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January 17, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



A new direction Page 14

Vol. 90, No. 2

January 17, 1991

COVER STORY

Give: Live God's Word

Page 5

When a nursing home is necessary

Page 6

Cruzan ruling 'disturbing'

Page 19

Missionary attrition rate rises

Page 23



Arkansas Baptist

At a glance

3 Editorial: Forgiveness

Forgiveness is one of the most important teachings of the Bible, but it is essential that an individual forgive himself after receiving forgiveness from God. Editor J. Everett Sneed outlines the answer to the question: "How is forgiveness possible?" and enumerates the scriptural steps to forgiveness.

5 'There is a spirit in man'

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is Jan. 20. Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, offers a biblical account of the sacredness of human life and calls for Christians to sound the clarion call against attitudes and actions which assault that sanctity.

6 When a nursing home is necessary

In this second article in a series on long-term care for the elderly, suggested criteria for a family making the difficult decision to place a parent in a nursing home is offered. Different kinds of long-term institutional care are explored, along with a guide for decision-making to enable families to shift their attention to the facilities available.

14 A new direction

Bob Gross, former director of the Hope Migrant Mission Center, and his wife, Karen, have moved to Birmingham, Ala., where she will be an editor in the products division of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union. During the years the Grosses served the center, there were 2,048 professions of faith.

19 Cruzan ruling 'disturbing'

Two staff members of the SBC Christian Life Commission fear that the death by starvation and dehydration of Nancy Cruzan forbodes even greater threats to the sacredness of human life. Cruzan, 33, died Dec. 26, 12 days after a court in Missouri ruled that feeding through a tube into her stomach could be stopped.

23 Missionary attrition rate rises

Mission workers leave the field in one of four ways: retirements, resignation, death, and completion of service. A combination of few missionary appointments and slightly higher rates of resignations and retirements have caused the attrition rate to be greater than in past years. If allowed to continue, Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goal of having a foreign mission force of 5,000 by the end of A.D. 2000 will be in jeopardy.

Cover story

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Live God's Word

5

January is Will's Emphasis Month. The Christian will can provide not only for family, but also Christian causes loved during life.

Also inside

Speak Up

The President's Corner.....4
A Pastor's Perspective.....4
Letters to the Editor.....5

Local & State

Arkansas All Over.....8
NLR hospital honors Dorris.....9
About the State.....10
Arkansans appointed.....11

Helpline

An unusual February.....15
ABSC Updates.....16
Looking Ahead.....18

Nation

Investigations restricted.....20
Across the Country.....20

Lessons.....21-22

World

Staying, leaving.....24

Next issue: Jan. 31

Forgiveness

J. EVERETT SNEED

Forgiveness is one of the most important teachings of the Bible. Everyone needs forgiveness from God and to forgive the wrongs which others have committed against him. It also is essential that he forgive himself after receiving forgiveness from God. Without forgiveness, one is burdened down by sin and may reach a point at which he can no longer be a productive part of society.

Forgiveness is necessary because of the reality of sin. Today there are a variety of concepts regarding sin. Some deny the existence of sin. Others laugh at sin. But, perhaps the most dangerous attitude toward sin is that which tones it down so that it doesn't appear to be quite so bad.

Basically, sin is rebellion. John, the beloved disciple, said, "Sin is transgression of the law" (1 Jn. 3:4c). So, the essence of sin is lawlessness or rebellion.

Sin is universal in its reach. Both the Old and New Testaments declare this fact. The Psalmist David declared, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Ps. 53:3b). John, in the New Testament, declared, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his Word is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:10). So forgiveness is necessary because of sin.

Second, it is essential that we forgive others. Since we live in an imperfect world, people will do things which harm, offend, and distress others. Sometimes these wrongs are committed without any thought of bringing harm or stress to another. On other occasions, wrongs are committed for self gain, vengeance, or one of many other reasons.

Why should one forgive another who has wronged him? First, we are to forgive because God has forgiven us. Jesus said, "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye meet, it shall be measured to you again" (Mt. 7:2).

Second, forgiveness of others is essential because hate will destroy a person. One who hates, broods, and lies awake nights harboring unforgiveness will ultimately destroy himself. Psychologists tell us that forgiveness is essential in order to be a healthy person.

There are numerous, positive results that one experiences through forgiveness. First, forgiveness lifts a burden of guilt. Martin Luther, prior to his marvelous encounter with God and before the beginning of the



sin is death."

It was only after Luther experienced the grace of God in Christ that he was freed from this sense of guilt. It is not surprising that one of Luther's major teachings is the doctrine of forgiveness.

Forgiveness of self also is essential. Many who seek God's forgiveness and forgive others, fail to forgive themselves. Once God has forgiven a person for his sin, it is essential that he forgive himself. Failure to do so will make life dark, dreary, and indescribably sad.

But, the most basic question is: How is forgiveness possible? Since God is holy, righteous and just, how can he forgive our sins? The total sin debt has been paid by Christ. When our Master died on the cross, he took our place. The complete debt of sin has been paid.

The resurrection completes the work that Christ did on the cross. A dead Christ could not be Savior. His resurrection gives assurance that God had accepted his atoning work on the cross. The Apostle Paul said, "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification"

Reformation, was a man almost destroyed by guilt. His guilt haunted him day and night. He felt a sense of impending, divine doom that comes from the knowledge, even without the Bible, that "the wages of

(Ro. 4:25). Conversely Paul declared, "If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1. Co. 15:17).

The Scripture clearly defines the steps in receiving God's forgiveness. First, one is to repent of his sin. The word "repent" comes from the Greek and means a total change of heart. When an individual repents he is saying, "I am not only sorry for what I did wrong, but I am sorry for being the kind of person who falls short of God's perfect plan. By God's help I will not commit this sin again."

Second, one must confess his sin. The word "confess" means to agree with God in his assessment of our actions and character. When this is done our sin is completely forgiven as far as God is concerned. The beloved apostle said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).

Since confession is an essential step of forgiveness, it is important that we never pretend that sin is not sin. When an individual denies the reality of sin, he is eliminating the possibility of receiving forgiveness.

Once an individual has repented of his sins and confessed, he must accept the gift of forgiveness. It is true that one can never deserve or earn forgiveness, but God in his grace and love provides it for him. Because Christ died for us "while we were yet sinners," forgiveness is offered as a gift and we can accept it and know the joy that only children of God can have.

We, as Christians, need to celebrate the greatness of God's good news of forgiveness. This is not a ticket to commit sin, but a joyous truth for Christians who are seeking to serve the Master day by day.

Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 90

NUMBER 2

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MIKE HUCKABEE

The President's Corner

God calls and equips people for full-time evangelism and other types of itinerant ministry.

There are some very gifted and anointed people serving as preachers, singers, church growth consultants, and church financial consultants. As a pastor, I seek to use those whose calling is to serve all the churches instead of one local fellowship.

Despite the testimony of many pastors who say, "I don't use full-time evangelists, because I got burned once," it has been my experience that most in full-time itinerant ministry operate with a great sense of integrity and are a blessing to the church.

Just like there are pastors who don't always treat evangelists, singers, and conference leaders right (as when a "love offering" is received, but portions are kept for the church to use to pay expenses of the revival, etc.), there are unfortunately traveling ministers whose "me first" attitude give their more honorable peers an undeserved bad reputation.

All of us have had to cancel meetings due to moves, health, or family crises. But canceling meetings because "something bigger has come up" reveals that the person who is claiming a "ministry" actually has a business. No longer is it a matter of "God using me," but is now a matter of "Me using God."

Our church recently experienced such when a man who had committed to be with us nearly two years ago wrote just a few months before the meeting and canceled because he had the opportunity to be in a "better" church. Much of our spring calendar had been built around the event, and we had even rescheduled other events to give this man's conference priority. Sadly, he never offered an apology or acted as if his commitment to our church mattered. Our church will survive. If this man's ethics don't change, his ministry won't.

We will continue to seek out those God has his hand on and use them. God has his hand on many a fine ministry, and I would not want our church to miss the blessing from those called to minister to the greater body of Christ. Just because you occasionally fire a "blank" is no reason to quit hunting!

Mike Huckabee is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



RANDALL O'BRIEN

A Pastor's Perspective

Catchin' fish & catchin' on

"Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth'" (Dt. 8:17).

Dad would get off work at *The McComb Enterprise-Journal* at 4:00 every afternoon. And I'd watch for him. He was a printer at the town newspaper and I was plenty proud of him.

I could hardly wait! I knew Pa was already ready. My Grandpa, or Pa, as we called him, already would have walked home from the McComb Water Plant where he worked, gotten his fishing pole out from under the house, have his hat on, and be sittin' out on the porch waitin' for us, pullin' out his pocket watch every now and then, lookin' at the timepiece he boasted kept "railroad time."

I could hardly wait! Goin' fishin with Daddy and Pa! What could be better'n that? When Dad would get home, us men would decide, like we always did, then tell Mom, what kind of sandwiches we wanted to take fishin' with us this time. It was always pimento 'n cheese. With mayonnaise and tomato. 'Less we were outta pimento. Then it was just mayonnaise and tomato sandwiches. Mother always made an extra one for Pa.

One afternoon Daddy, Pa and me were fishin' hard at the I.C. Lake.

