

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

3-14-1991

March 14, 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, "March 14, 1991" (1991). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 119.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/119

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



DOM officers Page 16

Vol. 90, No. 6

March 14, 1991

COVER

Nail prints in his hands

**Will my
children
make good
decisions?**

Page 6

**Baptisms
increase**

Page 11

**Promise
House**

Page 14

**Churches
beware!**

Page 23



Arkansas Baptist

At a glance

6 Will my children make good decisions?
In the first of a five-part series on teaching children to make decisions, the importance of allowing children the freedom to make choices, reinforced by relationships built on love, is emphasized. Four family models: dominant father, dominant mother, equalitarian, and father-led are explored in their relationship to teaching decisionmaking.

11 Baptisms increase
A review of the Arkansas Baptist statistics for the 1989-90 church years shows a healthy increase of 15.8 percent in baptisms after several years of decline, following a national trend. There also were dramatic increases in local church receipts.

14 The Promise House
The proposed home for unwed mothers in El Dorado has received a name: the Arkansas Baptist Promise House. An integral part of the project will be the religious aspect, combined with independent living skills, reinforced by good pre-natal care and education, in order to give these young unmarried girls and their babies a potential for a bright future.

16 DOMs elect officers
Arkansas directors of missions elected Billy Kite, Norman Lewis, and Jeff Cheatham as officers during their annual retreat held Feb. 27-March 1 in Arkadelphia. Eddie McCord also was honored as DOM of the Year.

23 Churches beware!
A "missionary" con artist who has been soliciting funds through collect phone calls hit Arkansas this week. Fortunately, Pastor Robert McDaniel of Benton quickly caught the man's deception, which has been reported to the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

23 More churches overseas
Overseas baptisms related to Southern Baptist missions achieved one of the highest gains ever in new churches in 1990, while baptisms dipped below a record set in 1989. New churches numbered 24,122, reflecting a 13.6 percent net gain of 2,883 churches over 1989.

Cover

BSSD photo / Jim Veneman



Nail prints

The nail prints in the hands of the crucified Christ are the sign for "Jesus" in the language of the deaf, as interpreted by Lynn Ragland of Two Rivers Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn. They are also the symbol of remembrance for all Christians at Easter.

Also inside

Speak Up

You'll Be Glad To Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Letters to the Editor.....	5

Local & State

Arkansas All Over.....	8
Looking Ahead.....	10
Top 25 churches in baptisms.....	11
College Digest.....	15
Criswell observes 15 years.....	15

Nation

A breach in the wall?.....	18
CLC opposes ACLU.....	18
Across the Country.....	19

Lessons.....	21-22
--------------	-------

World

Work begins in Wales.....	24
---------------------------	----

Next issue: March 28

DOMs: much like Paul

J. EVERETT SNEED

Recently we had the privilege of spending a brief period of time with the associational directors of missions at their annual retreat. We were again impressed with the important role that these men play in our Baptist life. No area in our Baptist work is more important than the association, except the local church. Yet, in spite of the role that the association plays, it often is misunderstood. The association, being the closest unit to the local church, performs a unique function in tying together all that Baptists do.

The work of the association is biblically based. A careful examination of the ministry of Paul will reveal that, in large measure, his work was similar to that of the modern director of missions. Not only did he begin numerous churches and assist them in times of difficulty, but he even coordinated their efforts in assisting one another. For instance, he led the churches in the collection of gifts for the congregation at Jerusalem (Ro. 15:25-26).

The two main purposes of the association are to promote fellowship among the churches and to carry out the tasks that require the resources and the strength of several congregations. Every church needs the assistance of the association in order to promote *koinonia*, or fellowship. Every church gains strength from this inner relationship.

The association is a vital link among the churches and the state convention and the national programs. The director of missions and others involved in the associational program provide information both to the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as carry information from the conventions back to the local churches. The director of missions has many and varied responsibilities. First of all, he has many administrative responsibilities. He assists churches in discovering and setting goals. Realistic goals can be of great importance in correctly motivating individuals and congregations.

Often, the association can provide materials to churches which will make them effective. Most associational offices have an abundance of helpful printed matter on almost every area of church life.

Time has proven the importance of religious education, so the association often provides study courses and leadership training in the areas of Sunday School,



Discipleship Training, music, Brotherhood, and a host of others.

The director of missions aids churches, particularly the small ones, with building programs and other special needs.

It is essential that the association assist churches to understand the mission endeavors of Southern Baptists. The association plays a vital role in interpreting and promoting the Cooperative Program. The director of missions can greatly assist churches in promoting giving on every level. Obviously, each congregation must have adequate funds to carry on its own local programs. But the association can assist congregations to realize that the Great Commission reaches to the association, the state, the nation, and to the ends of the earth.

The local association often is thought of in relation to direct missions or special projects. The DOM often is involved in the development of new mission sites. This requires many hours of work in taking census to determine the feasibility of beginning the work in a particular area. It also requires a proper beginning, which includes nurture and support. The association often is vital in such important projects.

Many of our associations provide camps, assemblies, and retreats to assist young and old to understand God's will for their lives.

Such activities not only have been responsible for many coming to know Christ as Savior, but also have played a vital role in developing or maturing Christians. Others have responded to the call to special service because of these opportunities.

In most associations it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the work to be carried on without the leadership of the director of missions. The director of missions usually carries a heavy responsibility and plays a vital role in the ongoing activities of the association. In addition to other responsibilities, he serves as counselor for both pastors and laypeople.

Perhaps the director of missions' greatest responsibility is in assisting an association to determine its priorities and seeing that these are carried out. There are a tremendous number of activities that can be carried on by an association. It becomes the task of the director of missions to see that such supporting activities are put in place that will assist in reaching these priorities.

Finances are essential if an association is to have the kind of program that will effectively assist churches in working together to carry out the Great Commission. It requires money to provide training programs, evangelistic crusades, and to do comprehensive studies which will determine the proper priorities.

Associational directors of missions deserve the prayers and praise of pastors and laypeople. An adequate salary should be a part of the recognition of the worth of the associational director of missions.

Our Baptist work could never have been as effective as it is apart from the local association. Let's pause to thank God for those who serve the Kingdom in our associations.

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-spaced 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 no 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 Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$7.99 per year (Individuals), \$5.64 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.36 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 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron, president; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Jimmy Anderson, Leachville; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Ben 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

I can't tell you how excited I am about our work together here in Arkansas. About three years ago we set out to try to turn around the trend of declining baptisms and declining Sunday School enrollment. Thank God, we have been able to do that. We (Arkansas Baptists) reported an increase of almost 16 percent in baptisms last year. This was the fourth highest in the Southern Baptist Convention, and one of only two Old South states in the top 10. We were number eight in the nation in total number increase. Surely the widespread cooperation of our associations and churches participating in Here's Hope simultaneous revivals was a major reason for this turnaround. I thank you for allowing our evangelism department to help to you in this area.

Our churches giving through the Cooperative Program set a new record and was adequate to meet our budget requirement for the first time since 1981. Giving to associational missions also increased from 3.86 percent of undesignated gifts to 4.20 percent of undesignated receipts.

Planned participation in the simultaneous World Mission Conferences this spring looks tremendous. A good follow-through and we will be a long way down the road toward missionary education.

Arkansans are providing unbelievable encouragement and help to Guatemala Baptists through our partnership mission. Over 400 of our people have been involved. Numerous churches has been started, buildings have been built, and a 126 percent increase in baptisms have been experienced in their convention.

As I look at future plans, they are equally exciting. My dream of "making a difference" is happening. In 1992, we face the challenge of dedicating an entire year of emphasis to "strengthening families." I hope every association and church will be making plans to quadruple their efforts to give "Hope for the Home."

Yet to be realized is the participation of large numbers of our people giving to help upgrade the Siloam Springs Assembly.

It is a great joy to be entrusted with the responsibility of leading Arkansas Baptists. It is only possible because of the grace of God and a great staff!



JANET KITTS BETHEL

Woman's Viewpoint

God is in control

On Jan. 17, 1991, the United States entered a war which left few families in Arkansas unaffected. I have a cousin who has been flying 100 hours a week since the war began. A friend just graduated from Air Force Intelligence School in Arizona and flew to Saudi Arabia on Feb. 16. My brother will finish his helicopter training in March, to be stationed in Hawaii, but that is subject to change.

Meanwhile, what do I do? Pray and wait. When I first heard of the war, I didn't know what to do, so I stayed glued to the television for days. Mostly though, I turned to God, who always has been my daily source of strength.

When I asked my mother what we were going to do, she answered, "Don't worry; the situation is in God's hands." How true her words were, and I turned my attention back to the daily needs of my two children and my husband.

Recently, I heard a story about a little boy who was told to ask his father what he would do in the Persian Gulf if he were God. Immediately, my mind raced to obvious conclusions such as peace, no casualties, miracles... the answer given by the child's father was incredibly simple

and incredibly astute. The answer? "I would do nothing differently, for God is in control of the Persian Gulf."

God is in control and we need not worry. "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose" (Ro. 8:28).

I shall continue to pray daily to intercede for those in the Persian Gulf and their families and for those who may be called to go. As a Christian, I have the assurance that whatever happens, I can trust in God, a being much wiser than myself who sees the whole picture, not just the individual pieces.

To those of us who may lose loved ones comes the assurance that we shall see our sons, fathers, and brothers again and never again be separated. Thank God for his reassurance and his love.

