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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 91, Number 27

December 31, 1992

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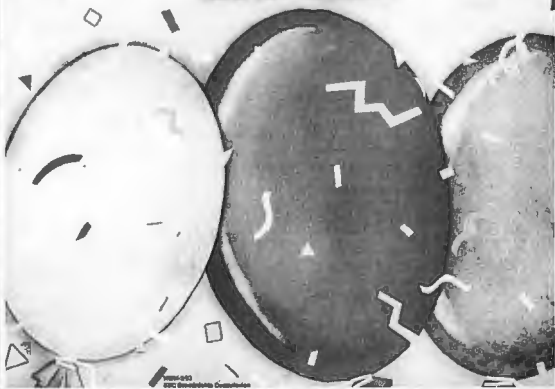
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CELEBRATE

the
New Year

◀ by ▶

Making
Your
Will



'Ye shall be my witnesses' is theme of Jan. 25-26 conference

One of the most basic commands of the Christian life from Acts 1:8, "Ye shall be my witnesses," is the theme for the 1993 State Evangelism Conference. The conference will be held Jan. 25-26 at First Baptist Church, 62 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. "The total program will be to train and motivate pastors and people to share in personal witnessing," said Clarence Shell, Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism department director.

"When we speak about personal witnessing, we're talking about a Christian who knows the Lord sharing the Lord with someone who is lost. We're not just talking about making a contact, but actually sharing the gospel," Shell explained.

'Here's Hope' emphasis

This year's conference will launch the "Here's Hope - Share Jesus Now" emphasis that will climax in 1995 with 60 days of personal witnessing and simultaneous revivals.

"This launches one year of encouragement to churches to provide witness training for their people," Shell commented. Providing a kick-off for that encouragement will be three nationally known speakers, in addition to local speakers and musical guests.

James Merritt, pastor of First Church in Snellville, Ga., will provide the emphasis on the training of laypeople. "This church is one of our leading evangelistic churches in America," Shell noted.

John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, is a long-time pastor who not only supervises and trains people to witness, but is actively involved

in personal witnessing. He will speak on being called to witness.

Don Wilton, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, trains preachers in active evangelism and will provide information on presenting the evangelistic message.

Although the primary appeal will be to pastors and staff members, there also will be a special emphasis for laypeople. Buddy Sutton, the layman president of the ABSC, will speak on Monday evening, Jan. 25. "We always have an excellent attendance of laypeople, especially in the night sessions," Shell said.

Other speakers will include Russell Begaye, Eddie Harrison, L.B. Jordan, Jimmy Millikin, Neal Prock, Howard Ramsey, Jack Ramsey, Maurice Smith, Dennis Swanberg and Dawson Williams.

Special music will be provided throughout the conference by the Alan Celloria Family. The Masters Singers and Singing Women also will perform.

The conference's five sessions and themes will include: Monday afternoon, Called to Witness; Monday evening, Concern for the Lost Motivates Us to Witness; Tuesday morning, Correct Ways to Witness; Tuesday afternoon, Commissioned to Witness; and Tuesday evening, Commitment to Witnessing.

A "Festival of Evangelists," featuring messages and music by evangelists, will precede the conference from 9:45 to 11:50 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 25. Featured speakers include William Blackburn, Johnny Jackson and Tom Cox. The festival is being coordinated by the association of Arkansas Baptist evangelists.

Cover Story



Make Your Will Month 13

Often people truly mean to make a will, but other things occupy their time and attention. According to Harry Trulove, director of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, now is the best time to make a will as Southern Baptists observe their annual "Make Your Will Month" emphasis throughout January.

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Arkansas Baptist

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Moore still believes in a God of hope

By Colleen Backus

Arkansas Baptist

If an intense gaze and strong hands would change the world, Debbie Moore could be the one to do it. Moore, a native of Hope, was appointed as a Southern Baptist missionary to Liberia in 1982. Since 1989, the country has been beset by civil war.

Moore, who is in Arkansas to spend the holidays with her family, will not be returning directly to Liberia. She and nine other missionaries recently evacuated from the country after the civil conflict hit the capital city of Monrovia.

"At 3 o'clock in the morning of Oct. 15, my house started to shake," Moore related. "The security guard came by and said there were 'burning airplanes' overhead." As Moore and other missionaries gathered in the yard, they realized that rockets were landing in the Atlantic Ocean, about 250 yards behind the houses. The rebel leader, Charles Taylor, was attacking Monrovia. A week later, on Oct. 22, Moore boarded a U.S. Embassy evacuation flight and flew to Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Moore previously evacuated in the summer of 1990. At that time, she spent three months temporarily assigned to Ghana and then spent 1991 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, working on a degree in missiology. In January 1992, she returned to Liberia to do relief work.

Relief work is top priority

"What is relief work?" Moore asked. "I had no idea. But I do now — I've done it from dawn till dusk this whole year." She and other missionaries were caught between how much of the former ministries to pursue and the overwhelming human need at the relief centers.

Some Baptist work continues, Moore said. ECOMOG, the west African peace-keeping force, currently occupies the campus of the Liberian Baptist Seminary. But the seminary has resumed operation in a rented building in downtown Monrovia.

Just this year, seven new church have been started, and every Saturday afternoon Moore met with 10 adults in a MasterLife study. "You don't have to conduct much leadership training to get Liberians to share the gospel," Moore commented with a smile. "They are so excited, you just tell them to go and they're gone, out on streets witnessing."

However, the majority of Moore's time in Liberia this year has been spent in the relief centers, handing out goods. "Each organization tries to distribute something

different," Moore noted. The Baptists distributed hand and laundry soap, canned fish, tomato paste, chicken soup, toilet tissue, and a tin of milk for babies. "It seems like so little," Moore explained, "but these are people who have nothing."

Baptists also helped the United Nations distribute rice, cooking oil and beans, and aided the Lutherans in the distribution of tennis shoes. Moore was concerned about distributing the shoes in an orderly fashion to avoid fighting. So she took each right shoe, drew the outline on a piece of plywood, and painted it brown. At the relief center, each person matched their foot to the shoe size, and received the proper pair of shoes. "It took weeks," Moore said. "But everyone got a pair of shoes and there wasn't any fighting."

Another popular item that Moore handed out was soccer balls. "There is so much boredom in the relief centers," she explained, "They go wild when you come with soccer balls, because it is something to do."

Normally, Monrovia can hold 200,000 people; by the time Moore left at the end of October, there were 800,000 people in the city. In order to understand the problem, Moore said, it is necessary to realize that at the current time, Liberia is really two countries. Greater Liberia is controlled by the forces of Charles Taylor, and Monrovia is still ruled by the interim government headed by Amos Sawyer. There are even two separate currencies in use; to get caught with Monrovia dollars in greater Liberia is a dangerous proposition. With the rebel forces invading the countryside, village people have poured into Monrovia.

Political problems are compounded by the division of society into two distinct groups. One group, called Americo-Liberians, are descendant of the freed American slaves who founded Liberia in 1847. The other segment of the country's population is tribal.

Moore's prayers go out to the two remaining Southern Baptist missionaries,

ABN photo / Mike Gill



Debbie Moore (left), former GA and Mission Friends director for Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, visits with Baptist Building employees after speaking in a recent chapel service.

Bradley and Carolyn Brown, who have been in Liberia for 30 years. Ken Nicholson, a missionary to Liberia for 25 years, stayed with them in the country for a time, but joined his wife in Abidjan on Dec. 15.

When Moore came out of Liberia, one of her concerns was for her family. Unable to get mail in or out of the country since July, her only contact with them was by phone. All communication lines were severed on Oct. 15. "I just kept thinking of my mom and what she must be going through," Moore said. Then, in her private devotional time, she came across 1 Timothy 5:8, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." She knew then it was time to evacuate. As soon as she reached the Ivory Coast she telephoned her mother, relieving them both of building anxiety.

Up close, Moore is a powerful personality with an unwavering gaze and strong gestures that come from hands that have distributed relief items to hundreds, maybe thousands. It is hard to imagine anything could shake her from her designated task; only when one realizes how strong her commitment to the Lord's work is can one imagine how bad things had to get in Liberia for her to leave. She is concerned for the work of Liberian Baptists, for the Liberian people left with nothing, and for her own future in mission work.