We had fished all afternoon. No luck. Not for me anyway. Daddy and Pa, now they knew how to do it. Catchin' a fish is a pretty big deal when a boy's tryin' to be a man. Men notice those things. Women too. Womenfolk'd always ask when you'd get home, "How many'd you catch?" Pa and Daddy were men. And I was trying hard to be. No fish for me this day though. Again. Pa and Dad-

dy were thirsty. They said, "Son, here, take this money and run across the way over there to Welch's Grocery and get us all a soda pop." "But what about my pole?" I protested. "We'll watch it for you. Now hurry!"

It wasn't long after returning with Nugraps and RC Cola that I noticed it. My cork was underwater! "I got one! I got one!" I screamed. Then with the skill of a real man, with Dad and Pa watching, I landed one of the biggest fish you ever saw. Well, so it mighta been kinda small. I had me one nonetheless. You bet I did. One I could take home and show off.

Years later I found something out. I didn't catch that fish. Pa and Daddy put that fish on my pole while I was a Welch's Grocery. Why? 'Cause they loved me.

Today, in a lot ways I'm still a little boy fishing in McComb. Still gloating over the fish I caught: nice home, great family, wonderful church, material blessings, loving friends, good health, happiness. . . .

And you? Any chance you're basking in "great and goodly cities, which you did not build, and houses full of all good things, which you did not fill?" (Dt. 6:10)

Hmmm—been fishing with your Heavenly Father lately? Been to Welch's Grocery? "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'"

Little children, guess who put that fish on your pole?

Randall O'Brien is pastor of the Calvary Church in Little Rock.



**Pulaski Baptist Association
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'There is a spirit in man'

The Bible persistently emphasizes the uniqueness of human beings in God's created order. This special God-given quality gives human life its sacredness.

Human life derives its sacredness from its divine origin and nature, both of which are alluded to in the statement, "there is a spirit in man; and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Jb. 32:8). The Bible then adds, "The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (Jb. 33:4).

Both the language and the subject of these passages hearken back to the creation

account. The "spirit in man" of 32:8 is the *ruach* used for the "spirit of God" in 33:4 and in Genesis 1:2. Humans are created "in the image of God" (Ge. 1:27, RSV). Genesis clearly identifies human beings as part of the created order; the emphasis is on a uniqueness which is derived from being made in God's image. That divine image, which made relationship with God possible, was marred but not obliterated by man's fall.

Even after the Fall, "the breath of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Jb. 32:8). Consequently, God tells fallen

but regenerate humanity, "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding" (Ps. 32:9), but instead the He would "instruct . . . and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go" (Ps. 32:8).

The truth that emerges from these passages is that human life is sacred, thus distinct from all other created life. We are different in nature and design from all other life. We are not merely the most advanced life in the animal kingdom.

Our world needs this truth desperately. Human life, from conception to death and at all points in between, is under violent assault.

Christians must sound the clarion call against all attitudes and the actions which assault the sacredness of human life. We must bear witness by deed as well as by word that human life is sacred. It is a precious, irreplaceable gift from God. We must oppose the barbaric, lethal combination of technical expertise and spiritual ignorance which would deny that "there is a spirit in man" and abort and experiment on our unborn, harvest fetal tissue, allow death into the nursery for our mentally and physically handicapped infants and encourage euthanasia in our hospitals and retirement homes.—Richard D. Land, executive director, SBC Christian Life Commission

JANUARY WILLS EMPHASIS

Give: Live God's Word

Throughout our life we have attempted to "live God's Word." There have been times when we have been more successful than others. There has always been the concern for the well-being of our family and for those in our society who have been abused or neglected. We have done what we could to meet these needs.

To a large extent the concern for our family was met as we developed a spending plan that harmonized with a Christian life style. Social concerns were met by personal involvement in various projects and regular systematic proportionate giving through our church. But how do we continue to give and live God's Word beyond this life? Is this possible?

The answer is yes!

Based on information provided by our Baptist Foundation, we found that through our will, our Christian lifestyle can be extended beyond the grave.

We were reminded that God's Word says, "If any provide not for his own, and especially those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Ti. 5:8). We discovered that in a will provision may be made for the financial well-being of our family. Without a will, personal assets that are owned separately pass one-third to the survivor's spouse and two-thirds to the child or children, and the surviving spouse retains only limited rights to "use" real property that is owned separately. Without a will, the cost of administering an estate is also increased and often excess or unnecessary taxes have to be paid.

We discovered that in a will provision may also be made for the guardianship of minor children. Although this provision is not binding, it does provide guidance to the court as to the type of environment one prefers for his or her children.

We learned that a will also provides a way for gifts to be made to the Christian causes we loved and supported during life. This may be done as a separate bequest or through an endowment with our Baptist Foundation. The endowment will provide continued support "until Jesus comes."

Since our children were grown and financially independent, we learned there was a way we could give the value of our estate twice. For example, our will can provide that a part or all of our assets be placed in a trust with an income paid to our children for a specified period of time. At the expiration of the designated time, the trust would distribute the income to the Baptist cause or causes we select. It was pointed out that if the children received the income for as much as 10 years, we would have given them more than if we had made a specific bequest.

We also discovered that without a will or some other legal document one cannot control these matters. Our state legislators have already made the decision for us.

For information about your estate plans, contact the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-0732.—Harry D. Trulove, president

Letters to the Editor

On target

Thank you for the article on aging, under Faith at Work. I look forward to your next article.

I read it to my wife, we think you are on target, it is so very timely. Those of us whom God has allowed to stay around this long need information such as you have provided. We can stay longer if we heed it.

Arkansas is number two in the nation for senior citizens. Florida is number one.

Thank you for the information. I know it took lots of work and searching. . . . Only eternity will reveal the good these articles will do.

Mrs. Cragar and I have had almost 14 years of retirement. We have a fitness program, participate in senior olympics, senior adult center, March of Dimes, church and denominational activities, and many community activities. The golden age is good for us. There aren't many dull moments.

We are in the process of making our living will (the right to die.)—J.P. (Pete) Cragar, Perryville

SECOND IN A SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES

When a nursing home is necessary

Placing a parent in a nursing home is difficult, even dangerous if it is not done properly. A family needs to be sure it is the right decision. But when a nursing home is necessary, the family must accept the fact and shift its attention to making the best decision possible.

by Mark Kelly
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Every senior adult wants to live as independently as possible for as long as possible. Every family wants to ensure that freedom. And 95 percent of all seniors will be able to live out their lives independently or with family.

For some, however — for one person in 20 — assisted independent living will not be possible. Perhaps a disabling condition requires 24-hour care, or maybe the patient and family simply do not have the resources necessary for independent living. For these persons, a nursing home may be the right choice.

Older adults and their families often dread the day they have to choose a nursing home. Those who have done so can testify to the strong emotions involved: fear, anxiety, anger, even guilt. But there may come a time when a nursing home is the appropriate choice for an aging parent. By asking the right questions, families can avoid several pitfalls and make a difficult transition much easier.

Do we need one?

Placing a parent in a nursing home is difficult, even dangerous if it is not done properly. A family needs to be sure it is the right decision. Every effort should be made to exhaust other solutions for long-term care. The family may discover they have the resources to provide assisted home

care. A residential care facility, provides room and board and personal services for persons who are not chronically disabled and do not need nursing services. Such options may be better for an elderly parent's well-being.

However, there are circumstances that may make a nursing home necessary. For example:

- if a parent suffers from a disabling chronic condition requiring 24-hour care and supervision;

- if the care a parent needs is too expensive or specialized to be provided at home, and hospitalization is not justified;

- if the combination of available family assistance and community services is inadequate or inappropriate for the parent's needs.

Accepting the fact that a nursing home is the best choice for everyone concerned can allow a family to shift its attention to finding the best facility available.

What kind?

Once a family knows that a nursing home is the necessary choice for long-term care, they need to determine which kind of facility is appropriate. Many are unaware that nursing homes differ widely in the way they are operated and the services they provide.

The vast majority of nursing homes are owned and operated by private, for-profit corporations. About 15 per-

cent are run by churches or other non-profit charitable groups. Only about 5 percent are operated by government agencies. The way a home is owned and operated can affect its cost and priorities in service.

In addition, nursing homes fall into one of two categories, distinguished by the levels of care they provide. Skilled care facilities provide round-the-clock nursing and personal care for individuals with chronic or unstable conditions. A skilled care facility will have a 24-hour nursing staff and continuing medical supervision and will provide various types of therapy. Intermediate care facilities, on the other hand, provide daily skilled nursing and personal care but not on a 24-hour basis. Residents of these homes must be in stable condition and need only minimal nursing, therapy, and supervision services.

Although all nursing homes are subject to state licensing and inspection, the cost and range of services varies. Families planning for nursing home care need to carefully match their own needs and resources with the types of homes available to them and the services those facilities provide.

All nursing homes provide the same basic services: medical care, nursing care, pharmaceutical services, rehabilitation therapies, social services, and food and nutrition services. The basic difference between skilled and intermediate care facilities is whether or not the services are available at all hours.

In addition to the services provid-

ed by a home, other factors also should be considered. What is the nature and condition of the physical plant? How are the grounds kept? Is there security? What is the condition of the furnishings and equipment? How do the costs for the same services compare between homes?

Personal considerations and extra services also are important. Are social activities planned regularly? Are recreational facilities available? What provision is made for religious services? Do residents have access to a library, a beauty/barber shop, or a snack bar? Although these may increase the cost of a home, they also create a more pleasant living environment.

Finally, what rights do residents have at the facility? Federal regulations require nursing homes to prominently display a 14-item statement of Patient Rights. Those rights include the management's responsibility to reveal all charges for services, require full disclosure to the resident of his medical condition, provide a procedure for voicing grievances, and promise residents' control of their personal finances and possessions. They

also guarantee privacy and dignity, freedom from abuse, and freedom of association and communication.

