

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

2-28-1991

February 28, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "February 28, 1991" (1991). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 118.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/118

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

Arkansas Baptist



'Annie'

Page 18

Vol. 90, No. 5

February 28, 1991

COVER STORY

Am I really saved?

Page 6

Local churches respond to Gulf crisis

Page 15

Executive Committee elects three vice-presidents

Page 19

Ruling affects free religious exercise

Page 23



Arkansas Baptist

At a glance

11 WBC 50th anniversary homecoming
Williams Baptist College at Walnut Ridge celebrated its 50-year Golden Anniversary Homecoming Feb. 15-16 with a weekend full of commemorative activities and alumni reunions. The alumni luncheon honored H.E. Williams, the school's founder with a multi-media presentation of the school's history.

15 A place to pray
Two of the many local churches conducting ministries related to the Gulf crisis have erected special sites for prayer. Sugarloaf Church in Heber Springs has erected three crosses and a place of prayer in front of the church on Highway 110 East. Mount Carmel Church in Cabot also has built a meditation center and prayer garden, featuring a cross, flags, and a prayer board. The church also was instrumental in starting a support group, aptly named Desert Calm.

18 Where Annie walked
One of the many ministries supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions is a ministry to seamen in the Baltimore port area, where Armstrong worked. Home missionaries Don and Kay Gerlach operate a mobile Baptist center, which houses everything from Bibles to used clothing.

19 Three vice-presidents elected
Meeting in Nashville, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention unanimously affirmed the election of three vice-presidents: Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., vice-president for business and finance; Mark T. Coppenger, vice-president for public relations, and Herbert V. Hollinger, vice-president for Baptist Press.

23 Free exercise affected
Fears that a 1990 U.S. Supreme Court ruling would drastically alter the nation's free exercise of religion landscape are proving to be well-founded, according to a church-state attorney. Following the Supreme Court ruling in Oregon v. Smith in April, free exercise claimants have won only three of 15 such cases reviewed.

PLAN TO ATTEND: **WMU Convention**

First Church, West Memphis March 15-16

Cover story

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Am I really saved? 6

From time to time, many Christians experience doubts about their relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In the second of a two-part series, the doubts and reassurances concerning salvation are explored.

Also inside

Speak Up

You'll Be Glad to Know	4
Letters to the Editor	4
A Pastor's Perspective	4
The Golden Years	5
The President's Corner	5

Local & State

Arkansas All Over	8
Looking Ahead	11
Listen and help them cry	14
Race Relations Day worship	17
Arkansans graduate	17

Nation

Search committee elected	20
Co-ed missions program	20
Across the Country	20

Lessons 21-22

World

Preying on churches	24
'Crossover Japan'	24

Next issue: March 14

Talking to God

J. EVERETT SNEED

One of the most important elements of the Christian faith is prayer. God so created man that prayer is inescapable. Both in Christian and heathen religions, prayer is universal. However, the Bible provides guidelines which must be met in order for true prayer to occur. In this brief discussion we will limit our subject to the basis of prayer and some of the kinds of prayer described in the Bible.

The universality of prayer is portrayed throughout the Bible. In Genesis, we see Adam talking with God. As one looks at each time period in the Old Testament, men of God sought God's guidance through prayer. In the New Testament, the seeking of God's leadership, through Christ, was a common practice. The marvelous events at Pentecost were preceded by an intense prayer meeting.

Prayer is based on the very nature of God. When an individual addresses a superior, it must be done on the basis of the character and position of that person. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to begin our prayers with an affirmation of the holiness of God. The second sentence said, "Hallowed be thy name" (Mt. 6:9c). The term "hallowed" means "to set apart or to separate." Hence, God is set apart from all other beings.

The very nature or holiness of God sets him apart from mankind. Since God is separated from man, how can man approach him? Among the beautiful paradoxes in the Scripture are the two sides of God. On one hand, he is set apart by his absolute holiness and infiniteness. On the other hand is God's mercy and love toward sinners. For example, Jesus said, "For God so loved the world (lost mankind), that he gave his only begotten son . . ." (Jn. 3:16a).

Since God is a God of love and mercy who desires to commune with man, man can approach God. Prayer, however, can have no meaning unless it takes into account God's total nature. Since God is holy, we must come to him on the basis of his nature. Since God loves us and is omniscient, we can come to him with the assurance that he knows all about our needs. Since he is merciful, he understands and cares about all of our human needs and he will respond.

Prayer can be effective because God has chosen to hear man when he calls upon him in belief. It is obvious that God hears



and knows all things. But he "hears" the prayers of his children in a special way. The word "hear" has two meanings in the Old Testament. First, there is the idea of "awareness." A person can be very much aware that something is occurring without giving any type of response.

The second word "hear" in the Hebrew means "to respond to." For example, the Psalmist said, "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications" (Ps. 116:1).

God is personal and he relates to mankind in a personal way. A part of this personhood is God's desire for fellowship. The Bible is clear that God is actively seeking fellowship with individuals whose hearts are like his.

There are a number of types of prayers that appear in the Bible. Among these are adoration, intercession, petition, repentance, and deliverance. It is probable, that in the life of a Christian all of these types of prayers will be utilized at one time or another.

A part of every prayer should be adoration. It is necessary for a Christian to recognize and praise God for his greatness and his distinctiveness from all of other beings. Too often Christians fail to worship, praise and adore God for who he is.

Some of the most moving prayers record-

ed in the Scripture are prayers of intercession. Moses interceded with God for the children of Israel (Ex. 32:32). Christ, our example, often interceded for mankind during the days of the flesh. He now appears in the presence of God to make intercession for his children (see He. 9:24).

A third type of prayer is petition. Jesus taught us in the Model Prayer to pray for the basic necessities of life. The Model Prayer said, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Mt. 6:11). Thus, Christians are encouraged not only to pray for one another, but for personal needs.

A fourth type of prayer is that of repentance. Since the Christian's sins already have been canceled on the cross, the prayer of repentance is an agreement with God about the nature of sin. Apart from the prayer of repentance, we break our fellowship with a Holy God. Fortunately, John wrote, "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).

Finally, there are prayers of deliverance. The prayer of deliverance is a request on the part of a Christian that he be protected from temptation. Jesus instructed his disciples to "pray that ye may not enter into temptation" (Lk. 22:40).

Christians are to seek day by day to become more like God. This is the basic purpose of prayer. As one communes with God, one's character changes from that of the world and becomes more and more like God. A secondary aspect of prayer is to gain God's assistance day by day. The prayer of faith will be heard and God will respond to the needs of a Christian as he prays in faith.

Arkansas Baptist

Full-time staff

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
 Millie Gill Executive Assistant to the Editor
 Darrell Bartlett Operations Manager
 Colleen Backus Production Supervisor

Other staff

Diane Fowler Production Artist
 Mark Kelly Contributing Editor
 Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the *Arkansas Baptist*. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The *Arkansas Baptist* (ISSN 1040-6506) is published by the Arkansas Baptist News-Service, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$7.99 per year (individual), \$5.64 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.56 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request. Send correspondence and address changes to Arkansas Baptist, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791. Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

VOLUME 90

NUMBER 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron, president; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Jimmy Anderson, Leachville; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Phelan Boone, El Dorado; Harold Gately, Fayetteville; and Don Heuer, Batesville.

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



In April and May a very large number of our churches will be engaged in simultaneous World Mission conferences. This means our people will have the greatest opportunity they have ever had to get acquainted with missionaries and Southern Baptist mission work. This is a fabulous opportunity.

In fact, no group of churches has had such an opportunity before. The Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, state missions department and associational directors of missions are working together to make this possible for you.

Why are these World Mission Conferences so crucial? Most Arkansas Baptists know more about the Razorback ball teams than the 8,000 missionaries they help to support. They know more about the war, the weather, the stock market, and nearly everything else than they do the major missions thrust of their church and denomination.

What are these conferences? They are church-wide meetings in which missionaries from the state, United States and overseas come to share with the church what God is doing through Southern Baptist missions at home and abroad. More than 500 churches have signed up to have these missionaries come for these special services. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to the associational directors of missions for their strong efforts in behalf of these conferences.

Now, we need to pray earnestly. Pray for all of the missionaries who will be coming from across the country to help, that they will have safety, be matched with the right churches, be filled with the Spirit and be refreshed by the love and appreciation of our pastors and churches. Pray and work for good attendance in every church. Pray for us all to get a burden in our hearts for the unreached masses of the world. These needs are in Arkansas, in other states and all of the world. Pray for God to speak to those whom he would have serve as missionaries. Pray for the churches to gain a vision of their role in missionary education, praying and giving. Pray for leaders to be raised up in the churches who will lead missionary organization efforts. A church awakened to world missions is a church where the spirit of God blows with freedom and joy.

Letters to the Editor

Singing every verse

Perhaps you have wondered why the third verse of hymns is almost always omitted. So have I. Once when visiting a church in Canada, one of the songs had six verses and they sang every one.

We recently had a new music director join our church and he has us sing every verse. I like this better. One Sunday morning our first hymn had five verses. I decided to see how long the music portion of the service would last. I looked at my watch and 21 minutes later we had four songs, one choir special, a prayer, and the announcements completed.

How much time would we have saved by omitting one verse of each song? Some people seem to have to preach a short sermon before a song. They use more time than it would take to sing the extra verse. Try singing the third verse. You might be surprised to hear what it says.—Ben Fried, Mena

Supply preacher

Every church needs someone to preach for them when their pastor is away on vacation or for some other reason. Many

churches choose to have the same preacher every week during the time one pastor leaves and another pastor is called—an interim pastor.

Honorarium/compensation is a factor of consideration both for the church and the supply/interim. Churches may need to consider the amount of the honorarium. Also, expenses for travel, meals and lodging should be considered. Some church have a stipulated amount for the honorarium, plus expenses. A church may think \$100 is a generous honorarium for a supply. However, if the preacher lives 100 miles away, it would cost him \$52 for travel at 26 cents per mile. Meals and a place to rest on the church field is common courtesy!

If the interim is expected to have extra travel to visit hospitals, nursing homes, attend association meetings, etc., travel expenses provided by the church would be appropriate.

These same considerations would apply for a missionary speaker. The mission boards do not compensate missionaries on furlough for travel and speaking engagements.

Paul refused to warm by a fire on which he put no wood (Acts 28:3).—Harrison Johns, Harrisburg

RANDALL O'BRIEN

A Pastor's Perspective

McMessage



Remember when churches held protracted meetings? Revivals lasting two and three weeks? Remember when preachers would preach for hours? (watch it!) And communities loved it?

Remember the white picket fences and paperboys on bicycles? Neighborhood churches? And supper, fresh from the fields? When the still small voice within was called conscience, not Sony Walkman?

Okay, I admit it. Yes, I loved the *Saturday Evening Post*, Norman Rockwell, and the Country Parson. Sawdust trails gave birth to a lot of us back then. Those long hot summer night sermons underneath that open air tabernacle (ruggedly built with 12" diameter poles, tin roof & straight back wooden pews) caused us to get saved enough times, one of 'em had to take.