As a Hope native, she concluded, "Like the president-elect, I also still believe in a place called Hope. I also believe in a God of hope." That hope and faith will continue to sustain her through all she does in God's name.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABSC Executive Director

The closing out of one year and the beginning of a new year is a natural time to evaluate and anticipate. It is a time to give thanks and it may be a time to repent.

My evaluation of our Arkansas Baptist life in 1992 is no doubt flawed by my personal bias in favor of our churches and our convention workers. The past year may have been one of our best. Our agencies and institutions are enjoying remarkable success. Each entity is doing extremely well, and is poised for marked progress in the pursuit of their goals. Of particular significance is the editor our *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine* board was led to call to undergird all of our work.

Executive Board programs have enjoyed excellent success as they have worked to help our churches. Most of the training or ministry activities conducted this year enjoyed great support. The result of this shows up in various reports from our churches. It appears Sunday School enrollment will have increased by about 1,600. At this point our baptisms appear to have increased by 4 percent. We have done more than ever before to strengthen families. Cooperative Program support, which is promoted by the Executive Board for all state and SBC causes, is 6 percent above last year's gifts after 11 months.

Besides the normal training and service events the Executive Board staff carries out, they have had 6,424 personal consultations with church leaders, preached 1,330 times, and saw 1,115 people saved as a result.

The year ahead holds even greater promise. A better spiritual climate exists now than in recent years. People are praying, hungering for God. People are studying to find reality in their relationship with God. The key materials God is using are "Experiencing God" and "The Disciples Prayer Life." Social and moral conditions are so appalling, Christians may awaken out of sleep. Our "Grow Churches" emphasis is on target and timely.

Praise God, the future is glorious with Him! The hope of blessing can be found in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

WILLIAM H. SUTTON

The President's Corner

Just answer the question



On December 11, 1992, the anxiety level at our house was raised a bit by the ringing of the back door bell at 7 a.m.. It was our grandson, Michael, with an important question for Peggy and me, "Have you forgotten that today is my birthday?"

As any good lawyer can tell you, there is nothing like a sharp, relevant question to focus an issue. Paul asked such a piercing question to the church at Corinth: "For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?" (1 Cor. 3:3)

What a question! It is one of those straitjacket questions where, in a courtroom setting, the lawyer is eventually going to say, "Just answer the question 'yes' or 'no.'"

It was not Paul's purpose to prosecute the church at Corinth. To the contrary, he desired to uplift and enrich their experiences with God. The purpose of the hard question was to make them see why they were still being fed baby food rather than the blessings of solid food reserved for those driven by the mind of Christ.

The inescapable truth that Paul laid bare is this: Regardless of the reasons for jealousy and strife, the mere presence of it is intolerable to the spirit of God.

Mere men do not tolerate insult,

unjustified criticism or slander. God's obedient children do. When they do God blesses them, blesses their work and gives them special honor.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons of God" (Matt. 5:9).

We have, therefore, a clear line of division. Those who, for any reason, are involved in jealousy and strife must answer with their own lips that they are but mere men. Those who turn the other cheek and meekly take insult and injury while continuing in the Lord's work are acknowledged by Christ to be sons of God.

Even when we know the clear Word of God, it is not easy to reject the ways of natural man. As we offer ourselves in 1993 let us pray that from a mature love for Christ our appetites will crave adult food like the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Gal. 5:21).

So fed, we can take the field in strength against all that would separate us from the love of God and not walk as mere men.

We have work to do which cannot be done by mere men.

Buddy Sutton, a Little Rock attorney and a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Personal Perspectives

"Pastors are in the people transformation business. Call your members to a deeper commitment, challenge them to do the Father's business, and it will bring remarkable results."
— Lyle Schaller, church growth expert

"Do not be impulsive in your ministry.... You must reflect, contemplate and listen, seeking a vision and purpose for your ministry."

— Harold Bryson, professor of preaching,
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

"What is relief work? I had no idea. But I do now - I've done it from dawn till dusk this whole year."

— Debbie Moore, Southern Baptist missionary to war-torn Liberia

A fresh look at New Year's resolutions

The tradition of establishing—and fulfilling—New Year's resolutions has suffered woeful neglect in recent years. It seems that few people bother to make any resolutions at all anymore. Among those who do, it often is a half-hearted effort that is long forgotten by mid-January.

Obviously, January 1 is no more significant than June 5 or September 27 or any other date when it comes to making a commitment and sticking to it. Yet there is something to be said for the symbolism of new beginnings which the first day of the year represents. Perhaps we as Christians should take a fresh look at the tradition of New Year's resolutions and harness it for spiritual gain.

The key, of course, is to establish resolutions worthy of long-term attention. While losing a few pounds or getting to work on time or attending more Little League games are worthwhile goals, they are not the stuff of which spiritual growth is made.

Why not utilize God's Word as a resource for determining appropriate and meaningful resolutions? Baptists sometimes spend more time talking about the Bible than applying its truths to daily life. As we prepare for the first day of the new year, let's turn to the first book of the New Testament for words of inspiration and challenge directly from the lips of Jesus Christ.

Be aware that Christ's words are not easy; His straightforward instructions sometimes make us feel uncomfortable or inadequate. Yet He promises to guide and strengthen us each step of the way. I urge you to ponder the following words of Jesus and determine which teachings you will resolve to make a conscious part of your daily life throughout the coming year.

■ **Matthew 5:16** — "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." How's that for starters? Men will see our works, whether good or bad. The daily challenge is to live our Christian lives in such a way that our words and actions bring glory to God. Anything less will distract from and damage our Christian witness.

■ **Matthew 5:44** — "Love your en-

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR

By TRENNIS HENDERSON



emies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Even the despised tax collectors showed love to those who loved them, Jesus pointed out. The Son of God not only preached the importance of turning the other cheek; He practiced it. Do we dare do less?

■ **Matthew 6:20-21** — "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Materialism may be one of the greatest curses of modern society. During the coming year, how much of your time and energy will be spent accumulating temporary material possessions? How much will be spent in efforts which produce eternal results?

■ **Matthew 7:1** — "Judge not, that ye be not judged." We must be careful not to take such averse out of context. Jesus also noted that a tree is known by its fruits and He instructed us to confront fellow Christians who "trespass against thee." However, the overarching truth in Matt. 7:1 is that we are not to have a judgmental spirit in our dealings with others.

■ **Matthew 9:37-38** — "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Southern Baptists recently completed our annual season of prayer for foreign missions. Will you wait another 12 months before praying for world missions and other ministry needs or will it become a regular part of your prayer life during 1993?

■ **Matthew 11:28** — "Come unto

me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus warns that living the abundant Christian life is not easy, yet He faithfully provides perfect peace and rest amid all the turmoil of daily life. What a reassuring promise!

■ **Matthew 16:24** — "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Self-denial and cross-bearing are not popular activities in today's world. What makes it worthwhile, however, is Christ's promise that "whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

■ **Matthew 18:3** — "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Are you ever guilty of relying too heavily on facts and too little on faith? We should constantly seek to recapture the sense of wonder and awe that children experience daily.

■ **Matthew 22:37-39** — "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In a world filled with anger, greed and hatred, Christians are still called to love. How are you doing in that category?

■ **Matthew 28:18-20** — "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Christ provides the power; He expects us to respond in joyful obedience. Will you do your part in 1993?

The word "resolution" is related to the word "resolute" which speaks of being determined, bold and faithful. That is what Jesus calls each of us to be.

Matthew's gospel clearly captures the personal priorities of our Savior and Lord. Should our priorities be any different? What resolutions will you make for the coming year?

A LOOK BACK AT 1992

Key events, individuals impact Baptist life

Countless events and individuals have impacted the ministry of Arkansas Baptists and Southern Baptists during the past year. The following excerpts from the pages of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* provide a brief overview of significant news events at home and around the world during 1992.

■ **JANUARY:** Conway First Church was gutted by fire in the early morning hours of Jan. 4. The fire consumed all of the main sanctuary building...Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's two top administrators for work in Europe, have stepped down, saying they can no longer represent the trustees' current agenda....Cabot First Church ranked first in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention for total study awards earned in 1990-91 with 435....Leaders of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union have issued a call to prayer among WMU members for Southern Baptists to reclaim their passion for missions.