How do we decide?

Placing a parent in a nursing home is far from easy. Once begun, most families find it much more complicated than they expected. Several suggestions can help your family make a good decision:

- Begin researching nursing homes before you need one. The better facilities usually have waiting lists, and working ahead will not only allow a family to do a thorough research job, but also will prevent a regrettable decision made in desperation. Be sure to include a mentally competent parent in the discussion and decision.
- Be sure a nursing home is necessary. Every effort should be made to exhaust other long-term care solutions, which may be better for the parent. Consider options such as assisted home care, residential care (room and board), and retirement communities.
- Seek counsel from health care

professionals, a pastor or Christian counselor, and others who have had the experience of placing a parent in a nursing home.

- Identify the parent's needs regarding a nursing home. Is a skilled care facility more appropriate than an intermediate care facility?
- Be sensitive to the parent's desires about a nursing home. Does she want to remain in her home community? Are there special circumstances to consider, such as the difficulty of separating spouses when only one needs institutional care?
- Evaluate the financial resources available for long-term nursing home care. Decide whether you prefer to pay for extra services or conserve your resources by buying only the minimum required service. Determine how many months of care you can afford to provide after Medicare coverage expires.
- Make a list of nursing homes available in the community. Narrow the list by matching the homes against the parent's needs and desires and the family's financial resources. Consider the differences between for-profit and nonprofit facilities.

- Visit the short list of homes that seem to meet the parent and family's needs, desires, and resources. Evaluate each facility with a checklist of concerns about safety, management, services, programs, personal matters, and finances.

- Choose the facility that best meets your needs and resources.

To learn more about long-term care, contact the Area Agency on Aging listed in the governmental pages of your local telephone directory or send for *The Right Place at the Right Time*, available free of charge from the Fulfillment Section, American Association of Retired Persons, 1909 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20049.

How can we afford it?

For most families, the biggest problem with nursing home care is how to pay for it. Medicare, the federal health insurance program for all citizens age 65 or more, pays the full cost of nursing home care for only 21 days and pays nothing beyond 100 days. Medicaid usually covers all costs of skilled and intermediate care homes but only for persons eligible for public welfare programs. Medigap insurance policies generally stop when Medicare coverage runs out.

This means a family must pay nursing home costs out of its own resources. With the average cost of a good nursing home near \$2,500 a month, the potential for disaster is apparent. Paying \$30,000 a year for long-term care will quickly deplete a family's assets. In fact, two-thirds of the persons entering nursing homes are

impoverished within four months.

Simply put, the health care system provides long-term nursing home care for those who can afford to pay for it and for those who are in absolute poverty. The average nursing home resident depletes her assets and converts to Medicaid in less than two years. Some states will not provide Medicaid coverage for a nursing home resident until both the resident and her mate are on the public welfare rolls, even if the mate is not living in a nursing home.

The single most critical factor in planning for long-term care is evaluating the family's financial resources and determining how long nursing home care can be afforded. This often determines the type of facility selected. Careful planning is essential.

Next Issue:

- What's a church to do?
- How can I learn more?

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

John B. Wright resigned Jan. 6 as pastor of First Church in Little Rock. He plans to remain in Little Rock, conducting revivals and holding conferences. He pastored the church for 19 years.

Emil Turner has resigned as pastor of Mount Olive Church, North Crossett, to serve as pastor of First Church of Lake Charles, La.

Larry Crank has joined the staff of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana as church administrator.

Lynn Robertson began serving Jan. 2 as pastor of Hillside Church in Camden, going there from First Church in Stamps.

Lynwood Henderson retired Dec. 31 as director of missions for Centennial Association. He will continue to reside at Route 1, Box 74, Almyra, AR 72003.

Charles Malone of Forrest City has joined the staff of Dallas Avenue Church in Mena as minister of youth and music.



Wright

Don Hall is serving as pastor of First Church in Cove, coming there from Oklahoma.

Harry McCullough is serving as pastor of Humnoke Church.

Elton Ballentine is serving as interim pastor of Caney Creek Church.

Bill Philliber is serving as interim pastor of First Church, Ward.

David Gravatt is serving as pastor of Hunter Church. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary.

Bill Barnett of Sherwood is serving Trinity Church in Searcy as minister of music.

Eugene A. Ryan is serving as pastor of Lexa Church.

Fred Holst Jr. is serving as pastor of Plumerville Church, coming there from Sage Church near Batesville.

Gene Tanner is serving as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Perryville. He has been a member of First Church, Casa.

Floyd Lewis, pastor of First Church, El Dorado, recently was elected as president of Arkansas alumni of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Robert Charles Parsley, pastor of First Church in Dardanelle, received a doctoral

degree during commencement ceremonies Dec. 14 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

David C. Laird, pastor of Maple Avenue Church in Smackover, recently departed with a National Guard Unit for Fort Polk, La., prior to departure for service in the Persian Gulf.

Eddie Simpson, pastor of First Church in Sheridan, left Jan. 6 for Fort Bragg, N.C., with a Army Reserve unit that has received orders for the Persian Gulf Crisis.

David Talbert will begin serving Jan. 20 as pastor of Northvale Church in Harrison, going there from North Crossett First Church.

Bratton Rhoades Overseas Ministries recently received tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Rhoades is a member of First Church, Sherwood.

Charles Moore is serving as interim administrator for East Side Church in Fort Smith.

W. Trueman and Jane Bassett Moore will be honored Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. by East Side Church in Fort Smith. "Celebrating a Life of Service" will be the program theme as the Moores are recognized for 42 years of Christian service, having served both in Arkansas and Bangladesh. Moore is retir-

Steeple & Baptistries

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ing as pastor of East Side Church, following 18 years of service. A reception will conclude the recognition service.

Gary Allen has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church in Warren to join the staff of Calvary Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.

James and Roma Zeltner of Fort Smith left Jan. 15 for Lagos, Nigeria, Africa, where they will spend eight days in starting a new church and eight days in discipleship training for new converts and church members.

Ross Pyeatt resigned as minister of administration and senior adults at Second Church in Little Rock Jan. 13 to join the staff of First Church in Searcy as minister of education and administration.

Briefly

Monticello Second Church held a fellowship Dec. 16 to honor Betty Haies, who is retiring as church secretary following 17 years of service.

Brookland Church at Jonesboro licensed Junior Hicks to the preaching ministry Dec. 2.

Kensett Church recently licensed Stanley Dutton to the preaching ministry. He is a

student at Arkansas State University, Beebe.

Goshen First Church held a one day evangelistic emphasis Dec. 30 with Tom Cox of Van Buren as speaker.

Markham Street Church in Little Rock will hold its January Bible Study Jan. 20-23. L.B. Jordan, ABSC director of Church Leadership Support, will teach the study on Acts.

Charity Church was formally constituted Dec. 9 with 41 charter members. Constitution services were exactly four years after the work began as a mission of Greater Grace Church, Little Rock. Larry Stagers serves as Charity Church pastor and Paul Williams is sponsoring church pastor. Participating in the service were members of Greater Grace Church and representatives of the Home Mission Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Pulaski Association, Little Rock Immanuel Church, and Little Rock Ironton Church.

Harmony Church at Pollard ordained John Shaw to the gospel ministry Dec. 16. Participating in the service were William Gullick, Larry Massey, Spencer Permenter, Max Gregory, Loy Culver, Bill Hutchings, and Bill Veal.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock will feature Larnelle Harris in concert Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. Harris, a Grammy Award winner, has performed in Arkansas during the 1989 Billy Graham Crusade. Further information may be obtained by contacting Park Hill Church, telephone 501-753-3413.

NLR hospital honors Dorris

R.H. Dorris was recognized at the Dec. 6 annual meeting of Baptist Medical System Corporation when it was announced that the administrative office suite currently under construction at Baptist Memorial Medical Center in North Little Rock would be named in his honor.

Dorris, who was instrumental in founding the North Little Rock hospital, served as a member of the North Little Rock Municipal Hospital Commission from 1955 until his retirement from the commission in 1990, serving as chairman from 1958-1990.

He has served as a member of the Baptist Medical System Corporation since 1964, serving three terms as a member of the board of trustees and holding the offices of secretary, vice-president, and president.

Dorris is recognized for his leadership of Arkansas Baptists, having served as director of chaplaincy, director of the ABSC Missions Department, and ABSC interim executive director. He is a member of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock.

Overton celebrates 50-year ministry

Carl Overton of Hot Springs will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry Jan. 21.

Overton was ordained to the ministry by Second Church in Arkadelphia while a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Currently a member and Sunday School teacher at Central Church in Hot Springs, he has served as director of missions for both Central and Ashley County Associations. He also has pastored churches in Arkansas and Indiana.

Overton and his wife, Clara, served for eight months with the Baptist publication in Nairobi, Kenya, through the Baptist Layman Overseas Program of the Foreign Mission Board.

They are parents of three sons, James Floyd Overton of Clinton, Iowa; Kenneth Wayne Overton of Macapa, Brazil; and Charles Alan Overton of Lebanon, Ky.

