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4-11-1991

### April 11, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# Arkansas Baptist



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Vol. 90, No. 8

April 11, 1991

## *One Mission...*

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**Missionary murdered**

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Telling ALL the WORLD...  
through the Cooperative Program



*Observe Cooperative Program Day*  
*April 21, 1991*

# Arkansas Baptist

## At a glance

### 10 CCF elects officers

In its March 26 annual meeting, the Christian Civic Foundation elected new officers and approved Larry Page as executive director. The organization also heard shocking testimonies from a panel sponsored by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) from individuals whose lives had been permanently altered by drunken drivers.

### 11 OBU students to go to Taiwan

Twelve Ouachita Baptist University students have volunteered to spend up to eight weeks of their summer as missionaries to the inhabitants of the island nation of Taiwan. The students will be assigned in church planting work, personal evangelism, church census surveys, vacation Bible school work, and backyard Bible studies.

### 12 Williams names new president

Williams Baptist College near Walnut Ridge has named Jimmy A. Millikin, professor of theology at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., as its president. The presidential position was left vacant when D. Jack Nicholas, WBC president for 18 years, was promoted to the position of chancellor last spring. Millikin will assume all presidential duties effective July 1.

### 15 Summer missions, year round

Amy Hester of Crane, Texas, is currently serving Arkansas as a US-2 missionary in Eureka Springs. Previously the resort ministry has been carried out solely by summer missionaries on a 10-week basis. This year the Ozark Mountain Ministry will have the advantage of year-round planning and coordination by Ms. Hester, enabling it to be more effective.

### 23 Missionary murdered

Southern Baptist missionary Lynda Bethea, 42, was killed and her husband, Ralph, 43, was injured March 27 when they were attacked by robbers on a Kenya highway. The Bethas were on their way to Rift Valley Academy, northwest of Nairobi, to pick up their two older sons for a month-long Easter break. The couple's other two children had remained in Mombasa with friends. As of press time, Mrs. Bethea's body had not been released for burial by Kenyan officials.

## Cover story

Stewardship Commission photo

### One Mission...

Working A.I.J. for the WORLD  
through the Cooperative Program



### One Mission.....7

On April 21, 1991, thousands of Southern Baptist churches across America will be celebrating the results of working together through the Cooperative Program.

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# A happy life

J. EVERETT SNEED

The most sought after and yet elusive quality in life is undoubtedly that of happiness. Everyone wants it and few seem to find it. Often the search is frustrating and disappointing because life is beset with problems. There is ample evidence in both the Bible and history that God does not always protect his followers from difficulty. Happiness then is produced by an individual's complete reliance and trust in Christ.

The reason many people do not find happiness is because they do not know where to find it. Too many people make the mistake of seeking one more material thing, one more pay raise, one more promotion, one more problem solved, or one more difficulty overcome. Many people say, "If only I had that, then I would be happy."

Most of the problems that keep us from happiness can recur at a later time. Still, happiness need not be just around the corner. The Bible gives us principles by which we can attain it today.

When problems come into our life, there are three possible reactions for the Christian. First, there are those that believe that God causes every event, good or bad. This concept is closely related to the Old Testament view that God blessed those who were serving him and produced difficulty in the lives of those who were not following his will. On one occasion, Jesus and his disciples saw a man who was blind from his birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Jn. 9:2)

Jesus, in his response, forever put to rest the old concept that God blesses and curses individuals because of their actions. Jesus said, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (Jn. 9:3).

A second view, practiced by many Christians is that of the stoic or "grin and bear it" philosophy of life. Those following this concept say, "No matter how bad the events of life become, I am going to grit my teeth, grin and bear it."

If one follows this philosophy of life, he will have a miserable existence and is likely to accomplish very little. The problems of life will mount up, take their toll, and ultimately render such an individual ineffective.

Third, there are those who rely on the Holy Spirit to give them stability, comfort,



and guidance so they may retain stability regardless of outer circumstances. The individual who seeks happiness on the basis of outer circumstances will ride the roller coast of life. When things are good, there will be momentary happiness. When they are bad, there will be prolonged agony, suffering, and displeasure.

Even as Paul was awaiting death, he was aided by the Holy Spirit so that he remained in a state of happiness. He said, "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and will preserve me unto his kingdom..." (2 Ti. 4:18). Many thousands of present day Christians can give testimony to the strength provided by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised his followers, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever" (Jn. 14:16). The word translated "comforter," literally means "someone who is called in" or "to call alongside." The Holy Spirit is one who serves as a guardian, helper, advisor, or strength giver. He is one who enables the Christian "to cope" with life's difficulties. He can exchange defeat for victorious living.

The word "another" is significant. In the Greek, there are two words which are translated into English as "another." One

means "another of a different kind." The word used in John 14:16 means "another of the same kind." Hence, Jesus promised his followers that the Holy Spirit would be another of the exactly the same kind that he was. The Holy Spirit is a divine person who has all the same attributes and qualities as our Lord.

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to help by revealing Christ (see Ac. 2:33). The Holy Spirit comes, then, not to magnify himself, but that he might meet the needs of individuals and exalt Christ.

This idea is summarized as Paul declared, "Likewise the Spirit (Holy Spirit) also helpeth our infirmities..." (Ro. 8:26a). The Greek word "helpeth" is *sunantilambanoma*. The prefix *sun* means "together." The Greek particle *anti* means "against" or "face to face." The Greek verb *lambano* means "to lift."

When I was a boy, approximately 12 years old and was returning from my maternal grandmother's home, I came upon a friend who had lost a bale of cotton from his flatbed truck. Although our neighbor was struggling to reload the cotton, it appeared that it was impossible for him to do so. It was imperative for him to replace the cotton on his truck since it represented money for clothing for himself and his family. Together with our neighbor, face to face with him, we lifted the bale of cotton on the truck. When difficulties come, the Holy Spirit, together with the individual, assists the individual in lifting his burden.

The true secret to happiness is to allow the Holy Spirit to enable an individual to rely upon him so that, regardless of outer circumstances, the individual can maintain a steady, happy, and tranquil life.

## Arkansas Baptist

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NUMBER 8

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DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know

One of our staff men sounded a good, well-deserved note in chapel recently as he highlighted the important role of our support staff. It is correct to say that we could not get half as much done if we did not have able and committed helpers. How we thank God for every one of them.