■ **FEBRUARY:** The Home Mission Board has developed a plan for establishing crisis pregnancy centers that provide a Christian witness as well pregnancy testing....Arkansas Baptists' 1992 Evangelism Conference, which focused on the theme, "Building God's Family—Foundation and Structure," attracted more than 1,200 participants....Morris H. Chapman accepted election as the fifth president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 17....Cecil Sherman has announced that he has agreed to become the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

■ **MARCH:** Second Church in West Memphis has started a ministry to truck drivers. The ministry's trailer is emblazoned with the logo, "Mission on the Move: Winning Truckers for Christ."...The "same-gender union" of two homosexuals has been approved by members of Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh, N.C.... FMB president R. Keith Parks has announced that he plans to retire as president in October, when he will turn 65....Arkansas and Iowa Baptist leaders met in Des Moines to pray and plan for the Iowa-Arkansas Partnership for Kingdom Growth.

■ **APRIL:** Numerous missionaries and volunteers shared their personal responses to being "Called and Accountable" during Arkansas Baptists' 1992 Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting....A project assessment team has discovered numerous opportunities in the Commonwealth of Independent States for involvement by North American Baptists....More than

1,400 Arkansas Baptist youth and leaders are better equipped to share their faith in Jesus Christ after attending one of five regional Youth Evangelism Training Days.

■ **MAY:** The J.E. and L.E. Mabce Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., has awarded the Arkansas Baptist State Convention a gift of \$295,000 for the improvements at the Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs....The establishment of a school of business has been unanimously approved by the Ouachita Baptist University board of trustees....Baptists are poised to begin ministry in Albania, once said to be the most atheistic country in the world.

■ **JUNE:** Baptist Sunday School Board president James Draper has announced a restructuring of the board's senior executive team and formation of a transition team to implement further changes.... Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected Paige Patterson as the school's fifth president during a special called meeting....Coordinators of Southern Baptists' Mississippi River Ministry hope several new ministries will improve life for residents and help spread the gospel along the Mississippi River.... Messengers attending the 135th Southern Baptist Convention drew a line in standing against growing tolerance of homosexuality and standing for traditional family values....Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, is the new president of the SBC. He won 62 percent of the votes in a three-way race.

■ **JULY:** Dr. J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* since 1972, died Friday, June 26....Billy Graham is "in the early stages of Parkinson's disease," according to a statement released by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association....Arkansas "Clowns for Christ" Acteans Activators were in Keokuk, Iowa, recently as the first team to participate in the Arkansas/Iowa Partnership.

■ **AUGUST:** Southern Baptists' ACTS network and the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network (VISN) have signed agreements to share a single channel reaching some 21 million households....Ten Arkansas youth and leaders recently participated in a national World Changers project to rebuild low-income homes in Campbell County, Tenn....Tommy Goode, associate director of church and community ministries for the ABCS, was one of four people presented with awards during home missions week at Glorietta Baptist Conference Center. He was honored for creating the Southern Baptist Multihousing Association.

■ **SEPTEMBER:** The board of directors

of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* have unanimously elected Trennis G. Henderson as *Newsmagazine* editor....Arkansas Baptist disaster relief volunteers were among the thousands of volunteers who ministered to the victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida and Louisiana....Each day in Somalia 1,000 to 5,000 people die of starvation—and the human tragedy is unfolding faster than world hunger agencies can respond....European Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board have declared peace. Leaders from both sides have signed a 10-point pact pledging future cooperation and joint ministry.

■ **OCTOBER:** The 1992 "See You at the Pole" youth prayer movement drew at least 14,585 Arkansas students to their schools' flagpoles....In a new era of leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, the SBC Executive Committee inaugurated Morris Chapman as its president-treasurer....SBC Cooperative Program receipts finished fiscal year 1991-92 slightly below budget needs as well as below the previous year....Ouachita Baptist University's Jones Performing Arts Center was dedicated Oct. 22....Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt has announced he will retire at the end of 1993.

■ **NOVEMBER:** A four-day "Celebration Crusade" in Guatemala City was "a major milestone" in the Guatemala/Arkansas Partnership. More than 270 people professed faith in Christ during the week....Little Rock attorney William H. "Buddy" Sutton was elected by acclamation to a second term as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention....A resolution aimed at distancing Arkansas Baptists from President-elect Bill Clinton's stands on abortion, homosexual rights and distribution of contraceptives in public schools was approved by ABCS messengers.

■ **DECEMBER:** Approximately 140 Arkansas Baptists are among 3,900 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries serving in 126 countries....As a matter of integrity, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should separate itself from the SBC, said SBC Executive Committee president Morris Chapman....Leaders of the SBC and Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union met recently to discuss WMU's role within the convention....Keith Parks, retired president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has accepted the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's offer to lead its mission program.

Arkansans explore church growth in the '90s

By Millie Gill
Arkansas Baptist

Change, survival and growth for churches in the '90s were topics addressed Dec. 14-15 at a South Central Models for Ministry Conference.

Central Church of North Little Rock, a church that has experienced numerical growth for 12 years, hosted the event sponsored by the Home Mission Board. Co-sponsors were North Pulaski Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"Change and commitment" were the two needs sounded by speakers and seminar leaders for Southern Baptist churches to survive and grow in the '90s.

"How are you going to change when you have local church traditions?" asked Lyle Schaller, a noted author and church consultant, who was the conference's opening speaker, as well as a seminar leader.

"Change will come if you don't touch what is status quo," Schaller said. "You can begin a successful change that will lead to growth if you begin with something you are pretty sure will not create opposition, such as the addition of either a Saturday evening or early Sunday morning worship service. However, don't overwhelm your congregation. Make your changes one at a time, giving them time to adjust."

"Patience will be your key to success," Schaller declared. "There are a lot of people who cannot immediately accept change. They have to experience it."

"You are in the business of influencing them. Even though there is no neutral approach to change, you can help them to reach out to a changing world through new approaches rather than letting them continue to say, 'We've never done it that way before.'"

A call to commitment

He told participants from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas he had discovered that churches which are challenging people to be more than they thought they could be are seeing rapid growth and change.

"You know that the Bible tells us that Jesus got a dozen together and turned the world over to them," Schaller said. "You, as pastors, are in the people transformation business. Call your members to a deeper commitment, challenge them to doing the Father's business, and it will bring remarkable results."

He also pointed out that churches, if

AEM photo / Millie Gill



Lyle Schaller

they truly want to reach people, must recognize the need to reach out beyond the church campus with Bible studies or with classes designed to meet a variety of needs.

"In today's world more adults are engaged in the weekly study of the Scriptures than ever before," Schaller stated. "But these classes are not meeting on Sunday."

He praised Southern Baptist leaders in the Pulaski County area for establishing approximately 85 new congregations as the result of a 22 percent population growth. "Other denominations have shown membership decreases in this 20-year period," Schaller said. "But because of your vision to launch new works, Southern Baptist work in your county shows a 35 percent increase."

"Church membership is not the destination of most people today," Schaller emphasized. "There are six or seven audiences out there, including believers and disciples, who are seeking ways to participate, as well as to be listened to and to be heard."

"One of these audiences will like the teaching or expository sermon, one will like the doctrinal sermon, another will want applications of Christianity, some will be seeking so they can believe."

"Whatever you need to change, please do so," Schaller urged. "As you change, you will reach these audiences, leading them to participation and a mature faith."

Harold T. Bryson, professor of preaching and chairman of pastoral ministries at

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, led seminars on leadership dynamics needed for today's "Global Village."

"Our village is one of increased population and technology filled with racial, moral, educational, family and addiction problems," Bryson declared.

Bryson said areas where churches can change include: moving away from structuralism; becoming more people centered; moving away from programs to ministries and becoming aware of the surrounding culture. He said available resources include *On Becoming A Leader* by Warren Bennis and *Transforming Leadership* by Leighton Ford.