Well, goodbye Norman. Hello 1990s. The age of Drive-Thru Worship. "Can I get that hymn to go please?" "Welcome to the Church of the Golden Arches! Sermons? McNuggets, or 'Mac, Muff it!'"

And you? What do you think of these new-fangled trends? Seems to me something is lost when white picket fences and friendly collies give way to burglar bars and pit bulls. When country cookin', in the kitchen or the pulpit, loses out to fast food.

Then again, who knows? Maybe I'm just a bit old-fashioned.

But in a rapidly changing world of "Lite Sin," it's just hard to believe that what we really need on Sunday is a good ol' McMessage.

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

Be alert

All Arkansas Baptists should write a note of thanks to their state senators who quashed Senate Bill 125.

This Bill would have weakened our state sodomy laws and revised the criminal definition of sodomy.

We can also thank Larry Page, an attorney with the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, and Rev. Norman Carter of the First United Methodist Church of Conway. They presented testimony and critical evidence, which described various statistics plus the

agenda as described in homosexual publications.

We all need to be alert to this type of maneuver by pro-homosexual groups to perpetrate their deviant life-styles upon society. At the Senate Judiciary Committee, there were two "physicians" who testified in their behalf (one of these is an elected official.)

Please keep your elected officials advised of your disapproval of any weakening in our state sodomy laws. Let's not go to sleep in this critical age in which we live.—Deborah A. Donner, Manila

MIKE HUCKABEE

The President's Corner



Our world is at war again, and with it comes the stinging reminder that people are by nature sinners. If the humanists were right in espousing the "universal goodness of man," there would be no war or cause for war.

Christians who find it difficult to reconcile the seemingly contradictory views of supporting their nation in war while being true to the "Prince of Peace" should remember that Jesus never intimated that his peace would be in or of this world. None of us want a war, but neither do we want the consequences of doing nothing while a demonic despot overruns neighboring nations and vows to annihilate others.

Those who choose to carry signs of protest about the war exclaim, "How many will die if there's a war?" Equally haunting is the question, "How many will die if there is no war?" The reluctance of the world to rise up against the death machine of Hitler's Nazi Germany resulted in millions of innocent men, women and children being gassed.

True, there is something disgustingly un-Christian about those who gleefully speak of war as if discussing the plot of a Clint Eastwood movie. Some who have identified themselves as Christians have been quoted making statements suggesting delight at the thought of the mass destruction of every soul in Iraq. Such brutal talk is as unholy as the monster we're seeking to stop!

Like the surgical removal of a cancerous limb, waging war against a nation that threatens the rest of the world is sometimes a necessity. Glamorizing war as being attractive is not a necessity. Military force is an option that must be regretfully undertaken in such a wicked world due to the natural estrangement humanity has with its Creator.

Let us pray for our men and women in uniform. Let us pray for those whose decisions mean life and death for others. Above all, let us join with the Apostle John and he prayed, "Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

Mike Huckabee is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

ERWIN L. McDONALD

The Golden Years

Helping where it counts

"My sheep bear my voice, and I know them and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (Jn. 10:27-28).

"The older people of the county couldn't have a better advocate than Floyd Bruce."

That's the tribute paid a Little Rock retiree from the Army Corps of Engineers, in the monthly publication of the Pulaski County Council on Aging.

Bruce, a deacon in Little Rock Second Church, where he teaches the Brooks Hays Bible class, likes to help the elderly with their financial problems.

"Their cost-of-living problems usually center around high utility bills, and, sometimes, for long-distance telephone bills run up by members of their families, and from giving children and grandchildren money they cannot afford to give," he said.

The cost of air-conditioning can become exorbitant when people are living in trailers, he said. "In such situations I encourage people to move out of trailers into apartments, which are better insulated," he continued.

Bruce counsels with seniors on tax matters and helps them to fill out their tax returns, limiting his help to the simplest tax forms, he said. "If the tax situation is complex, I refer the taxpayers



Floyd and Dora Bruce

to professionals."

Mrs. Bruce, the former Dora Fee of Cotter, a retired schoolteacher, has been slowed some from her own volunteer work by a fracture to her hip, which she sustained last year in a fall. She and her husband continue to find their greatest satisfaction in helping others to enjoy the golden years to the fullest.

They are looking forward to observing their 62nd wedding anniversary next Aug. 25. Helping them celebrate will be a host of friends and relatives, including three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Erwin L. McDonald is editor emeritus of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and an active member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

THINK ABOUT IT!

When Christianity becomes more concerned with what we do than with who we are, then ethics replaces faith, and Christianity has little to offer that the civic club does not already provide.

SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES

Am I really saved?

by Mark Kelly

Contributing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

At one time or another, many Christians experience doubts about their relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Perhaps one's conversion experience was not as dramatic as another's. Possibly one is perplexed by difficult spiritual questions. Or maybe a person is continually troubled by an habitual sin.

For these reasons and others, pastors occasionally have church members come to them with the question: "Am I really saved?"

When David Talbert, pastor of Northvale Baptist Church in Harrison, hears that question, he takes it straight to the Scripture.

"There are many passages that deal with being saved," he says, "but I always refer them to two basic, yet clear passages.

"I start with Ephesians 2:8-9. This passage tells us we are saved through the gift of God, by faith. We do not earn it or work for it. It is a gift we receive by trust and commitment to Jesus.

"Then we turn to Romans 10:9,13. I point out that salvation is promised to those who believe God has raised Jesus from the dead and who have publicly confessed Jesus as Lord.

Talbert tries to help the doubting individual search his heart and determine whether or not he has ever done those two things. If the person knows he has understood who Jesus is and what he has done for him, and if he knows he has placed his trust in Jesus as Lord, then Talbert says he has to ask, "Why the doubt?"

Once a person clearly understands that salvation is simply a matter of accepting in faith God's gift of eternal life, assurance should come from knowing that he has placed his faith in Christ. If doubts remain, Talbert moves to two other Bible passages that deal with the Christian life.

"John chapter 15 deals with a Christian's ongoing relationship with Christ. It speaks to Christian growth

and remaining in a close walk with the Savior," Talbert explains. "I especially focus on verse 10: 'If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.'"

That theme is echoed in 1 John, Talbert adds. "This passage deals with fellowship with Christ and his church. A key verse is 1 John 1:3: 'And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.'"

These Scriptures teach that, if a per-

son truly has been saved and has a growing relationship with Christ, he also will be obedient to Christ, Talbert asserts.

"At this point, I would specifically ask him about his prayer life and Bible study habits," Talbert explains. "I would ask him about his attendance and participation in church. I would try to help him examine whether he is obedient to God's expectations of his children."

Talbert is quick to note that obedience does not save a person. However, he says obedience is evident

Just 'playing church'

Jim Fincher was fooling everybody but himself and God.

He was a respectable member of the community. A regular churchgoer and daily Bible reader. A Sunday School teacher and deacon. A tither. But something just wasn't right.

"When I was 12 years old, I was baptized into First Baptist Church in Stephens," says Fincher, who is now a banker in Crossett. "When I was a teenager, more than one person told me I would probably become a preacher. Even after college, I continued to do everything that would represent a Christian lifestyle.

"I didn't have any peace, though. There was a void in my life that I didn't understand. I dealt with it by redefining my life many times."

Then one Sunday evening at First Baptist Church in Benton, an invitation struck him hard. The preacher said, "If you aren't excited about meeting God, you need to do something tonight!" Fincher responded immediately and, in a counseling session a few days later, he realized he had

never committed his life to Christ.

"The pastor asked me to tell him about my salvation experience and my life," recalls Fincher. "I explained to him about all the things I had done in church, and a concerned look came over his face. He said, 'Let's go back to the time you asked Jesus into your heart,' and it hit me like a lightning bolt. I realized I had never done that."

Fincher says that, although he was under conviction at age 12, he had not repented and asked Jesus to take charge of his life. He did that in the pastor's office that day and knew right away his life was changed.

"I immediately told my wife and my parents," Fincher remembers. "They were all shocked and confused. They thought I was a good Christian, but I knew I was just 'playing church.' I read my Bible and tried to pray and witness, but with little success. I was only going through the motions. I know now that if this 'religious' person had died prior to June 1980, he would have spent eternity in hell separated from God."

He offers one bit of counsel. "If you are 95 percent sure you are saved, you are probably 100 percent lost. If you aren't excited about meeting God, please be honest with yourself and make sure you are saved."



Fincher

in the life of a saved person who is striving to be faithful to Christ. When an individual neglects his fellowship with Christ and the church, doubts will arise about his salvation itself. Inevitably, he will begin to question, "Am I really saved?"

"Open and honest evaluation of these areas of your Christian life will greatly help in assuring you of your salvation," Talbert says. "In addition, it will help you identify the areas in which you need to grow in your relationship with Christ."

'I didn't give up anything'

Martell Rose was, by his own admission, a hardened man. He spent four rough years in the Army Air Corps before receiving orders for England. His B-17 was shot down over southern France during World War II, and he was briefly captured by the Germans before escaping to Switzerland with the help of the French Underground. Discharged and back at home, he began to drink heavily and pursue the self-indulgent lifestyle he acquired in the military.

"I had never really faced up to the fact that I wasn't a Christian until our plane was going down," he admits. "I realized then in a very serious, strong manner that if I died, I would go to hell. But when everything came out all right, I forgot about it."

The Lord had not forgotten him, however. Rose vividly recalls the day he looked over at his drinking buddy, a bona fide alcoholic, and saw where his own life was heading. "There must be a better way than this," he thought to himself. "Maybe I'll try going to church."

He remembered his childhood at Brinkley. The sharecropper's son had attended a weekly Sunday School class taught by Harrison Hampton, who Rose says "really lived what he believed and taught in Sunday School." From those classes, Rose says he learned enough to know he was a sinner in need of God's forgiveness. He knew enough to turn to the church when he was ready for help.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Martell Rose

It was in 1946 at First Baptist Church in Brinkley that the 33-year-old reprobate met 19-year-old Clara Lee Poole, whose mother agreed to let them date, but only if he attended church with her. The dark-haired young woman, now his wife of 44 years, "preached to me more than the pastor did," Rose laughs.

That autumn, Rose publicly accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior during revival services at First Church. A year later, he was enlisted to teach a boys Sunday School class, a ministry he pursued for 25 years until a heart attack stopped him at age 60. Now 78, he still attends his church regularly and cooks every Tuesday morning for the men's prayer breakfast. He doesn't hesitate to share with others the lesson he learned the hard way.

"God made man and gave him his soul, and it doesn't die," he says simply. "When you are lost, you are separated from the love of God. If you die without Christ, you'll be eternally separated from God's love. That's what hell is all about."

"I didn't give up anything to become a Christian. Some folks think they'd just about die if they accepted Christ, but it's only then that you truly begin to live. I wasn't living before

I came to Christ; I was just existing.