Along the same lines, I have observed something at our church. When we are not out preaching on Sunday morning, we attend our pastor's Sunday School class in the sanctuary of Geyer Springs First Church. We meet immediately after the 8:15 a.m. worship service. Throughout most of our class time, one of our church members is quietly slipping along the pews picking up paper, replacing hymnals in the racks, and seeing that everything is in order for the second service. Those who come at 10:45 a.m. have no idea that someone has cared enough to see that they sit down in a neat and orderly place rather than a trashy place when they come to worship.

Scattered over this state is a host of people who quietly and faithfully make things run smoothly in our churches. Could I suggest we do a two or three week campaign to try to say "thanks" to the many unsung heroes who have kept their churches viable, spiritual organisms that God could use.

I need to say thanks for the faithful giving of our people. We are able to provide numberless ministries and field a missionary force of over 8,000 because of you. Record numbers of churches are being started around our world with record numbers of baptisms. This is done with the personnel and programs being financed by you who give through the Cooperative Program. There is not a gift so small it is insignificant. There isn't a gift so large that it isn't needed.

Hundreds of our churches will be in World Mission Conferences during the next several weeks. I urge every person who reads these lines to attend the conference in their church. Pray for an awakening of missions concern. A broken world must be matched with Christians who have a broken heart for it. Pray for new missionaries to be called, even out of your own congregation. God will bless!

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

JANETT KITTS BETHEL

## Woman's Viewpoint

### Teaching Our Children

As God sculpts our lives, so he expects us to sculpt the lives of our children. Deuteronomy 6:7 stresses the parent's responsibility to teach his child in the ways of God. When sitting at home, walking along the road, when lying down and getting up, we are to let them see God's love in us.

We should consider our child an empty bottle waiting to be filled. We can fill that bottle with love, self-discipline, and the knowledge of a loving Heavenly Father, or we can let someone or something else fill the bottle.

Children prefer their parents to any "things" that money can buy. A nationally televised pastor has spoken of growing up poor. His mother raised him on hard work and love and the Word of God. He says he doesn't remember the things he didn't have, only the time spent with his mother and the things she taught him that had everlasting value.

God expects parents to give their children what he gives them. If we call on him, he is there. If our children call us, we need to be there for them as well.

Small children absorb everything they see and hear. A two year old can learn the names of the 12 disciples, the alphabet, songs numbers and entire conversations. They are not only eager to learn, they love learning.

I enjoy being present as my daughter grows, seeing her become an independently functioning person. I plan to do the same for my son. They may not have every toy advertised on television, but they know that they are loved and they feel secure.

If at all possible, please stay home with your children. No one else can give them the love and attention they deserve, and no one else can model God's love for them the way their parents can.

Janet Kitts 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.

## GA Mother-Daughter Camp

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For more information: see you GA leader/director or contact the State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; 501-376-4791

MIKE HUCKABEE

## The President's Corner



It never has made much sense to me. Someone in the church gets upset at the pastor and quits giving to the church. The pastor, whose salary is projected as a fixed item, is not the one who gets hurt first or most—it's the RA boy who has his camp canceled; it's the 89 year old lady in the nursing home who doesn't receive "Open Windows" anymore; and, most tragically, it's the missionary in Indonesia who will spend about half his work day working on his worn out Land Rover because the request for a new one went unanswered.

People who withhold giving to the church because they don't like the pastor hurt many innocent folk long before the pastor feels the blow. Those who advocate withholding Cooperative Program support because of anger at the leadership need to make sure they are willing to sacrifice the innocent to "make a statement."

On the other hand, leaders shouldn't ask others to do what they (the leaders) are unwilling to do. When telephone solicitors urge me to purchase circus tickets for needy children, I simply ask, "How many tickets have you purchased?" After a stumbling silence, the salesperson admits that he is just selling them—he hasn't actually purchased any himself.

Those who advocate continued or increased giving to the Cooperative Program need to practice the preaching! I deplore the notion of forcing churches to give a fixed minimum percentage in order for its members to qualify for positions of leadership or trusteeships. That would be an unacceptable violation of the Baptist absolute of autonomy. But the even higher absolute of integrity should dictate that those whose churches give 2 or 3 percent shouldn't have the audacity to dominate leadership within the convention and yet seem "disgusted" with a church who decides to cut back from 20 to 10 percent.

One level of extremism among us says, "Let me pitch or I'll quit the team." Another group says "You buy the car and the gas, and I'll do the driving." It seems like many of our problems could be solved if we would combine some common sense, common courtesy, and common commitment to the greater cause of Christ.

Mike Huckabee is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

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## TO SOME PEOPLE, LIFE IS A DARK ROOM WITH NO WINDOWS

In a life of darkness, one small distant light can mean a lot—a glimmer of hope. Feelings of fear, anxiety, and loneliness disappear in the light of Christ.

Your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will provide a glimmer of hope to lost people living in darkness. Home missionaries turn your gifts into hope by taking the love of Christ to a waiting America.

If Easter passed before you gave to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, consider giving now. If you have given, consider giving again.

Thank you for being a glimmer of hope in the darkness.

MISSIONS: GIVING PEOPLE HOPE

# Hope

HMB

HOME MISSION BOARD USA

A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

THIRD IN A SIX-PART SERIES

## Off to School

by Mark Kelly

Contributing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Going to school for the first time is usually the biggest adjustment a pre-teen child has to make. When he walks through the door into kindergarten, he enters a whole new world, filled with fresh faces and increased pressures.

The gradeschooler faces several serious challenges, says psychologist Gordon P. Miller, author of *Teaching Your Child to Make Decisions*. The child is called upon, among other things, to accept additional authority figures, adapt to different routines, follow unfamiliar rules, face new consequences, and make more friends. For the first time, he enjoys large blocks of unsupervised time, his first real chance to make decisions on his own.

All this makes starting school a critical time for a child—and for parents who want their child to be successful at making good decisions.

### Keep in touch

As a child struggles to fill new roles at school, she also may start behaving in new ways, Miller says. In her new world, she is surrounded by people who live by different values. She faces situations she has never faced before. Parents who do not stay in touch with their child's new experiences may later make the shocked discovery that their "good girl" has taken on a second personality to help her cope with the realities of school life.

Keeping in touch with a gradeschooler is critical. Parents must make a concerted effort to keep tabs on changes in their child's life. This requires developing a habit of communication about what she does in school, who her friends are, where she is when not at home, and whether she is having any difficulty with school or peers.

Parents must be sure their gradeschooler does not develop behavior patterns outside the home that would be unacceptable inside the home. Talking with her regularly keeps them informed about changes in her life and, more important, lets her

know they care about everything that happens to her.