Bryson emphasized that a genuine leader operates out of a sense of who one is rather than what one does. "Jesus knew what He was and that He was 'about the Father's business,'" Bryson said. "As a leader, you must continue in your mental, spiritual and emotional growth so you too can reach out in a dynamic way to a world in need."

"Do not be impulsive in your ministry. Jesus withdrew to pray and reflect. Therefore, you must reflect, contemplate and listen, seeking a vision and purpose for your ministry."

Closing challenge

Billy White, pastor of Second Church in Little Rock, closed the two-day conference, challenging participants to move beyond the walls of judgmental institutionalism, to be adaptable and flexible so that the love of God could flow freely.

"The gospel is not a wall," White declared. "The gospel is forever pressing religious folks like us to get beyond those walls and model our ministry after the one we call King."

"We will get beyond those walls by starting where we are, identifying those walls, moving beyond them and opening our eyes and looking upon the fields as Jesus instructed in John 4:35."

Bobby Waggoner, pastor of Liberty Church in Flowood, Miss., said, "I am glad that I could participate in this conference. I came seeking ways to improve my leadership skills and ways of reaching the younger professional couples who have moved into our rapidly growing area."

Cleophas Rawls, pastor of West Batesville Church, in Batesville, Miss., stated that sessions had challenged participants to return to their local churches with a sense of conviction on moral issues, and a deeper commitment to bring the unsaved to Christ, to remove racial barriers and to demonstrate love.

FMB continues toward leadership changes

By Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, VA (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees continue moving toward a change of leadership, heard reports from the board's interim president and search committee chairman and agreed to employ a consulting firm to study the board's structure.

In a quiet Dec. 7-9 meeting, trustees also heard reports on missions opportunities ranging from Somalia to the former Soviet Union, appointed 35 new foreign missionaries and heard a guest evangelist from North Carolina urge them to "plow on" in their task of world missions.

Evangelist Paul Tsika, apparently referring to the controversy that has beset the Southern Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board, urged trustees to focus on the board's evangelistic goals.

"Forget what is behind and pay attention to the goal in the future," he said. "I'm an avowed fundamentalist, but I don't go for the issue but for the propagation of the gospel. The church is battling without discernment. We should focus on fighting to establish the gospel."

Don Kammerdiener, addressing his first trustee meeting as interim president, presented an "interim agenda" as the board seeks a new president to replace R. Keith Parks. Trustees concluded Kammerdiener's report with standing applause.

Parks, who retired Oct. 31 because of disagreements with the board's direction, sat quietly in the audience as Kammerdiener spoke and the board conducted its business Dec. 9. He also attended the board's Dec. 8 missionary appointment service. Parks, who will become missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Feb. 1, told Baptist Press he attended because "I'm a Southern Baptist interested in world missions."

A search committee, appointed eight months ago to find a new president, will

hold a prayer retreat Jan. 7-9 and a regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 22 to continue to sift through some 70 names, according to committee chairman Joel Gregory. Reports indicate Kammerdiener, a board missionary and administrator for 30 years, is among those under consideration.

Kammerdiener focused his interim agenda on relationships between staff, trustees and missionaries; a philosophy of honest communications; an effort to "find

"It's better for Baptists and others to understand the truth, even if it's not a pleasant truth, than it is to be ignorant."

***— Don Kammerdiener
FMB interim president***

the right balance" between career and volunteer missionaries; the role of trustees; and a continued worldwide missions thrust.

Kammerdiener challenged each trustee to "become a denominational missions leader" who will support the board and its work through communications, action, prayer and financial support.

On communications, Kammerdiener said the board is committed to telling the truth. "As a board we have nothing to fear from the truth. It's better for Baptists and others to understand the truth, even if it's not a pleasant truth, than it is to be ignorant....Our credibility...depends on

our ability and willingness to tell the truth."

The board action to hire a consulting firm began the process of studying the board's organization related to its purpose.

Trustee Lawson Swearingen of Louisiana, speaking to the recommendation, said the action was "not intended to criticize anything" about the board's present organization but to help the board determine "where we are, where we want to go and how to get there."

The board also honored retiring Americas vice president Betty Law and took note that Joe Bruce, current area director for Middle America and Canada, will serve as interim vice president after Law steps down Jan. 15. A search committee will seek a successor.

Board members applauded reports from John Faulkner, area director for eastern and southern Africa, and Sam James, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Faulkner, who lives in Nairobi, Kenya, told of Southern Baptist efforts to minister amid the starvation and chaos in Somalia, where U.S. troops have been sent to restore order.

James, just returned from a tour of Europe, told of missions advances amid the pain and struggle in Europe. He said he was impressed with the quality and dedication of the missionaries and the sacrificial spirit of Baptists in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

He said missionaries seem to be recovering from grief caused by disruptions there related to the Southern Baptist controversy and that many European leaders are responding favorably to Southern Baptists.

But he underscored the need to deal carefully with Europe because of tenuous relationships and culturally delicate situations. "We have to go in with humbleness, particularly in Eastern Europe where they have suffered so much."

Positive financial report highlights Home Mission Board meeting

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's executive committee received a positive financial report during its final meeting of the year.

Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president, attributed the positive financial report to the strength of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions which was 5 percent above projections after the first week of December, favorable returns

on investments and a one-time return from the sale of several investments.

The executive committee also filled five staff positions. Elected to serve as director of marketing was John Head, presently director of development for the athletic program at Georgia State University in Atlanta. David Porter of Little Rock was elected as associate director of marketing.

Timothy Norton, currently associate

director of marketing, was elected associate director of church growth and associational evangelism.

Phillip Jones, currently director of the HMB's planning and services research department, was promoted to director of the research division. Reba Driver was promoted from associate director of loan administration for the board's church loans division to director of loan administration.



The Hattons



The Garrisons



The Martins

Three Arkansas couples to serve as missionaries

Three couples with Arkansas connections will be serving under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Cooperative Services International.

John and Monica Hatton were among 35 people named missionaries by the SBC Foreign Mission Board Dec. 8 at Chester Baptist Church in Virginia.

The Hattons will live in El Paso, Texas, where they will work at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Hatton is the son of William A. Hatton of Warren, and the later Katie Hatton. His parents were missionaries to Brazil for more than 40 years. He graduated from Philosophy College in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and also attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, as well as two theological seminaries in Brazil. Since 1989 he has been a graphic designer at Southwest Manufacturer's Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas.

Born and reared in Rio de Janeiro, Mrs. Hatton, the former Monica Moretz-Sohn, is a graduate of the State Baptist Theological Seminary and Education Institute, both in Belo Horizonte.

The Hattons have two children, Monique and Melissa.

V. David and Sonia Garrison have been named representatives of Cooperative Services International.

The Garrisons will live in the Middle East and North Africa area, where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations.

Born in Wynne, Garrison is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Garrison of

Camden and considers Camden his hometown.

Garrison is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.; and University of Chicago Divinity School.

Born in North Little Rock, Mrs. Garrison, the former Sonia Hutchins, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hutchins of Fouke. While growing up she also lived in Camden, Arkadelphia and Stamps. She considers Arkadelphia her hometown and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

The Garrisons have two children, David Jeremiah and Seneca Pascal.

Wilfred E. "Bill" and Lajoie Martin also have been named representatives of Cooperative Services International. The Martins will live in Asia, where they will use their skills in development of CSI-related projects in developing nations of Asia.

Martin considers Eldon, Mo., his hometown; he been pastor of Aurora Springs Baptist Church there since 1986. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been pastor of churches in Marked Tree and Washington.

Born in Willow, Mrs. Martin, the former Lajoie Cooper, is the daughter of Jessie Jagers of Malvern and the late Clyde Cooper.

The Martins have two grown children.

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

Annuity Board lowers range for Fixed Fund

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

SBC Annuity Board

DALLAS (BP)—The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced a 1993 earnings target range of 5.75 percent to 6.75 percent for its Fixed Fund, one of four investment funds of fixed to members.

"Given today's markets, no one should be surprised that the target rate is below the 7.5 to 8.5 of 1992," said John R. Jones, senior vice president for investments.

A year ago the Annuity Board announced a long-term restructuring of the Fixed Fund designed to continue its safety, enhance its competitiveness and provide increased diversification.