Janet Bethel, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and the University of Notre Dame, currently lives in Bryant with her husband, Reed, who pastors Little Rock Otter Creek First Church, and two children, Rachel and Stuart. She teaches piano in her home.

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.

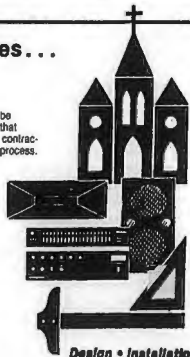
For complete confidence in your communication system, put your trust in a proven professional — someone who cares about your message. Call us today!

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



5700 West 13th Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
501-664-3624

Professional reinforced sound systems for churches.



Design • Installation
Service • Sales • Rentals

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

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

Letters to the Editor

Help from day to day

I am writing from Saudi Arabia. I am in the Army and I would like you and others know that we are here to see that freedom will be here to stay and that we may have freedom in our country and throughout the world. The only way we can do this is for people back home to be praying for us and asking our Lord to help us from day to day.

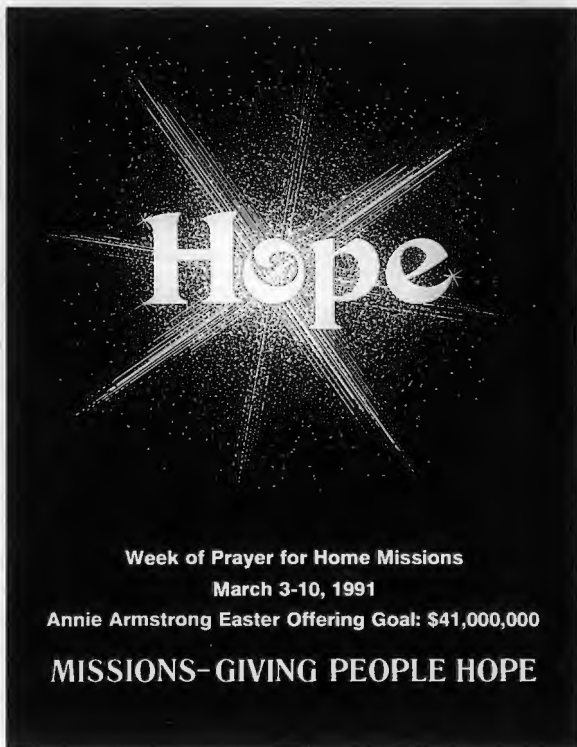
We can only do so much and then it's left up to all of us to ask God to help us, so I ask you and all the people of Arkansas to be in prayer for us. We can do a good job but with God's help we can win. Not only win the war, but win souls to Christ over here. See, it's not just a war only, but it is a war for souls to be saved.—SSG John W. Harris, Hamburg

Paying homage

Recently I heard it said that few would like to go back to the "good old days," but many would like to go back to the "good old ways." I cherish for our grandchildren the privileges we enjoyed in school before our Supreme Court ruled out beginning the day with Bible reading and prayer, as well as each week hearing a minister or a fine "role model" to speak to us in assembly. My students learned about morality when they did not have it taught in their homes. Perhaps this is one cause for the increase in juvenile delinquency today.

We also began our school day with the pledge of allegiance to our flag. It grieves me to have seen students in our schools, spectators before sports events, or those at parades choose not to exhibit their patriotism to America by refusing to salute "Old Glory." The son of God said, "...Render therefore unto Caesar (the government) the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Mt. 22:21). He never meant for us to worship the flag, as some use as their excuse for not saluting the flag, but we can—and should—in this way pay homage to the greatest country in the world, where we are privileged to live.

It is sad indeed to read of American citizens choosing to burn our flag in disapproval of anything rather than to choose a more noble means of expressing their sentiments. But it is thrilling to see our flag unfurled at homes, businesses, and public buildings at this time.—Mrs. D.C. McAtee, Forrest City



Hope

Week of Prayer for Home Missions
March 3-10, 1991
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal: \$41,000,000
MISSIONS-GIVING PEOPLE HOPE

Does Your Church Need Help?

- Growth Campaigns
- Leadership Training
- Sunday School Revivals
- One Day Consultations

Call or write:

Church Support Service
Eddie Combs; Consultant
2805 S. 96th
Fort Smith, AR 72903
Telephone: 501-452-7555

PEWS

TOLL FREE (800) 366-1716

Overholtzer

Aluminum Products for your Church...

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



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

FIRST OF A FIVE-PART SERIES

Will my children make good decisions?

by Mark Kelly

Contributing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

No one envies a child much anymore.

These are difficult days to be growing up. Today even young boys and girls must understand serious matters, such as the dangers of drugs and the possibility of sexual abuse. Mere children often must make decisions adults find difficult.

Mothers and fathers know they won't always be there to help their children make those choices. One day, a budding young adult will be making his own decisions and living with the consequences.

What parent doesn't wonder: when my child has to choose, will he make the right decision?

Free to make choices

A child will be able to make good decisions only if his family has given him the freedom to be decisive, says a noted family counselor.

Dr. Marlin Howe, author of the "Hope for the Family" video series, explains that research into the dynamics of family life has identified four family types common in American society. He says the type of family in which a child grows up will largely determine whether the child has the ability to make his own decisions.

Two of the four family types are those in which either a father or mother dominates family relationships. Howe says the dominant parent rules the household by force, dictating decisions to a servile spouse and maintaining an emotional distance from the children.

Children raised in a dominant father or dominant mother home suffer badly in their ability to make decisions, Howe says. Those children fear making choices that would displease the domineering parent and result in punishment. Even as adults, they will submit to the dominant parent, rather than take charge and make their own decisions.

A third family type is the egalitarian or companion marriage. Howe says this pattern is a reaction against the abuse of power found in the dominant parent family. The two partners stress negotiation and cooperation in decision-making. Rather than assuming traditional family roles, they reassign responsibilities in a manner agreeable to both.

The children of egalitarian families are far healthier than those of dominant parent families, since they do not fear making mistakes, Howe says. Like their parents, such children are very cooperative and highly skilled in negotiation.

A fourth type of family is the father-led family. Howe says this leadership approach stresses more traditional family roles, with the father leading in decisionmaking and the mother leading in nurture. Such a father, Howe says, "invites other family members to follow his leadership because he is both decisive and loving." His wife feels safe to focus her attention on nurturing their children.

Research suggests the children of father-led families show the highest degree of emotional health, according to Howe. Both boys and girls learn that decisionmaking is a part of life, and both have been given permission by the family system to be decisive. While children of egalitarian families tend to be followers rather than leaders, children of father-led families are better prepared to take the initiative in making their own decisions, Howe says.

Howe also notes that researchers found that a fifth family type, the mother-led family, was not a stable pattern. Studies indicate that mother-led families tend to drift into the mother-dominant pattern.

Howe believes the type of family in which a child matures will determine whether the child will be able to make independent decisions as an adult. A child who has been given permission to be decisive by the family leadership style will be far better equipped to

make good choices than the child who grew up afraid to make decisions, he says.

Howe acknowledges that these family models assume two parents present in the home. While the single-parent home differs in many important respects, Howe says the principles of giving children the freedom to choose and setting a good example remain the same. He counsels single mothers to seek out a male who can assume some of the traditional fathering functions and serve as a decision-making role model for her children. While the children's biological father may be the best choice, Howe points out that a step-father or a friend also can fill the role if he has a good relationship with the children.

Relationships built on love

If the family's decisionmaking style has given a child the freedom to be decisive, Howe believes the next critical issue is the quality of the parent-child relationship.

A healthy atmosphere of mutual love and respect is essential if a child's adult decisions are to reflect her parents' most cherished values, Howe says. No matter how admirable the parents' values may be, there is little hope their children will share those values if the family is emotionally estranged.

Parents who meet their children's emotional needs will have more influence over their children's decisions, says Howe. A young adult who was properly nurtured as a child will have more respect for her parents' values as she makes choices on her own.

Howe says a child needs affirmation, affection, and appreciation from her parents.

Affirmation, he says, consists of "the thousands of little things a father and mother do to communicate to a child that she is worthy and important, a gift from God." This is done by a glance of the eye or a tone of voice, by the quantity and quality of time spent with a child. The child understands her parents believe she is someone valuable. This forms a bond between parents and children.

Affection reinforces affirmation, Howe continues. When parents hug and kiss and hold a child, they are communicating unconditional acceptance and love. This makes a child feel more secure. Howe says a secure child feels freer to make decisions, even decisions that fail, than a child who fears being rejected by her parents.

Appreciation builds on the foundation laid by affirmation and affection, Howe explains. While the first two express love toward a child, appreciation gives the parent an opportunity to exercise discipline. By expressing approval or disapproval of a child's behavior, a parent tries to guide the child into disciplined living.

Appreciation, however, is ineffective if a parent has not built a solid relationship with a child, Howe cautions. Affirmation and affection create an "emotional umbilical cord" that passes a parent's cherished values along to a child, he says. Parents who are emotionally distant from their child usually find themselves powerless to register approval and disapproval. Because her parents did not seem to care for her, she cares little about their opinions and values. All too often, her parents resort to force to get the behavior they desire.

Howe also says parents must live by the values they want their children to have.

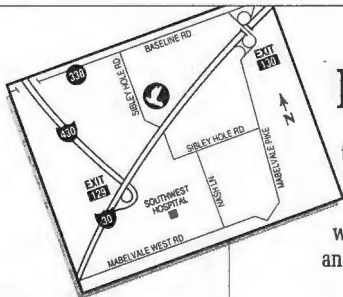
"Like the old adage says, values are more caught than taught," Howe admonishes. Children can tell if the values their parents profess are not those that actually govern their lives, he notes. A consistent life is necessary if a parent is to have credibility in a discussion of values.

