where you had a real problem forgiving someone for something they did to you? Do you know anyone who thinks God could never love him because of the many sins in his life? Today's lesson should benefit us as we minister to fellow Christians in need of forgiveness. On a broader scale it should encourage us as we attempt to tell a lost world about the forgiveness of Christ.

There are three important words we need to remember from this passage of Scripture:

(1) The sinner. In verses 18-19 we have a picture of a sick man being brought by his friends to Jesus for physical healing. Jesus went a little further and healed his spiritual life also (v. 20). A man recognized his need and was brought by his friends to Jesus. This is a basic step in the process of forgiveness. You may be the strongest influence in a friend's life for recognizing his need for Jesus. There is a solution for their situation.

(2) The Savior. As always the Pharisees question Jesus' authority (v. 21) and Jesus responds with a challenge (vv. 22-23). No matter the situation of the sinner or the sinner we cannot overlook one important fact. Only God can forgive sin and He has provided access to that forgiveness through Christ and sacrifice on the cross.

(3) The statement. Jesus eats with a tax collector (v. 29), offends the Pharisees (v. 30), and then makes His statement of purpose (vv. 31-32). Jesus went about the business of making sick people well, whether it was physical or spiritual. He wanted it clearly understood that there were people out there who desperately needed His ministry. That is what every church needs to be doing, telling others about the forgiveness Jesus offers.

Forgiveness is a touch subject. God has touched us with the mark of forgiveness and we are compelled to touch others. Forgiveness, in God's eyes, is wiping the slate clean and starting over. It is forever, it is forgetting, it is formidable, it is for everyone and it is for now.

Bible Book

The Lamb of God calls

By Don Carter, pastor, First Church,
Eureka Springs

Basic Passage: John 1:19-51

Focal passage: John 1:19-51

Central truth: Disciples serve best when they fully understand at whose feet they are sitting.

Not too many days ago our eight-year-old daughter asked me a question. "Daddy, has anyone ever died from being baptized?" Of course, I laughed. She, however, was serious. She has made her profession of faith but has not quite been ready for baptism.

As I read this passage again this week, I was reminded of her question. The Jewish priests asked John a question that could have made him laugh. He responded with great clarity that he was not the Christ, but was sent to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Too often our declaration of who Christ is has not been clearly stated. We tend to shy away because we are not sure of our role. John knew what his function was to be. He was preparing the way for Christ. What are you to do?

The very next day John saw the reason that he preached repentance in the wilderness. The Lamb of God came to him for baptism. John also knew that Jesus' purpose was to take away the sin of the world. Not bad for a guy who ate crickets.

When Jesus began to call His disciples to follow him, they had to make major adjustments. Fishing nets and boats were left behind. Families and friends were dropped in priority. Jesus' disciples made great adjustments and sacrifices to follow.

Many of us recently have been learning that to truly experience God we must make some major adjustments in our lives to join God in His Kingdom's work. The disciples knew that experiencing the One and Only of the Father was a new and exciting adventure.

Have you lost your adventure for serving Christ? He calls us one and all to make major adjustments in our life to serve. We must join God in what He is doing. His work is the only work that will ever amount to anything. John knew that.

Because Jesus saw him under the fig tree, Nathanael declared that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus replied that he would see greater things than that. Just watch what God can do.

Convention Uniform

Abundant life

By Lonnie W. Latham, DOM,
Bartholomew Association
Basic passage: Genesis 1:27; Matthew
5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a
Basic passage: Gen. 1:27; Matthew 5:13-
16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a
Central-truth: Life is more than living.

Jesus boldly promised us an abundant life (John 10:10). Great news! But how? I have seldom met people who want to live bland, meaningless, mediocre lives. Talking with truly needy people off the streets leads us to believe that even they want a great life. If wanting was all that was required, nearly all of us would be living abundantly. Most of us want it, but few seem to get it.