"It's a joy to be a Christian," he adds. "I've led a really happy life. I've had so much joy and peace all these years.

"In the book of Ecclesiastes, it says that the whole duty of man is fearing God and keeping his commandments. To me, the importance of being a Christian is serving God and trying to win others to Christ. It's not so much a matter even of whether you attend church regularly, but whether you are doing what Jesus told us to do: go in to all the world and make disciples."

A SMILE OR TWO

Some of us middle aged persons are so old we were born back during the days of inhibition.

There aren't nearly enough crutches in the world for all the lame excuses.

It usually takes a person longer to say what he thinks than to tell what he knows.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HEAR

Dr. Bill J. Leonard

Professor-Southern Seminary

Subject: History of Fundamentalism

Friday, March 15 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16 noon

Lunch by reservation

Sunday, March 17 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:45 p.m.

Brooks Hays Lectures

Pulaski Heights Baptist Church

2200 Kavanaugh Boulevard

Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: 661-1129



**Arkansas Baptist
Children's Homes and
Family Ministries**

**Immediate Professional
Position Available**

Masters in Social Work required.
Salary and benefits.

**Contact: David Perry
376-4791 ext. 5119**

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Leonard Williams of Sage is serving as pastor of Guion Church.

Lee Barnett is serving Marianna First Church as interim music and youth director.

Mrs. Sammie A. Spann, 88, of Houston, Texas, formerly of North Little Rock, died Jan. 21. She was a former member of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. Survivors are three sons, Carry Edward Spann of Duncanville, Texas, James Frederick Spann of Recife, Brazil, and Franklin Dee Spann of Overland Park, Kans.; two daughters, Margaret Joyce Colclasure of North Little Rock and Martha Mae Ward of Houston, Texas; a sister; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Bob Kerry of Bay is serving as bivocational pastor of Trinity Church in Marked Tree. He is employed by Wal-Mart, Inc.

Charles Locke is serving as pastor of Wheatley Church, going there there from Weiner.

Joe Davis is serving as pastor of Huntington Church. He and his wife, Paula, have three children, Joe Paul, Derek, and Katie.

Jim Roberts, a member and deacon of Second Church in Little Rock, has joined the staff as interim senior adult minister.

Mike South, director of single adult ministry for Second Church in Little Rock, also is serving the congregation as interim Sunday School and outreach director.

Leon Turner has resigned as pastor of Arabella Heights Church in Texarkana to serve as pastor of First Church, Hicks.

J.C. Williams is serving as part-time minister of education for Bradley Church.

Ed Claybrook is serving as interim pastor of Canfield Church, Lewisville.

Mike Hughes has resigned as pastor of Harmony Grove Church, Texarkana.

H.G. Rhea is serving as interim pastor of Harmony Grove Church, Texarkana.

David Napler recently observed five years of service as associate pastor of administration for Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Harvey Allen Elledge of Brinkley died Feb. 10 at age 78. He was a retired Southern Baptist pastor, having served churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma City. Survivors are his wife, Alma Elledge; three daughters, Betty Douglas and Sue Tidwell of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Jayne Morin of Dallas, Texas; two sons, Allen Elledge of Oklahoma City and David Elledge of Houston, Texas; a sister; 17 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Ouachita Baptist University.

Kevin Reese has joined the staff of First Church in West Memphis as minister of music, coming there from Sherwood Church in Memphis.

Ann Payne has joined the staff of First Church in Springdale as director of childhood education. She formerly served the church as secretary and receptionist.

Sidney Holcomb has resigned as pastor of New Morrow Church, Searcy.

Herbert Dry is serving as pastor of New Morrow Church, Searcy.

Glenn N. Hickey died Feb. 10 in Little Rock at age 84. He was a member of Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. His funeral services were held Feb. 12 in First Church of Mount Ida, where he had served as a deacon for 40 years. A retired businessman, he had served as president of Arkansas Hardware Association, as president of Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and as president of Mount Ida Lions Club. Survivors include his wife, Lula Liles Hickey of Little Rock; one son, Glenn E. Hickey of Little Rock, director of missions for Pulaski Association; a daughter, Glenna Lybrand of Mount Ida; a sister; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Leroy French is serving as pastor of First Church in Hackett, where he has been serving as interim pastor.

Howard Huddle began serving Feb. 10 as pastor of Biggers Church, coming there from Myrtle, Mo. He and his wife, Sherry, have two children, Aaron and Audrey.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Havana First Baptist Church dedicated a new sanctuary in afternoon services Jan. 27. The 300-seat worship center was the second phase of a 7,800 square foot project that also included a seven-room educational wing. The total project is valued at \$225,000, but the congregation completed construction in three years with \$80,000 indebtedness. The dedication service program included special music by Sherry Nord of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention accounting department and messages from church member Charlie Bird, Arkansas River Valley Director of Missions Jeff Ceebatam, and ABCS Church Leadership Support Director L.B. Jordan. Bill J. Storts has pastored the congregation since 1977.

Tony Henderson is serving as interim pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church, Batesville.

Jim Darrington has joined the staff of Ruddell Hill Church, Batesville, as youth director. He is employed by the Cord-Charlotte School District.

David Ray has resigned as pastor of Granis Church, Gillham.

Dean Whitener has resigned as pastor of Acorn Church, Mena.

Nick Hartness recently observed five years of service as pastor of First Church in Kingston. The congregation honored him with a dinner and presented him with gifts.

Glen Ennes, associate in the ABSC Church Music Department, is serving as interim music director for Matthews Memorial Church, Pine Bluff.

Keith A. Clutts observed five years of service Feb. 10 as minister of music for Second Church in Hot Springs.

Brian W. Burton of Little Rock began serving Feb. 1 as minister of single and married adults for Wilshire Church in Dallas, Texas. He is the son of Glenn and Kathleen Burton, active members of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. Burton is a 1990 graduate of Southern Seminary.

Roy Gean Law of Ozark died Feb. 13 at age 53. He was pastor of Webb City Church and had pastored other Arkansas churches, as well as the Argyle Church in Argyle, Texas. Law was a member of Ozark Rotary Club, Band Booster president and was instrumental in the organization of the Ozark Academic Booster Club. He also taught seminary extension classes. His survivors are his wife, Eleanor Law; two sons, Bryan Law of Harrison and Barry Law of Oklahoma City; his parents, Eldon and Mildred Law of Fort Smith; a brother; and a grandchild.

Ed Lyon, professor of voice at Ouachita Baptist University, is serving as interim minister of music for First Church in Warren.

A.D. and Olga Beatrice Corder of Bald Knob will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house March 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Trinity Church in Searcy. The couple was married March 29, 1941. Corder, a retired Baptist minister, has pastored churches throughout Arkansas, as well as in Texas and Illinois. He served for 10 years as superintendent of missions for Tri-County Association in Highlandville, Mo. She is a retired school teacher. They are the parents of Ansel Corder Jr. of Bearden, Stephen Corder of Lynn, and

Marilyn Duran of Conway. They have eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Tom Elliott has resigned as pastor of Bowman Church, Lake City.

James Webb is serving as pastor of First Church in Cash. He and his wife, Debora, have three children, Amber, James, and Ashley.

Bob Franklin has resigned as youth director at New Antioch Church, Brookland to move to Dallas.

Ken Roy has resigned as minister of music at First Church in Ozark, effective March 10 to enter the field of music evangelism.

Homer W. Shirley Jr. has announced his retirement as pastor of First Church in Siloam Springs, effective April 30.

OBITUARY

Ione Gray

Ione Gray, who served as assistant editor of the *Arkansas Baptist* from 1943-47, died Feb. 9 in Pine Bluff at age 74. Miss Gray retired Oct. 1, 1980, following 30 years of service with the Foreign Mission Board, having organized and directed the first press office of the FMB. In addition, she served as managing editor of *The Commission*.

In 1969, she became the board's international writer and editor, traveling extensively overseas. At the start of this period she served 18 months as interim director of the European Baptist Press Service, Ruschlikon, Switzerland, where she taught creative writing at the Baptist Theological Seminary.

During her career she won the highest writing awards of the Religious Public Relations Council and the Baptist Public Relations Association and was a charter member of the Baptist group.

Gray was graduated magna cum laude from Ouachita Baptist College (now University) and also was a graduate of Draughon's Business College in Little Rock. She had completed courses in journalism and public relations at several institutions. Since retirement, she had lived at Trinity Village in Pine Bluff and was a survivor of that city's First Church. Survivors are two brothers, Havis Gray of Pine Bluff and Vance Gray of Rioison; and a sister, Mrs. Forrest Tucker of Pine Bluff.



First Church in Crossett dedicated a newly remodeled sanctuary Jan. 13 in an afternoon worship service. The project, launched the week of Sept. 10, 1990, was completed the first week of January and features new stained glass windows, chandeliers, sound system, choir robes, choir chairs, computer controlled lighting system and a computer controlled heating and cooling system. New pews were added and blue carpet was installed in both the downstairs and balcony areas. Total cost of the renovation, funded by donations and a loan of \$120,000, was \$422,335. Bill Phillips served as renovation chairman. David Newberry is pastor.

Briefly

Toltec Church at Scott ordained Odis Chapman, a member, to the gospel ministry Feb. 16. Chapman has entered the field of full-time evangelism. Pastor Charles Martin moderated the ordination service.

Manila First Church is conducting Operation Desert Prayer, a weekly prayer vigil on Wednesday mornings for troops serving in the Middle East. William Piercy is pastor.

Lake Street Church of Paragould surprised Pastor Wayne Faulkner Jan. 27 on his 10th anniversary of service. James E. Swafford was guest speaker. The Finishers from Bay provided special music. In his 10 years of service, Faulkner has led the congregation in an attendance growth from 60 to 260, with 255 baptisms.

Mena First Church has launched Operation Desert Support with 70 families participating. The ministry will include prayer and meeting the needs of area military families.

Boxley Church at Ponca has voted to increase associational missions gifts from 3 to 5 percent and Cooperative Program gifts from 12 to 15 percent.

Pindall Mission near Marshall has voted to give 10 percent to the Cooperative Program, 3 percent to North Arkansas Association, and birthday offerings to Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. Joe Hogan is pastor.

Bryant First Southern Church is launched a debt retirement campaign with a goal of being debt free by July. A partial payment was made Feb. 1, five months early. Jim Lagrone is pastor.

Victory Chapel Mission, a mission of First Church of Shannon Hills, was launched Dec. 29, 1990 at Shackleford Road Mobile Home Park. There were five adults and eight children in attendance Feb. 9. Shannon Hills First Pastor Gene Davis is

being assisted by Willie Bryant and Frank Cochran.

Calvary Church at Timbo has broken ground for an addition to its church plant that will enlarge the fellowship hall and provide space for a nursery and two Sunday School rooms. Jack Oglesby is pastor.