Parents who give their children the freedom to be decisive, who have modeled good decisionmaking skills, who have built solid relationships with their children, and who practice the values they preach to their children are more likely to see those children grow into young people who can make good decisions when faced with life's challenges.

Our second
Roller-Drummond
Funeral Home opens
Sunday in southwest
Little Rock.

Refreshments
will be served.
We look
forward to
seeing you.

Sunday,
March 17,
1 - 4 p.m.



10900 I-30 at Sibley Hole Road
(take exit 130 off I-30)

Please be sure
to register for
the \$1,000 U.S.
Savings Bond
you could
win for yourself
and your church.

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR OPEN HOUSE.

Roller-Drummond
Funeral Home



Now two Little Rock locations to serve you: 901 Marshall • 374-0251 • 10900 Highway I-30 • 455-5800

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

R. Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro, pastor emeritus of Central Church in Jonesboro, has returned from Jacksonville, Fla., where he was speaker at North Jacksonville Church Feb. 24. Herring, who currently is serving as interim pastor of Wynne Church, served as pastor of the Florida church June 15, 1958, to Oct. 15, 1967. Since his retirement in 1983, he has served as interim pastor for churches in Conway, Wynne, Tyrnosa, Blytheville, and Lepanto.

Phil Brown was ordained to the gospel ministry Feb. 17 by First Church in Nashville. Brown recently has been called as minister of youth by First Church, Bossier City, La.

Glynn A. Stewart Sr. resigned Feb. 24 as associate pastor and minister of music at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, following 16 years of service.

Cliff Garner has resigned as minister of education at El Dorado First Church to join the staff of Capitol Hill Church in Oklahoma City as minister of education and administration.

Marilyn Horn has resigned as preschool director at First Church in Springdale, following 20 years of service.

Ben Bates is serving as pastor of First Church, Casa.

Jessica Sallis, 15, associate pianist for Oak Cliff Church in Fort Smith, has been chosen by the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs to compete for the national Stillman Holley Music Scholarship. Auditions were held Feb. 16 at Ouachita Baptist University.

Roy Buckelew, a professor at Ouachita Baptist University, is serving as interim pastor of East Side Church in Fort Smith.

Nick O'Nale, who has been serving as interim pastor of Center Point Church, Gurdon, is now serving the church as pastor.

Len Fryar is serving as pastor of Mount Bethel Church, Donaldson.

Charlie Williams is serving as pastor of DeGray Church, Arkadelphia, going there from Mount Bethel Church, Donaldson.

Alvin Harms of Jonesboro died Feb. 21 at age 81. He had pastored churches in Arkansas, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Kansas, and California. He also has served as interim pastor of Arkansas churches. He was a graduate of Pittsburg University and the Practical Bible School in Binghamton, N.Y. Survivors are his wife, Helen Harms; a daughter, Emelda Williams of Jonesboro; two brothers; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to mission funds at either Jonesboro Central Church or First Church in Jonesboro.

Bill Viser, assistant professor of religion and university counselor at Ouachita Baptist University, is serving as interim pastor of Markham Street Church in Little Rock.

John O'Brien, a member of First Church in Osceola, has been selected as "Lion of the Year" by the Osceola Lions Club.

Elizabeth Stephens Campbell, a member of Little Rock Second Church; **Jim McCoy**, a member of Searcy First Church; **C. Michael Anders**, pastor of Little Rock Pulaski Heights Church; and **Rex M. Horne Jr.**, pastor of Little Rock Immanuel Church, have been elected to serve on the Little Rock Baptist Medical System board of trustees.

Leroy Douglas resigned Feb. 3 as pastor of New Harmony Church, Manila.

Randy Ross resigned Jan. 27 as pastor of Ridgecrest Church in Blytheville to accept a pastorate in Michigan.

Earl Humble of Walnut Ridge is serving as interim pastor of Smithville Church.

Johnny Harp is serving as youth director of Friendship Church, Conway.

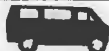
Ken Bunch has resigned as pastor of, Greenbrier First Church.

Red Baker is serving as interim pastor of Greenbrier Church.

Jim Richardson has resigned as pastor of Harlan Park Church in Conway.



Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action from Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock recently gathered in the Baptist Medical Center chapel in Little Rock to present 48 giant print New Testaments to Ed McDonald, BMC director of pastoral care. The mission groups, grades one through six, held a bike-a-thon fundraiser last summer, raising \$297 for this project. These New Testaments will be presented to patients or their guests, particularly senior adults, to read during hospitalization. Pictured are back row (left to right) Sberri Huff, Mary Roberts, Micab Greenfield, Amy Woolfe, John Roberts, and Phillip Tubbs; front row (left to right) are Kristen Cunningham, Amanda Williams, John Kennard, Faith Rennard, and Timothe Woodard.



Quality
VAN Sales

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

Briefly

Aubrey Neal has resigned as pastor of Monroe Church, following seven years of service.

Bill Jones of Helena is serving as interim pastor of Monroe Church.

Elton Ballentine is serving as pastor of Caney Creek Church.

Howard Huddle is serving as pastor of Biggers Church.

Marriette L. "Bitsy" Cound of North Little Rock died Feb. 25 at age 48. Her funeral services were held Feb. 28 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, where she served as music secretary. Survivors are her husband, Gerald Cound; two sons, Mike and Jerry Cound of North Little Rock; a daughter, Chela Cound of North Little Rock; and two sisters. Memorials may be made to the Park Hill Church or to the Arkansas Regional Organ Procurement Agency.

Marty Brown began serving March 3 as pastor of Gethsemane Church in North Little Rock.

James Griffin is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Concord.

Bryant First Southern Church conducted a revival Feb. 10-14 which resulted in 91 professions of faith, according to Pastor Jim Lagrone. The Scott Camp Evangelistic Team led the services.

Dardanelle First Church recently broke ground for an education building. The congregation held a Lay Renewal Weekend Feb. 1-3 with G.B. Hambrick as coordinator.

Ridgeway Church in Nashville began a Yokefellow ministry Feb. 17, commissioning Joe Goodwin, Cush Radebaugh, Donnie Powell, Jack Lovells, Rodger Echols, Larry Elrod, Lee Wright, Wayne Rosenbaum, Brent Turner, Horace Ferguson, Russell Shankles, Cecil McCain, and David Smith to service.

Rogers Immanuel Church is holding daily noon prayer meetings for the Middle East crisis. The church also recently celebrated 19 years of service in its bus ministry, which has eight routes, averaging 245 riders each Sunday.

Magnet Cove First Southern Church will celebrate its ninth anniversary with a noteburning service March 17.

New Life Church at Alexander observed homecoming Feb. 10 with an "Old-Fashioned Day." Les Aldridge is pastor.

Piney Church at Hot Springs ordained George Lieblong to the deacon ministry Jan. 27. James Swedenburg, director of missions for Central Association, preached the ordination message, and Pastor Joel Moody led the questioning.

Ridgecrest Church at Benton launched Woman's Missionary Union work Jan. 24, electing Charlene Tatum as director.

Benton Salem Church held a marriage enrichment conference Jan. 25-26 with approximately 150 participating. Gary Chapman of North Carolina was leader.

Calvary Chapel at Ebenezer conducted a "Growth Probe" with the help of Jack Ramsey, ABSC Missions Department associate.

Social Hill First Church held a witnessing conference Feb. 8-10 with James Swedenburg, director of missions for Central Association, as leader. Barry King is pastor.

Van Buren First Church held a family enrichment seminar Feb. 23-24 with Ralph Speas as leader.

Batesville First Church has organized a task force to discover and implement ways to minister to those involved in the Persian Gulf crisis.

Mountain Home First Church held a Persian Gulf crisis prayer vigil and a yellow ribbon dedicatory service Feb. 23.

Gravel Ridge First Church held a Lay Renewal Weekend March 1-3 with Fred Ward of Marshall Road Church in Jacksonville as coordinator.

Nashville First Church is participating in an Operation Desert Storm weekly community support group.

Little River Association Evangelism Conference was held Feb. 23 in First Church in Nashville. Program personalities included Richard Blifford, pastor of Highland Church in Pine Bluff, and Jerry Muckensturm, minister to university student at Central Church in Jonesboro. Craig Chambers, pastor of First Church in Dierks, is associational evangelism director. David Blase is pastor of the host church.

Grubbs Church will observe homecoming June 3.

Spring Lake Church at Williford has enlarged its parking area and acquired

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Bethlehem Church, near Gurdon, held a noteburning Feb. 24. The congregation borrowed \$9,000 in 1983 to put a new roof and siding on the church building. When Rusty Kisting became pastor in April of 1990 the congregation had a balance of \$7,800. Kisting challenged the church to pay off the indebtedness and to remodel the interior of the facility, which the congregation did. Remodeling included new steps and a breezeway, new exterior doors new lighting, a new baptistry, central heat and air conditioning, new carpet, and new cushioned pews. The speaker for the occasion was Editor J. Everett Sneed. Pictured (left to right) are Georgia Scbee, Pastor Kisting, Melba Webb, Corine Stiffa, and Katbe Crews.

room for future growth by purchasing property adjoining the church. Portions of the church's educational area recently have recently been redecorated and repaired.