However, parents should remember a child is not a wholly reliable source of information, Miller cautions. To begin with, a child may not have the perspective to understand everything that happens to her. On the other hand, she may have a problem or be following a double standard about which she is reluctant to talk.

Parents must balance what they learn from their child with information from other sources. Contact with school officials can be especially helpful. Virtually all schools offer programs—parent/teacher conferences, PTA meetings, etc.—to make this easier.

Contact with other parents also is very helpful. Miller suggests participating in a peer parenting group, in which parents with children the same age get together on a regular basis. Joining (or starting) such a group can help a parent know how other parents are dealing with discipline and can provide moral support and encouragement for facing the challenges of parenting. If parents know how others are handling a situation, they are better equipped to respond when their child complains, "But Jenny's parents are letting her go!"

### The family meeting

Another helpful tool is the family meeting. Regular meetings provide a family an opportunity to clarify family values and goals, discuss problems and possible solutions, and review decisions made and actions taken.

Miller points out that a gradeschooler knows enough about values, limits, and consequences to be involved in helping formulate family rules and the punishments and rewards that go with them. In addition, a gradeschooler has opinions and ideas he feels deserve attention. The family meeting gives him a chance to contribute his viewpoint to discussions.

The family meeting also serves as a laboratory for decisionmaking. It gives a gradeschooler an opportunity to

watch his parents lead the decision-making process. As he participates, he gains critical experience in making decisions, yet within the structured environment of a family meeting.

Parents can use the family meeting to express concern about problems without seeming to impose solutions on a child. Because a child had a role in helping solve problems, he is more likely to "buy into" those solutions and follow through.

Miller offers several guidelines for conducting a family meeting. Among them:

- Hold the meetings on a regular basis, at least twice a month. Make the meeting a priority event everyone attends.

- Set up an agenda for the meeting. This enables the family to get matters on the table for discussion more quickly.

- Make sure everyone participates equally. Parents must not dominate the meeting. A child should have the same freedom as his parents to raise questions or offer his thoughts.

- Work to establish consensus on family decisions. While this is not always possible, parents should try to involve a child in the process and win his agreement on decisions.

- Keep the meeting brief. Everyone dreads long sessions. In particular, parents should not allow a meeting to degenerate into an endless argument.

- Give every family member the right to call a special meeting if needed. Decide beforehand what circumstances would warrant a special meeting and how one would be called. Give every family member equal rights in calling a special session to deal with a new problem.

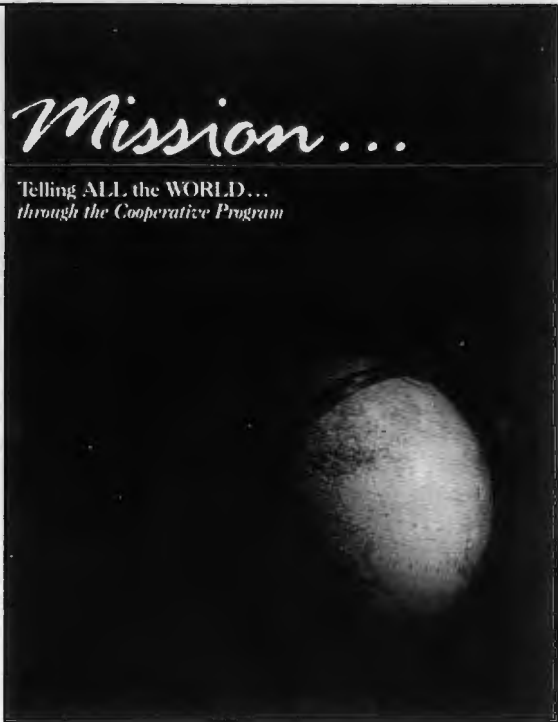
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# One Mission...

Telling ALL the WORLD...  
through the Cooperative Program



## Observe Cooperative Program Day April 21, 1991

*"... Ye shall be witness unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8b*

The greatest missions program on earth is no happenstance.

After decades of struggle to support missions work through individual appeal for designated contributions from churches, Southern Baptists launched the Cooperative Program, and the foundation was laid for today's worldwide mission outreach.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists ONE for ALL plan for support of evangelism, missions, Christian education and many benevolent ministries. ONE for ALL challenges Southern Baptists to respond with increased financial support and sacrificial giving in support of these ministries through the Cooperative Program.

In 1991, Southern Baptists in about 38,000 churches will respond to the ONE for ALL challenge to do the work of God through a proposed Cooperative Program Basic Operating Budget of \$137,332,523.

Approximately 70 cents of each Cooperative Program dollar is distributed to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards to send some 8,000 missionaries to 120 foreign nations and all 50 United States of America. Just over 20 cents is used by the six SBC seminaries in training over 12,000 students. Of the remaining, 4 cents is directed to the Radio and Television Commission and less than 6 cents is divided among the other SBC agencies.

On April 21, 1991, thousands of Southern Baptist Churches across America will be celebrating the results of our working together through the Cooperative Program. Join us by planning to observe **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY** in your church.



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## Briefly

**Union Church** of Old Union ordained Pastor Rick Pyron to the gospel ministry March 3. Mark Coppenger, vice-president for public relations of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the charge to the candidate Tommy Robertson, director of missions for Liberty Association, moderated the ordination council and service.

**Woodland Heights Church** of Conway voted unanimously March 17 to enter into a building project that will provide the church with more than 6,500 square feet of educational space.

**Barling Cross Church** in North Little Rock ordained John Cooper, Norman Eanes, and Chuck Homan to the deacon ministry March 24.

**Walnut Street Church** in Jonesboro University and Young Singles recently undertook a mission project in constructing a chapel in the Mission Outreach Mission building, a new rescue mission for the homeless, abused and battered women, and others who need help.

**Harvard Avenue Church** in Siloam Springs women will hold a spring retreat April 12-13 at New Life Ranch with Barbara McCartney as Bible study leader.

**Sylvan Hills First Church** in North Little Rock deacons and yokefellows will host their first widows/widowers luncheon April 14.

**Fayetteville First Church** ordained Nelson Driver, James Breedlove, and Mark Lovell to the deacon ministry March 10.

**Tupelo First Church** recently remodeled its kitchen, bathroom, and fellowship hall from money given as a memorial to Jack K. Hardin Jr. and Lillie J. Hardin.