Mountain View First Church recently renovated its auditorium and will install stained glass windows this month. Jackie Fendley is pastor.

Arbanna Church at Mountain View is adding a 30 by 60 foot building to its plant that will join the present structure by a breezeway.

Emmanuel Church at Batesville recently erected a lighted sign in front of the auditorium.

Sulphur Rock Church has purchased choir robes.

Foothills Chapel in Mountain View has completed a graveled drive way and parking area, as well as landscaping with maple and dogwood trees. J. R. Hull is pastor.

Knobel First Church at Peach Orchard has launched a building fund program and voted to begin Wednesday evening services.

St. Francis Church dedicated a fellowship hall Feb. 24 with Arkansas Nailbenders as special guests. O.H. Brooks is pastor.

New Hope Church at Pollard observed 145 years of service Jan. 26. Speakers were Jack Nicholas, chancellor of Williams Baptist College, and Hillard Duckworth of Piggott.

El Dorado Immanuel Church held a revival Feb. 3-6 that resulted in 32 additions by baptism, 6 additions by letter, and 112 renewed commitments. Henry Linginfelter of Alcoa, Tenn., was evangelist and Trent Seizmore from San Jacinto Church in Amarillo, Texas, directed music. Tommy Kimball is pastor.

Lamar Church ordained Tracy Price and Brent Robinson to the deacon ministry Feb. 10. Program participants included Pastor Bill Milam, Don Cowell, Rick and Lisa McCarty, Meeks Johnson, Dan Schmatjen, Robbie Jackson, Gene Leeds, Shelby Robinson, and George Domeresse, director of missions for Clear Creek Association.

Mount Zion Church in Paragould licensed Troy Gramling, youth minister, to the gospel ministry Feb. 2.

England First Church will be in revival March 3-6 with T.R. Coulter, a former pastor, as evangelist. Lester McCullough, ABCS Music Department director, will direct the music program.

Salado Church is experiencing growth through four professions of faith, eight baptisms, and one addition by letter.

In 1996, hundreds of athletes will
Press Toward the Mark in Atlanta-Olympic gold.
Would you be willing to leave your mark on Atlanta
NOW?
Join us, going door-to-door, telling two million lost in Atlanta
about Jesus.

CROSSOVER ATLANTA

Southern Baptist Soul-Winning Encounter
June 1, 1991

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Contact: Howard Ramsey, Home Mission Board
1350 Spring Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30367-5601
404 898-7180

HMB
HOME MISSION
BOARD, SBC

Missions Need

A mobile home is needed to house two missionaries who are working in the Eureka Springs area. A mobile home park will provide free space. It will need to be in good enough condition to be moved and maintained without unusual costs. If you could donate such a home for missionary use, please call Pete Petty, 376-4791 ext. 2249.

WBC photo



WBC Chancellor D. Jack Nicholas (center) visits with alumni of the 1950s.

WILLIAMS BAPTIST COLLEGE HOMECOMING

Golden Anniversary

WALNUT RIDGE—Williams Baptist College celebrated its 50-year Golden Anniversary Homecoming Feb. 15-16 with a weekend full of commemorative activities and alumni reunions.

NewSong, a contemporary gospel group, began the celebration with a dynamic concert on Friday evening at 8 p.m. More than 500 people attended the homecoming concert in the Southerland-Mabee Center.

Saturday morning the festivities continued with 1940s decade reunion at 9 a.m. in the Mabee-Gwinup Cafeteria. Forty alumni from the decade of the 1940s enjoyed a buffet-style breakfast, a short program by Sherman Bridgman of Conway and a time of fellowship with long-lost friends.

The highlight of the day was the Golden Anniversary Homecoming Alumni Luncheon at noon in the WBC Southerland-Mabee Center. Approximately 275 alumni and former students attended the luncheon in honor of Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Williams, the school's founders. The luncheon featured a multi-media presentation of the school's history and Dr. Williams' sacrificial service to the college.

The day continued with decade reunions in the WBC Mabee-Gwinup Cafeteria. The five decades enjoyed looking through old college yearbooks, photographs and other memorabilia, as well as a time of casual fellowship with their college classmates.

Campus tours were conducted in the afternoon by student leaders of the Campus Activities Board. Former students and alumni were able to tour all the college's new facilities and renovated buildings. The residence dorms also were open for viewing.

At 5 p.m., the 1991 Homecoming Court was presented in the WBC Southerland-Mabee Center. Melissa Rook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rook of Salem, was crowned 1991 Homecoming Queen. Miss Rook is a sophomore physical therapy major and a member of the Lady Eagles basketball team.

The weekend concluded with the Eagles men's basketball game against Shawnee College from Ullin, Ill. The Eagles defeated the Saints of Shawnee College 119 to 101.

Looking Ahead

February

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' Tour-naments (DT)

15-16 HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock (Bbd)

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, State-house 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)

Abbreviations:

Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CL - Church Leadership; DT - Discipleship Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; S - Sunday School; SA - Stewardship/Annually; St - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

Aluminum Products for your Church...

- STEEPLES
- CUPOLAS
- BELL TOWERS
- CROSSES
- EXTERIOR BULLETIN BOARDS
- COLUMNS
- CORNICES
- LOUVERS
- BALUSTRADES

 CAMPBELLVILLE INDUSTRIES 800-826-0350
P.O. BOX 278 - J (KY) 502-465-8135
CAMPBELLVILLE, KENTUCKY 42718



Quality
Van Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches. 501-268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143, Larry Carson

ALBERT GEORGE MFG. CO.

721 Poplar St., North Little Rock, Ark.
Phone 501-375-2921

Custom Manufacturers of

- Pew Cushions
- Kneeler Cushions
- Upholstered Seats and Backs
- Pulpit Chair Cushions
- Draperies • Fabrics
- Pulpit Furniture • Pews
- Steeples
- Baptistries



For Prices And Information, Write:
P.O. Box 5700, NLR, AR 72119

We Bend Over Backwards to Please You!

Crockett Business Machines

- Postage Meters
- Mailing Machines
- Folding Machines
- Mailing Scales
- Labeling & Addressing Machines



1900 West Third
Little Rock, AR 72205 • 372-7455

PREMIER BUS & COACH SALES

Transportation Specialists



15 to 29-Passenger Vans & Buses
Hwy. 62W, Green Forest, Ark.
501-438-5865 or 501-438-6447

ASC

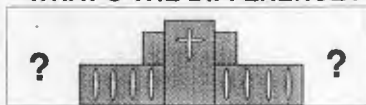
Arkansas Sound Corporation

P.O. Box 5986
North Little Rock, AR 72119

501-753-5674

“CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT” vs CONTRACTOR CONCEPT

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



B E S C O CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT	CONTRACTOR'S STIPULATED SUM BID
---	---------------------------------------

↓		↓
YES!	Does the contractor monitor the architect's work during design to lower cost?	NO
NO	Will it benefit the contractor to use poor quality materials?	YES!
YES!	Are job savings or credits occurring during construction given back to the church?	NO

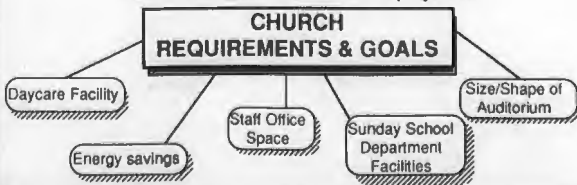
With CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT process

Church Body forms

BUILDING COMMITTEE



Committee determines current & projected



We've Moved!

Please visit our new location:

**22576 I-30
Benton, AR 72015
501-847-1634**

- Church Construction
- Laminated Beam Erection
- Distributor of Church Construction Specialities,
i.e., baptistries, carpeting, church chandeliers, etc.
- Metal Building Systems



Besco Construction Management



Specializing in Church Construction

BESCO

Construction Management Co.

22576 I-30
Benton, AR 72015

501-847-1634

Bruce E. Schlesier



**J&H Custom
Furniture, Inc.**

Pews • Cushions • Chancel Furniture

Call for
more information:
501-439-2224

P.O. Box 196, Pindall, AR 72669

**LARRY BONE
& ASSOCIATES**

Professional Fund-Raising Consultants

1601 N. Shackleford
Suite 178-5
Little Rock, AR 72211
501-227-7720

FLEET PRICES!



Churches can now buy at Fleet Prices
on cars, trucks & vans through our
commercial accounts department!

Call Collect
Bill Massey
501-982-5848

AIR BASE EXIT
JACKSONVILLE, AR

**LONG
FORD**

Listen and help them cry

Children's Hospital chaplain talks about his ministry

by Colleen Backus
Arkansas Baptist

Angus Emerson, staff chaplain at Arkansas Children's Hospital, defines his job as listening and helping hurting people to cry. A demanding task for a self-defined extrovert, who by his own admission loves to talk—but Emerson has learned other difficult lessons on his way to his current position, a job for which he obviously has great affection.

Emerson came to Arkansas in 1968 as minister of education and youth for Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. He has held similar church staff positions at Little Rock Immanuel Church, Cabot First Church and Jacksonville Second Church.

While at Jacksonville, Emerson felt he wanted to work exclusively with senior



Emerson

adults, but after many months of intensive searching, nothing presented itself except closed doors. He spent a year in non-church jobs—working at a funeral home, an antenna factory and as a night watchman.

Then came the opportunity for Emerson to participate in a chaplaincy program at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Sciences. One of only five participants selected from throughout the nation for the year-long program, he completed the four units of clinical pastoral education required and was certified as a chaplain by the College of Chaplains. However, a full-time position still was not forthcoming.

Emerson embarked on a complex schedule of volunteering at Southwest Hospital, Searcy White County Hospital, the VA Hospital and several small paid positions leading Bible studies and chaplaincy "fill-in" at other area medical facilities. During that time, he became a member of the chaplaincy pool at Children's Hospital,

and became staff chaplain in July 1990.

On an average day, Emerson sees all the new admissions and visits with parents waiting during their child's surgery. Under his supervisor, Keith Taylor, Emerson said that he has learned to be sensitive to people that need help. "The hardest thing for me is the ministry of presence... many times they (patients or parents) just want you to sit and listen." And pray. Emerson always offers prayer, especially to those awaiting surgery. There are some questions for which there are no answers, he commented, but a pastor can give a parent or patient a hug, hold their hand, or perhaps most importantly, help them cry.

To pastors or others who conduct hospital visits, Emerson offers this advice, "Prepare yourself; adjust your mood and listen... find out from them the thing they most want from you." Noting that in a hospital setting patients have nearly everything taken away, Emerson said, "Extend extra privileges to the patient—ask them if they want the door open or shut, or if it's a bad time, tell them that you could come back later. Treat them with the same dignity and wholeness as when they were well... but above all, listen, listen, listen."

"... my deepest appreciation for your work at Living Hope. You have had a life-saving and life-changing impact on my dearest friend."

Living Hope Institute offers a Christian Counseling Program of Professionally Balanced Clinical and Spiritual Care for Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Problems.