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Needed—The Search Committee for Springlake Baptist Assembly is now receiving resumes for Camp Director. Resumes should be sent to Oscar N. Golden, 812 Valley View Road, Benton, Arkansas 72015 by January 1, 1991. 1/17

Needed—Financial Secretary needed. Full-time position. Send resume; First Baptist Church, 604 S. Reynolds, Bryant, AR 72022 847-3014. 1/17

For Sale—62 light blue choir robes with maroon/red reversible stoles. \$10 each or all for \$500. Clay Doss, Third Street Baptist Church, P.O. Box 763, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; 246-4567. 1/17

For Sale—Sharp model SF-9500 copier. 5 years old. Excellent condition. Call for additional information or demonstration. Asking \$2,000. Original cost \$8,000. First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, AR. 624-3345 1/31

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About the State

HMB appoints Arkansas native

ATLANTA—Jacksonville native Carolyn Reed was appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in December. Mrs. Reed will serve with her husband, Charles, in Shelby, N.C. Reed will be church and community ministries director while Mrs. Reed will work in family and church service.

Mrs. Reed is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The Reeds have two children, Charles and Carole.

New TV station signs on

TEXARKANA—KBSC TV recently signed on in the Texarkana area on UHF channel 35. The new channel is an extension of the already established television ministry of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. Prior to the inauguration of KBSC, the church operated a channel on the cable system. That ministry will continue, but the construction of the UHF transmitter and tower gives the church the opportunity to broadcast the signal throughout the Texarkana area.

Construction was completed with the sign-on and inaugural broadcast on Dec. 20. An official "grand opening" is planned for the week of Feb. 10.

Ouachi-Tones to disband

ARKADELPHIA—A 25-year-old Arkansas musical institution will come to an end in May when the Ouachi-Tones, a female vocal group from Ouachita University, will disband as the result of the resignation from the organization of its founder and director Mary Shambarger, associate professor of music at OBU. Shambarger will remain at Ouachita as a faculty member in the school of music.

The Ouachi-Tones will be replaced during the 1991-92 academic year by the creation of a new mixed-voice group which will perform Broadway tunes and "pop" music.

WBC yearbook receives honor

WALNUT RIDGE—Williams Baptist College's 1990 yearbook, entitled *The Southerner*, was recently awarded first place by the American Scholastic Press Association for its content, presentation, general page design, general photography, structure, and creativity.

Yearbook editors were Renia Robinette of Clinton and Dana (Pierce) Kelly of Imboden. Dorothy Jackson, vice-president for student development, served as yearbook advisor.

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Arkansans appointed

Three persons with Arkansas connections were among 31 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Dec. 11 at First Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va.

Mark D. and Candi Holmes will live in Suriname, where he will start and develop churches.

Born in Little Rock, Holmes is the son of Mrs. and Mrs. Ralph Holmes of Fort Smith. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He also was an associate pastor at Bluff Avenue Church in Fort Smith. Since 1984 he has been pastor of Mission Village Southern Church in San Diego, Calif.

Born and reared in Fort Smith, Mrs. Holmes, the former Candi Bateman, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bateman Sr. of that city.

She attended Westark Community College and Ouachita Baptist University.

The Holmeses have three children: Cara Suzanne, Mary Elizabeth, and Hannah Jane.

Sharon R. Doyle will live in Nigeria as a missionary associate, and will work as a mission office secretary.



Doyle



The Holmeses

Since 1977 she has been an administrative secretary with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., in Bentonville. She is a member of Sunnyside Church in Rogers.

Mrs. Doyle, the former Sharon Reece, is the daughter of Leonard Reece of Fayetteville and the late Idell Reece. She is the widow of Duane Doyle and the mother of two grown children.

She attended North Arkansas Community College in Harrison.

Mrs. Doyle and the Holmeses will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Four Arkansans receive degrees

One Arkansan, Robert Charles Parsley, pastor of First Church in Dardanelle, received a doctoral degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, during commencement ceremonies Dec. 14.

Three Arkansans were among those receiving degrees Dec. 21 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were:

Paul Allen Smith of Hot Springs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Smith of that city. He is currently pastor of Kidrod Church in Harrisonburg, La., and is married to the former Jerry Lee Johnson of Hot Springs. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Robert Keith Smith of Dierks, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Smith of DeQueen. He is currently pastor of Springville Church in Springville, La., and is married to the former Renae D. Parker of Benton. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Receiving the master of arts in Christian education degree was Donald M. Larsen of Helena, Mt., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Larsen of Boise, Idaho. He is currently pastor of First Church in DeWalls Bluff and is married to the former Sally Jo Oliver of Keo. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

HMB

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A new direction

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Bob and Karen Gross have moved to Birmingham, Ala., where she will be an editor in the Products Division of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union. Bob, who served as the director of the Hope Migrant Mission Center from December 1971 until December 1990, has taken early retirement.

During the years the Grosses served the mission center, there were 2,048 individuals who made professions of faith. This averaged over 107 professions of faith a year. Records were incomplete for grocery vouchers, medical aid, and health kits given to migrants prior to 1980. But, since 1980 there have been \$14,412 provided in grocery vouchers, \$3,968 provided in medical aid, and 22,850 health kits given to migrants. Monies for these activities came from several sources. Several Arkansas churches provided funds for health kits, but grocery vouchers and medical aid primarily came from world hunger funds furnished by the Home Mission Board. Each year the HMB would give approximately \$3,000 to the migrant center to assist in these areas.

Much of the money received from Arkansas churches was designated for Bibles. Each year the Grosses have been able to distribute 2,000 or more Bibles. Many of these were bilingual Bibles which the migrants prefer. Others were in English or Spanish.

Gross observed, "The most important and exciting thing we have done is to share Christ with individuals. Often this is the first time that these migrants have heard the gospel message. It also is a joy to give a Bible to an individual who has never had one before. It is amazing how many of these migrants living in the United States have never had a Bible."

Another highlight of the Grosses work has been the opportunity to work with volunteers. Many of the volunteers have never seen a migrant previously in their lives. Bob said, "It is a joy to see these volunteers present the gospel in music, as a ventriloquist, in a puppet show, or as a verbal witness to these migrant farm workers."

The Grosses work with approximately 12 groups of volunteers each year. These groups vary in size, but represent from 100 to 200 people who volunteer to work at the migrant mission center each year.

Most of the migrants that come through Hope live in the lower Rio Grande Valley or in San Antonio. There are approximat-

ly two million (or documented) migrants in the United States. It is estimated that there are as many as 10 million undocumented migrants in our country. Forty-six thousand individuals register each year at the federally-funded rest stop across the road from the Baptist Migrant Mission Center. This represents 23,000 different people who come through, since each individual will go through the rest stop while going north and then as they return south. Almost all of those going through the migrant rest stop are documented.

The Grosses work to keep in touch with the migrants. Each year at Christmas approximately 6,000 Christmas newsletters are sent out to migrants who have been to the mission center. Three newsletters are sent annually to individuals in the state who are interested in the migrant mission work.

In 1988, a conference was held to coordinate the work with migrants. This was the fulfillment of a dream that Bob had long felt was a necessity in the migrant work. Individuals from both south Texas and the central states came to this meeting to plan for better coordinating the ministry to the migrants. As a result, Karen has developed a specific ministry to the migrants.

Karen did three things to assist in coordinating ministry to the migrants. First, she kept track of every migrant Baptist family that came through the center. She interviewed these individuals and determined their willingness to serve as a Bible study leader, to assist in worship services, or to interpret for another.

Second, the information she obtained was sent to the area where the migrant families were headed. In recent days most of this information has been sent to Michigan, although some of the migrants have remained in Arkansas in the Mississippi County area where director of missions Marvin Reynolds has served as a coordinator of the information.

Third, Karen sent a complete list of everyone who made professions of faith to Jerry Johnson, director of missions for the Valley Baptist Association in the Rio Grande Valley. In 1990 there were 162 professions of faith.

In her new responsibility, Mrs. Gross will be an editor in the Products Division of the SBC WMU. This is a separate division from curriculum. They will prepare books for preschool and children, grades one through six. She also may work with videos for the same age group. These books



Bob and Karen Gross and their seven-year-old daughter JaNan have moved to Birmingham, Ala., from Hope where they have been directing the work of the Hope Migrant Mission Center.

will be available through our Baptist Book Stores.

Karen will also work with the recently developed New Hope Press, which will develop products for a wider audience than Southern Baptists. These materials will be marketed through the Baptist Book Stores, as well as other Christian book stores.

Basically, Karen will enlist writers for specific preschool or children age groups to write a prescribed type of book. She will be assisted by an assistant editor and an artist.

Karen has a wide range of experience. She served with the Eudora Church, Memphis, Tenn.; the Arkansas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; minister of education for First Church, Hope; and until her departure was serving as a consultant for First Church, Hope. She also has served as a contract worker for the WMU and a writer for the SBC WMU.

Karen has written several curriculum pieces for *Aware* and *Discovery*, Girls in Action grades one through six. She also wrote the 1990 mission study book for the Home Mission Board for children, entitled *Trail Blazers*.

Bob will be available for World Missions Conferences, PACT (Projects Assisting Churches in Transition Communities), and associational strategic planning.

An unusual February

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

Entering a new year, your Executive Board staff remains committed to providing as much assistance as possible for our churches and associations. February will be an unusually helpful month, as you will see in the information provided by Helpline.



Directors of Moore
Missions—These men are often behind the scenes, unsung heroes. They listen to the broken hearted. They try to intervene when alienation and turmoil erupts in our churches. They try to provide opportunities for their pastors, staff and church members to grow. They set the mood, the direction and pace for all of the work of the churches in the association. Our hats are off to them. By and large they function without the affirmation, compensation and encouragement pastors usually have.