Abundant life begins with an appreciation of it and its origin. The Bible states that God created it. Out of Him came life. He breathed the breath of life into Adam and he became a living soul. Isn't that marvelous? Take a deep breath, let out the air and say, "Thank you, God, for life." Appreciation begins with praise for its origin.

Abundant life also has purpose. Jesus said our purpose is to be salt and light. Salt preserves, flavors and also makes thirsty. We can make people thirsty for God, good things and an abundant life. The purpose of light is to reveal. We are the lights of the world. We should make life brighter, clearer and better understood. Oops! I almost forgot. Light helps things grow. We can make a difference in the lives of others by allowing them to grow to their full potential.

Abundant life moves away from deadly things. Living abundantly means we are careful in our relationships and in our remarks. Guns, bombs and knives can obviously kill, but another more subtle killer is loose in most of our communities: the tongue. What we say can just as easily kill as any other weapon.

Attitudes can bless or curse. Find it easy to hate? Wrong attitude. Loving enemies—that's what carries us above wars into realms of peace. The value of life supercedes the value of my life. The true value of life is in Christ and His definition of living.

Life and Work

Holey, holy, wholly

By Martin Babb, minister of education/
youth, Pulaski Heights Church,
Little Rock
Basic passage: Genesis 1:27; Matthew
5:13-45
Focal passage: Genesis 1:27; Matthew
5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45
Central-truth: All human life is valuable
to God.

Pick up any newspaper or magazine, and watch any television show and it is painfully obvious that not everyone holds human life in high regard. Today's lesson should remind us that every human life is precious to God. There are four Scripture applications we need to remember.

(1) Live like you belong to God. We are created in God's image (Gen. 1:27) and therefore have a unique relationship to God. Notice the Scripture did not say that God created some people in His image. We are accountable to God for the treatment we give one another.

(2) Influence positively those around you. There is not enough room in these paragraphs to discuss in detail the examples of salt and light Jesus gives us in verses 13-16. It basically means that we are to impact our world in a positive way. The tricky part is using the right amount of salt and light. Using too much or too little of either is less than Jesus intended.

(3) Follow the example of Christ. In verses 21-22 and 27-28 Christ leads us with His Words but throughout the New Testament He leads by example. Hate is just as wrong as the physical act of violence and sexual immorality is a sign that we do not value human life properly. But do not stop there. The example of Christ always includes forgiveness for those who gave in.

(4) Express love for all life. It is easy to love those who love us but Jesus tells us to love even those who may not love us back (v. 44). Being a Christian would be so easy if we just did not have to do it like Jesus told us to. There are people in your community dying to hear about that kind of love.

We all make mistakes. We should be thankful to God that He loves us before and after we make them. He is not discriminatory. Judging others is not something we learned from Jesus. Our lives are holy, but we can be holy if we wholly dedicate ourselves to looking at life through God's eyes.

Bible Book

It's a wonderful life

By Don Carter, pastor, First Church,
Eureka Springs
Basic Passage: Genesis 1:27; Matthew
5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45b
Focal passage: Genesis 1:27; Matthew
5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45b
Central truth: Life is a wonderful gift
that we must respect and protect.

The Bible begins with the beautiful account of God making man out of the dust of the ground. God creates man in His own image—a special part of creation that no other creature is allowed. To be made in the image of God is both a wonderful gift and tremendous responsibility.

As salt and light, we are Christ's representatives to a world that needs flavor and guidance. As we keep our eyes on Jesus, we become more like Him and can help others see Jesus living in us. The challenge is great. We must respect and protect the gift of life.

Euthanasia, abortion, suicide, drug overdose, drunken driver and premeditated are all forms of murder. Jesus said that anyone who murders is subject to judgment. I wonder about character assassination. Is that a form of personality murder?

Murder certainly changes life. Not just for the victim but also for families, friends and the murderer. Anytime we stop a life, intentionally or unintentionally, we have crossed over the boundary from man's rights into God's domain.