WANDA STEPHENS, M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR & FOUNDER



Living Hope Institute

AT DOCTORS HOSPITAL

500 SOUTH UNIVERSITY, SUITE 121
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205
(501) 663-HOPE or 1 (800) 829-HOPE

A place to pray

"What we need is a common place of prayer," Pastor Lloyd Blanton told his Baptist Men, "a place where all people can come, anytime, day or night."

In response, the Baptist Men of Sugarloaf Church in Heber Springs erected three crosses in remembrance of Christ's death and as a place of prayer in front of the church on Highway 110 East.

"With the war in the Middle East, we felt it important to get these crosses up as soon as possible," said Bob Woodard, secretary/treasurer of the group. "We have a prayer board in front of the crosses for people to place the names of their loved ones serving in any of the armed services. When people come by to pray for our men and women serving in harm's way, they will have specific names to pray for."

The church already has received names of those serving in the Gulf from Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee, and has placed them on the board. Even local television



Sugarloaf Church dedicates prayer board and crosses.

stations have noticed the ministry.

To submit names for the prayer board, write Sugarloaf Baptist Church, 699 Wilburn Road, Heber Springs, AR 72543.

There is a notice on the prayer board which reads: "To all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are tired and need rest, to all who are friendless and want friendship, to all who are homeless and want sheltering love, to all who pray and to all who do not pray but ought, to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will—we invite you to the cross of Christ."

Wanted—Music/Youth Minister position available. Northvale Baptist Church of Harrison, Ark. is presently seeking a full-time Music and Youth Minister. If interested please send resume to: Personnel committee, Northvale Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1364, Harrison, AR 72601. 228

Available—Hospitalization plan pays out-patient and prescription benefits. Coverage is available for most pre-existing conditions. Coverage also available for Medicare supplement insurance. Phone Mr. Stewart at 501-664-0511 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.—Reserve National Insurance Company (closed Wednesdays). 125

For Sale—Four-section used folding partitions — 12' wide by 8' high \$75.00 each section 501-945-0280. 228

For Sale—Beautiful Hot Springs Village lot for sale by pastor. Good deal! 317-842-8025 evenings. 228

Needed—Part-time Music and Youth Minister. Little Rock Church. Call 490-1589 or 490-0882. 228

For Sale—Sharp Model SF-9500 copier. 5 years old. Excellent condition. Call for additional information or demonstration. Price reduced to \$1,000. Original cost \$8,000. First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, AR 624-3345. 314

For Sale—Fifteen passenger high dome 1986 Ford Bus. Contact Third Baptist Church, 817 West Young St., Malvern, Arkansas 72104. Phone 337-7004. 228

For Sale—Religious buttons, bumper stickers, T-shirts, jackets. Catalog \$1.00 Religiosity, Box 07561AB, Milwaukee, WI 53207. 314

For Sale—28 pews, 20' long, oak, blue, padded in excellent condition. Pulpit furniture to match also available. Will sell partially or all together. Contact: Alton First Southern Baptist Church, 4500 Humbert Road, Alton, IL 62002; 618-462-1278. 228

Needed—Daycare Director. Send resume and letter of application to Charity Baptist Church, Attn: John Nauman, 2901 W. Olive, Rogers, Arkansas 72758. 228

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ARBN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 50 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ARBN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ARBN is implied.

Cabot church forms Desert Calm

Mount Carmel Baptist Church has become the center of a Cabot-based support group for families of men and women serving in the Gulf, aptly named Desert Calm. The church also has erected a Meditation Center and Prayer Garden, a landscaped area that features a 14-foot-tall wooden cross surrounded by the American and Christian flags, and a board that displays names of soldiers overseas on bronze plaques. The center was constructed by the Brotherhood of the church, with some of the supplies donated from the community.

The church dedicated the center on Sunday, Feb. 17, with a patriotic service. The Cabot Air Force Junior ROTC color guard and the Cabot High School Brass Band participated, and the church choir sang a patriotic selection.

Program personalities included Chaplain Mark Linder, from Governor Bill Clinton's office; Everett Hamm III, a member of Senator Dale Bumpers staff; C.M.S. Wayne Fuson, senior enlisted ad-

visor to the commander of the 314th Tactical Air Lift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base and State Representative Bill Foster presented the church with national and state flags that had been flown at the capitol. Mitch Tapson is pastor.

Desert Calm is organizing support groups for soldiers' families, but also hopes to meet other needs. Any soldier's family may call the group with needs, such as babysitting, minor car repairs, or even financial aid. More than 60 members of the community have volunteered their services; even if Desert Calm cannot meet a family's needs, they hope to be able to direct them to an agency that can. Desert Calm can be reached through Mount Carmel Church at 843-6546.

There are already 50 names on the board, located at Highway 89 South and Highway 321, and it is lit so that people can come to view it day or night. Anyone having loved ones in the Gulf can call the church to have names added to the board.

Music festival for youth

Youth love to sing, they love to fellowship, and make new friends. All of these ingredients can be found in the State Youth Music Festival, May 11, at Barling Cross Church in North Little Rock.

The festival format has a new look this year with the reinstatement of a mass choir experience. The performance piece will be learned at the festival. Outstanding entries in each division will perform for everyone in a final worship service and special church recognitions will be presented.

Area or associational festival will qualify the youth for the state event. Youth choirs are not required to participate in associational festivals, but are encouraged to do so.

The event, sponsored by the ABCS Church Music Department, will start later this year in order to allow travel time for those coming from outlying areas. A catered lunch (pizza) will be served at noon.

Awakening committee formed

Known as the "Committee for Awakening through Men and Families," Chairman Jim McDaniel, Brinkley First Church; Rex Holt, Jonesboro Central Church; and H.D. McCarty, Fayetteville University Church, are asking the Father what human steps can be taken to make Baptists totally available to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The committee, under the leadership of ABCS Brotherhood Director Glendon

Grober, met recently in Little Rock to seek the Lord about their part in opening the doors to authentic revival in Arkansas.

The first emphasis is on prayer. Initial thinking is that the people must be stirred to enter into the battle of warfare prayer against the forces of evil.

A special retreat is being planned to develop a core group of pastors. The retreat will be held at Camp Paron on April 11-12. Retreat cost, including three meals and lodging, will be \$25.

Any pastor who is interested in being a part of this effort should write to Glendon Grober at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Computer-assisted ministry

The Ouachita Baptist University Center for Christian Ministries will present its 1991 spring conference, "Computer-Assisted Bible Study and Ministry" on March 5-6 at the Arkadelphia campus.

The conference will provide training for pastors in skills that will maximize the pastor's use of biblical resources, sermon preparation, church administration and time management. There is a registration fee of \$35. For more information, contact the Center for Christian Ministry, OBU Box 3787, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; telephone 501-246-4531, ext. 599.

Leonard to deliver Hays Lecture

Bill J. Leonard will be the speaker for the 1991 Brooks Hays Lecture at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock on March 15-17. Leonard will speak on "The History of Fundamentalism." The first lecture "Defining Fundamentalism: a National (and Global) Phenomenon" will be on Friday night, March 15, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, the noon program will feature a luncheon followed by the lecture "Fundamentalism and the SBC: Past, Present and Future." Sunday will feature a lecture at 9:30 a.m. on "The Southern Baptist Convention: a Fundamentalist Denomination" and the sermon at 10:45 a.m. on "Jesus the Liberator."

Leonard is professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Pastor Mickey Anders invites the public to these lectures. For luncheon reservations or additional information, contact the church office at 661-1129.

WBC hits high

WALNUT RIDGE—The spring on-campus enrollment at Williams Baptist College hit a 21-year high as enrollment figures reached 561, announced Jerol Swaim, executive vice-president and academic dean. The figure is a 16 percent increase over last spring's enrollment.

Nailbenders schedule

The Nailbenders for Jesus have announced their 1991 schedule. Those interested in participating in these construction efforts should contact ABCS Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791. The dates are as follows:

- March 4, Percy Church; Bismarck First Southern Chapel
- April 8, Qultman Church
- May 6, Formosa Church
- June 3, Mount Zion Church; Remount Church
- July 1, Farmington First Church
- Sept. 9, Crossett South Main Church
- Oct. 7, Salem Church

HIGH SCHOOL BAPTIST YOUNG MEN STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

March 15-16, 1991

Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock



Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock

For more information or to enter contact:



Dr. Glendon Grober
ABCS Brotherhood Department
501-376-4791

Race Relations Day worship

Southern Baptist congregations across Arkansas celebrated Race Relations Day on Feb. 10, some in combined services with sister black churches. Dawson Williams, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, provided the following glimpse of such a combined service.

Dumas First Church joined with other churches across the Southern Baptist Convention in observance of Race Relations Day on Sunday, Feb. 10. The Baptist Student Union and Vesper Choir from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff worshiped with the Dumas congregation.

Pastor Hal Graves and other Dumas staff led in the call to worship, invocation, children's sermon, hymns, offertory, and the invitation. An Hispanic auxiliary of the church served as ushers and received the offering. The UAPB Vesper Choir sang "Celebration Alleluiah," "Live-A-Humble," "Let the Nations Sing," "My Lord is So High," and "Ezekiel Saw the Wheel." David Ridgley, UAPB BSU member, preached from Deuteronomy 32:1-4 on the subject "The Rock of Our Salvation." The choir and BSU were treated to a luncheon at the church

following worship.

Worshippers were moved to a standing ovation after the Vesper Choir sang praises to God under the direction of Professor Shelton McGee. Ridgley gave reassurance to the congregation as he pointed out that the "rock" of Israel sustained those who lived by faith both in Egypt and in the Wilderness. Christ Jesus is that same "rock" to us and will provide the stability to face all circumstances both at home and abroad as we walk by faith in Christ.

Members of First Church remarked, "The service was a truly worshipful experience. The talent and preparation of the choir was just tremendous. It was just a perfect worship." Professor McGee said, "It was a wonderful experience for the kids. I really enjoyed the fellowship."

Arkansans graduate

Southwestern Seminary

Twelve Arkansans were among the 284 students who graduated recently from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Forth Worth, Texas.

Receiving the doctor of ministry degree were Shelby Earl Cowling of Mineral Springs and Robert Charles Parsley of Dardanelle.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Joe Christopher Giles of Berryville and Ronnie Lyle Lowery of Crossett.

Receiving the master of arts in religious education were Donald Lee Blackmore of Foreman, David Wayne Brake of Pine Bluff, Deborah Kay Lochridge of Cave City, Timothy Earl Roberts of Maumelle and John Walter Welch III of DeWitt.

Receiving the master of divinity with biblical languages were James Herman Cowley of Texarkana and James Robert Wilson Jr. of Columbus.

Receiving the associate of divinity degree was Lyle Clinton Hern of Camden.

Southern Seminary

Five Arkansans were among the 190 graduates who recently received degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Receiving the doctor of philosophy degree was Jonathan Mark Lawson of El Dorado.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were: Kurt Caddy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Caddy; husband of Laura Caddy. His hometown is Little Rock.