Feb. 27-March 1, the convention will be hosting the DOMs for their annual retreat. I would encourage you to pray for our directors of missions during this time of meeting at DeGray Lodge at Arkadelphia. Also, I would encourage you to find a time and way to express appreciation and encouragement to your director of missions.

Church renewal—Who does not hunger for this? Lay Renewal weekends have been used of God to literally turn many churches around. From large to small churches, a breakthrough in fellowship and spirituality almost always takes place when a church thoroughly prepares for a Lay Renewal weekend.

Feb. 8-9, a training and fellowship meeting will be held for those who serve on the Church Renewal teams. Two other groups of people should attend this meeting: those interested in working on a team, and those who may want to have a team in their church. My feeling is that the pastor and one or two lay persons from interested churches should attend. They can then carry the message back to their church together. The meeting will be at Levy Church, North Little Rock, just off I-40.

Single Adults Conference—Harold Smith will be here Feb. 15-16, to assist in our Single Adult Conference. It will be held at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an

enriching growth experience for single adults and to equip those who lead single adult ministries in the local church. Some churches have yet to discover the rich ministry that single adults can perform in their churches. Just because they need us and we need them, it is not automatic that we will understand one another and know how to work together. Many of our people need to explore and grow in this area.

Dual Sunday Schools—Yes, some churches have run out of space. They are not to the place they can build educational space. The only hope for their continued growth is that they find a way to use their space twice. This is not easy. It can be done. It can be done successfully. However, it can't be done without thorough preparation and planning. We want to help. We have called in Ken Marler from the Baptist Sunday School Board to help those of you who may need to make the move to dual Sunday schools. He will meet with you from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 12 at the Otter Creek Holiday Inn. Please call the Sunday School office to let them know you plan to attend.

Who in your church knows how to witness to Mormons, New Agers, Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims and Unification people? An even more pressing question, "Who knows how to equip our people to defend against them?" They are on an aggressive campaign to take our people from us. They are succeeding in far too many cases. To try to help you deal with this, we have scheduled an interfaith Witness Conference, Feb. 4-5, from 7-9:15 p.m. each evening. It will be at Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church, just off south University in Little Rock. Ken James from the Home Mission Board will be the primary leader in this conference. It would help if you would call our office and let Pete Peaty know you plan to attend.

Two great youth events! Feb. 2, Beech Street First Church, Texarkana, and Feb. 16, First Church, Springdale. Rick Caldwell will be the featured speaker. The Praise Singers from Ouachita will be the guest musicians. Both junior high and senior high students are urged to participate. These evangelism rallies, named "Carry the Torch," will train and inspire young people to make the most of their teen years. They can be used of God to touch young lives that would otherwise be lost to drugs, alcohol, immorality and materialism. Pastors, parents and youth leaders should work to get their youth to one of these meetings.

Church and Community Ministries

Workshop—Feb. 14. Some of the most effective evangelistic work grows out of ministries that may not appear initially to be evangelistic. Doors are opened to people who would not otherwise listen to us. We have just about limited the time and place people can be saved. Sunday morning, Sunday night, vacation Bible school or revival—if folk will come to these meetings they might become Christians. If they do not do that, most Baptist churches consign the lost to be won by someone else some other way. We need to learn some new ways. Nathan Porter, from the Home Mission Board, Tommy Goode, Diana Lewis, Elias Pantoja, or Mrs. Terry Bailey can surely show you some new exciting ways to meet human need and reach people for Christ. This workshop, held at Levy Church in North Little Rock, will be your best opportunity this year to learn how to begin Christian ministries to the unreached.

Improved Sunday School literature is on its way in October of 1991. Sunday School ASSISTeams will carry a big part of the load in helping churches become familiar with the literature and breakthrough books which will be available this year. Feb. 8-9, special training will be held for the ASSISTeams at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat, Feb. 22-23, 4 p.m., Friday to 2:30 p.m., Saturday. This retreat, held at Camp Paron, provides training and fellowship for music leaders, pastors, pianists and organists who mostly serve in our smaller membership churches. Guest musicians will be brought in to lead you. Many good testimonies have come out of these meetings. I hope this is your year to jump into personal and professional growth for your church and your Lord.

Church Music 1,000 young musicians!

That's our goal for the first Statewide Young Musicians Festival. We've combined our five area festivals into one location in the center of the state for this year only. Our children's choir committee will evaluate the combined festival and decide if we want to do this possibly every third year, to allow every Young Musician the opportunity to sing with this monster Young Musicians choir.

Our festival director, Martha Kirkland, will rehearse the choir, give evaluations to

choirs that adjudicate, and plan and direct the closing festival celebration on the theme, "The Time for Singing is Now." Martha is the older children's choir consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

The festival will be held on Saturday, April 20, at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. We will begin check-in at 8:15 a.m., and the closing worship celebration will begin at 3:00 p.m. Families and friends are welcome to join us for the celebration—to hear the largest Young Musicians Choir Arkansas has ever heard!

See your Music Ministry Handbook or Preschool/Children's Choir News for complete details and registration form, or call the Church Music Department at 376-4791, ext. 5121.—Peggy Pearson, associate

Stewardship/Annuity Video addresses health care

"Facing the Facts: America's Health Care Crisis" is a new video recently released by the Annuity Board. Directors of missions and many church treasurers received a copy.

Annuity Board President Paul Powell explained the mass mailing with four statements:

—To help churches understand the necessary rate increases,

—Encourage churches in the plan to stay with it,

—Encourage others to enroll in the plan,

—To introduce new plan provisions.

To view a copy of the video, contact your director of missions or your annuity representative.—James A. Walker, annuity representative

Church Music Volunteer/Part- Time Retreat

This year's Volunteer/Part Time Music Leaders Retreat at Camp Paron, Feb. 22-23, 4 p.m. Friday-2:30 p.m. Saturday, promises to be one of the most outstanding retreats of its 20-year history.

We have a brand new handbook for music leaders in the small church, *Growing A Musical Church*. Bob Woolley, state

music secretary from Missouri will lead in the teaching of this handbook. The book is filled with exciting ideas that will guide you in your music ministry.

We'll talk more about the new hymnal that is to be released in March and read through new music suitable for your choir.

Pianists will be taught by Tricia Wakefield, First Church, Stuttgart, formerly church music department associate for Missouri.

Organists will enjoy developing their skill under the leadership of Lynn Burton, Beech Street First Church, Texarkana.

Pastors will study the *Disciple All: A Discipleship Training Manual* taught by Bob Holley, ABSC Discipleship Training Department.

The Friday evening worship message will be brought by ABSC Executive Director Don Moore. Peggy Pearson, ABSC Church Music Department, will lead a session for the Combined Children's Choir on Saturday afternoon.

Bring your entire staff and work together in growing your church and its music ministry.

Registration fee is \$10. Deadline for registration is Feb. 11. Forms will be mailed in January or contact the Church Music Department, 376-4791, ext. 5121.—Glen E. Ennes, associate

Sunday School Sunday School campaign

Fill My House, a successful enrollment/attendance campaign will be available again this year from the State Sunday School Department. This six week campaign is suggested to begin on February 25 and conclude with high attendance day on Easter Sunday. However, the materials are undated and can be used during any six week period.

The campaign suggests that goals be set by each teaching unit in the Sunday School. Each unit would set a goal for enrollment gains, average attendance, and high attendance Sunday. Class charts and attendance stickers provide a visual record of the progress of each class. Other materials include promotion posters, clip art pages, commitment cards, and instruction booklet. The material is sold by packaged amounts to serve 100 persons enrolled in Sunday School. Each packet is \$7.00 plus \$1.50 per package for postage. Packets picked up at the office in Little Rock have no postage charge.

The material is effective, inexpensive, and simple to use. It is ideal for busy pastors who need a simple easy promotion tool that does not require a lot of time investment in order to make it work. We have a limited supply of the material for this year. We have 216 packets available on a first-come basis. We will not reprint this campaign material since this is the last year it will be available. Order early to have the best chance of receiving the amount you need.

Churches in Arkansas have been successfully using this type of material from our office for several years. It has proven to be an effective tool to boost enrollment and attendance during the spring months. Each pastor received a mailing about this material which included an order blank. If you have misplaced yours, call our office at 376-4791, ext. 5128. The spring of 1991 can be a great one for your church and this material can help you make it happen. Order your material today.—Freddie Pike, director

Sunday School Let's celebrate the Bible

In 1990 Children's Park registration set a new record as 1,332 boys and girls took "A Trip Through Bible Lands."

The 1991 Children's Park theme will be "Let's Celebrate the Bible!" Held in the summer at Siloam, this year's Bible study will help children understand God's plan of salvation as they study Bible writers. Another study period will involve Bible skills. Children who choose to do arts and crafts will make a Bible writer puppet, a Bible bookmark, a Bible verse box and a Bible Library Plaque.

Music classes will feature songs to help the children learn the books of the Bible, exploring music in the Bible and fun songs.

The camp fee this year will include all costs, so every child can participate in arts and crafts, choosing either the morning or the afternoon class. If they choose to do arts and crafts in the afternoon, they will take the music class in the morning. Only one arts and crafts class may be taken.

The evening worship service will focus on the times that Jesus used the Scriptures as He taught.

Make plans now to offer this unique summertime experience to the children in your church.—Jackie Edwards, associate

Evangelism

Your Evangelism Conference will meet Jan. 28-29

Arkansas Baptist State Evangelism Conference is fast approaching. Pastors, staff and lay people will be meeting together Jan. 28-29 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. We have planned this conference with the concept in mind that your evangelism staff exists to help you do the work of evangelism in the local area. The only way we can ever succeed is when you succeed.