"While this restructuring is continuing on schedule," Jones said, "the main reason for a lower target range is the dramatic drop in interest rates over the last several years."

The Fixed Fund target range is not guaranteed but the board believes there is a high probability of performance within the range. "If we earn more than the target range, we'll credit more to accounts," Jones added.

Members who can tolerate higher risks for more earnings potential can use the Annuity Board's Variable Fund of stocks or the Balanced Fund of stocks and bonds.

The Variable Fund is a diverse portfolio of U.S. stocks (equities) similar to the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index. The main objective of this fund is growth/capital appreciation rather than income. Therefore, the Variable Fund has a higher level of risk than other funds offered.

The Balanced Fund is a mix of stocks and high-quality bonds. The stocks are intended to produce growth/capital appreciation while the bond investment is designed to produce income and preserve capital.

The Short-Term Fund is a diverse portfolio of short-term fixed-income securities issued by the U.S. government, U.S. government agencies and corporations. The fund's average maturity will be 12 months or less. The main objective of the Short-Term Fund is to minimize risk, providing very high security of principal.

Jones encouraged members to secure Annuity Board brochures describing funds and possible diversification strategies before making decisions on investment of contributions.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Randy Keen has joined the staff of Trinity Church in Fort Smith as minister to youth. He and his wife, Marquitta, moved there from Shawnee, Okla., where he had been serving on the staff of Emmanuel Church. He joins the Trinity Church staff as the second phase of the church's "Vision for the Coming Decade," a three-year growth vision plan.

Joe Marsden will join the staff of Paragould First Church Jan. 1 as minister of music and education. He will move there from Hot Springs where he has been serving on the staff of Central Church.

Mason Bondurant has accepted the position of interim pastor at Highway Church in North Little Rock.

Ray Taffer is serving as pastor of First Church of Henderson. He previously served as part-time director of missions for Big Creek Association and as pastor of Saddle Church. Taffer has been pastor of other Arkansas churches, including Northside Church, Batesville.

Herbert Hodde is serving as pastor of First Church of DeValls Bluff. He is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has served as pastor of Elizabeth Church in Nabb, Ind. Hodde is married to the former Elizabeth Waters of Little Rock.

A.B. Hicks is serving as pastor of Steel Bridge Church. He is a graduate of Troy State University, Troy, Ala., and Kansas Newman College, Wichita, Kan. In addition, he has served with the U.S. Armed Forces in Germany. Hicks and has wife, Judy, have three children, Amy, Angela and Joel.

Dale Cook is serving as pastor of South Bend Church near Jacksonville, going there from Cocklebur Church, Ward. An Illinois native, he has served as a missions pastor/church planter in Washington, Oregon and Florida. Cook has been pastor of seven missions (with six becoming churches) and led in constructing 12 buildings.

Keith Rothra has resigned as pastor of Berea Church, Jacksonville, to move to Longview, Texas. Harold Drenth, a member of First Church in Jacksonville, is serving as interim pastor of Berea Church.

Bill Phillips is serving as interim pastor of Remount Church, North Little Rock.

Glenn Britt has resigned as minister of music/youth at Levy Church in North Little Rock to move to Cordova, Tenn., where he is serving in a bivocational staff position.

Jon Wood has resigned as minister to youth at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock to move to Texas.

Roy Chatham has joined the staff of Harlan Park Church in Conway as minister of education, going there from First Church in North Little Rock. Chatham also has served on the staff of Woodland Heights Church in Conway.

Bobby G. Crabb of Jonesboro will enter the field of full-time evangelism in the spring of 1993. Crabb, who took early retirement in August, served for more than 39 years as pastor of Southern Baptist churches, including First Church in Campbell, Mo., and Martindale Church in Little Rock. He may be contacted at 2018 N. Patrick, Jonesboro, AR 72401; phone 501-931-4516.

R.G. Merritt of Pineville, La., and a former Arkansas pastor died Dec. 16 at age 84. His funeral services were held Dec. 19 in Stuttgart. Memorials may be made to IATT Baptist Church, Route 1, Box 191, Atlanta, LA 71404. He is survived by one nephew.

Douglas Martin Bishop of Fort Smith has received the Rice-Judson Scholar Award at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he began this fall pursuing the master of divinity degree. The award was presented on the basis of leadership, scholarship and commitment to ministry. Bishop, the son of Nancy G. Bishop of Fort Smith, is a 1986 graduate of John Brown University.

Briefly

Cedarville Church ordained Jimmy White and Ronnie Dye to the deacon ministry Nov. 8. Service participants were George Domeresse, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Kenneth McClendon, Ruben Miller, pastor David Hutsell and Leroy Rogers.

North Park Church of Van Buren recently ordained Jerry Huckelbury, Elliott Hays, Jim Shaffer, Lynn Smith and Wes Harris to the deacon ministry. Those participating in the service were Tom Forester, Lee Louder, George Domeresse, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Larry Home and Jim Pence.

Crossett First Church ordained Jimmy White and Tim Pruitt to the deacon ministry Dec. 13. David Newberry, pastor, served as moderator.

Pinnacle Church in Little Rock was organized Nov. 1 as a part of Pulaski Association, Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Mark Rutherford is serving as pastor of the congregation that was organized with 38 charter members. Glenn Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association, was speaker. Pinnacle Church was launched in 1988 as a mission of Calvary Church, Little Rock, assisted by Crystal Hill, Geyer Springs First and Woodlawn churches, all of Little Rock.

First, West Memphis, holds noteburning

A noteburning service for West Memphis First Church, marking the first time the church has been debt free since 1954, highlighted the congregation's Dec. 6 homecoming services.

The total amount of the loans paid came to \$1,000,750. These loans originated in 1986 when an auditorium, education building and family life center were built. Additionally, adjoining buildings were acquired and remodeled for additional Sunday School space. Property adjoining the church also was purchased, giving the church a total land area of approximately 10 acres.

Thomas A. Hinson, pastor when the construction project began, was homecoming speaker. Sharing testimonies were Rachel Corr, the church's only living charter member, and Bob Holley and Marvin and Jean Fitts, former staff members.

Tommy Cunningham, who began serving as pastor in June 1991, has led a growth program which has resulted in 308 additions to the church with 136 of those by baptism. This growth has resulted in plans being made for two Sunday morning worship services in the near future.

Correction

A reporting error concerning the new field of service for Danny Von Kanel was published in the Dec. 17 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. He will join the staff of First Church in Ashdown as minister of music and youth effective Jan. 3.

Executive Board organizes for 1993 work

By Trennis Henderson
Bisbee, Arkansas Baptist

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention convened Dec. 15 for its annual organizational meeting. Members approved a nominating committee report presented by Bruce Tippit which provided committee assignments for the coming year.

During a brief report to board members, ABSC executive director Don Moore affirmed the results of last month's state convention meeting. "We're grateful to God for a good spirit and a good emphasis on church growth that we hope will kick off a great new year of getting a lot of our churches off the plateau," he remarked.

Moore also reported that state Cooperative Program receipts through the end of November were almost 3 percent over budget and 6 percent above last year's 11-month total. "We are thankful to God that our churches have been faithful," he noted. "This is only the second time since 1981 that we have reached our Cooperative Program budget. That is really something to be grateful for in the midst of the economic times we are going through and other problems that churches face."

Moore said baptisms in the state are up approximately 4 to 5 percent at a time when SBC baptism statistics are showing a 5 percent decline. "The Lord has smiled on Arkansas Baptists and Arkansas Baptist churches," Moore emphasized. "We must praise Him and give thanks to Him for that."

In addition to the positive statistical information on the state level, Moore said, "The most critical issue facing the South-

ern Baptist Convention and the one that is the most controversial is what the Woman's Missionary Union board votes to do in their meeting in January, whether they affiliate with and begin to help support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or not."

Moore reported that WMU leaders in the state "are committed one thousand percent to stay with the SBC and to vote against the WMU affiliating with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

"The Lord has smiled on Arkansas Baptists and Arkansas Baptist churches."

- Don Moore
ABSC executive director

"I have the same commitment," Moore added. "We are Southern Baptists and we are going to do everything to help Southern Baptists...and not begin to support parachurch groups."