Thomas Clayton Hughes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Hughes of Caldwell; husband of Janet Le Hughes. His home church is Friendship Baptist Church of Conway.

Receiving the master of divinity/Christian education was Brian Burton, son of Glenn and Kathleen Burton. His home church is Immanuel Baptist Church of Little Rock.

Receiving the master of social work degree was Charlie W. Belknap, son of Mrs. Louis Belknap, Blytheville; husband of Patsy Bartholomew. His home church is First Baptist of Monticello.

1991 ARKANSAS BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES

Youth

Week 1 June 24-28	Rick Stanley Youth Communicator Fl. Walton Bch., FL
Week 2 July 1-5	Rick Ousley Pastor Brook Hills B.C. Birmingham, AL
Week 3 July 8-12	Jerry Pipes Evangelist Dallas, TX
Week 4 July 15-19	Stephen Hatfield Pastor Baring Cross B.C. Little Rock, AR
Week 5 July 22-26	Rick Caldwell Youth Communicator Little Rock, AR
Week 6 July 29- August 2	Dan Yeary Pastor University B.C. Coral Gables, FL

Children

Week 1 June 24-28	Jimmie Sheffield Associate Executive Dir. Arkansas Bapt. State Conv.
Week 2 July 1-5	Jack Ramsey Church Extension ABSC Missions Dept.
Week 3 July 8-12	Harry Black Pastor FBC, England, AR
Week 4 July 15-19	Michael Seabaugh Pastor Pike Ave. B.C. North Little Rock, AR
Week 5 July 22-26	Sam Adkins Pastor West Helena B.C. West Helena, AR
Week 6 July 29- August 2	Les Fruzer Pastor Santa Fe B.C. Kansas City, MO

RATES

Dormitories-Registration, room, meals, insurance.

Adults-youth-children \$55
The \$55 rate is an increase over last year's rate, but includes the cost of all study materials (youth study book, youth musical, children's arts and crafts, and children's music).

For reservations write to: Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Post Office Box 552, Little Rock 72203. Send a \$2.00 registration fee for each camper. The registration fee will apply on the total cost of the Assembly.

A SMILE OR TWO

A home town is where they wonder how you ever got as far as you did.

You can't slice anything so thin it has only one side.

Photo / Bob Allen



Don Gerlach (right), a home missionary in Baltimore, uses a blackboard to illustrate to young Turkish sailor that Christ is in Christmas.

HOME MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Where Annie walked

by Kelly Capers
SBC Home Mission Board

BALTIMORE — As Southern Baptist home missionaries in Baltimore, Md., Don and Kay Gerlach are walking in Annie Armstrong's footsteps—literally.

Armstrong, namesake of Southern Baptists' annual home missions offering, was born July 11, 1850, in Baltimore, where the Gerlachs have had an active port ministry since 1975.

"She served right where we serve," Kay Gerlach said, "and is buried right here in this city."

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions was named in 1934. The money given through the offering now provides nearly half of the Home Mission Board's annual budget and is a major source of support for unique ministries like the Gerlachs'.

The Gerlachs, who started their ministry as volunteers, operate a mobile Baptist center, which houses everything from Bibles to used clothing and is equipped with all materials common to traditional Baptist centers.

Because seamen are often virtually confined to their ships, a 1985 Ford van allows the Gerlachs to have a larger ministry than would be possible in a permanent building.

Like the Gerlachs, Armstrong witnessed to immigrants and seamen docking in Baltimore's port. "I don't know how she

got to the water," Gerlach said, "but she visited ships and immigrants who came in to Baltimore."

Armstrong helped immigrants get jobs as they came into Baltimore, Gerlach said. "For a woman back in those days, that was remarkable," she said.

The Gerlachs' port ministry started in the back of their own station wagon. With support from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, they have been able to purchase the van and keep it stocked with supplies.

"The Home Mission Board is behind us 100 percent," Gerlach said.

The Gerlachs' ministry is not limited to the home mission field where they serve. The sailors, who come from all over the world, take gifts they receive from the mobile center to ports in other countries. One seaman reported to the Gerlachs that all the materials given to the sailors aboard his ship had been given in turn to people in South Africa.

Because it is possible to have seven or eight nationalities represented on a ship docking in port, the Gerlachs keep Bibles printed in 65 languages on hand at all times.

"No missionary can be in that many countries at once, but that's the field we're on. We don't even have to leave home. They come to us," Gerlach said.

The Bibles are in great demand among the seamen. "Have you ever seen anyone

kiss a Bible?" she asked. "We can't keep Bibles. They go as fast as we can get them. Our biggest prayer request is for more Bibles."

Like Annie Armstrong, the Gerlachs hope to spend their entire lives ministering. Kay Gerlach said of her husband, "He'd rather be on ships than anywhere else. I tell him, 'You'll be going up gangways until you're 90.'"

For the Gerlachs, Annie Armstrong is more than just the name of an offering.

"We know people who are related to her. It makes it more interesting to read about her," Gerlach said. "A lot of times we read about missionaries who lived along time ago. But Annie Armstrong is still here."

First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia

invites applicants for the
position of Part-time Minister
for College Students

For more information or to send
applications, please contact:

Rev. Lyn Worthen

First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia
Eighth and Pine Streets
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
or call 501-248-5587

WMU Missions Awareness Coach Tour New England

Boston/Portsmouth/Concord/Lexington/Providence/Haystack Monument/Luther Rice homesite/Norman Rockwell museum/sightseeing, shopping, visit missions personnel. May-October, 1991. Write/call WMU New England Tour, 1204 S. Third, Louisville, KY 40203. 800-325-6708.

For \$25 see the Great Passion Play & stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort

for GROUPS of 12-160, in Eureka Springs, Ark.
Air-conditioned lodging, swimming,
\$9 tickets, cheeseburger cookout, dessert
and breakfast. All included!
Call 501-253-8418 today!

THE DALTON COMMERCIAL &
RESIDENTIAL CARPET CO., INC.

SAVE UP TO 60%

ON YOUR NEXT CARPET PURCHASE FOR
YOUR CHURCH OR HOME. CALL FOR FREE
BROCHURE AND CARPET SAMPLES

1-800-333-0494

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Three vice-presidents elected

by Pam Parry
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention unanimously affirmed the election of three vice presidents in its regular February meeting.

The committee elected Richard (Bucky) P. Rosenbaum Jr. as vice president for business and finance, Mark T. Coppenger, vice president for public relations, and Herbert V. Hollinger, vice president for Baptist Press. The elections filled three of four staff vacancies.

The three men were elected individually by secret ballot.

Two of the elections were retroactive. At the September meeting of the Executive Committee, a bylaw change was approved to allow the six committee officers to fill staff vacancies on an interim basis between gatherings of the full committee. The change permitted officers to act on the behalf of the Executive Committee to consider personnel recommendations.

Personnel selections normally are based

on the recommendation of the president/treasurer to the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee, with final approval by the entire Executive Committee. That standard procedure will be followed unless the committee feels it necessary to fill a vacancy between meetings by empowering its officers to act under the bylaw amendment.

The officers elected the three vice presidents with the understanding that the full Executive Committee would vote on the personnel selections at the February meeting.

Rosenbaum, 36, who has worked in a variety of capacities at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for the past 10 years, was elected effective Dec. 15, 1990. He fills the position vacated by Tim Hedquist, who left to join the staff of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

At the SSB, Rosenbaum has been manager of the conference center marketing section, coordination specialist in the office of church programs and services and coordinator of the church program training center.

Coppenger, who previously was executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, assumed his duties on an interim basis Jan. 1, pending the final approval of the full committee.

Coppenger's new position is a change from the past organizational structure. The

new structure separates the duties of public relations and Baptist Press. Coppenger's role will be public relations, while Hollinger, editor of *The California Southern Baptist* newsmagazine, will direct Baptist Press.

Prior to going to Indiana in 1988, Coppenger was pastor of First Baptist Church, Eldorado, Ark.

Hollinger, 50, will assume his responsibilities March 1. Prior to becoming the editor in California, Hollinger was editor of *the Northwest Baptist Witness*, newsmagazine of the Northwest Baptist Convention, where he also was director of the convention's communications division. In addition to his journalistic experience, the Idaho native has been a pastor in Washington and California.

President/treasurer Harold C. Bennett presented each of the candidates prior to their election. In his presentation of Hollinger, Bennett pointed out that the Southern Baptist Press Association adopted a resolution commending Hollinger's selection. The resolution, passed by the press association at its annual meeting Feb. 11-14, noted the need for "positive leadership to deal with the loss of credibility sustained in the dismissal of the former staff" and commended Hollinger's selection as such a leader. The resolution continued that the press association "pledges to work cooperatively with, and in support of, Herb Hollinger in the task of providing Baptists a full, free, flow of responsible, balanced, and accurate information about their denomination."

BOLD MISSION THRUST

Prayer Requests

"In the morning, O Lord, you bear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation" (Ps. 5:3)

—Pray for vacation Bible schools and workers as plans are now being made for the summer. VBS has one of the greatest opportunities for reaching lost children and their parents. A prayer guide for a week is available from the association or state Sunday School department.

—Pray for our foreign missionaries that they will experience protection of God during and following these days of war.

—Pray for Amy Heater, US-2 resort missionary in Eureka Springs as she plans the summer ministry of Ozark Mountain Ministries.

—Pray for Simultaneous World Mission Conferences: April 28-May 5, east, and May 12-19, west. Pray that these conferences will not be just a scheduled event but an encounter with God that will turn us from our selfishness and personal interests to caring for the world God loves.

**BOYD
PRO SOUND**

5702 West 12th Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

Benton Senior High School

Office of the Principal, Benton Arkansas 72015

Mr. Ken Newberry
Boyd Pro Sound
5702 W. 12th St.
Little Rock, AR 72204

March 16, 1990

Dear Mr. Newberry:

I would like to express my thanks to you and your company for the outstanding job you did on the installation of the sound system in our new 1,250-seat auditorium. The time you spent with me during the installation, during the instructional period, and your willingness to provide more instructional time if needed has been a valuable asset to us in the successful operation of the auditorium.

We have had many comments from visitors to our auditorium about the quality of our sound system and your company deserves a great deal of credit for this quality.

Again, thanks for your quality of workmanship and your willingness to work with us after installation.

Sincerely,

John H. Butler
Principal

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Trustees elect search committee

NASHVILLE (BP)—A 10-member presidential search committee was elected by trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board during their Feb. 4-6 semi-annual meeting in Nashville.

Wayne Dubose, pastor of Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., was elected to chair the search committee. Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., will be vice chairman.