Conway First Church has launched a Deacon Family Ministry program. R. Dale Wicker Jr. is pastor.

Greenbrier Church recently ordained Jerry Foshee to the deacon ministry.

Oak Bowery Church at Conway has conducted special patriotic services and special prayer efforts, as well as prepared care packages for troops participating in Operation Desert Storm.

Zion Church, Conway, ordained Arnold Love to the deacon ministry Feb. 10.

Elaine Church held a conference Feb. 24-27 with Ted Witchen, pastor of Helena First Church, as leader.

Concord Association observed Ferrell Morgan Day March 24 with an association-wide reception at First Church in Fort Smith. Morgan recently took disability retirement from his position as association director of missions.

Elkins Church held a service Feb. 17 in which Pastor Paul Bond was ordained to the gospel ministry. Farrell Ard was moderator of the ordination council.

Nall's Memorial Church, located in west Little Rock, has been renamed West Rock Church. Its address has been changed from 5200 Jerry Drive to 14601 Cantrell Road. Frank Gantz is pastor.

Pulaski Association has been represented in the Arkansas-Guatemala Partnership by 13 mission volunteers who have led

in the organization of a new church in Retalhuleu, Guatemala. The volunteers represented Calvary, Cross Road, Green Memorial, Greater Grace, Lakeshore Drive, and Little Rock Second Churches. The new church will serve a city of 50,000 with no other Baptist work.

Little Rock Second Church recently observed its 107th anniversary of service by recognizing four generation families that included the Foreman/Carter/Peterson family; the Gosser/Turner family; the Hansford/Lowry/Haydon family; the Agee/Jones family; and the Snow/Lewis family.

Pine Bluff First Church combined youth and sanctuary choirs presented the musical "Jericho" March 10.

Rogers Immanuel Church had the grand opening of a new nursery Feb. 24.

Calvary Church in Little Rock has launched two new missions ministries, hosting a group from the Dorcas House on the first Sunday of each month and men from the Union Rescue Mission on the third Sunday of each month.

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro ordained Bruce Raley, minister of education, to the gospel ministry March 3. Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association, led the questioning and the candidate's father, George Raley, preached the ordination message. John C. Matthews is pastor.

Sherwood First Church honored Norma Jennings with a reception March 3 in recognition of 25 years of service as church secretary.

Looking Ahead

March

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, *Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (DT)*

April

4 Golden Age Area Conference, *Fairfield Bay First Church (M/Eu)*

5 Golden Age Area Conference, *North Little Rock Central Church (M/Eu)*

6 "Carry the Torch" Rally Evangelism Training Day, *Bryant First Southern Church (Ev)*

7-9 Church Music Excellence Conference, *Springdale First Church (M)*

12-13 Ministry to Children in Crisis Conference, *Little Rock (DT)*

12-13 Acteens Encounter, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)*

15-16 New Pastor/Staff Orientation, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ad)*

15 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Quachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (DT)*

16 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (DT)*

17 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (DT)*

18-19 Minister of Education Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*

18-19 State Youth Minister Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)* ☉

Abbreviations:

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

Pleasant View constitutes



Mark Taylor, (center left) interim pastor of Osceola First Church, celebrates the constitution of Pleasant View Church with Pastor Carl Guy (center right.)

North Park Mission at Hodges Mobile Home Park in Osceola marked its constitution into a church with a special service on Jan. 27 at 2 p.m., and became Pleasant View Church. The mission, originally sponsored by Osceola First Church, was the fourth new work to constitute in a manufactured home development in Arkansas since 1987. Neal Stevens, ABSC church extension consultant, was guest speaker for the service. Carl Grey is pastor of the newly-constituted body, which has 46 charter members.

Baptisms increase

A review of the Arkansas Baptist statistics for the 1989-90 church year shows a healthy increase in baptisms after several years of decline, following a national trend. There also were dramatic increases in church receipts.

Baptisms Up

Arkansas Baptist congregations baptized 13,084 converts during 1989-90, an increase of 1,785, or 15.8 percent. Only three other conventions posted larger percentage gains than Arkansas.

That rise followed the national trend of the largest increase in baptisms in a decade for the Southern Baptist Convention. A total of 385,031 baptisms were reported, compared to 351,107 in 1989, for a 9.7 increase of 33,924. During 1990, Southern Baptists conducted "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals throughout the nation.

In addition to the dramatic increase in baptisms, Arkansas also had a larger percentage of other additions than the previous year. Other additions totalled 16,778, a 7.96 percent increase of 1,237.

However, church membership in Arkansas remained nearly even at 489,580, posting a gain of .27 percent of 1,332. Nationally, church membership broke the 15 million mark by reaching 15,044,412, registering a 0.9 percent gain of 130,875, the largest increase since 1986.

Receipts, mission gifts up

Following last year's trend of a 4.65 percent increase, receipts rose by a healthy margin of 6.18 percent.

Undesignated receipts totaled \$115,129,221, an increase of \$6,700,892 over last year. Nationally, total tithes, offerings, and special gifts reached \$4,567,834,980, a 6 percent increase of 258,496,000 over 1989.

Reversing last year's flat giving trend, Cooperative Program gifts from Arkansas totaled \$13,526,238, a difference of \$700,405, for an increase of 5.46 percent. However, the increase in missions giving continues to lag behind the increase in local church receipts.

National mission expenditures totaled \$718,476,262, an increase of 0.8 percent, or \$5,553,472.

Ongoing programs mixed

Discipleship training and Brotherhood enrollment/participation registered larger totals than 1989, both locally and nationally, but figures cannot be compared due to changes in reporting procedures, according to the Baptist Sunday School Board, which compiles the figures.

Arkansas Brotherhood participation totaled 12,943; national enrollment was 2,206,252. Arkansas Discipleship Training enrollment was 77,526; nationally the figure was 2,206,252.

Arkansas Sunday School enrollment declined slightly, the 253,727 total decreasing .1 percent from last year. Nationally ongoing Sunday School climbed by 73,483, or 0.9 percent, to top the 8 million mark.

Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union also showed a slight decrease in participation, its 27,684 total representing a decline of 139 from last year, or .5 percent. Nationally, participation also declined 0.4

percent or 4,476, for a new total of 1,197,987. This was the second consecutive decrease for WMU enrollment.

In Arkansas, music programs showed a solid increase, with its 55,086 participants representing an increase of 3,341, or 6.46 percent. Nationally, ongoing music ministry enrollment increased for the 25th consecutive year. The 1990 total of 1,837,428 represents an increase of 47,560, or 2.7 percent.

Top 25 churches in baptisms named

The top 25 Arkansas churches in baptisms for 1990 numerically were: Springdale First Church, 468; Texarkana Trinity Church, 178; Mulberry First Church, 132; Rogers Immanuel Church, 130; Fort Smith First Church, 128; Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church, 122; Booneville South Side Church, 118; Jonesboro Central Church, 98; North Little Rock Park Hill, 88; Centerton First Church, 83; Jonesboro Nettleton Church, 83; Gosnell Church, 81; Fort Smith Grand Avenue Church, 79; Little Rock First Church, 79; Bryant Indian Springs Church, 74; DeQueen First Church, 69; Clinton First Church, 66; Pocahontas First Church, 64; University Church, Fayetteville, 64; Gentry First Church, 63; Fort Smith Haven Heights Church, 63; North Crossett Mount Olive Church, 62; Van Buren First Church, 61; Rogers First Church, 61; Russellville First Church, 61; Hot Springs Lakeside Church, 61.

The top 25 Arkansas churches in baptisms in 1990 by ratio were: Crossett Community Chapel, 1.60; North Little Rock Korean Church, 1.21; Monticello Cominto church, 1.40; Antioch Royal Church, 2.00; Bentonville Park Street Church, 2.55; Solgohachia Cove Chapel Southern Church, 2.76; Marshall Searcy County Church, 3.20; Peel Church, 3.57; West Helena West Acres Mission, 3.58; Crossett Mount Zion Mission, 3.75; Gilmore Church, 3.81; Hickory Ridge Tilton Church, 3.82; Camden Faith Church, 4.00; Greenwood Mount Harmony Church, 4.25; Mena Friendship Church, 4.25; Clarksville Spadra Church, 4.27; Luxora Rosa Church, 4.28; Centerton First Church, 4.36; Gillham Grannis Church, 4.36; Saint Joe First, 4.47; Mulberry First Church, 4.49; Conway Zion Church, 4.54; Booneville South Side, 4.55; Alexander Hilldale Church, 4.63; Ashdown Millwood Chapel, 4.77.

Centerton First Church and Booneville South Side Church appeared on both lists.

ABSC Statistical Summary 1989-1990

	1989	1990	Change	%
Baptisms	11,299	13,084	1,785	15.80
Other additions	15,541	16,778	1,237	7.96
Resident membership	324,974	327,827	2,853	0.88
Total membership	488,248	489,580	1,332	0.27
Sunday School	253,980	253,727	-253	-0.10
Discipleship Training	75,845	77,526	1,681	2.22
WMU	27,823	27,684	-139	-0.50
Brotherhood	11,217	12,943	1,726	15.39
Church Music	51,745	55,086	3,341	6.46
Undesignated receipts	108,428,329	115,129,221	6,700,892	6.18
Total receipts	139,717,360	149,737,420	10,020,060	7.17
Cooperative Program	12,825,833	13,526,238	700,405	5.46
Total missions	23,874,418	24,838,864	1,164,446	4.92

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
- Steeple
- 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

*Albert George,
of the Albert George Mfg. Co.,
wishes to thank all
the Baptist churches of Arkansas
for your business and
support for the past 22 years.*

Church Furniture

- Pews
- Pulpits
- Tables
- Chairs
- Benches
- Bookracks

Draperies & Cornices

- Valances

Fabrics

- 15 Patterns
- 100 Colors

Seating

- Reupholstery
- Cushions
- Chair Cushions
- Kneeling Pads
- Upholstered Seats
- Upholstered Backs
- Lay-In Cushions
- Piano & Organ Cushions
- Metal Folding Chair Cushions

Serving Churches Nation—



Reynolds Memorial Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.