The theme of the conference will be based upon what Baptists have always believed. The session themes will be "The Trinity," "God's Crowning Creation, Man," "Christian Responsibility," "Sirs We Would See Jesus," and "The Future." Every speaker has been instructed to preach messages that will build upon these themes.

God has inspired us to ask choice instate people to give testimonies and preach. One of the highlights of our conference is always the testi monies. Ronnie Mayes, pastor of First Church, Beebe, will give a testimony on "Personal Witnessing." Ronnie has had a great number of people led to Christ during his ministry at Beebe through personal evangelism. Fred Willis is a layman in First Church, Forrest City, who was saved in later life. He is a consistent witness and will be sharing his testimony on "Witnessing as a Layman." Diane O'Connell is BSU director for University of Arkansas Medical Science Campus in Little Rock. She will be sharing her testimony. "My Personal Journey." Sam Moore is pastor of Twelve Corners Church in Benton County. This church has grown from a Sunday School enrollment of 47 to over 200 during his ministry. Much of this has resulted from his own personal witnessing. He will share a testimony "Learning and Doing Personal Witnessing."

Mike Huckabee is pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. He is presently serving as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Mike will speak in the Monday afternoon session on "Jesus Christ the Son." Delton Beall is pastor of First Church, Forrest City. He is presently serving as president of the Arkansas Pastors' Conference. Delton will speak in the Monday evening session on "The Creation of Man." Dale Thompson is pastor of Immanuel Church in Rogers. His church has been very consistent across the years in evangelism. Dale will speak in the Tuesday morning session on "Purity in Life." Don Moore serves as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He has been a strong leader in missions and evangelism. He will be speaking in the Tuesday morning session on "Witness/Giving Life." This is one of our priority emphasis in the fall of 1991. Wallace Edgar is pastor of Trinity Church, Texarkana. His church has been one of the leading evangelism churches in Arkansas. Wallace will speak in the Monday evening session on "The Lostness of Man." Rex Horne is pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. He has made a strong commitment to leadership in evangelism. Rex will be speaking in the closing Tuesday evening session on "Hell, Home of the Unsaved." Each of these men are great preachers and strong leaders in evangelism.

There will be a recognition and introduction of all vocational evangelists and foreign missionaries on Monday evening. A new feature in the conference will be a recognition of outstanding evangelistic bi-vocational and smaller church pastors on Tuesday evening. Each association has been asked to select one of these outstanding pastors.

I hope to visit with you personally at the conference. —Clarence Shell, director

Migrant Missions Conference

February 1-2 First Baptist Church, Lake City

Friday, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (begins with Fellowship Supper)
Saturday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

For directors of missions, pastors, associational and church missions directors and ministry leaders.

For more information contact: Tommy Goode
Missions Department, ABCS
376-4791 Ext. 5249



February 14
10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Levy Baptist Church
North Little Rock

Sponsored by:
Missions Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Conferences in:

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- Migrant Ministries
- Literacy Missions
- Senior Adults
- Multihousing Ministry
- Ministry Based Evangelism

Conference Leaders:

- Nathan Porter, HMB
- Terry Bailey,
- Tommy Goode,
- Diana Lewis,
- Elias Pantoja, ABCS

For more information call:

376-4791 ext.5249

Lunch: \$5.00 per person

(Non-refundable, paid reservation necessary)

Registration for February 14
CCM Workshop

CCM Workshop Registration

Name _____
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City _____ Zip _____
Number of pre-paid lunch reservations: _____
Make check payable to: _____
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
Send to: Tommy Goode,
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Registration Deadline is
Friday, February 8

Looking Ahead

February

- 2 "Carry the Torch" 1991 Rally Evangelism Training Day, *Beech Street First Church, Texarkana (Ev)*
- 4-5 Interfaith Witness Awareness, *Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock (Ms)*
- 8-9 ASSIST Training, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (SS)*
- 8-9 State Church Renewal Workshop, *Levy Church, North Little Rock (Bhd)*
- 12 Starting Multiple Sunday Schools, *Otter Creek Holiday Inn (SS)*
- 14 Church and Community Ministries Workshop, *Levy Church, North Little Rock (Ms)*
- 15-16 State Single Adult Conference, *Park Hill Church, North Little Rock (DT)*
- 16 "Carry the Torch" 1991 Rally Evangelism Training Day, *Springdale First Church*
- 22-23 Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat, *Camp Paron (M)*
- 27/3-1 Directors of Missions Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (Ad)*

March

- 1-2 Handbell Festival, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (M)*
- 1-2 State Church Recreation Conference, *Camp Paron (DT)*
- 3-10 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, *(WMU)*
- 5 State Vacation Bible School Clinic, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (SS)*
- 7-8 Total Church Life Seminar, *Camp Paron (Ev)*
- 11-12 Pastors' Retreat, *Camp Paron (Ad)*
- 11-14 Praising II, *Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. (M)*

- 11-15 District Bible Drills/Speakers' Tournaments *(DT)*
- 15-16 HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, *Park Hill Church, North Little Rock (Bhd)*
- 15-16 WMU Annual Meeting, *First Church, West Memphis (WMU)*
- 16 Associational Baptist Youth Night *(DT)*
- 16 "Carry the Torch" Rally Evangelism Training Day, *First Church, Forrest City (Ev)*
- 18-22 State Building Tour, *(SS)*
- 25-26 Pastor/Staff Sunday School Conference, *First Church, North Little Rock (SS)*
- 29-30 State Youth Convention, *Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (DT)*

April

- 4 Golden Age Area Conference, *Fairfield Bay First Church (M/Ev)*
- 5 Golden Age Area Conference, *North Little Rock Central Church (M/Ev)*
- 6 "Carry the Torch" Rally Evangelism Training Day, *Bryant First Southern Church (Ev)*
- 7-9 Church Music Excellence Conference, *Springdale First Church (M)*
- 12-13 Ministry to Children in Crisis Conference, *Little Rock (DT)*
- 12-13 Ateens Encounter, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)*
- 15-16 New Pastor/Staff Orientation, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ad)*
- 15 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (DT)*
- 16 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (DT)*
- 17 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (DT)*
- 18-19 Minister of Education Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*

- 18-19 State Youth Minister Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*
- 20 State Young Musicians Festival, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (M)*
- 22-23 Key Leader Meeting, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)*
- 26-27 RA Congress, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Bhd)*
- 28-5/5 Simultaneous World Missions Conference *(Bhd)*

Abbreviations:

Ad - Administration; Bhd - Brotherhood; CL - Church Leadership; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; SS - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union



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CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION

Cruzan ruling 'disturbing'

by Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The death by starvation and dehydration of Nancy Cruzan forebodes even greater threats to the sacredness of human life, two staff members of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have said.

Cruzan, 33, died Dec. 26, 12 days after a court in Missouri ruled that feeding through a tube into her stomach could be stopped. Her death at Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mount Vernon came amidst a national debate over the morality and legality of allowing a patient to die by refusing to continue giving her food and water.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said he was "very disturbed" by the ruling that allowed Cruzan to die.

"The commission is opposed to the definition of hydration and feeding as extraordinary medical means to maintain and

prolong life," Land said. "I think that the Cruzan case sets a very dangerous precedent. Americans who are clearly disturbed by this have every reason to be. It's a further sign of the erosion of the protections around the sanctity of human life in our culture."

Cruzan was admitted to the rehabilitation center in October 1983 after being severely brain damaged in an automobile accident in January of the same year. The feeding tube already had been inserted. She was not on a respirator at any time while she was at the center, said Barbara Shoun, public relations director at the rehabilitation center. Her condition was classified as a "persistent vegetative state."

In 1987 after the rehabilitation center staff denied their request, Joe and Joyce Cruzan, Nancy's parents, asked a county probate judge to authorize an end to the feeding through the tube. The case finally reached the United States Supreme Court, which ruled in June 1990 by a 5-4 vote that

the state could continue providing food and water since the parents did not provide "clear and convincing" proof that Cruzan would want to be allowed to die.

The Cruzans asked for a new hearing in August before the same judge after three persons came forward to say that Nancy Cruzan had indicated to them before the accident that she would rather die than live in such a condition. The judge authorized stoppage of giving food and water through the feeding tube Dec. 14.

"The law often has to 'draw lines' about what is right and wrong, legal and illegal. The line has been drawn to permit a family to cut off food and water to a brain-damaged patient," said Michael K. Whitehead, general counsel for the CLC, while expressing sympathy for the Cruzans.

"But if the law permits starvation, will it permit suffocation? Can a family choose to cut off air supply by covering the nose and mouth of a patient? When will the law move the line even further to permit lethal injection as a faster, more compassionate way to terminate undesirable life?"

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Investigations restricted

by Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (BP)—A federal district judge has ruled that government investigators do not have "unfettered discretion" to infiltrate church services.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge Roger Strand in a lawsuit filed by four Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations and their parent denominations imposed new restrictions on the government's ability to infiltrate religious services.

The churches filed suit in 1986 challenging the covert investigation of churches suspected of involvement in the sanctuary movement by undercover informants hired by the Federal Immigration and Naturalization Service. Court records show that undercover informants attended church services and on at least one occasion, secretly tape-recorded a worship service.

The undercover investigation was made public during the trial of several sanctuary movement members who had been charged with conspiracy and smuggling Central Americans into the United States.