**Lake Village Church** has launched a special youth ministry through the opening of a youth house in which weekly activities will be held.

**Harrison First Church** and **Eagle Heights Church** in Harrison youth mission teams have planned a summer mission trip to San Cristobal, Guatemala.

**Rolling Hills Church** in Fayetteville has announced an "Our Heritage-Our Hope"

conference for April 20-21. Walter B. Shurden, chairman of the Department of Christianity at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., will be leader, addressing the subjects of Baptist roots and current trends within the denomination.

**Alliecia Church** recently voted to contribute both to the Cooperative Program and Black River Association. J.B. Huffmaster is pastor.

**Beebe First Church** set a new Sunday School attendance record of 452 on March 17. James Glover is Sunday School director, and Ron Mayes is pastor.

## People

**Jackie Maddox** is serving as pastor of Liberty Church in Searcy, coming there from Honey Hill Church in Searcy.

**Stanley Dutton** has joined the staff of Union Valley Church in Beebe as minister of music and youth. He formerly was a member of First Church in Kensett.

**W.A. Criswell** of Dallas, Texas, will be at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, preaching

evangelistic services scheduled for April 14 at 6:30 p.m. and April 15 at 7 p.m. Criswell, senior pastor of First Church in Dallas, Texas, has served there since 1944, as well as serving on numerous boards and agencies of the Texas Baptist General Convention and Southern Baptist Convention. He also served as president of the SBC in 1968-69.



Criswell

**Fred Blake** retired March 31 as pastor of First Church in Winslow, following 11 years of service.

**James Clayton** resigned March 17 as pastor of First Church, Wedington Woods, to enter a full-time evangelistic ministry.

**David L. Johnson** will begin serving May 1 as pastor of First Church in Mountain Home, going there from First Church in Horseshoe Bend, where he has served as pastor since January 1986.

Photo / Glen Ennes



The 17th annual State Handbell Festival at Immanuel Church in Little Rock March 1-2 drew a crowd of 267 ringers and 319 participants. This is an increase in the number of ringer over the last four years, giving evidence of increased handbell activity in churches across the state. The festival clinician was Mary Kay Parrish, chairman of the Theory Department and director of handbells at Oklahoma Baptist University.

**Mark Rutherford** began serving April 8 as pastor of Pinnacle Chapel in Little Rock, going there from Otter Creek First Church in Little Rock, where he has been serving as minister of education and youth.

**Ricky Lee** began serving April 7 as pastor of Mount Olive Church in North Crosssett, going there from First Church in Prescott, where he has served as pastor since June 1988.

**Tom and Kay Cox**, members of First Church in Van Buren, recently returned from their 10th annual crusade to India, an approved partnership evangelism project of the Foreign Mission Board.

**Bruce Coe** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Fouke to serve as pastor of a church in Lewisville, Texas.

**Jim Crabtree** has resigned as pastor of Piney Grove Church, Lewisville.

**Charlie Belknap** is serving as interim pastor of Dermott Church.

**Mike Lindley** is serving as pastor of North Maple Church in Stuttgart.

**Allen Peebles** is serving as pastor of Tichnor Church, going there from North

Maple Church in Stuttgart.

**Jonathan Payne** is serving as pastor of South Side Chapel in Alma.

**V.L. Harris** is serving as pastor of South Side Church in Paris.

**Dan Crutcher** of Rosie died March 14 at age 66. He was a farmer and a member of Rosie Church, where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. Survivors include three brothers and six sisters.

**Chris Davis**, a member of First Church in Mountain Home, recently was selected for the second year to serve on the Baptist Young Men's All-Star Basketball Team that will tour Guatemala on a summer mission trip. He also was elected Mountain Home's "Athlete of the Year" by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is one of 12 representatives in Arkansas.

**Bob Buice**, a member of Second Church in Little Rock, recently was inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

**Billy White**, pastor of Second Church in Little Rock, recently was named a Paul Harris Fellowship recipient in Little Rock's downtown Rotary Club. This honor is the

highest honor that Rotary International bestows on an individual in recognition of service.

**Robert Meeks** is serving as pastor of Old Union Church, Benton.

**William R. Passmore** began serving March 20 as pastor of Pilgrims Rest Church, Batesville.

**Faye McGary** was honored March 24 by First Church in Jacksonville in recognition of her retirement as administrative secretary, following 17 years of service.

**Helen Harms** of Jonesboro died March 19 at age 80. She was the widow of Alvin Harms and a member of Central Church in Jonesboro. Survivors are a daughter, Emelda Williams of Jonesboro; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to First Chapel in Jonesboro.

**Mark Yoakum** has resigned as assistant pastor of First Church in Springdale to join the staff of Lake Pointe Church in Dallas, Texas, as minister of education.

**Al Sparkman**, pastor of Crow Mountain Church in Russellville, has been elected chairman of the Endowment and Capital Giving Committee of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Dale Wooten** has resigned as associate pastor to senior adults at Beech Street First Church in Texarkana to move to Shreveport, La.

**Richard Wentz** has resigned as minister of music and youth at Wynne Church, effective May 31.

**Matthew Watson** is serving as pastor of Trinity Church in Little Rock, having previously served as pastor of Community Bible Church near Glenwood.

**Rawls Pierce** has resigned as associate pastor to senior adults at Mount Olive Church in North Crosssett.

**Donald Wilson Mink** of Newport recently died at age 71. He was a member of First Church in Newport, where he served as a deacon and as a teacher in both Sunday School and Discipleship Training.

**Bruce A. Swihart** has been called to serve as pastor of East Side Church in Paragould. He will move there from Huffman, Texas, where he has been serving as pastor of First Church. A native of Michigan, Swihart is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Arkansas. Swihart and his wife, Whanda, have two children, Timothy and Angela.

Photo / Steve Smith



*Ferrel Morgan (center right), a member of Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith, was presented an appreciation plaque from church members March 24 by Pastor Ed Saucier (left). The presentation was made when an associational wide reception, coordinated by Concord Association personnel committee, was held at the church in recognition of Morgan's disability retirement as director of missions following eight years of service. Carroll D. Walters, personnel committee chairman, presented Morgan a plaque from the association, which also gave him a monetary gift. A basket of gifts came from individuals and churches. Concord Association, under the leadership of Morgan, organized new churches and missions, as well as participated in mission trips and projects in Brazil, Indiana, and Guatemala. Also pictured are Morgan's wife, Margie, (right) and their grandson, Michael Pendergrass of Fayetteville.*

# CCF elects officers

## Hears from MADD panel on drunk driving

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

According to Arkansas highway statistics in 1989, 67 percent of all traffic fatalities were alcohol related. This represented 437 people who lost their lives because individuals were drinking and driving. "It is probable that in 1990 Arkansas will lead the nation in alcohol related fatalities," declared George Hatch to the March 26 annual meeting of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation, which convened in the Gilbreath Conference Center of the Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock.