For Your Free Gift & Brochure Write to:

Albert George Mfg. Co.

**P.O. Box 5700
North Little Rock, AR 72119
1-501-375-2921**

**721 Poplar St.
North Little Rock, AR 72114**

Wide For The Past 22 Years

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**

The Promise House

by Colleen Backus
Arkansas Baptist

The proposed home for unwed mothers in El Dorado received a name during the December meeting of the board of trustees of the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries. The future facility will be called Arkansas Baptist Promise House. The ministry will offer a Christian alternative to abortion for young unmarried girls who face a problem pregnancy; it also will provide adoption services.

According to Barbara Billingsley, who will direct the ministry, the name reflects two aspects of promise. The first is the promise of potential for a bright future for both the young lady and her child. The second is the key to all the ministry will do: the chance to share with these girls all the promises that God has given his children.

An integral part of the project will be the religious aspect. Billingsley also feels that one of the keys to the Promise House is to



provide the occupants with independent living skills, reinforced by good pre-natal care and education.

The facility itself, a large plantation homestead in El Dorado, is being prepared for occupancy; it will house 12 girls.

The upstairs consists of four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a common room. Three of the four bedrooms have been furnished, and the fourth is in process. One bedroom was furnished by Lake Village

Church, another by Dallas Avenue Church in Mena, and a third was furnished by proceeds from a craft fair conducted by Hope First Church's WMU mission action group, Hearts and Hands; they were assisted by Hope Calvary Church.

One bath has been completely outfitted by a ladies' Sunday School class from Parkview Church in El Dorado and the other bath has been designated to Grace Church in Camden. The common room is still in need of furnishings.

The downstairs consists of a large kitchen, formal living room, dining room, office, and a foyer which will provide a waiting area for the office.

First Church in El Dorado has done kitchen work, including putting up trim and curtains and collecting dishes and kitchen gadgets. Along with the Red River Association WMU, the church also has provided a refrigerator, freezer, large microwave, ice machine, and garbage disposal. The other downstairs rooms also are in need of furnishings.

Johnny Biggs, director of Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, notes that many other needs will be met by volunteers who already have pledged their time. Harold and Elizabeth Elmore have volunteered their services as houseparents for two years or more. A group of area Baptist physicians have volunteered their services to the girls, not only for pregnancy-related health care, but for all aspects of the girls' physical well-being.

According to Biggs, the Promise House is part of a three-year \$3 million campaign that was started in October 1989 to endow the boys' ranch, the unwed mothers' home, and other capital improvements to existing facilities. At this point, the agency has achieved half of its goal in cash and pledges. "In order to respond to the urgency Baptists have expressed toward this ministry," Biggs said, "we are currently soliciting funds from private foundations in order to start the operation sooner."

**BOYD
PRO SOUND**

8702 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 A. Butler
Principal

Steeple & Baptistries



From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

- Steeples
- Baptisries
- Lighted Wall Columns
- Ecolight® Windows
- Baptistries Heaters

1-800-527-1639
PO Box 101
Henderson, TX 75643-1040

**FIBERGLASS
SPECIALTIES
INCORPORATED**

College Digest

Williams Baptist College

Staley lecture series—Dr. Bruce Metzger will be guest speaker for Williams Baptist College's Staley Lecture series March 26-27 at the Walnut Ridge campus. Metzger is chairman of the Revised Standard Version Bible Committee and is a corresponding fellow of the British Academy.

The public is invited to a free open lecture on Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

Steve Camp concert—Steve Camp, a contemporary Christian music artist, will be in concert at Williams on March 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Southerland Mabee Center. The concert is open to the public and free of charge.

Wiles meets world leaders—Jerry Wiles, vice-president for development at Williams Baptist College, recently met with government officials and world leaders in Washington D.C. to promote the International Bible Reading Association 1990s Decade of Bible Reading project. Wiles is co-founder and vice-chairman of the organization.

Alumni officers elected—Williams Baptist College alumni association recently elected officers. The 1991-92 officers included Clifford Toney, Jonesboro, president; Randy Magar, Austin, vice-president; and Carolyn McCampbell, Jonesboro, secretary.

Anyone interested in joined the alumni association should contact the WBC Alumni Office, P.O. Box 3398, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; telephone 501-886-6741, ext. 120.

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarship endowed—Sarah Varnell of Riverside, Calif., has established the Gerald Varnell Endowed Scholarship Fund at Ouachita Baptist University with a gift of \$100,000 in honor of her late husband. The fund will provide annual scholarships to selected student-athletes in the football program who meet certain requirements, and is renewable as long as the recipients remains eligible to complete.

Gerald Varnell, who died in 1989, was an Ouachita student athlete in the mid-1930s. He retired from an executive position at Sunstik Products in California. Sarah Varnell, a 1936 OBU graduate, taught mathematics on the high school and college levels over a span of 48 years.

Parking lot underway—The Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust of Malvern is financing the construction of a new 60 vehicle paved and landscaped parking lot and gazebo, adjacent to the Frances Crawford women's dormitory.

OBU named to honor roll—Ouachita Baptist University has been selected for membership in the third annual John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges. These schools were chosen from candidates nominated by presidents and development directors of four year, accredited, public and private colleges and universities in the United States. The 108 schools comprising this year's honor roll represent 30 states.

Criswell observes 15 years of service

Louis Criswell observed his 15th anniversary of service Feb. 9 as associate pastor and minister of music for Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, having served with four pastors.

Criswell, who came to North Little Rock from Immanuel Church in El Dorado, is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., with a degree in sacred music. He was ordained to the ministry by Baring Cross Church.

He and his wife, Georgia, are parents of two teenage sons, Bill and Mike.

Since coming to Baring Cross Church, Criswell has led in a full graded choir program with an enrollment of 300. This



Criswell

program includes a choir for two and three-year-old toddlers, a senior adult choir, a senior adult ukulele band, and two handbell choirs.

The ukulele band and youth choir are much in demand, performing for civic events and in nursing homes and retirement centers both locally and in other locations as they tour annually.

Criswell is a member of the North Pulaski Association Singing Men and the MasterSingers (formerly Arkansas Singing Men), of which he is immediate past president. He also serves as camp director for Summer Sing, held annually on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University.

Save—Planning to build? Want to save 40-50%? Call B & B Building Consultants 501-329-4614, 800-467-1614. 3/28

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. 3/14

Needed—Part-time Music and Youth Minister. Little Rock Church. Call 490-1059 or 490-0892. 3/28

For Sale—Religious jackets, bumper stickers, T-shirts, buttons. Catalog \$1.00. Religiously, Box 07581AB, Milwaukee, WI 53207. 3/14

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 72801. 2/28

For Sale—Beautiful Hot Springs Village lot for sale by pastor. Good deal! 317-842-8029 evenings. 3/28

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 60 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance.



A Symbol
To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett
Healy & Roth

Little Rock

Forest Hills

Memorial Park

Little Rock

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills

FOREST HILLS AND MEMORIAL PARK - REST HILLS VILLAGE 2001

GROSS
FUNERAL HOME

Hot Springs

PEOPLE TO BE NEEDED

Photo / Patie Perry



DOMs elect officers—Billy Kite (left) was elected president of Arkansas's directors of missions at their annual retreat held at DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia, Feb. 27-March 1. Kite is DOM for Ashley County Association with offices in Crossett. Serving with him for the coming year will be Norman Lewis (center), DOM for Black River Association, president-elect; and Jeff Cheatbam (right), DOM for Arkansas River Valley Association, secretary.

McCord named DOM of the year

Eddie McCord of Batesville was named Arkansas' Director of Missions of the Year

at an annual dinner held in honor of the DOMs on Thursday, Feb. 28 at Ouachita Baptist University. McCord, 62, director of missions for Independence Association since 1985, was unable to receive the award personally, as he was recuperating from a recent hospitalization. In his absence, McCord's youngest son, David, pastor of Hazen First Church, was presented the award by OBU President Ben Elrod.



McCord

A native of Bates, McCord is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas. He has served as pastor of churches in Mount Ida, Benton, El Dorado, Pine Bluff, and DeWitt.

"... 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

NATIONWIDE BIBLE CONFERENCE

BRIGHT LIGHT FOR DARK DAYS

A CONFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

April 17-21, 1991 • Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

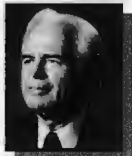
- Seminars for Pastors, Deacons, Staff Members, Lay Leaders & Ladies
- Panel discussions • Workshops • Praise Worship Services



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



W.A. Criswell, First Baptist Church,
Dallas, Texas



Stephen Olford, Encounter Ministries
and the Institute for Biblical
Preaching, Memphis, Tennessee



John Phillips, Moody Bible
Institute, Chicago, Illinois



Darrell Gilyard, Victory
Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas



Jerry Falwell, Thomas Road
Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia



Joel Gregory, First Baptist Church,
Dallas, Texas



Ron Dunn, Lifestyle Ministries,
Irving, Texas



Jim Whitmire, Bellevue Baptist
Church, Memphis, Tennessee



AN INVITATION

A second Nationwide Bible Conference is being offered because of the many requests from the 1990 "Decade of Destiny" Conference. The 1991 theme is "Bright Light for Dark Days." Preachers and prophets are being assembled to proclaim His Word during these days which are becoming gloriously dark. Bellevue Church will host pastors, deacons, laymen, and wives from across our land for a time of superlative Bible preaching, panel discussions and practical workshops. In the Name of Jesus and with great anticipation, I invite you to this timely conference.