While Judge Strand's ruling did not prohibit investigation of church activities, it held that the government's investigation must be conducted in good faith.

"The government in constitutionally precluded from unbridled and inappropriate covert activity which has as its purpose or objective the abridgment of the First Amendment freedoms of those involved," the ruling stated.

Additionally, the ruling said investigators "must adhere scrupulously to the scope and extent of the invitation to participate that may have been extended or offered to them."

Peter Baird, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, said the ruling means that when the invitation extended is for worship, anything outside that invitation, such as tape-recording the service, is not permissible.

A broad coalition of religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee, joined the case in support of the churches out of concern for First Amendment and other rights.

"This case is of critical importance to all churches regardless of their views on the sanctuary movement," said Oliver Thomas, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington-based religious liberty agency representing 10 national Baptist groups.

"Churches have First Amendment rights that must be taken into account—even by the Justice Department," Thomas said.

Across the Country

CP receipts second highest for December

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget receipts in December 1990 totaled \$11,192,207, an increase of 6.73 percent over December of 1989.

The December 1990 total was the second highest December Cooperative Program giving amount on record. Receipts for the same month in 1988 totaled a record \$12,151,002. Receipts for the first three months of the 1990-91 budget year were 3.54 percent above the same period for 1989-90. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of inflation for the period was 6.3 percent.

Home missions count reaches all-time high

ATLANTA—The number of home missions personnel serving through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board reached an all-time high of 4,573 at the end of 1990. That compares to 3,808 home missionaries serving at the end of the previous year.

The increase is due to the addition of Mission Service Corps volunteers to the count. Last December, HMB trustees voted to include in the missionary count all Mission Service Corps volunteers who have made a commitment to serve at least two years. Mission Service Corps is one of several programs for home missions volunteers. Mission Service Corps personnel raise their own support.

The final 1990 count included 833 Mission Service Corps volunteers and 3,740 personnel as counted under the old system. The HMB now counts four categories: appointed, approved, Mission Service Corps and state administrative personnel.

Nashville hospital moves to elect trustees

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Baptist Health Care System board of trustees on Dec. 19 approved amendments in the charter of Nashville's Baptist Hospital which authorizes the hospital to elect its own trustees.

Currently the Tennessee Baptist Convention's committee on nominations annually presents a slate for convention messengers' approval.

The board action permits an increase in number for the hospital board and allows the board to elect its successors when vacancies occur.

Board Chairman Guy Bates, a layman from Joelton, said the corporate reorganization approved at the regular meeting was part of the board's plan "to prepare the hospital for the challenges of the 1990s." The vote was unanimous, with one abstention.

GEYER SPRINGS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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5615 Geyer Springs Rd. - Little Rock, AR 72209
Paul R. Sanders, Pastor



Dr. McGriff

Convention Uniform

Faithfulness

by Jim Lagrone, Bryant First Southern Church

Basic passage: Luke 19:11-27

Focal passage: Luke 19:20-27

Central truth: Jesus taught faithfulness and accountability are required with our relationship to God.

As trustees for God we should act with responsible freedom and accountability. We should respond to God in the love that he has for us. That love should result with the use of our time and talents as he so requires. All Christians as stewards have to be faithful to him. Jesus illustrated through this parable that faithfulness and accountability should be reflected in our life.

The story is simple. A man of noble birth appointed 10 of his servants to put his money to work until he came back. Upon his return the first one said, your money has earned 10 more. The second one came and said, your money has earned five more. To those two he awarded them by giving them additional responsibility.

The same principle applies in the Christian realm. Many times, people ask for God to give them greater direction and blessing, but they are not faithful in the small things. If you desire to be used in a greater capacity, you must be found faithful where you are today for God to extend that blessing tomorrow.

The center of this parable, however, lies with the third servant, who out of fear decided that he would put his money away on a piece of cloth and try to return all of it to him. His fear was motivated by the fact that he did not want to take the risk, and he eventually repented what he had sown.

The servant's words became the basis of his judgment. If the servant had really believed what he said about the master, then he would have invested. He would have at least put the money in the bank where it would have earned interest. By his own words, the nobleman proclaimed judgment. The money was taken from him and given to one who could put it to better use.

This very clearly illustrates that one who takes advantage of his opportunities will be given more opportunities. One that makes no use of the opportunities in the faith that he has, will not gain any. The smallest gift must be put to good use in the Christian life. We do not stand still. We must use our gifts and move forward.

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Life and Work

Life more abundant

by Curtis Honts, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 10:9-18, 27-30

Focal passage: John 10:9-11, 14, 27-30

Central truth: Jesus' abundant life is the life of salvation.

People long ago discovered the difference between simply having life and living a full and meaningful life. To those who recognize that distinction and desire more than a routine life, Jesus offers life "more abundantly."

As we examine the passage and consider Jesus' teachings we quickly see that the life of abundance and the life of salvation are one in the same. As Jesus leads into his promise of abundant life he does so by saying in verse 9 that the one who enters by him "shall be saved." Then in verse 28 he promises to those sheep who hear his voice to "give unto them eternal life."

Within this context of salvation Jesus develops his theme of abundant life. First, we see the protection he offers to those within his sheepfold. In verses 11, 15, 17 and 18 he repeatedly speaks of laying down his life for us, his sheep. In the midst of an increasingly hostile world, we can draw comfort from the fact that, not once or twice, but five times, he tries to convince his flock of his protection.

The next aspect of Jesus' abundant life we find first in verse 14. As the good shepherd, Jesus know his sheep and we, in turn, know him. The "yuppie" generation, after years of sacrificing all else for "success," has now begun to realize how barren life is without meaningful relationships with others. What more abundant and fulfilling relationship could we ever conceive than with the very Son of God?

Another aspect that Jesus includes in this passage on abundant life is what we Baptists like to call "the eternal security of the believer." We find this in verse 29 as Jesus assures us that no one is able to steal us away from the Father's hand. How wonderful would our salvation be, how comforting our protection, how meaningful our relationship with him, how abundant our life if we lacked this one assurance?

When we seek the abundant life offered by Jesus, let us look in those areas of which he spoke—his salvation, protection, relation and security. All else will leave us still searching.

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Bible Book

The Christian and wealth

by Harry Black, First Church, England

Basic passage: Luke 16:10-15, 19-26

Focal passage: Luke 16:10-15

Central truth: Our stewardship of material resources determines the extent to which God will entrust us with spiritual riches.

As a child, I received an allowance. Although I did not understand it then, now I realize that the allowance was not so much to provide spending money as it was to teach me responsibility. It is interesting how current spending and saving patterns were established in my treatment of that boyhood allowance. In Luke 16, Jesus explains how our future opportunities with "true riches" are also dependent upon our treatment of "worldly wealth."

In verses 10-12, Jesus contrasts our responsibility toward material and spiritual wealth. We are responsible for its use (v. 10). To be faithful in little things is to use material resources rightly. This shows the proper management of "much," indicating spiritual wealth. In contrast, the unjust (wrong) use of material resources demonstrates an inability to rightly manage spiritual wealth.

We are also responsible for the availability of spiritual wealth (v. 11). If one does not rightly manage material assets, no matter how small, that one will not be given the opportunity to manage true, spiritual riches. And, finally, we are responsible for the stewardship of riches (v. 12). The word stewardship relates to the management of another person's resources. We are stewards of God's material wealth. The bank account may have our name on it, but it is God's.

In verse 13, Jesus proclaims an unalterable principle: one cannot serve God and mammon. Mammon is concerned with those things which are physical and temporal. God is concerned with that which is spiritual and eternal.

Then, in verse 15, Jesus reminds us that God knows men's hearts. The Pharisees had declared themselves to be just and upright, and had succeeded in convincing their fellowmen. But, God is not swayed by the apparent generosity of an offering. He knows what is in our hearts.

The battle for our affections is strong in this materialistic society. We need to rightly use God's physical riches, thereby acquiring greater use of his spiritual riches.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

The imperative of love

by Jim Lagrone, Bryant First Southern Church

Basic passage: Luke 10:25-37

Focal passage: Luke 10:27

Central truth: Jesus commands us to love without reservation.

The classic story of the Good Samaritan is one that practically all people can relate to. However, it also is one that is rarely applied in the Christian life.

An expert in law stood up to test Jesus and asked just what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responded to him with a question and asked his opinion. But this expert wanted to justify himself and figure out the legal way that he might be able to earn his salvation.

It is quite obvious that no one earns their salvation. No one can justify himself before God. Salvation in Christ comes through grace. But that salvation should result in Christian works and Christian fruit rather than self serving justifiable rules.

The tension that existed between the two races, Jews and Samaritans, perhaps is unparalleled in today's world. Race relations was one of the foundation points of this story. Jesus was showing that expert of the law just who his neighbor was. The interpretation is quite simple. Everyone is your neighbor, regardless of the color of skin, how large the pocketbook, and how great the abilities are that a person might have.

So the question comes, just who are you concerned about? Every church in Arkansas is surrounded by people with great needs, both spiritual and physical, and we should be responding to those needs and taking care of our neighbors.

Jesus makes us aware that time should be taken to take care of those around us. The church should be meeting the needs of the people that are entrusted to it. The moral imperative found in answer to the question, "who is my neighbor?", is quite clear and quite simple. "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (Ja. 2:26).

The faith demonstrated through this act of unselfish love, clearly reveals the qualities that should be present in the Christian life. Salvation should sharpen the desire to serve in a greater capacity. That type service is not self-seeking. It is the kind of service that reveals true faith in Christ. True greatness in God's kingdom comes from humbly serving other people.