Frances Carroll, Victim Service Corps coordinator for Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD), introduced three individuals who shared with foundation board members how drunk drivers had affected their lives. Mrs. Carroll became a volunteer for MADD because of the pleas of a friend, Ruth Caldwell, who had lost a loved one as a result of a drunk driver.

Introducing the three individuals, Carroll said, "Every 22 minutes, someone loses his life because of a drunk driver, but statistics can never influence us like those who have been victimized by drunk drivers."

The first event was shared by Scott Harper of Russellville. He is now deputy coroner for Pope County, but when his injury occurred, due to drunken drivers, he was a patrolman for the Russellville Police Department.

On a Saturday night in January of 1985, Harper was working the graveyard shift for the Russellville Police Department. There was sleet and rain, which prevented his radar equipment from properly functioning. He followed a car which was speeding at times and driving very erratically. Eventually he pulled the car over to the shoulder and a young man came out of the car.

When Harper asked him for his driver license, he indicated that he had none. Harper asked him to step over to the side of the road with the intention of determining whether he was drinking.



New officers (left to right): Stanford, Parker, Gattis, Harris, Mayes, Walls, and Page.

Another car hit the back of the patrol car which had its brakes on and was in park. The police car traveled 75 feet striking the vehicle. Harper was pinned between the two vehicles. Both his flashlight, which he was holding, and his holstered gun were thrown several yards by the impact. The young man who was being checked by the patrolman escaped with minor injuries. After a short time, the young man brought the flashlight, handgun, and cap to Harper, who was unable to get to his feet because both legs were broken.

Although the radio in the patrol car was smashed in the accident, Harper was able to reach a patrol car and an ambulance with his hand-held transmitter. Harper was at the point of death for more than three weeks. Even after the immediate danger was passed, Harper was told he would never be able to return to the Russellville Police force.

On Feb. 23, 1986, Harper did return to work with the Russellville Police Department as a patrolman. In January 1990, he retired from the Russellville department and became deputy coroner for Pope County.

Harper said, "There is no excuse for drinking and driving. We must educate the public, and stiffer penalties must be given to those who drink and drive."

The second presentation on the devastation that is produced by drunken drivers was given by Billie Lombardi of Russellville. Mrs. Lombardi's family owns a car repair shop.

On Aug. 11, 1988, an individual brought a car to the shop, reporting the car acted

up after it had been driven for a time. The owner of the car wanted Mr. Lombardi to drive the car to Lombardi's home, approximately 20 miles from the repair shop. Both Mr. Lombardi and his son were in the car as they headed for their home. Mrs. Lombardi had left the garage earlier than her husband and son. By 9 p.m. they had not arrived home. Her mother called, saying there had been a bad wreck on the road about 10 miles from the Lombardi home.

Eventually Mrs. Lombardi decided to check on the accident, but was stopped by the police and was unable to obtain any information. Later, she made a second effort to check on the accident, again with no success. About 10 p.m. her mother called again.

While they were talking, her mother, received another call on call waiting. This time Mrs. Lombardi discovered that her husband and son were both dead. It required 2 and 1/2 hours to remove their bodies from the wreckage. A truck, traveling at 85 miles per hour and driving on the wrong side of road was the cause of the accident.

Mrs. Lombardi said, "If it were not for the grace of God and my wonderful family, I would have been unable to survive." The Lombardi family is still operating the automobile repair business.

The final individual reporting on the devastation of drunken drivers was George Hatch, who works almost full time with MADD. The Hatches had three sons. Two of these sons, Larry and Michael, were each killed in separate accidents by drunken drivers.

Larry was a carefree young man who was interested in fishing and hunting. He joined the Navy after high school and served in the Vietnam conflict. Upon returning from Vietnam, he was killed by a drunken driver.

Michael was a very studious individual who was intensely involved in Boy Scouts during high school. He finished college, receiving a degree in marine engineering. In 1981, he came to Little Rock to get his commercial pilot's license. While in the Little Rock area, a drunken driver came down the road on the wrong side. Several cars pulled off from the road to make room for him. But he made a U-turn, hitting Michael broadside and killing him.

Hatch concluded his address by showing a map of Arkansas with the number of people killed, the number injured, and the number of accidents in each county for 1989 that were produced by drunken drivers.

A printed report from retired Executive Director John Finn was contained in the book of reports. Finn was unable to be present because of the death of his wife's

brother.

During the time of the director's report, Larry Page who will begin his duties May 1, addressed the board. Page expressed his excitement about his new place of service. He said, "I don't know the future since there is no crystal ball available, but I do know the spiritual legacy that the Christian Civic Foundation has."

Page read from 2 Timothy 4:1-5 in which Paul instructed young Timothy to "preach the Word" and "to be prepared to reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." Page observed that the truth has an edge to it. But he said, "God's Word also has a liberating effect."

Later, Page who had served for several years as an attorney for the CCF, presented the recommendation of the Executive Committee to obtain both a 501 (c)3 and 501 (c)4 status with the IRS. The 501 (c)3 enables an organization to provide a tax break for donors as a charitable organization. The 501 (c)4 will allow an organization to retain funds for political issues such as the lottery. The directors for both organizations can be the same, however, the 501 (c)4 will be called the Christian Civic Action Committee.

Bob Parker, interim director of the CCF and retired director of the ABCS Christian Life Council, reported that it did not appear that the lottery would be placed on the ballot by the State Legislature for 1992. He also observed that the financial situation of the CCF was extremely tight. He challenged churches to give at least an additional \$100 to the CCF this year.

During the business session, board members received a report of the financial statement for 1990. Harold Walls, CCF treasurer, and executive director of the Assemblies of God of Arkansas, reported that the foundation received \$99,955 last year. The cash reserves on Dec. 31, 1990 were only \$2,234.

Parker presented the nominating committee report. Elected as officers for the new year were Charles Stanford of Mountain Home, president; Robert Parker of Little Rock, first vice-president; James A. Gattis of Little Rock, second vice-president; Ronnie Mayes of Beebe, third vice-president; Linda Harris of Little Rock, secretary; and Harold Walls of Little Rock, treasurer.