Respect for God's creation is the ultimate view of a person. I remember hearing a phrase while attending Ouchacha, "Look at your date as being created in the image of God." It will certainly change your view toward people when you constantly see God in them.

If murder changes life, what about adultery? It may not stop the physical breath of life, but it certainly stops the level of life that God had intended for His creation. We must respect and protect life to the extent that all people are treated equally and fairly.

Jesus spent most of His time ministering to the ugly outcasts of society. He knew that the innermost temple of the person was where God's Spirit dwells. Like Christ, we must look at all people as the very image of God and treat them with respect and justice.

It's a wonderful life God has created in us.

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Moroccan man jailed for becoming a Christian

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO (BP)—A Moroccan man has been sentenced to three years in prison for converting from Islam to Christianity.

The French-language newspaper *l'Opinion* identified him as Mustapha Zemamda of Casablanca. He was sentenced in the district court of Casablanca in November.

Nineteen Moroccans who signed up for a correspondence course in Christianity mailed from France were summoned by the court Oct. 25. Officials ordered them to sign a statement agreeing to sever relations with the correspondence school.

Eighteen signed, but Zemamda refused. Summoned to court again four days later, he still refused to sign or renounce his Christian faith. Sentencing followed.

Christians in Morocco requested prayer for Zemamda and all Christian believers in the country. Morocco is almost 100 percent Muslim and is considered one of the countries most closed to the gospel.

Texas Baptists, Campus Crusade share film with Kurds

DALLAS (BP)—Texas Baptists teamed up with Campus Crusade for Christ to deliver a Christmas gift for up to 35 million Kurds in the Middle East—a dramatic portrayal of Jesus' life presented in their own language.

During the last two weeks in December, a Kurdish-language version of the "Jesus" film translated by a Kurdish Southern Baptist from Dallas is being broadcast on five television stations in the neutral zone of Iraq.

Broadcasts on the five stations, which cover large portions of southern Turkey and northern Iraq, have a potential audience of 35 million viewers.

Missionaries to East Africa give \$100,000 to missions

NAIROBI, KENYA (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries don't just receive from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They also give.

Mission offerings given at nine 1993 annual meetings of missionaries in eastern and southern Africa added up to \$100,464—and \$62,264 of that was designated for Lottie Moon.

"These are totally free-will offerings," said John Faulkner, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for mission work in the region. "The missionaries don't ask if they should take up an offering or how they should spend it—and FMB administrators don't make suggestions."

Earlier reports from Kenya about missionary giving to Lottie Moon moved FMB trustees to respond to a challenge to increase their Lottie Moon gifts. Fifty-seven of 89 trustees have pledged to contribute \$90,000 through their churches to the Lottie Moon offering.

VISN/ACTS cable channel to undergo name change

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—The cable channel ACTS shares with VISN will be renamed "Faith & Values Channel" effective Jan. 2, 1994.

ACTS (American Christian Television System) is a faith and family cable television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission that reaches into more than 20 million homes. Since 1992, when ACTS began sharing the cable channel with VISN (Vision Interfaith Satellite Network), it has been called the "VISN/ACTS Channel."

"This doesn't represent a change in direction," said Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC. "We'll continue to use the acronym ACTS. And we'll continue to provide Christian family values programming. The name change simply enables the cable operator to better advertise and promote programming with local media." Cable companies are expected to use the initials F&V to identify the channel.

C. Anne Davis recognized by Christian social workers

LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—C. Anne Davis, Woman's Missionary Union professor of church social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has received the Award for Distinguished Christian Service in Social Work from the North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Davis, a faculty member at the Louisville, Ky., school since 1970, became the founding dean of the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work in 1984. She served in that role until this year when she stepped down to devote more time to teaching.

Under Davis' leadership, the Carver School was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, making Southern Seminary the nation's only seminary that offers a fully accredited master of social work degree.