Other committee members include: Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark.; Kirk Humphreys, businessman from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Frank Palmer, pastor of Forest Avenue Baptist Church in Redmond, Ore.; Iris White, businesswoman from Columbia, Md.; and Bill Wilson, director of the mission ministries division of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Three ex-officio members are: Bill Anderson, chairman of trustees and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Clearwater, Fla.; Gene Mims, vice chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Tenn.; and Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

Chairman Dubose has issued a call for nominations. Recommendations to be in writing and include complete biographical sketch of the nominee, along with a concise statement as to the reason for the nomination.

All nominations should be sent to: BSSB Search Committee P.O. Drawer 1, Springdale, AR 72765.

Brotherhood co-ed missions program

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—After hearing a detailed progress report on the development of World Changers at its Jan. 26 meeting, a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission co-educational mission education and missions involvement program for youth, the executive committee of the commission voted unanimously for the program to be implemented and in place no later than October 1992.

The commission began research in 1982 that pointed to need for co-educational missions education in local churches, especially among youth groups.

The target group will be the 700,000 youth who are enrolled in Sunday School but do not participate in existing mission activities.

Across the Country

CLC calls for reversal of government AIDS policy

WASHINGTON—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has called on the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Health and Human Services to reverse their recently proposed ruling that would allow HIV-infected aliens to become permanent residents of the United States.

A letter from Richard D. Land, executive director of the CLC, was sent to the Centers for Disease Control Feb. 6. It requests that HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases be returned to the list of communicable diseases that previously disallowed applications for permanent residency.

"The response to this rule will most certainly be a significant influx into the United States of HIV positive individuals who have the false hope that the medical profession in America can alleviate their pain or even heal them," Land's letter said. Public hospitals, already overtaxed by HIV patients, will not be able to handle the increased burden anticipated with the new ruling, the letter added. His letter also noted that the American Medical Association supports the prohibition.

Sanctity of life lesson set phones ringing at HMB

ATLANTA—A Sunday School lesson on the sanctity of life set phones ringing incessantly at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's office for alternatives to abortion ministries. All quarterlies produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board featured a lesson on the sanctity of life Jan. 20. That lesson prompted a flurry of phone calls to the HMB.

The HMB toll-free number for alternatives to abortion information was printed in the quarterlies. The number is 1-800-962-0851.

O'Brien to head Samford global strategies center

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—William R. O'Brien, former executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will assume directorship of a newly-formed global strategies center at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity, effective March 1. The center will seek to become an internationally important forum for data analysis and planning, building upon already established international programs in Europe, Asia and Latin America to extend Samford's worldwide involvement.

O'Brien's wife, Dellanna, is executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Professional Sound for Churches... helps to ensure that your message is being clearly communicated.

Ensuring that your message is reliably communicated is a job that can't be trusted to just anyone. Communicating your message requires a system that starts with a professional sound contractor. We, as a professional sound contractor, can design a system that will improve your church's communication process.

First, we listen — to you. Then we evaluate, scientifically. With your input, we develop a personalized design. Then we add the proper components and install your customized sound system.

For complete confidence in your communication system, put your trust in a proven professional — someone who cares about your message. Call us today!

Recent BOYD PRO SOUND installations include: First Baptist, Carlisle; First Baptist, DeWitt; First Baptist, Gentry; First Assembly of God, Brinkley; Trinity Faith Assembly of God of Rison; Rose City Nazarene Church; Benton High School Fine Arts Auditorium, and Lake Hamilton Fine Arts Auditorium.

**BOYD
PRO SOUND**

6708 West 13th Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
(501) 581-1841

Professional reinforced sound systems for churches.

Design • Installation
Service • Sales • Rentals

For a free survey of your facility, call 501-664-3624 and ask for Ken!

Convention Uniform

The Christian and sex

by Bob Parker, Interim director,
Christian Civic Foundation

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 6:18

Central truth: As Christians we must flee sexual immorality.

It's interesting that someone has said that it is "sex o'clock" in these United States. Such was said in light of the fact there's so much emphasis on sex in our society, especially in the entertainment industries: movies, television, publications, etc.

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul makes it clear that all should flee from the sexual immorality which was rampant in that city. Present day visitors are shown the ruins of a temple on a near by hill where a thousand temple prostitutes were active in Paul's day.

We today must also flee sexual immorality in every form. The most important reason is noted in the last two verses, where we are told that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, that we are not our own, but have been bought at a price. God considers the bodies of Christians, including the brain, to be more important than meeting places. We get angry when someone mistreats and abuses church buildings. We should be even more upset when sexual immoralities of any type pollute the bodies of believers.

In verses 9 and 10, we note a list of sins which prevent inheritance of the kingdom of God. Four of the 10 listed deal with sex. "... Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ... shall inherit the kingdom of God" (v. 9-10). Paul mentioned that some of those to whom he was writing were once involved in them before they were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Holy Spirit. It's interesting to note that Paul stated that some of them before being saved were once guilty of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and sodomy.

As Christians today we must constantly bear in mind that these bodies of ours are targets of satanic forces and must take every precaution to use them sexually only in a way that would bring honor, glory and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us make sure that whatever we do or think magnifies our Savior and dispels physical and spiritual idolatry of any type.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Jesus' benedictory prayer

by Curtis Houts, Lakeshore Drive
Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 17:13-23, 25-26

Focal passage: John 17:13-23, 25-26

Central truth: Jesus prays for effective ministry for his followers.

Our passage this week finds us in the midst of Jesus' prayer for himself, his disciples, and those who will become believers because of the words of the disciples. He has concluded his instructions to the disciples with the end of John 16. The opening of chapter 18 finds him on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas' betrayal.

Thus, Jesus very literally closes out his earthly ministry with the apostles by this "benediction." At such a crucial time, what does he pray? What issues are so buffing, what items so pressing that Jesus will include them in his final prayer with his closest and dearest friends and followers?

In verse 13-16 he prays about the paradox of being in the world, but not of the world. That they were in the world is self-evident. Jesus emphasizes that they were not of the world by twice mentioning that in his prayer. And that is exactly what he wanted. He refused to ask that they be taken from the world. He did ask the Father to keep them from the evil of the world.

Jesus builds on this "in the world but not of the world" concept in verses 17-19 where he prays that the disciples whom he has sent (in the world) will be sanctified (not of the world). Both elements are essential for the completion of the task to which Jesus has called them (and us). Only when they were in the world could they hope to win it, and then only with purity.

He concludes his prayer with a petition for unity in love among the disciples and those who "shall believe on me through their word" (vv. 20-26). His standard or measuring stick in his relation with the Father: "even as we are one" and "as though I have loved me." Jesus knew that before the world would accept a Christ loved by and equal with his Father, they must first see that love and unity incarnate. His followers would provide that example.

Years have passed and Jesus no longer faces crucifixion, yet the world has not really changed. People still need to see Jesus' followers who are in the world, but not held captive by its ways... and they still need to see his people united in love.

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Bible Book

Truth under pressure

by Harry Black, Natural Steps Church,
Roland

Basic passage: Luke 22:1-65

Focal passage: Luke 22-14-15, 19-27, 39-44, 49-51

Central truth: Christ revealed the same nature even under extreme pressure.

During the night before his death, Jesus came under the greatest emotional pressure of his ministry. He knew that his sacrifice was at hand, and a great emotional struggle began. As is true for all mankind, extreme pressure revealed his true nature.

One concern was fellowship (v. 15). The King James literally translates the Greek "with desire I have desired to eat this passover with you." This is a grammatical tool used to show intensity: "I have earnestly desired..." One explanation for why Jesus so intensely longed to share this meal with his friends is fellowship. Jesus had shared his life with these 12 men. Now, he would find comfort in sharing this last supper with them as well.

A further concern was for a memorial (v. 19). His command to "do this in remembrance of me" was not to glorify himself, but to encourage the faithfulness of his followers. The memorial supper would also be a constant reminder of his imminent return (1 Co. 11:26).

Under pressure, the Lord voiced his continuing concern for humility (v. 26). As the disciples' argument moved from betrayal to personal greatness (vv. 23-24), Jesus halted the discussion by reminding them of the overshadowing principle of their ministry—service.

In the garden, Jesus showed his concern for prayer (vv. 41-44). During this trying time, he turned to his Father for strength and direction. It is cause for rejoicing that we have this same channel available to us.

His last concern, before being taken by the mob, was compassion. As the crowd swarmed around him, Jesus healed one more time (v. 51). Some suggest that his action was to avert a riot. I think it was a demonstration of the true nature of Jesus, even under pressure.

We would do well to imitate the concerns of our Lord. To determine to face, and react to, pressure as did he: in fellowship with our Savior and other believers, in remembrance of him, in humility, prayer, and ever with compassion for others.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Truths for marriage

by Bob Parker, interim director,
Christian Civic Foundation

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 7:3-16

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

Central truth: God's guidelines for marriage are the best.

Never in the history of our nation have there been so many unmarried people living together or so many divorces. All of that would be different if God's ways were followed instead of man's ways. "There is a way which seems right to a man (or woman) but its end is the way of death" (Pr. 4:12).

The focal passage states that, in light of sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. This truth alone should destroy any belief in polygamy whether practiced or not. God's plan thereby for this life is one man-one woman. After this life, all will be as angels, serving and praising God (Mt. 22:20).

Other truths present themselves from this part of Paul's letter. Natural affection by husband and wife is extremely important in a marriage relationship. Mutual authority over each other's physical body is also important in following God's plan for marriage.

The importance of keeping the relationship. Paul twice emphasizes that what he says is not his, but God's command.

If perchance a Christian husband or wife is married to an unbeliever, every effort should be exerted to win him or her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In every age, as today, the decision to divorce the unbeliever often has come too quickly. In verse 15, Paul states that if the unbeliever departs, he or she should be permitted to depart for the sake of needed peace and not bondage.

It is extremely important that young and old alike be aware of God's expectations for the marriage relationship. Later, in his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul stated, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Co. 6:14). This, in all likelihood, suggests it is best not to get married to an unbeliever to begin with. He did advise that sincere effort be made to win the unbelieving husband or wife. Marriage demands our earnest sincere prayers from the beginning to the end!

This lesson teaching is based on the International Bible Lessons for Christian Living, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Educators. Used by permission.

Life and Work

Great expectations

by Curtis Honts, Lakeshore Drive
Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 13:36-38;
18:15-18,25-27

Focal passage: John 13:36-38;
18:15-18,25-27

Central truth: Even with good intentions, we can fail bitterly.

From the drama of Jesus' last night on earth, this week's passage looks at three brief snapshots of Simon Peter.

The first snapshot shows Peter with all his enthusiasm and impatience. In John 13:36-38, the final meal with Jesus and the apostles has concluded, Jesus has washed their feet and he has sent Judas out. He then explains to the others that they cannot go with him at the moment, but they will follow later.

Peter asks, "Lord, why cannot I follow thee now?" (v. 37). We like his zeal, always desiring to be close to Jesus. But, when he says "now" we recognize that he still has trouble waiting for God's timing in matters. Then he boldly states his willingness to give his life for Jesus' sake, and we envy his commitment.