Twelve Ouachita Baptist University students, along with sponsors Ian and Sharon Cosh, will participate in a missions trip to Taiwan this summer.

## OBU students to go to Taiwan

ARKADELPHIA—Twelve Ouachita Baptist University students have volunteered to spend up to eight weeks of their summer as missionaries to the inhabitants of the island nation of Taiwan, according to Ian Cosh, director of religious activities and the Baptist Student Union at OBU.

The Ouachita students, accompanied by Cosh and his wife, Sharon, will be assigned in church planting work, personal evangelism, church census surveys, Vacation Bible School work, and backyard Bible studies. The total cost of the trip is approximately \$22,500, all of which will be raised through donations and fund-raising projects, for which the students themselves will be responsible.

In preparation for the journey to Taiwan, the OBU students will attend an orientation session at the Missionary Learning Center of the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. from April 18-21.

Hosts to the Ouachita group while in Taiwan will be career missionaries Ron and Elinda West and Bill and LeVeta Sergeant,

who are working in the Taipei and Taichung areas, where the group plans to visit.

"The volunteer foreign missions program is just one way in which the Baptist Student Union seeks to involve students in missions training and outreach annually, helping them to discover and fulfill God's will for their lives," said Cosh.

Last summer, the Ouachita BSU sponsored 16 students on a mission trip to South Africa. Other countries visited in the past include Zimbabwe and Ecuador.

Students planning to be a part of the Taiwan missions effort from Ouachita include: Billy Betts of Wake Village, Texas; Scott Bone of North Little Rock; The Cates of Dallas, Texas; Alex Ennes of Little Rock; Sara Fish of Eads, Tenn.; Rebekah Kinney of Fairfax, Va.; Cornelius Nash of West Columbia, Texas; Robbie Richards of Grand Prairie, Texas; Anna Richardson of Warren; Becky Steele of Charleston; Sara Williams of Texarkana; and Michele Woodall of North Little Rock.

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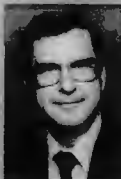
## Williams names new president

WALNUT RIDGE—Dr. Jimmy A. Millikin, professor of theology at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., was unanimously elected president of Williams Baptist College at the March 22 board of trustees meeting, according to Kenneth Sulcer, president of the board.

Millikin, who is the third president in the history of the college, will fill the presidential position left vacant when Dr. D. Jack Nicholas, WBC president for 18 years, was promoted to the position of chancellor last spring.

"Our college has had a field day in naming Dr. Millikin as president," said Sulcer. "I've known Dr. Millikin for many years because of his connection with the school as both a graduate and a distinguished teacher. His values are consistent with the college's philosophy and mission. He is known throughout the Mid-South for holding dynamic revivals and is well respected by all of our constituents. WBC will greatly benefit from Dr. Millikin's acceptance as president."

Millikin received both a doctorate in theology and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth,



Millikin

Texas. He received his bachelor of arts degree from East Texas Baptist College and his associate of arts degree from Southern (Williams) Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

Before joining WBC, Millikin served as a professor of theology at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary for 18 years. He has served as pastor and interim pastor for

numerous churches in Arkansas and Texas. He is presently interim pastor of the First Church in West Memphis.

Millikin has published articles and a weekly column in the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine, as well as several books, which include *Christian Doctrine for Every Man and Testing Tongues by the Word*. He serves as editor and a contributing writer of the *Mid-America Theological Journal*.

His numerous academic and teaching awards have contributed to his being named in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, *Outstanding Young Men in America*, *Outstanding Educators of America*, and *Personalities of the South*.

Millikin will assume all presidential duties effective July 1, 1991. He and his wife, Ruby, have three children and four grandchildren.

## Looking Ahead

### April

- 12-13 Ministry to Children in Crisis Conference, *Little Rock (DT)*
- 12-13 Arciens Encounter, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)*
- 15-18 New Pastor/Staff Orientation, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ad)*
- 15 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (DT)*
- 16 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Williams Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (DT)*
- 17 Area Summer Youth Conference, *Baptist Building, Little Rock (DT)*
- 18-19 Minister of Education Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*
- 18-19 State Youth Minister Retreat, *DeGray Lodge, Arkadelphia (DT)*
- 20 State Young Musicians Festival, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (M)*
- 22-23 Key Leader Meeting, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)*
- 26-27 RA Congress, *Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Bbd)*
- 28-5/5 Simultaneous World Missions Conference (*Bbd*)

### May

- 3-5 Arkansas Baptist Conference for the Deaf, *Camp Paron (Mn)*
- 4 Backyard Bible Club/Mission Vacation Bible School Clinic, *North Little Rock Levy Church (SS)*
- 6-7 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, *Camp Paron (Mn)*
- 9 MasterSingers/Singing Women Concert, *El Dorado First Church (M)*
- 11 Youth Music Festival, *North Little Rock Baring Cross Church (M)*
- 12-19 Simultaneous World Missions Conferences (*Bbd*)
- 18-19 Campers on Missions Rally, *Maumelle Park (Ms)*

#### Abbreviations:

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

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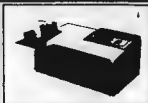


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## Children's Home collecting receipts

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello is continuing to collect Harvest Foods receipts for the "Apples for Students" campaign. April 30 is the last day to collect receipts. As of March 22, the Children's Home had received \$413,000 in register tapes, enabling an order of two computers and one printer.

Those wishing to contribute receipts before the end of this campaign should send Harvest Foods register tapes, with the total highlighted, to Kim Bussell, Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655.

## 20th annual music leader retreat

The 20th annual Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat at Camp Paron Feb. 22-23 was enjoyed by a near record crowd of 94 participants and staff. Bob Woolley, Missouri Baptist Convention music secretary, taught the new text *Growing a Musical Church*, designed especially for the small membership church. Other leaders were Bob Holley, ABSC Discipleship Training department; Patricia Wakefield, Stuttgart First Church; and Lyndon Burton, Texarkana Beech Street First Church. Don Moore, ABSC executive director, delivered the worship service message.

One other retreat and three Saturday workshops for volunteer/part-time music leaders are planned for this year by the ABSC Church Music department.

## College Digest

### Ouachita Baptist University

New coach named—Sharon Morgan, girls basketball and track coach at White Hall High School since 1975, has been named as the new women's basketball coach and instructor in physical education at Ouachita Baptist University, effective Sept. 1. Morgan succeeds Virginia Honnoll Wilson, who resigned from the Lady Tiger coaching position in January to move to Conway.