Adrian Rogers, Pastor

FOR INFORMATION CALL
901-385-5720

or write

Nationwide Bible Conference
Bellevue Baptist Church
P.O. Box 1210
Cordova, Tennessee 38018



clip & mail

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Nationwide Bible Conference • April 17-21, 1991

Mail To: Nationwide Bible Conference, Bellevue Baptist Church
P.O. Box 1210, Cordova, Tennessee 38018

Name (Dr., Rev., Fr., Mrs., Miss) (Last) (Middle Initial) (First)
 Staff Position
 Spouse's Name if attending
 Church
 Denomination

Church Address
 City State Zip
 Home Address (if by phone)
 City State Zip
 Home Phone Work Phone
 Anticipated arrival time
 Flight #

AIRLINE DISCOUNTS: Special discounts on flights are available by calling Regal Travel at 1-800-563-2076. Please inform the travel agency that you are attending Bellevue's Bible Conference.

PREREGISTRATION NOTICE: While preregistration is not required to attend the conference, all who preregister by April 8 may purchase audio-cassette tapes of the conference sessions at a 50 percent reduction. Cut-off date for preregistration is Monday, April 8, 1991.

CHILD CARE: Child care for children ages birth through 3 is available by reservation. Call the conference office at (901) 385-5720.

CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION

A breach in the wall?

by Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Department of Justice has asked the Supreme Court to replace its long-held strict interpretation of the First Amendment's ban against governmental establishment of religion with one critics say would breach the wall separating church and state.

In a brief filed Feb. 22, the Justice Department asked the high court to overturn lower court decisions holding that invocations and benedictions during junior high and high school commencement exercises at a Rhode Island school district violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The government's brief also urged the Supreme Court to "reconsider the scope and application" of the

Lemon test, a three-part standard long relied upon to limit governmental promotion of religion.

Under the Lemon test, governmental actions are required to have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion and avoid excessive entanglement with religion. The lower courts in the Rhode Island case held that the graduation prayers violated the second prong of the test by impermissibly advancing religion.

The Justice Department's friend-of-the-court brief argues the Lemon test was developed to assess the permissibility of government funding for plainly religious institutions and that it is inappropriate to apply the test across the board to Establishment Clause cases.

In cases involving what the brief described as "accommodation of religious heritage in civic life" such as the Rhode Island case, the Justice Department argued that the Lemon test should be replaced by a softer standard that would permit government-sponsored religion as long as the practice "is not coercive and not part of an

establishment of an official church."

Two Baptist church-state attorneys said the Justice Department proposal represents a threat to the nation's long tradition of separation of church and state.

"The Justice Department has very shrewdly chosen to work its mischief in a case in which the result that it is seeking will be popular with most Americans," said Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Oliver S. Thomas. "If the department has its way, however, we'll be seeing a lot more than graduation prayers. Mr. Jefferson's wall of separation will, for many purposes, cease to exist."

The Justice Department's proposed test "would allow government aid to religion as long as it does not threaten to establish a single national church or force persons to participate in religion against their consciences," Thomas said.

"The department is asking the federal courts to take a hands-off approach to cases involving government aid to religion," he said. "And, as with last year's peyote decision, it would tend to subject people to the dominant religion in their communities."

The Justice Department also contends the Lemon test is unworkable and results in wide disagreements in federal courts.

CLC opposes ACLU over monument

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission General Counsel Michael Whitehead has written a letter to a Kansas county repudiating the contention of the American Civil Liberties Union that a courthouse monument engraved with the Ten Commandments is unconstitutional.

Whitehead wrote the Wyandotte County Commission Feb. 14 after a report of the ACLU's complaint about the monument was published in the *Kansas City Star*. The 6-foot-tall granite tablet, has been on public property in front of the county courthouse in Kansas City, Kan., for nearly 30 years.

"The Ten Commandments constitute the foundation moral code for Western Civilization. It is no impermissible 'establishment of religion' to recognize the Judeo-Christian moral ethic which states that it is wrong to lie, steal or kill," Whitehead's letter said.

Dick Kurtenbach, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri, wrote to the county commission on Feb. 5. His letter said that the tablet "raises a significant First Amendment issue involving the prohibition of an establishment of religion by governments," the *Star* reported. David Waxse, general counsel of the ACLU chapter, told the *Star* that the solution is "to put that tablet on private property someplace."

1991 GA CAMPS

"Go Country
Go Western
Go Beyond"

**Mother/Daughter
Camps**

June 7-8
June 14-15

For 1st through
3rd grade girls

Cost: \$19 Per Person

**GA
Mini-Camps**

July 8-10
July 10-12

For girls who
have finished
3rd grade through
6th grade

Cost: \$32 Per Person



All Camps Held at Camp Paron

Across the Country

February and five months' CP exceed budget goal

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—SBC Executive Committee President/Treasurer Harold C. Bennett announced Cooperative Program unified budget contributions received by the Executive Committee set a record for February.

Although receipts for the first five months of the budget year remained below receipts for the same period in 1989-90, they were above budget requirements for both February and the first five months of the budget year.

February SBC receipts totaled \$13,682,656, which was 12.61 percent or \$1,532,360 above the previous record for February reached in 1990. Comparing 1990-91 year-to-date receipts with the previous year, February contributions reduced the deficit to 2.59 percent from the 6.46 percent reported in January.

Spiritual awakening committee promises historic session

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A committee hoping to spark spiritual awakening among Southern Baptists unveiled tentative plans Feb. 18 for "the most important meeting" in the denomination's history.

The 10-member spiritual awakening committee, named by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris H. Chapman, will coordinate a two-and-a-half-hour period of prayer and confession on Wednesday evening of the SBC's annual meeting, June 4-6 in Atlanta. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, originally slated to present its report at that time, relinquished the time slot late last year.

Southern Baptist network formed for child advocacy

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—A group of Southern Baptists has formed a network aimed at encouraging churches to be advocates for children.

The Southern Baptist Child Advocacy Network will try to motivate Southern Baptist churches to be advocates for children both within the context of church ministries and in the larger society, according to Diana Richmond Garland, a church social work professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and an organizer of the group.

SBC started 3 churches every day last year

CHICAGO—Southern Baptists started about three churches per day across America last year. Statistics on 1990 church starts were presented to state missions directors and church extension directors during the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's annual leadership conference in Chicago.

The total number of church starts for the year is believed to be between 968 and 1,201.

New England names Martin editor

NORTHBORO, Mass.—Joyce Sweeney Martin has been named editor of *The New England Baptist*, the monthly newjournal of the six-state Baptist Convention of New England. Martin, a Kentucky native, assumed the editorship on Jan. 1. She has been on *The New England Baptist* staff since 1983, serving first as editorial/production assistant and then as associate editor.

Moyers special on hate

On Monday, May 13, on PBS, Bill Moyers will explore one of humanity's most basic instincts: hate. The 90-minute special will deal with some of the forms hate takes: racial intolerance, white supremacy, and gang warfare. The special will feature testimonies of those who have made the journey beyond hate.

Federal funds to be used for 'lesbian' performance

WASHINGTON—Holly Hughes, who describes herself as an "openly lesbian performance artist," says she plans to use a recent grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to discuss female homosexual themes on stage.

The grant for a work by Hughes, whom the NEA had rejected in a different application last June, may fulfill the fears of legislators as well as evangelical and other groups that pushed for restrictions on content in October's reauthorization of the endowment.



EASTER MUSICAL DRAMA

Featuring the

PARK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY CHOIR

Saturday, March 23, 1991
Sunday, March 24, 1991
7:00 P.M.

North Little Rock High School
East Campus Auditorium

For Complimentary Tickets
Call 753-3414

ACTEENS ENCOUNTER For All Teen-age Girls

April 12-13
Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock

Featuring: State Panelists, Mildred McWhorter, Studiaact Recognition, Jan Turentine, Commissioning Service for Actuators, New Friends, Fun!

Cost: \$6
Contact State WMU Office
for more information.

To everything there is a season. A time for change comes even in the life of a church. And like an old church, Presbyterian Ministers' Fund has served those whose lives revolve around their faith since 1717.

Now we're changing our name to The Covenant Life Insurance Company. It's a better reflection of the diversity of our congregation. Because through the years, our insurance products have represented an unbreakable covenant with members of all denominations.

Our new name is simply a new coat of paint on an historic structure dedicated to serving the religious community.

Putting A
New Face On
A Rock Of Ages.



Name change subject to individual state approvals

At Presbyterian Ministers' Fund,
we've changed our name, not our commitment.



THE COVENANT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

America's first life insurance company—formerly Presbyterian Ministers' Fund
Serving the religious community since 1717

1-800-445-1717 • (215) 568-1717

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Responsibilities of freedom

by Bob Parker, Interim director,
Christian Civic Foundation

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9;
9:19-23; 10:32-11:1

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 8:9

Central truth: Our freedom in Christ carries with it responsibilities.