Our next two pictures capture a much different Peter. True to his word, he had drawn his sword and been prepared to die to defend Jesus in the garden (18:10). But now begins the most humiliating experience of his life. With an uncharacteristically frightened timidity, Peter denies three times that he is a disciple of Jesus.

With all of his good intentions and bold pronouncements, Peter came up short at a most crucial time. He discovered that his love for and commitment to Jesus were not all he thought they were. While we peer at this image of Peter in his shame, we will be tempted to judge him harshly. But, if we look more closely, we can begin to see ourselves in his experience.

For me it was not a door keeper or the servant of the high priest, but a fellow-student named Mark who asked me if I were a Christian. I knew well enough that he was not preparing to witness to me. As my good intentions melted into fear, I made some noncommittal answer and excused myself to hurry on home.

Unlike Peter, who had to wait for the resurrection to resolve his bitter disappointment, when we deny being Jesus' disciple let us return immediately to the foot of the cross for restoration!

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Bible Book

Pilate's Pitfall

by Harry Black, Natural Steps Church,
Roland

Basic passage: Luke 22:66-23:25

Focal passage: Luke 23:1-25

Central truth: Following popular opinion is a pitfall when in opposition to God's leadership.

"Pilate gave the decision that their request should be granted... and surrendered Jesus to their demands" (23:24-25 Phillips). How tragic that a person's most important decision, the decision of what to do with Christ Jesus, may be made by others. Not only for salvation, but in discipleship, it is possible to allow others to determine our choice. Let us learn from Pilate's pitfall.

When Pilate was confronted with the question of what to do with Jesus, he became indecisive. Although he immediately made a judgment, he wavered in the face of popular opinion. Pilate looked to three groups to make his decision.

The first group to influence Pilate was the religious leadership. They came with false accusations of subverting the government of Rome. Pilate took these charges seriously and privately interrogated Jesus. Following the interrogation, Pilate's report was "I find no guilt in this man" (v. 4). But, the accusers became "fiercely insistent." Not wanting to compromise himself, he looked to another group.

The second group to influence Pilate's decision about Jesus was government. Pilate's position in Judea was procurator (governor). As such, he was the Roman emperor's voice in that region. But when he found out that Jesus was from Galilee, the province of Herod Antipas, he sent Jesus to Herod. Pilate leaned on Herod's opinion to help make the decision (v. 15).

The third, and final, group to influence Pilate's decision was the crowd. He called a public meeting to settle the question. Again, Pilate acknowledged Jesus' innocence, but was persuaded by popular opinion. Notice the words used to demonstrate the crowd's intensity: "cried loud and prevailed." Under such influence, Pilate allowed popular opinion to make his decision.

Are we so unlike Pilate? Do we not allow religion, government, and popular opinion to influence what we will do with Jesus? To whom do we turn to help define discipleship? What will you do with Jesus?

This lesson teaching is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Free exercise affected

Supreme Court ruling alters standard

by Larry Chesser

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—Fears that a 1990 U.S. Supreme Court ruling would drastically alter the nation's free exercise of religion landscape are proving to be well-founded, according to a church-state attorney.

J. Brent Walker, legal counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee, recently reviewed 15 free exercise cases decided since the high court ruled that governmental entities no longer need to demonstrate a compelling interest to curb free exercise of religion rights.

The free exercise claimants won only three of the 15 cases Walker reviewed and in two of those cases, the courts in question did an end run around the high court's new free exercise test, deciding the cases on state constitutional grounds, Walker said.

In April the Supreme Court ruled in *Oregon v. Smith* that the free exercise clause of the First Amendment did not give members of the Native American Church the right to ingest peyote as a sacrament in worship.

"Whatever you think about that result," Walker said, "the reasoning the court used was atrocious."

"What the court did was to all but do away with the compelling state interest test that it had used for nearly 30 years to decide free exercise cases."

Under the long-standing test, before a governmental entity could limit free exercise rights, it was required to demonstrate a compelling interest that could not be accomplished by less restrictive means. But in the *Smith* case, the high court replaced the compelling interest test with the "much less stringent reasonableness standard," Walker said.

"All a state has to do under that test is to show that a law or action is reasonably related to a proper state purpose or activity," he said. "Clearly that is a much easier standard."

Walker noted that in the *Smith* ruling, Justice Antonin Scalia called the more stringent free exercise standard a luxury that society can ill afford and said that to apply the compelling interest test would be to court anarchy.

In substituting a less-stringent free exercise standard, Walker said, "The court dropped a constitutional bombshell that all but blew up and destroyed the free exercise clause. What it means is that in most cases the state is going to win."

Rulings from state and federal courts in the past 10 months have borne out concerns expressed by religious and civil liberties groups about the impact of the new test.

"What that says to me is that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is all the more critical and the need to pass it in the 102nd Congress is all the more pressing," Walker said.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, introduced late in the 101st Congress, drew broad bipartisan support and is expected to be reintroduced within the next few weeks.

"It's designed to turn the clock back," Walker said. "It is not a drug bill. It would not legalize peyote or advance anyone's particular religious practice but would restore the standard by which all free exercise cases would be judged."

Approval of the proposed act would not be a panacea, Walker said, but would "again tilt the playing field in favor of religious liberty under the First Amendment's free exercise clause."

The Arkansas Baptist's

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Accounting & Tax Service

General Ledger Company, Inc.
1501 N. University Ave., Suite 330
Little Rock, AR 72207
501-664-5344

Air Conditioning

Graham Air Conditioning
505 Sixth Street
Hot Springs, AR 71913
Dale Kemp, Owner;
501-823-1202

Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)
8101 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-225-6009

Cemeteries

Roselawn Cemetery
2801 Asher Avenue, Little Rock
Phone 501-663-0248
Ark. Largest Perpetual Care Fund

Electrical Contractors

Concord Electric Co.
6114 Alma Highway
Van Buren, AR 72956
Hm: 501-474-9232; Of: 474-3792
Harvill-Bryd Electric Co., Inc.
1819 Rebsamen Park Road
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-663-8345

For a listing, call the
ABN at 376-4791

Flowers

Frances Flower Shop
1222 West Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-372-2203

Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning
1612 Park Avenue
Stuttgart, AR 72160
673-2081

Insurance

Bob Stender - State Farm Ins.
Auto - Life - Home - Health - Boat - Aviation
800 N. James, Jacksonville, Ark.
982-9456 or 836-8150

Mailing and Addressing Eqmpt

Crockett Business Machines
1900 West Third
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-372-7455

Music & Sound

Sigler Music Co.
Fort Smith, Ark: 501-783-1131
Springdale, Ark: 501-751-5981
Sound Equip. Sold & installed
Yamaha, Peavey, Baldwin & Roland

Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.
Ruston, La.: 318-251-0230
Specialists in Audio Systems
and Acoustics Applications

Subscriber Services

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* offers subscription plans at three rates:

Every **Resident Family Plan** gives churches a premium rate when they send the *Newsmagazine* to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$5.64 per year for each subscription.

A **Group Plan** (formerly called the Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

CAR-RT SGR
01757 CDP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST #400
NASHVILLE TN 37203
A**CR39
2230

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 2005

Subscribers through the group plan pay \$6.36 per year.

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$7.99 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the above form.

When inquiring about your subscription by mail, please include the address label. Or call us at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to give us your code line information.

WORLD

'MISSIONARY' CON ARTIST

Preying on churches

by Erlich Bridges

SBC Foreign Mission Mission Board

SANTA FE, N.M. (BP)—Let us now prey.

That's the daily watchword of one or more swindlers who continue to rob collection plates by targeting generous churches and pastors.

It's getting to be a familiar story—except for the unsuspecting victims. A man places long-distance calls (collect, of course) to churches and asks for the pastor. He claims to be a missionary or pastor in Brazil who once attended the church. He says he has been robbed in New York or another American city while preparing to fly back to Brazil. Please send money via Western Union, he pleads—just enough to finish paying for a plane ticket.

He knows the pastor's name; sometimes he mentions the names of other area pastors or church members. He talks fast and supplies enough authentic-sounding details to fool some. He is a master at exploiting his listeners' good nature—as well as their little imperfections.

"The thing that angered me the most is he tries to get you to lie," said one recent target, James Erlich. Erlich, pastor of First Baptist Church in Santa Fe, N.M., and another Southern Baptist pastor in Santa Fe both received calls from the scam artist in late January.

"He keeps saying, 'Now you remember me, don't you? My wife was so impressed with you. You talked with her after the service.' He tries to get you to say, 'Oh yes, I remember you.' And of course then you're committed. He's worked with enough preachers to know he can make them lie if he tries," Erlich related. "He was talking 97 miles an hour."

The caller identified himself as "Mark Bennett" to both Santa Fe pastors.

"He said he was robbed in what sounded like New York. He was calling from a Wendy's restaurant and he needed \$46 to make up his plane ticket," Erlich said. "He said we should use Western Union to send him a telegram where he goes up (to the Western Union desk) and answers a code question. The question is, 'What is my son's name?' The answer is Johnny. Therefore they would give him the money without him needing identification. I called Western Union and they said he could have been calling from right here in Santa Fe or anywhere. All a person has to do is go up to any Western Union desk and say 'I'm Mark Bennett. Do you have a will-call money order for me?'"

Erlich also contacted the FBI.

"They didn't want to talk to me," he

reported. "They said it was too 'Mickey Mouse.' I said, 'Well, he's using Western Union and calling interstate, so that sounds like a federal offense to me. But if you guys don't want to talk to me that's fine.' But they did take the information."

The caller—or others trying the same con—has used the names "Dr. Bill Slater," "Bill Jennings" and "Bill Harmon" in the past. He targeted Southern Baptist churches in at least three states—Oklahoma, Kansas and South Carolina—in 1989 and 1990. And he probably has called churches in many other states, and other denominations, since the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board first heard about the scam.

Telephone and FBI officials advised Oklahoma Baptists last year that the best defense against such scams is to be forewarned. Telephone traces must be arranged in advance of calls.

'Crossover Japan'

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—As men and women in Japan open their minds to the gospel, the Southern Baptist Convention is calling on its people to help gather in the harvest.

The Japan Baptist Convention has asked the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to send volunteers to work with some 40 churches in a special evangelistic crusade May 20-June 3. SBC President Morris Chapman is urging churches throughout the United States to send pastors and lay people to help.

Called "Crossover Japan," the crusade would be the first in a series of "Cross Overseas" projects emphasizing participation from all parts of the Southern Baptist Convention in a yearly crusade overseas. It would parallel the "Cross Over America" campaign Chapman has launched in conjunction with the denomination's Home Mission Board.

Chapman said he hopes Southern Baptists can stage one major evangelistic crusade in the United States every year. He and the Home Mission Board have dubbed this year's project "Crossover Atlanta" and have planned it in conjunction with the denomination's annual convention. "Crossover Japan" will be its foreign counterpart.

For more information, contact: Bill Peacock or Anita Mahoney at the Foreign Mission Board; telephone 1-800-999-3113.