Morgan, 37, is one of the state's most successful high school coaches, with her teams winning 63 percent of their games. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello and holds a masters degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Elderhostel—A group of senior citizens from states across the nation will be on the Arkadelphia campus, June 2-8. Elderhostel is an education program for older adults who want to continue to expand their horizons and to develop new interests and enthusiasms. Richard Mills, chairman of the OBU department of sociology, is the program director. Interested persons should contact Mills at P.O. Box 3770, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; telephone 501-246-4531, ext 514.

Colorado missions trip—The OBU Baptist Student Union sponsored a mission trip to Colorado March 22-31 with 37 students and staff members participating. A total of \$8,600 was raised by the students

to pay for the trip, which concentrated on youth revivals, religious census work, and church planting in the Colorado communities of Grand Junction, DeBeque, Rifle, and New Castle.

### Williams Baptist College

Career placement services—Williams Baptist College Counseling Center has recently expanded its services to include a career placement service available to students and alumni, according to Larry Root, WBC director of counseling. The center also provides personal career counseling and tutoring. The services are free of charge.

Ranked second in enrollment increase—Williams Baptist College ranked number two out of 49 senior Southern Baptist colleges and universities in percentage enrollment increases for the fall semester, according to figures released by the Southern Baptist Education Commission. The college experienced a 19.8 percent enrollment increase, compared to enrollment figures in 1989-90.

Chapel renovations complete—Williams Baptist College recently completed extensive interior and exterior renovations on its chapel. The cost of the renovations totalled \$42,000 and were made possible by a \$1 million gift to the college last spring.

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## You minister to children through the Cooperative Program



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# Summer missions, year round

by Colleen Backus  
Arkansas Baptist

Eureka Springs is fertile ground for ministry, due to heavy tourism and local residents often not involved in traditional churches. The need has been met in the past by student summer missionaries—this year the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with the aid of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the North Arkansas Association, has placed a US-2 missionary, Amy Hester, year round in the Eureka Springs area attached to Ozark Mountain Ministries.

Ms. Hester, of Crane, Texas, originally came in the fall as a semester missionary; even though the site and Hester had been approved by the Home Mission Board, funds were unavailable for her to come as a US-2 missionary. The position has recently been upgraded to US-2, a program designed for college graduates desiring a two-year mission experience. Hester, a graduate of Texas A&M, has previous experience in resort ministries as a summer missionary in central Louisiana.

Currently, Hester is gearing up for the heavy summer tourist season in Eureka Springs. She is organizing summer missionaries, Innovators (college students who work full time and do ministry in their free time), and mission youth groups assigned by the SBC Home Mission Board for week-long projects.

One major area of ministry to the 1.5 million tourists is in Basin Park, a spot in the middle of Eureka Springs where people stop to rest while shopping. The seasonal ministry groups that Hester coordinates will perform puppet shows, clowning routines, illusions, and concerts. She also will organize campground worship services and hopes to introduce some motel worship services.

Hester is excited about the prospect of what the summer will bring and is anxious to get the ministry underway. Her goal is to "carry the ministry on throughout the

ABN photo / J. Everett Speed



Pete Petty and Amy Hester plan resort ministry.

year; previously it had to rely on summer missionaries available for only 10 weeks and needed "instant start-up." "Now planning and organization can be more extensive, hopefully allowing the ministry to share the gospel not only with the tourists, but with local residents, many of whom are involved in the New Age movement or alternative lifestyles, Hester said.

Having a year round ministry has had its effect; at Christmas time Rogers First Church handbell choir played two concerts, and area churches had candlelight caroling services in Basin Park.

Pete Petty, ABCS Missions Department, is Hester's state supervisor. "We hope to start historic tours of Eureka Springs First Baptist Church," he said. "Its auditorium has beautiful stained glass windows and dome, and could provide another point of contact." He also pointed out some of the problems with ministering at the resort community, combined with hope for the future. "The biggest problem has been housing because rent is high," he said, "but by building on the Gatlinburg (Tenn.) model, we hope to someday have a permanent missionary in Eureka Springs. Gatlinburg started out with two US-2 missionaries back to back and now we (Baptists) have Bill and Cindy Black as full-time missionaries there."

Groups interested in helping with the ministry should contact Hester through Ozark Mountain Ministries, P.O. Box 121, Eureka Springs, AR 72632; telephone 501-253-3530.

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—JOHN BILINGS



# Hungry children

## Churches could help America's 5.5 million

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—One of every eight American children under age 12—5.5 million—is hungry, according to a new comprehensive study of childhood hunger in the United States.

Millions more children are at risk of hunger, meaning one-fourth of America's children face food shortage, said the study conducted by the Washington-based Food Research and Action Center.

America's churches could help solve this problem if they would recognize the need and take action locally, said Nathan Porter, domestic hunger specialist with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"The extent of this problem is shocking," he said. "But it didn't become a fact today just because this study came out. What made it a reality is not the story. The reality has been there all along."

If the study errs at all, Porter said, it estimates the number of hungry children too conservatively.

"The church should be reminded of the instance where the disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus," he suggested. "Even though this may not be our

intent, if churches do not target these families who are poor and children who are hungry, we are doing the same thing as the disciples, keeping them away from Jesus and any hope for their survival.

"If we are not making an effort to discover where these children and their families are, if we are not equipping our church workers and laity to minister to their needs and give them a witness to the gospel, then we're totally ignoring what the church is all about."

The study was a three-year, \$1 million project involving door-to-door surveys in seven areas of the United States. Those surveyed were families with annual incomes representing 185 percent of the poverty level or less. This level is the point at which families qualify for free school lunches and food stamps.

In 1990, poverty level for a family of four was \$12,700. That means a family of four earning 185 percent of poverty level would make \$23,495.

Families with hungry children have average incomes 25 percent below the poverty line and spend nearly one-third of their incomes for food. These families spend an average of 68 cents per person per meal.

The largest expense such families face is housing, the study showed. While a typical American household spends 22 percent of its income for shelter, families with hungry children spend more than 60 percent of their income for shelter.

Porter said results of this study support the findings of other research on poverty and hunger in America: 23 percent of children under age 6 live in poverty, 78 percent of America's poverty-stricken are women and children, and one American child dies every 53 minutes from the effects of poverty.

Contrary to popular belief, America's poor and hungry are not found primarily in cities, he added. In rural areas, an average of 18.5 percent of the population is poor, compared to a national average of 12 percent.