Following Moore's report, board members divided into various committees to discuss plans for the coming year's work. Committee assignments for the coming year include:

Operating Committee

1993: Kent Farris, (chairman, Dist. 5), Bobby Walker (Dist. 4), Kyle D. Sumpter (Dist. 3).

1994: Betty Dailey (Dist. 7), Ben J. Rowell (Dist. 1).

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

Program Committee

1993: David Moore (chairman), Travis Beeson, Harrel Cato, Mike Henderson, Harold Henson, Ken Lilly, Dan Minton, Stan Parris, Bratton Rhoades, Ed Saucier, Mary Schroeder, Donald Settles, Greg Stanley, Gene Thomas, J.D. Webb, Pam Worrell.

1994: Refus Caldwell, Dick Finley, Bill Hilburn, Alice King, Roland Lee, Manuel Macks, A. Kay Mansell, William P. Oakley, Charles Osborne, Danny Ponder, Ken Proctor, Don Rose, Eleanor Sykes, Ray Taffar.

1995: Gary Akers, Virginia Cram, Terry Eaton, Bob Fisher, Jody Gannaway, John Houghton, Randy Hogan, J.R. Hull, Robbie Jackson, Eugene Johnson, John Matthews, H.D. McCarty, Merle Milligan, Jerry Mixon, Carolyn Pendergraft, Phil Whitten.

Finance Committee

1993: Jim Edwards (chairman), Eugene Anderson, Bruce Bond, Otto J. Brown, Jerry W. Cooper, Carroll Evans, Bob Floyd, Lance Hudnell, Larry Jones, Don Jones, Raymond McMaster, Gerald S. Perry, Larry Pillow, Glen Power, Clyde Spurgin, Billy White.

1994: Stanley Ballard, Charles R. Bonner, Tom Calhoun, Dennis Coop, G.A. Dover, Ronnie W. Floyd, Bob Harper, Stephen Hatfield, Rex M. Horne, Captain Lovell, Jay Miller, Don Phillips, David Pierce, Lowell Snow, Clyde Vire.

1995: Dennis Cottrell, John Greer, Barbara Hassell, Cary Heard, Tim Hight, Bob Kinnett, Ronald Lacey, Jim McDaniel, Dillard Miller, Jerre Mitchell, Jeff Paxton, Pat Robinson, George Spicer, Bruce Tippit, Sedric Wesson.

Executive Committee

Rich Kincl, Executive Board president (chairman); Buddy Sutton, convention president; Bruce Tippit; David Moore; Jim Edward; Kent Farris.

Fellowship dinner set for bivocationalists

The Arkansas Bivocational Ministers' Fellowship, formed in January 1992, will hold its second annual dinner on Jan. 26, 5 p.m. at First Church, Little Rock. Reservations are required; the cost is \$6 per person.

The dinner is being held in conjunction with the 1993 State Evangelism Conference.

Registration deadline is Jan. 15. To register, send a check payable to ABMF to Church Leadership Support department, ABSC, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. For more information contact L.B. Jordan at 376-4791, ext. 5148.

Bold Mission Prayer Thrust requests

As Arkansas Baptists continue involvement in Bold Mission Prayer Thrust, we celebrate the Lord's goodness to His people with a brief sample list of answered prayers.

■ A prayer of thanksgiving for our new Hispanic pastor in Bentonville and Berryville in starting new work.

■ Thank God for 10 new starts in language missions during 1991-92 and for the lives that have come to know Christ through those new works.

■ Prayer for our new Hispanic pastor, Mario Vargas at San Juan Bautista in DeQueen.

■ Thank the Lord for persons who are being saved and reached for church attendance and membership. For instance, North Pulaski Caring Center Ministries report persons saved every month, and increasingly they are seeing people they are reaching attending local churches.

■ Pulaski Association is leading a citywide effort to work with the city government to address critical urban problems.

■ Fianna Hills Baptist Church in Fort Smith has begun a free medical clinic in an apartment community.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Trustees reject proposal to pay for Paul Simmons' departure

ATLANTA (BP/ABN)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, meeting behind closed doors in a called meeting in Atlanta Dec. 15, voted against a proposal to offer controversial ethics professor Paul Simmons up to \$362,000 to terminate his relationship with the seminary.

The board debated for four hours in executive session at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel before voting 34-21 against a motion to offer the severance package.

Trustee chairman W. Wayne Allen, a Cordova, Tenn., pastor, declined all comment on the meeting and the discussion, other than to release a copy of the motion under consideration.

The motion would have empowered seminary president Roy Honeycutt to negotiate "the conclusion" of Simmons' relationship to the seminary "at a cost to the seminary approximating Paul Simmons' compensation through age 62 (not to exceed \$362,000)." Simmons, 56, is professor of Christian ethics at Southern.

The meeting was the latest attempt by trustees to deal with recurring controversy over Simmons, who has come under fire from conservative trustees for his recent support of abortion rights and homosexuality views. He is a tenured professor, which means he could be fired only for heresy (teachings in violation of the seminary's Abstract of Principles doctrinal statement) or for violating his contract.

Seminary trustee David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Associa-

tion, told the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* he was among those who voted against the severance package.

"I voted against the buyout proposal for three or four reasons," he explained. "I believe we ought to follow due process and have a hearing because I believe that Paul Simmons has violated his contract.

"I think it would be fair to the professor to follow due process," the Arkansas trustee added. "We would either find him guilty and dismiss him or else exonerate him. I think that is the proper thing for him and for the institution."

Miller said he also opposed the proposal "because it's not feasible economically...I thought it just was not sound fiscal policy."

Fellow Arkansas trustee Robert Foster, associate pastor of Dove Circle Church, added, "The Arkansas trustees were united in our stand, our opinion and our vote. We think the action by the board was very sound."

Some trustees reportedly believe formal dismissal hearings would allow the conflict to continue and possibly taint the administration of the next president at the seminary. Honeycutt has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1993. Other trustees said they would prefer to seek Simmons' dismissal through formal heresy charges.

Student leaders protest seminary trustees' activities

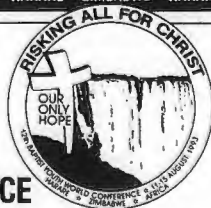
LOUISVILLE, KY (BP)—Nine student leaders have issued an open letter to trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary protesting "excessive expenditures" on, and "the secretive nature" of, trustee meetings "and the continual upheaval caused by such actions."

The president and two vice presidents of the seminary's Student Government Association were among signers of the Dec. 17 letter, which was faxed to news media.

The students allege trustees have spent "large amounts of money" investigating professor Paul Simmons, including \$10,000 for a legal opinion from the seminary's attorney, between \$10,000 to \$50,000 on a second legal opinion, and \$25,000 for a called meeting in Atlanta.

The students contended "this issue is broader than one professor and one ethical issue. We question what new ethical issue, scholarly opinion or doctrine will become a test of fellowship? ... The secretive, distant activities of the board only increase the level of distrust that has plagued this seminary for the past several years."

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Celebrate the new year by making a will

By Colleen Backus
Arkansas Baptist

"Although the 11th commandment doesn't say, 'Thou shalt have a will,' there are a number of passages that point in that direction," said Harry Trulove, director of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. As a part of the annual Southern Baptist emphasis for January as "Make Your Will Month," Trulove explained some basics about making a will.

"Why do people not leave a will? Generally, we don't think about the end of life," Trulove commented. "We're busy making plans for the future as if we're going to live forever.

"We need to plan for the worst case

scenario rather than the best," Trulove emphasized, adding that seven out of 10 people in the United States die without a will.

Another reason is that people think making a will is complicated. The reality of the situation, Trulove said, is that if an individual designates one's estate on a percentage basis, the will can maintain flexibility and simplify one's concerns.

Often people truly mean to make a will, but other things occupy their time and attention. Paying monthly bills, carpoos, and dealing with daily life keeps them from taking the time to do estate planning, Trulove pointed out.

Multiple benefits

The benefits of having a will are multiple, according to Trulove. First, it is more economical to have a will. "It costs 10 to 15 percent more to settle the estate if there is no will," he explained. The administrator/executor of an estate is required to be bonded, and the expense of the bond comes out of the estate. Where there is a will, it can simply be stated that the executor may operate without a bond.