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Life and Work

Eternal life in present

by Curtis Honts, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 11:21-27, 40-44

Focal passage: John 11:21-27, 40-44

Central truth: Hope for the future need not be delayed until eternity.

Next to his own death and resurrection, the events of this chapter may be the most dramatic of Jesus' life on earth. More than healing the sick or reviving the recently deceased, we now see Jesus restore life to Lazarus four days after death. As we review the passage we can learn at least two things from Martha and at least two things from Jesus.

First, let us look at the examples Martha sets for us. In verses 21-22 we find her turning to Jesus as quickly as she can after this major tragedy in her life and expressing her continued confidence in him. As Christians on this side of the cross we do not need to wait for him to arrive. When tragedy, small or great, comes our way, may we first step toward him in confidence.

Not only did Martha's confidence in Jesus remain firm, so did her eternal hope. In verse 24 she displays an unwavering assurance that Lazarus (and herself as well) "shall rise again . . . at the last day." In the midst of one of life's greatest trials she could draw strength from her hope in the future.

In response to Martha, Jesus seems to affirm her faith. True, she did not fully understand him, but for her sake and ours Jesus equates himself with resurrection, life and eternity. Hope for eternity was not longer a vague persuasion but a very certain person. Our hope for the future need not be built upon another's beliefs. Instead, let us build that hope upon Jesus and his promise that "he who believes in me shall live even if he dies."

After his encounter with Mary, we find Jesus with the two sisters at the burial site of Lazarus. When Martha shows that she has grasped only part of Jesus' earlier lesson, he reminds her of their conversation then proceeds to reveal that he is God not of resurrection eternity only but of present circumstance as well.

In forceful and dramatic fashion he calls Lazarus forth from the dead. As Lazarus, still bound in grave clothes, struggles forward, we once again see clearly that ours is both a present and future hope, and in Jesus, resurrection eternity begins now.

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Bible Book

Service and persistence

by Harry Black, First Church, England

Basic passage: Luke 17:7-10

Focal passage: Luke 17:7-10

Central truth: True discipleship involves basic servanthood and exceptional persistence.

Have you ever played "stroke the folk?" We play it in churches, business clubs, and civic organizations all the time. We play by recognizing and honoring people for doing what they ought to do anyway. "Stroke the folk" is not necessarily bad; but overuse tends to promote the attitude that we deserve special recognition for ordinary service. In Luke 17-18, Jesus talked about common service that deserved no special recognition and uncommon persistence that receives special recognition.

Common service is described in Luke 17:7-10. Should the slave eat before his master? Should he receive special recognition for doing his job? In our society, the answers may not be so clear, but in Jesus' culture there was only one answer; "of course not!" The master delegated tasks to the servants with complete authority and finally. The faithful servant did not question his tasks, he simply obeyed.

How strange this sounds to our modern, liberated ears. To obey without question? To disregard personal rights? Our definition of discipleship would not go so far. That is why many church members consider evangelism, righteousness, and piety to be options rather than obligations. Jesus defined it as unqualified obedience, and understood it to be the common conduct of a faithful servant.

In Luke 18:10-14, we find an illustration of such an understanding. When the Pharisee prayed, he boasted that he was not a robber, evildoer, or adulterer. He fasted twice a week, and tithed of all he had. I envision God as saying, "So what?" With the exception of fasting, all of these were common religious expectations. The boastful believer needs to come humbly with those of Luke 17:10 confessing, "we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

Then Luke 18:1-7a speaks concerning persistence in prayer. Even the most common servant can be uncommon in prayer by being persistent. While we cannot harass God into granting our requests, we can prove our earnestness by persistence. And that always gains God's attention.

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FOREIGN MISSIONS

Attrition rate rises

by Donald D. Martin
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Overseas missions gained only one missionary for every 49 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed from 1987 to 1989, according to the latest attrition report.

The figures contrasted sharply with the years 1980 through 1986, when every 49 additions resulted in a net gain of 12 overseas personnel. Thirty-seven of the 49 replaced those who had retired, resigned, completed service or died. From 1987-89, it took 48 of the 49 to replace losses.

A combination of fewer missionary appointments and slightly higher rates of resignations and retirements caused the change, reported Jim Slack, a consultant in the board's research and planning office.

Slack told trustees on the Foreign Mission Board's strategy committee in December that if such negative trends in personnel enlistment and retention are left unchecked, Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goal of having a foreign mission force of 5,000 by the end of A.D. 2000

will be in jeopardy.

But FMB leaders hope an appointment upturn recorded in 1990 will continue and that it will help reverse the recent trend.

To reach the Bold Mission Thrust goal, appointments for the next 10 years must increase annually by 2.58 percent. Appointment increases have averaged 2.52 percent in the last decade. The board needs to close the gap by only 0.06 percent.

However, the next few years are critical, Slack noted. If appointments do not continue to increase in these years, the board will have to appoint more than 600 people a year toward the end of the '90s to reach its goal.

Slack explained how quickly the attrition picture can change. The drop in net gain on the field occurred because the declining appointments, a slight rise in retirements and a slight increase in resignations all hit at the same time, Slack said.

So where do mission administrators look for fixes?

Mission workers leave the field in one of four ways: retirements, resignations,

deaths, and completion of service. No category exists for terminations because when missionaries are fired, which is rare, they are allowed to resign. These numbers dissolve into the resignation category.

Retirements are part of the process; mission administrators can do little except plan for these losses. Resignations are where administrators can have the greatest effect.

Missionaries also are resigning earlier in their careers. In 1989 there were 174 resignations. More than 50 percent of those resigned before completing two four-year terms. The majority said they were resigning because God was leading them into a different ministry or a "change of call."

Betty Law, vice president for work in the Americas, heads a new committee to review how the board gathers information on why missionaries resign.

"Many times missionaries don't express their needs early enough," Law said. "Often by the time they state their frustrations or problems, they've made up their minds to resign. It's an irrevocable decision.

Mission leaders say if they can help new missionaries make it through two terms overseas, they almost assure their chances of never resigning.

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WORLD

MIDDLE EAST

Some staying, some leaving

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP)—Most Southern Baptist workers in the Middle East were still at their posts Jan. 9, but they were keeping suitcases packed and some were preparing to leave as the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait neared.

The world has watched as more than half a million troops have assembled in Saudi Arabia, poised to launch an offensive against Iraq if its troops do not withdraw from Kuwait.

Many Southern Baptist representatives in the region would find it difficult to leave even if they wanted to, since planes out of some strategic areas are booked solid for weeks. Only two airlines serve Jordan now, and they are booked up until after Jan. 15, a representative there said.

Jordan is perilously wedged between Iraq and Israel. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has vowed to attack Israel if Iraq is attacked by the United States and other forces in Saudi Arabia.

Some workers assigned to Jordan are in the United States for medical leave or furlough. But eight career workers and five children intend to stay on for now, although one couple scheduled a London vacation to begin Jan. 14.

The workers have secured entry visas for Syria as a last-ditch evacuation outlet, Milligan said, and have stockpiled food and water. Families have been advised to stay indoors for at least four or five days if war breaks out to allow security forces time to regain control, she said.

Baptist personnel in the West Bank and Gaza have faced a much tenser situation as Palestinians supporting Iraq have stepped up their fight—called the Intifada—against Israeli occupation. Violent clashes and random attacks have increased in recent weeks, leading Southern Baptist workers assigned there to stay mostly indoors.

The 21 Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza are assigned to work with a nursing school that now has 14 nursing students. After graduating a class of 26 students in September, a shortage of teachers kept the school from having any more students, said Southern Baptist teacher Karl Weathers.

Scrawled on the side of the hospital, part of the compound where the workers live, are the Arabic words "Death to America." Weathers and his wife, Thelma, both of Earle, Ark., can see the sign from their front porch.

"That means your government, not you personally," one student told Mrs.

Weathers. But she and others worry about whether many of the young Palestinians could confuse "America" with Americans.

In Israel, as in other countries, the choice to go or stay is up to those involved.

Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and north Africa from a base in Cyprus, learned Jan. 9 that several Baptist workers and families will leave Israel by boat Jan. 13 from Haifa and arrive in Cyprus the next day.

In Yemen, work continues at the hospital at Ibb. It is staffed by 27 Southern Baptist representatives who intend to remain, although about 90 percent of Westerners have left Yemen, said pharmacist Hugh Provest of West Memphis, Ark.

"We all have exit visas and always have stuff ready for a quick exit, but you can't just go off and leave a hospital. You can't leave sick people."

Parks' mother dies at 93

BRYAN, Texas (BP)—Allie Parks, mother of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, died of pneumonia Dec. 28 at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan, Texas.

Mrs. Parks, 93, was a member of First Baptist Church in Bryan. She joined the church in 1987 after moving from Danville, Ark., to live with her oldest daughter, Jean Glazener.

In Arkansas, she was a member of the First Baptist Church in Danville. A native of Briggsville, Ark., Mrs. Parks, the former Allie Cowger, is survived by her four children, Jean Glazener of Bryan; Keith Parks of Richmond, Va.; Neil Mason of San Antonio, Texas; and Jim Parks of Temple, Texas. Other survivors include 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Italian church needs pastor

The Calvary Baptist Church, a congregation of 100 people located in Lago Patria, Italy, which is near Naples, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the American military. The church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If interested, please contact Gary Elliott, Airtouch Box 143, FPO NY 09524.