We Baptists' are sometimes accused of believing in the security of the believer (once saved always saved) because it gives us freedom to do anything we want to do after we are saved. The truth is that when we are really saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ our "want to's" are changed. As individuals really freed by Christ from the bondage of sin we will want to be careful in the way we use this freedom.

In the scriptural passages for this lesson, Paul gives practical advice regarding our responsibilities as individuals freed from our sins. In the first place he states that one should not do anything that might be a stumbling block to a brother. This, of course, would include the lost, also. Nothing should be done that might prevent one from also being freed in Christ (1 Co. 8:8-9:4).

Secondly, for the gospel's sake, or in order for the good news of Jesus Christ to be effective, Paul indicated that he wanted to somehow identify with all men. He especially wanted them to know that his main purpose in having freedom in Christ was to be recognized as a servant of Jesus Christ and to his fellow man. He did not want his fellow Jews, the Gentiles, or the weak to look upon him in any other way, but as one seeking through service to win others to Christ (1 Co. 9:19-23).

Last of all, Paul sought to let the Christians in Corinth know that it was their responsibility to imitate Christ. He very humbly suggested that by imitating him, they would be imitating Christ, his Lord and Savior (1 Co. 10:32-11:1).

We often rejoice as a result of Christ redeeming or freeing us from the "slave pits of sin and hell." Let us be careful to show our gratitude by using this freedom in a positive, responsible way that the lost might be more easily won!

There would be fewer wars and rumors of war if the people of the world at large knew Christ as personal Savior and Lord. Our responsibility is to seek to win all the world to him!

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

Life and Work

Living with injustice

by Curtis Honts, Lakeshore Drive
Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 19:6-7, 14-18,
28-30

Focal passage: John 19:17, 28-30

Central truth: Jesus' crucifixion guides us in dealing with injustice.

At the time of this writing, world attention has riveted on the Middle East. The world has cried out at the injustice of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and grimly focused its thoughts upon its response. Our passage this week calls our attention to another Middle Eastern event and one man's response to the greatest injustice of history—the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

As Christians, the purchase of our salvation by Jesus through his death on the cross stands out as precious and priceless. We know of his cowardly arrest, illegal trial, lying accusers and unjust verdict. We are moved by the thought of his beaten back bearing the burden of the cross to Golgotha. We are aghast at his public humiliation and overwhelmed at his agonizing death.

But in addition to sacrificing his life for the atonement of our sins, Jesus taught us that day lessons for living. The first lesson we see is that injustices will come to us. If the perfect Son of God suffered unjust accusations, we should expect no less. Injustices will come our way—from co-workers, family members, friends, competitors, or elsewhere, but they will come.

Secondly, we see that Jesus did not allow the injustice to sidetrack him. Verse 28 indicates that he kept his focus on his task. He was aware of where he stood in regard to what God expected of him. Injustices often consume us to the point that we neglect his desire for us.

In a related lesson we see that Jesus accepted the injustice. We do not find Jesus "fighting back." In verse 30, we do watch him give himself over to God in the knowledge he has faithfully, obediently fulfilled God's plan. On the other hand, we often either take the stance of a raging bull, full of snort and anger, or adopt an attitude of defeat and give up in depression.

Injustice cannot be dealt with easily. Jesus must have agonized inconceivably. But, even in the midst of injustice God still reigns, the resurrection still comes, and Jesus still provides the standard for our attitudes and behavior.

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

The Crucifixion

by Harry Black, Natural Steps Church,
Roland

Basic passage: Luke 23:26-56

Focal passage: Luke 23:28-31, 34,
43-49, 48

Central truth: The Gospel of Luke provides a unique perspective on the crucifixion.

Any investigation takes many witnesses to determine the truth because each person has his own perspective. In the crucifixion of Jesus each of the gospel writers brought his own perspective to the event. Luke's testimony includes at least four major points that give us a fuller understanding of the crucifixion.

Luke records Jesus' prophecy of judgment upon Jerusalem (vv. 28-31). As the women mourned for him, Jesus warned that a day of destruction was coming for them and their children.

Verse 31 is a proof of the coming judgment. One possible meaning is that Jesus referred to himself as "the green tree," for he was life and righteousness; the Jews were "the dry" for they were dead and unrighteous in their rejection of him. History reveals the validity of Jesus' prophecy as Rome later poured fierce destruction upon Jerusalem.

Luke alone records Jesus' prayer for his enemies (v. 34). Although this is not found in some of the best manuscripts, it is certainly consistent with the heart of the Savior.

The account of the two criminals crucified with Jesus is also unique to Luke (vv. 39-43). One criminal abused Jesus, but the other defended him. In the second criminal's experience we can see the plan of salvation: confession of sin (v. 41a), acknowledgment of Christ's righteousness (v. 41b), and the plea for salvation (v. 42). Jesus' words gave him the assurance of his redemption (v. 43).

In verse 48, Luke turned his unique perspective upon the crowd as they beat their breasts and returned. Only hours before they had cried out for his crucifixion, but in response to the darkness and tearing of the veil they demonstrated remorse. Luke seems to imply that they were stirred with regret, not repentance.

The unique perspective of this gospel reminds us of man's sin and judgment, and of the Savior's compassion and redemption.

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.

Lesson
Date:
March 31

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Death's defeat

by Bob Parker, interim director, Christian Civic Foundation

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 15:57

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 15:57

Central truth: Christians have victory over death.

Many years before the Apostle Paul wrote his letters to the church at Corinth, Jesus told Mary, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he may die, shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (Jn. 11:25-26). These words were spoken on the occasion of the death of his friend Lazarus, Mary's brother.

The victory we as Christians have over death comes still as a result of our faith in Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord. We indeed have eternal victory over death.

Years ago cowboy evangelist B.B. Crimm illustrated eternity as follows: He said, "Imagine a steel ball the size of the earth out in space. Then imagine a humming bird flying out once a year to rub a wing against it. When it is worn out," he continued, "eternity would have just begun." The victory we as Christians have in Christ over death is for a mighty long time.

On the other hand, how sad eternity is for those not having this resurrection victory in Jesus.

The first thing noted in this lesson's basic passage is that there were no people then, as now, who said there is no resurrection of the dead. In essence, these say humans live and die like animals. On the other hand, Paul, who met the resurrected Jesus on the road to Damascus, made clear the truth of the resurrection. We note also that Paul made clear the fact that if our hope in Jesus is limited to this present life, we are the most pitiable of all mankind.

He then brings out the fact that as in Adam we all die (physically), in Christ all shall be made alive—what a wonderful, victorious truth!

In the last verses of our basic passages, Paul sets a wonderful example for us to follow. We, too, should give thanks to God for the victory over death he gives through our Lord Jesus Christ. He concluded by stating how until our own death and resurrection, we should be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

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

Life and Work

Resurrection peace

by Curtis Honts, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 20:19-20, 24-31

Focal passage: John 20:19-20

Central truth: Jesus' resurrection offers us peace.

Dashed by the jagged reality of the crucifixion, the hopes and dreams and confidences and security of the disciples had plummeted to depths they had never before experienced. A sense of fear and devastation and uncertainty engulfed them with an unprecedented intensity. Their friend, teacher, advisor and master was not only dead, but had been most cruelly and humilatingly executed.

With their emotional wounds still raw, they gather themselves together to comfort themselves of their loss, calm themselves of their fear of the Jews, and contemplate among themselves Mary Magdalene's report that she had seen and spoken with Jesus. Her claims stood in stark contrast to that which they had seen with their own eyes. What explanation could they find to this mystery?

Suddenly, Jesus "stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." Upon realizing that it was indeed their Lord whom they now saw before them, their darkness vanished and was replaced by deep gladness. Where a moment earlier they had been a dejected, defeated group with no hope for life, how they are again the disciples of a living Lord!

There are at least two vital applications of this passage for us today. The first, most obvious, most important is the fact that that we serve a risen, living Lord. Resurrection completes the eternal gift of salvation with the assurance that even death will not stand. Unlike other "saviors," Jesus returned from the grave to continue fellowship with his followers.

And because he has returned to fellowship with us, we can glean a second important application. In the darkest times of our lives, Jesus stands ready to break into our midst and proclaim "Peace be unto you." The peace that passes understanding of Philippians 4 exists because of the resurrection.

What darkness do you now endure in your life? No matter the desperation you feel, Jesus offers unprecedented, unexpected peace in the midst of your situation. "Peace be unto you."

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

The Road to Emmaus

by Harry Black, Natural Steps Church, Roland

Basic passage: Luke 24:1-53

Focal passage: Luke 24:13-35

Central truth: The "Emmaus experience" is common as we search for meaning in life.

Little is known about Emmaus. Its exact location is unknown. That may be best, for in our search for meaning in life we do not all walk the same road. But many who discover true meaning in Christ find that they have walked the road toward their own Emmaus.

On the first day of the week (v. 1) two disciples started to Emmaus. We cannot be sure why. We know they were confused and uncertain as a result of Jesus' death. The word "Emmaus" means "hot baths." It may be these men were going to a place known for therapeutic baths to leave their troubles behind. That is one way we deal with confusion and discouragement in life. Those without Christ try to fill their lives with things which distract and lessen the pain of meaninglessness.