Second, a will allows the estate to be settled in a more timely fashion. With a will, there are some guidelines in writing concerning who the heirs are and how they can be contacted.

Third, a will is the only way to provide

for charitable causes. There is no provision in the law of distribution that provides for charitable gifts.

Pauline Blair, a member of Pine Bluff First Church, had personal experience with the benefits of having a will when her husband died last year. "We had a will drawn up quite a while ago," she said. She feels the will keeps their children from having to deal with any conflict over what their wishes are. The will also provides, specifically, for the charitable work the couple wanted to benefit from their estate.

Also in a will, a couple or individual can make the designation for custody of minor children. Although it is not binding if the person designated is not physically or financially able to care for the children, it gives the court a guideline concerning the type of guardian the parents would want.

The Arkansas Baptist Foundation can assist individuals in gathering material needed for making a will. Questionnaires and brochures on estate planning are available; the Foundation staff also is ready to come to local churches to present workshops. "All we need is an invitation and an open spot on our calendar," Trulove said.

The Foundation will do a draft if there is a charitable gift to a Baptist cause, but cannot provide the finished product because it would be representing the beneficiary as well as the donor. Trulove also recommends giving charitable gifts for Baptist causes through the Foundation, rather than directly, to allow the investment to keep on giving.

"If you make a direct gift, it's like giving a fruit basket at Christmas. The beneficiary enjoys the fruit for a limited time and it's gone. Giving through the Foundation is like giving an orchard."

For additional information, contact the Foundation at 376-0732.

Classifieds

For Sale — Ouachita Baptist University offers for sale a football lighting system, including 72 incandescent 500 watt fixtures, 48 high intensity mercury halide fixtures, 8 wooden poles with cross arms, and all salvageable wiring and peripheral equipment for \$6,500. Light are suitable for baseball, football, or outdoor tennis courts. The Purchaser will be required to remove the system within 60 days of purchase. For information, contact Bill Harkrider, Ouachita Baptist University Physical Plant, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 245-5189. The lights may be inspected at Ouachita's A.U. Williams Field at any time.

For Sale — Hammond Organ, Model C-3, in good condition, light oak cabinet. 1-501-364-6476.

Accepting — resumes for minister of music and youth position. Send to Church Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 511 Church St., Pocahontas, AR 72455.

Seeking — Full-time minister of music and youth, Lake Village Baptist Church, 200 North Lakeshore, Lake Village, AR 71653; Send resumes or call 265-2550.

Wanted — Receptionist/Secretary for Calvary Baptist Church of Little Rock. 35 hours/week. Contact Ross Burton, 663-8303.

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 90 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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Convention Uniform

Grace of God's salvation

By Sam Whitlow, Harmony Church,
El Dorado

Basic passage: I Peter 1:3-25

Focal passage: I Peter 1:3-25

Central truth: God's grace enables us to live, learn and love

Peter, also known as Simon and Cephas, is writing to Jews and Gentiles, called strangers and pilgrims, who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. His message will be one of hope and encouragement in getting the people called Christians ready for the fiery trials which would shortly come to pass. He reminds us as we understand the grace of God in salvation that we can live in confidence, learn Christlikeness and love without conflict.

(1) Live in Confidence (vs. 3-12). Peter says that we have been selected by the Father, saved by the Son, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Our confidence is a living hope, an inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled.

In vs. 5, Peter reminds us that our confidence is guarded by God's power and one day the full, final, bodily glorification will take place.

In vs. 6-7, our trials are sometimes used to discipline us, they are different, are not easy but are controlled by God to make us all that He wants us to be.

In vs. 8-12, because of our trials we should believe Christ, love Christ, rejoice in Him and receive from Him, and we will, if we recognize that He is in complete charge of everything, which will turn our trials into joy unspeakable and full of glory.

(2) Learn Christlikeness (vs. 13-21). We do this by having a disciplined mind, being stable, setting our hopes fully on the return of Christ, godly living, being holy, depending on the Word of God, understanding the judgment of God, knowing the love of God, meditating on the sacrifice of Christ.

(3) Love without Conflict (vs. 22-25). This is made possible by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. We build unity on the basis of the new birth, as we have all trusted the same Lord, Father and Holy Spirit, so the externals can't divide us when the internals and the eternal unite us.

We can love each other because we are brothers and sisters in Christ and can love God supremely because we belong to Him and He enables us to overlook our differences.

Life and Work

Wait on the Lord

By C.A. Johnson, First Church,
Paragould

Basic passage: Genesis 15-17

Focal passage: Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-2; 17:18-19

Central truth: God's time is not always our time, but it is the right time.

Abraham began to fear for the final outcome of God's promises to make his "offspring like the dust of the earth" in number (13:16). Ten years had elapsed since his entrance into Canaan and there was no fulfillment of the promise of a son and heir. Everything seemed against the realization of God's promises.

It is not unusual for God to be silent. He had given Abraham a revelation of his mind concerning a son, then he waited for faith to operate. Unfortunately, with Abraham, as so often with us, instead of faith triumphing, the flesh triumphed.

Abraham's trouble was that he could not wait. God had promised him a son. In his anxiety to see that promise fulfilled, Abraham decided to help God and hurry up things by marrying Hagar. Though Sarah's motive was good, the proposal was wrong in itself. It was wrong in its method of obtaining the end sought. It was wrong against God, whose word had been given and whose time had not yet come. It was wrong against Abraham, leading him out of the pathway of patient waiting for God's will.

It is always a mistake to try to hasten the work of God. He has His own reasons for his seeming delays. As a result of Abraham's impatience, there followed a silence of 13 years. During this time, Abraham made no further progress in things of God, he saw no fruit, and nothing worthy of note happened in his life. But God's delays were not denials. They were intended to bring Abraham nearer to God and to lead him to depend more on Him. When at last God did speak, it was to pick up the promises He had already made and weave them into what is known as the Abrahamic covenant (17:2-8). This historical covenant is the basis for all the blessings God has for mankind.

God gave Abraham a pledge for Ishmael—that he would be blessed and would be fruitful and would become a great nation. But in the matter of the covenant, God told Abraham to make no mistake, the line was to run through Isaac, not Ishmael.

Bible Book

God really knows me

By George O'Neal, Bella Vista Church
Basic passage: Psalm 8, 19, 29, 139

Focal passage: Psalm 139:1-18

Central truth: Contemplating God's knowledge of me brings wonder, amazement and worship.

At first glance this Psalm may appear to be an indulgence of the "me generation," but it is far from that. Actually we believers would do well to get into David's mind and heart as we read this Psalm. But for even more benefit we could contemplate and meditate on the wonders of an infinite God who knows and loves billions of people yet who knows and cares for one person as if he were the only one.

I. God's Personal Knowledge of Me, verses 1-6. The Lord knows His own in intimate ways. He is immediately aware of all our actions. He discerns our thoughts even before we think them. He takes notice of all our journeys. But the climax is God's touch. "You have laid your hand upon me" (vs. 6b NIV). When we begin to drink in this personal, up-close understanding God has of us, we can expect to say with David, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me."

II. God's Personal Presence with Me, verses 7-12. In all the Bible there is no more beautiful description of the omnipresence of God than this passage. David could not think of a place he could go to escape God's presence. Verse 8 speaks of God's presence "in hell." In the original language it is the word sheol which refers to the place of the dead. The presence of the Lord is not something to flee, because the hand of the Lord leads us and the light of God banishes the darkness.

III. God's Personal Formation of Me, verses 13-16. When an embryo is being formed in the mother's body, it is a work of our Creator God. When we, like David, begin to contemplate how God has woven our soul, spirit and body into one being, we may or may not be happy about that. We may think He did not do well on some part of us. But faith and surrender let us rest in the wonder of God's creative genius.

IV. God's Personal Thoughts Toward Me, verses 17-18. How many thoughts does God have about your life? They are too many to count. Our tendency is to think most about the people we love and we can trust that is why God thinks so much about us.

Convention Uniform

Sanctity of human life

By Sam Whitlow, Harmony Church, El Dorado

Basic passage: Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:13-6, 18-20, Romans 12:1-2
Focal passage: Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:13-6, 18-20, Romans 12:1-2
Central truth: Life, marriage and service are sacred because of the stamp of God's image upon our lives.

The sanctity and sacredness of human life is so because God creates every human being. It is not that God made Adam and Eve and they make everyone else but God started a procreative process and is active bringing into existence all those whom He has foreordained to life. (Gen. 20:18, 16:2, 1 Sam. 1:5-6, Gen. 17:16, 21:2) The value and worth of human life lies in the fact that life was created in the image of God.

In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus has just been asked by the Pharisees, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus goes back to Genesis and gives four reasons why it is not lawful to divorce. 1. God doesn't allow divorce because He created one man for one woman. 2. They are to cleave to each other forming an indissoluble union with no option. 3. They become one flesh and you can't divide one. 4. God puts a marriage together and you are not to tamper with what He has done.

A marriage put together by God can be compared to the birth of a child. Abortion is to childbirth what divorce is to marriage.

As abortion kills the creation of God, so does divorce. So Jesus says, "What, therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." So don't divorce!

In 1 Cor. 6:13b, The Greeks were taught that the body was evil and if they could satisfy one bodily appetite, why not another? Paul says in vs. 18-20, that fornication is sin against the body in that it violates the purpose of the body (vs. 13), and the resident of the body (vs. 19). He adds, "You are not your own, you have been bought with a price, you belong to God. He dwells within you, you are the temple of the Holy Spirit." That is why their body was sacred and not evil.

In Rom. 12:1-2 we are commanded to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. To do this we must keep them pure, holy and holy, realizing that we are in Christ and He is in us, therefore the sanctity and sacredness of human life is a fact.

Life and Work

Christian dedication

By C.A. Johnson, First Church, Paragould

Basic passage: Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6; Romans 12:1-2
Focal passage: Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:13b, 18-20; Romans 12:1-2
Central truth: In view of what God has done for us through Christ, we must present ourselves to God as a "living sacrifice."

The purpose of the creation of two sexes was that the solidarity, happiness and continuance of the human race might have as its foundation the physical union of man and woman. This union is an important part of God's plan. Any attempt to thwart it—in any way—is contrary to the divine will.

This body cannot be regarded as unimportant. It is the instrument with which a person serves God. Each Christian is a temple in which God dwells. This gives a dignity to all of life that nothing else can. Wherever we go, we are the bearers of the Holy Spirit, the temple in which God pleases to live. This fact must rule out all conduct that is not appropriate to the temple of God. Nothing that would be inappropriate in God's temple is proper in the body of the child of God.

Sexual impurity affects the Christian in three ways: Emotionally—the fornicator and adulterer and homosexual may forget their sins, but their sins will not forget them. Physically—the harvest of sowing to the flesh is delayed sometimes, but it always comes (Gal. 6:7-8). How sad it is to live with the consequences of sins. Externally—Paul twice says people who practice sexual immorality will not inherit God's kingdom.

The obligation resting on believers is that they should glorify God. The body must be used solely for God's glory.

Christian dedication involves three steps: Giving God your body. Every day is a worship experience when our bodies are yielded to God. Giving God your mind. The world wants to control your mind, but God wants to transform it. Giving God your will. It is only when we yield our will to God that He can give us the willpower (and the won't power) we need to be victorious.

In view of all that God has done for His people, they should present themselves to God as a "living sacrifice," consecrated to Him.

Bible Book

The body: made for God

By George O'Neal, Bella Vista Church

Basic passage: Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:13b, 18-20; Romans 12:1-2
Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 6:13b, 18-20

Central truth: The believer has a responsibility to keep the temple of his body pure and to use it for God's glory.

In ancient Corinth the Acropolis which overlooked the city was the site of a temple where thousands of prostitutes plied their trade as a part of their pagan worship. Today one of the idols of America has become the human body with its appetites, urges and passions. These passages instruct the believer about keeping his/her body pure for the Lord.

I. A Decisive Declaration, verse 13b. The attitude of many people in our culture is that engaging in sexual relations outside of marriage is perfectly okay. For some, satisfying the sexual urge is just like satisfying one's appetite for food. But the believer must understand the reality of God's truth relating to the body. While it may seem otherwise, the body is not made for sexual immorality; it is made for the Lord.

II. An Authoritative Admonition, verse 18. How should a person treat the desire or even fantasies about sexual immorality? One should see it as something which brings death and run in the other direction. The reason is that sexual sin brings greater defilement and harm to the body than do all other sins. Certainly the various kinds of sexually transmitted diseases in our culture verify this truth.

III. A Purchased Possession, verse 19-20a. At issue with many today is the question about the right to do with one's body as he or she chooses. That issue has been settled for a believer who takes the Word of God seriously. The believer's body has become a temple for the Living God. So it is unthinkable that a person who is one in spirit with God should become one with a prostitute and thereby defile his own body and spirit. The disciple of Jesus does not have the final say about how to use his or her body. The Christ who bought that one with His own precious blood has the right to make that decision.

If a believer commits sexual sin, there is mercy at the throne of God. But obeying the Scripture and keeping oneself pure in body and spirit can close a door for Satan to keep entering and bring glory to God.

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NEWS DIGEST

13 Southern Baptist chaplains among military in Somalia

ATLANTA (BP)—At least 13 Southern Baptist military chaplains are among those assigned to relief efforts in Somalia, said Lew Burnett, director of military chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

While the chaplains' primary ministry is to soldiers, the focus on humanitarian aid rather than warfare will change the nature of the chaplains' task, Burnett said.

In addition to working with troops on the field, chaplains will minister to soldiers returning to the United States with haunting memories of the situation in Somalia, Lew Dawson, HMB associate director of military chaplaincy, said. Seeing people die from starvation may be more traumatic for some soldiers than seeing people die in warfare, he noted. Some soldiers also will need help readingjust to the United States where food is plentiful.

CLC's counsel resigns ABA over abortion rights issue

WASHINGTON (BP)—The general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission recently resigned as a member of the American Bar Association in protest of an abortion rights resolution adopted by the ABA in August.

The Christian Life Commission "cannot in good conscience pay dues to the ABA to help fund its advocacy in public policy against values which we hold most dear," Michael Whitehead said in a letter informing the ABA of his resignation.

Just short of 3,500 members had left the ABA because of the resolution as of December 1, a spokesman for the largest lawyer organization in the country said. The ABA had more than 368,500 members at the end of September, the spokesman said.

Endowment designates \$93,500 in grants to Southwestern

FORT WORTH, TX (BP)—Three grants totaling \$93,500 have been awarded to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Indianapolis-based charitable foundation.

The grants are designed to meet the need for special theological education for the seminary board of trustees and faculty, as well as for improving communication between board members, faculty and administration, according to Scotty Gray, executive vice president at Southwestern.

"With these grants, we have a significant opportunity to be a model in these areas, something exemplary for the denomination," Gray said. "The Lilly Endowment grants are an affirmation of our history and our desire to improve relationships and the quality of theological education."

Southeastern makes progress but remains on probation

WAKE FOREST, NC (BP)—The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, while recognizing Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's rapid progress, has decided the seminary will remain on probation for one more year in order to observe the completion of one entire cycle of the self-assessment and long-range planning processes which have been set in place by the seminary.

President Paige Patterson indicated his "profound disappointment" in the decision but said he was not surprised. "I regret the necessity of the additional year of probation because of the monumental efforts and sacrifices of the entire seminary family to realize this goal as quickly as possible," said Patterson. "But I am encouraged by the Association's recognition of our significant progress and their offer of further assistance."

Rosenbaum to direct BSSB trade publishing division

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—Richard P. "Bucky" Rosenbaum, vice president for business and finance at the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, has resigned to become the director of operations for the Baptist Sunday School Board's trade publishing division.

Rosenbaum, 38, and a former board employee, will assume the newly created position Jan. 1. He will oversee purchasing and business functions for the board's trade publishing operations which include Broadman Press, Holman Bible Publishers, Church Information System computer hardware and software and other imprints.

Rosenbaum was employed by the board 11 years before joining the Executive Committee in December 1990. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to return to my publishing roots," he said.

Rosenbaum is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. He has done additional study, earning certification as a purchasing manager.