When Jesus approached and asked what they were discussing, "they stood still, looking sad" (v. 17 NASB). This is an appropriate description of those who have not trusted in Christ. The word for "stood still" implies motionlessness. I have heard people refer to their life before accepting Christ as "going nowhere." In their grief, these disciples were "going nowhere."

Further, they were "looking sad." There is an ultimate sadness about all lost people. They may get through this life with relative joy, but the day of judgment will come when they realize their loss.

As Jesus questioned the men, they explained how they had hoped the one crucified would be the Redeemer of Israel. Christ's death had shattered those hopes. Jesus rebuked them for being foolish and slow to believe. Had Moses and the prophets not spoken of the suffering of Christ? His sacrifice was reason to believe, not to doubt. The Christ had to suffer and rise again so that repentance and forgiveness might be preached in his name (vv. 46-47).

With the gospel explained, they sat down to eat and "they recognized him" (v. 31). This is the joyous conclusion of the journey toward Emmaus. They had begun by trying to escape their doubt; the journey ended by recognizing and trusting Christ.

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.

More churches overseas

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Overseas Baptists related to Southern Baptist missions achieved one of the highest gains ever in new churches in 1990 while baptisms dipped below a record set in 1989.

Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work increased from 21,239 in 1989 to 24,122 in 1990, reflecting a 13.6 percent net gain of 2,883 churches. Some of these gains are due to increased attention to reporting from the mission field, said Jim Slack of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's research and planning office. Slack prepares the board's annual statistical report on foreign missions.

The 1990 increase in new churches meets the 12 percent gain required annually to reach Bold Mission Thrust goals, Slack said. Bold Mission Thrust is a plan adopted by Southern Baptists in 1976 for spreading the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000 and for achieving a tenfold expansion of overseas Baptist work.

The 1990 statistics indicate that "significant" church growth is occurring on the Southern Baptist foreign mission field, Slack added. During the past three years, the total number of churches has jumped from 17,769 in 1987 to 24,122 in 1990. In 1990, national Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries started a total of 1,550 new

churches, up from the 1989 total of 1,059. Of the 120 countries reporting, 65 countries, about 54 percent, started new churches during 1990.

Starting new Baptist churches overseas is a primary concern of the Foreign Mission Board, Slack said. "We're not exclusively interested in new work, but it is our primary interest because that's what we're about—evangelism that results in churches," he said.

In addition to starting new work, overseas Baptist churches baptized 208,381 new Christians, the second highest total in the history of Southern Baptist foreign missions. That number is down from the 1989 record of 227,437 baptisms.

Even with a drop in 1990 baptism totals, baptism statistics show "we're much, much stronger overseas," said Slack, comparing overseas results with stateside baptisms. The number of 1990 baptisms reflects a ratio of one baptism for every 12.8 members compared to 1 to 39.1 among Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

Overseas Baptist church membership grew by about 9 percent, from 2.5 million in 1989 to about 2.7 million in 1990.

In other report highlights, a record number of 11,650 Southern Baptist volunteers participated in overseas projects. A total of 17 state Baptist conventions were linked with overseas Baptists in partnership

projects.

Bold Mission Thrust calls for sending 10,000 Southern Baptist volunteers yearly to work in short-term overseas projects by the year 2000. That goal has been achieved every year since 1988, according to Foreign Mission Board officials.

While the 1990 statistics indicate a need for improvement in some areas, the overall report shows a "very healthy and growing missionary movement," said Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks. The most encouraging area of the report was the number of new church gains, Parks said.

"I would want to underline all of this by saying we're well aware that this is a spiritual effort. Only the Lord's spirit moving among us brings people to Christ and brings churches into being."

Parks added that he believes the next two to three years will be the "determining years" of Bold Mission Thrust. "I am praying that all of Southern Baptists' energies, resources and spiritual concern can be focused without distraction... so that we could create the atmosphere and momentum that would push us over the Bold Mission Thrust goals," he said.

Southern Baptist personnel in 1990 began working with 23 new people groups and entered 176 new cities where no Baptist work existed previously. By year's end, 60 nonresidential missionaries in 14 countries were targeting more than 40 different people groups with a population of 247 million.

WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE? VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COSTS

Age	Amount	Male	Female
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30*	\$13.30
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER KNOXVILLE, TENN.
TOLL FREE 1-800-274-0776 • 9-9 Mon.-Sat.

Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, KY. Newlife graded premium life insurance form No. 76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 65 and then remain level.

Relive Baptist History WMU Missions Awareness New England Tour

Visit significant historical and religious sites. Gain new insights of Baptist work. 7-day New England coach tour to Boston, Portsmouth, Concord/Lexington, Luther Rice homesite. May-October, 1991. Write/call: WMU New England Tour, 1204 S. Third, Louisville, KY 40203. 800/325-8708.

Visible Proof That You Did It Right

Fiberglass baptistries, signs, crosses and lighting by the industry's leader.

Wholesome Industries, Inc.
P.O. Box 677, Muscatine, IA 52761-0677
Call 800-553-9664 toll free lows call 319-263-6642 collect

FREE CATALOG



Buses! Vans! People Movers!
New and Used—Champion
Call American TransCoach today
1-817-458-4844

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!

Churches beware!

The "missionary" con artist reported to be preying on churches in the Feb. 28 edition of the *Arkansas Baptist* has hit Arkansas.

Pastor Robert McDaniel of Highland Heights Church in Benton accepted a collect call from a man claiming to be "Bill Bennett" on March 4. Fortunately, McDaniel quickly picked up on the man's deception, since he referred to making McDaniel's acquaintance at a meeting the pastor did not attend. He also noted that "Bennett" had pronounced "New York," or East Coast, accent that made McDaniel suspicious.

Other churches have not been so lucky. The man has a number of different "scams" and always knows the name of the pastor and often mentions the name of other area pastors or church members.

When the *Arkansas Baptist* contacted the SBC Foreign Mission Board to notify them of the call, the staff was informed that the con artist had also hit churches in Florida and Oklahoma in recent days.

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 592
Little Rock, AR 72203

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 2086

CAR-RT 50RT *ACR39
017557 COMP 2230
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST #400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

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.

Work begins in Wales

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BRIDGEND, Wales (BP)—Southern Baptist career missionaries have begun working for the first time in Wales, starting in one of the largest housing developments in Europe.

Missionaries Bill and Lucy Pat Curl, appointed last October, are cooperating with Welsh Baptists on ministry in the Brackla housing development. The Curls, who live in Brackla, have visited all the Baptist churches in the area and found a warm welcome.

"We've been treated royally by these people," said Mrs. Curl. She added that many have kidded them about leaving warm Florida for Wales, which is in the throes of one of the harshest winters in years. Curl, of Louisville, Ky., was associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., from 1972-90. Mrs. Curl, of Georgetown, Ky., was accompanist and choral director.

Brackla is in the Bridgend area, between the larger cities of Swansea and Cardiff in southern Wales. It is a principal industrial area, boasting Ford and Sony factories along with dozens of smaller industries.

"That was just a bare hillside 10 years ago," said Ian Burley, slowing his car during a tour of Brackla, called a "housing estate" in Wales. Burley, evangelism director for the Baptist Union of Wales, pointed to a hillside dotted with clusters of houses stretching to the horizon. Houses throughout the complex are in all stages of construction; others, already completed, bristle with "For Sale" signs.

Housing units in Bridgend range from stand-alone houses to condominium type attached units, from basic bungalows for retirees to luxury homes. The housing market slumps in most of Britain, but construction continues here.

Motioning toward yet-unpaved dirt roads slicing through former farmland, Burley said, "You see those fields there? That's the site of a new school." It will be the third for the area. He wondered aloud if Baptists can get permission to use a school as a meeting place. A medical clinic and a small but busy shopping center with a supermarket and pharmacy have been built.

The mammoth development taking shape at Bridgend is the second-largest private housing development in Europe since World War II, Burley said. It already houses 10,000 residents in about a square mile. To Burley, an energetic and creative man, the situation spells missions with a capital M.

But meeting such a challenge is hard for Welsh Baptists, who have about 70 pastors to serve more than 30,000 members spread among 600 churches. About 7,000 members are in English-language churches. The others are part of some 20 percent of the population who speak the lilting Welsh tongue.

"The fact is that some of our (pastors) are not able to retire because of the needs and the demands, and they just have to keep working on and on," said Burley. In recent years the SBC Foreign Mission Board has sent two-year mission workers to help churches in several locations.

Baptists organized their first church in Wales in 1649 and attained their greatest numbers in the last century. But their ranks have fallen in recent decades, reflecting chaotic social and economic upheavals that have swept Wales. Most coal mines, once the economic backbone, have closed. A sharp decline in spiritual life has accompanied the economic decline, as many Welsh have abandoned church ties.

As population centers have shifted, many Baptist churches gradually have closed during recent years. Burley admitted the idea of launching a ministry in the new development took some getting used to for some church leaders.

The economic boom around Bridgend caught Baptists by surprise; they hesitated too long on buying property within the estate borders. Now they may be unable to buy property there at any price. Bar owners moved faster, Burley noted, pointing out two well-established "public houses."

Circling to one side of the development, Burley pointed across a railroad track to clusters of small factories where many Brackla residents work. He believes chaplaincy programs could be started in such industries. Other Brackla residents commute to jobs in Swansea or Cardiff, a half-hour drive away.

MK Birthday Prayer Calendar: March

Missionary Kids Attending College in Arkansas

25 Pamela Chatman
(Uruguay)

WBC Box 3246
College City, AR 72476