This is significant for Southern Baptists because the convention has more churches in rural areas than in metropolitan areas. Additionally, churches in comfortable suburban areas should be challenged to become allies with struggling inner city churches surrounded by poverty, he said.

Porter believes the church will begin to make a difference when Christians see the reality of hunger face to face. "It's hard for me to come in and say, 'Here are the statistics, now you write your congressman.' Statistics are not going to change people. Prejudice and attitudes are so ingrained as part of our culture.

"What it takes is a conversion experience for our church people. We as Baptists know that conversion only comes through experience. We must experience involvement through mission action, through ministry, to really learn the conditions first-hand."

Resources for addressing domestic hunger issues are available from state church and community ministries directors or from the HMB. Hunger funds designated to the SBC Executive Committee are divided 80 percent to the Foreign Mission Board and 20 percent to the HMB.

Photo / Jim Vanaman



A place to minister—April is Life Commitment Month, an SBC emphasis on responding to God's call. Jewel Boulet (center), a member of Hockessin (Del.) Baptist Church, is an educator who has found her place talking to teens and parents about adolescent problems.

## March CP receipts fourth highest

NASHVILLE (BP)—The fourth highest total for a month and a six-month total which now exceeds the previous year were two of the marks set by Cooperative Program gifts received in March by the SBC Executive Committee.

The total received for the Cooperative Program unified budget for March was \$13,219,744, a 20.18 percent increase over March of 1990 (\$11,000,029). That is the fourth highest CP month total on record and compares to the budget need for a month of \$11,444,377.

"I am highly pleased that CP receipts for March exceeded \$13.2 million," said Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer. "I commend all Southern Baptists for their commitment. This means that the state conventions had

one of their highest months in CP mission receipts.

"We can only give as God blesses us... I hope we will give to world missions as God blesses us," Bennett said.

Halfway through the 1990-91 SBC budget year, CP receipts total \$71,543,354 compared to \$70,872,526 for the previous year six months. The 1990-91 basic operating budget need for six months was \$68,666,262.

However, designated gifts still lag, slightly, behind the previous year at the halfway mark. For March 1991, designated gifts totaled \$18,995,700 compared to \$15,071,959 in 1990. But the year-to-date total of \$78,221,160 is 2.15 percent below the corresponding period of last year of \$79,937,100.

# Clear-TV calls for boycott

by Tom Trade  
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Christian Leaders for Responsible Television, a coalition whose strategy of economic pressure proved successful the last two years, has called for a one-year boycott of two of the leading advertising sponsors of sex, violence and profanity on prime-time television.

The executive committee of Clear-TV recently voted to begin a boycott of S.C. Johnson and Son Inc. and Pfizer Inc. The boycott went into effect on March 15. Both companies were among the leading advertisers of objectionable programming during the 1990 fall sweeps monitoring period on network television, according to Clear-TV.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, is a member of the executive committee of Clear-TV.

"Clearly, the public airwaves are a public

trust," Land said. "These two companies have managed to stand out in both their sponsorship of programs which we consider to contain excessive and/or gratuitous sex, violence and profanity, and in their unresponsiveness to our concerns about that sponsorship.

"They have left us no recourse but to encourage our constituencies to express their displeasure through the constitutional right to not use their products."

Johnson and Pfizer were informed twice before the monitoring period about the concerns of Clear-TV and the possibility of a boycott. Earlier this year, both companies were invited more than once to meet with Clear-TV officials in order to avoid a boycott. Neither company responded to two invitations, according to Clear-TV.

Jim May, a member of Johnson's public affairs staff, said the company did respond, although no meeting was held. He said Johnson had looked at its television adver-

tising for the last year and had quit advertising on "programs that we did not think were appropriate."

In a written statement, Johnson said it "strongly" disagreed with Clear-TV's action. Johnson also said, "We feel our existing guidelines for buying advertising programming are very responsible and live up to our high ethical standards. However, we do recognize that personal values and standards vary widely and our buying decisions cannot satisfy all points of view."

Don Wildmon, a member of the Clear-TV executive committee, said Johnson did not answer either of two letters inviting company officials to discuss a possible boycott. The company responded only after a third letter requesting a quick reply was sent by fax to Johnson shortly before the executive committee's meeting, Wildmon said. When a letter from a Johnson official arrived at Clear-TV offices 10 days later, it reflected no substantive change, he said.

Johnson was the No. 2 sponsor of sex, violence and profanity not only in the fall of 1990 but in the same year's spring monitoring period as well, Wildmon said.

A Clear-TV boycott begun in 1990 resulted in a quick change of policy by Burger King. The fast-food chain ran newspaper ads supporting traditional family values on television and agreed to alter its advertising on TV. The boycott was called off Nov. 1, less than three months after it began.

Johnson produces such items as Agree shampoo, Curel skin lotion, Edge shaving cream, Enhance perfume, Halse shampoo, L'envie perfume, Skintastic body gel, Soft Sense lotion, Bravo wax, Brité floor wax, Carnu polish, Clean and Clear wax, Duster Plus cleaner, Favor polish, Fumigator, Future floor coating, Glade air freshener, Goo Coat floor coating, Glory rug cleaner, J-Wax, Johnson Wax, Klear floor coating, Off insect repellent, Pledge wax, Pride wax, Raid insecticide, Rain Barrel fabric softener, Shout stain remover and Step Saver cleaner. The address is Chairman Samuel C. Johnson, S.C. Johnson and Son Inc., 1525 Howe St., Racine, WI 53403.

Products of Pfizer include Airstrip Powder Essence mousse, Barbasol shaving cream, Ben-Gay rub, Chateau fragrance, Coty perfumes, Desitin skin products, Emarude perfume, Exclamation perfume, Iron cologne, Lady Stetson cologne, Nuance perfume, Plax mouthwash, Preferred Stock cologne, Shape 'n Shadow eye kit, Sophia perfume, Stetson cologne, T2-3 athlete's foot ointment, Unisom and Vistine eye drops. The address is Chairman B.T. Pratt Jr., Pfizer Inc, 235 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017.

Clear-TV is a coalition of about 1,600 Christian leaders from 70 denominations.

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## Americans believe in Bible

*But they don't study it, according to Gallup Poll*

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—While 82 percent of Americans believe the Bible is either the "literal" or "inspired" word of God, only 21 percent are engaged in Bible study, the Gallup Poll reports.

Further, half of the American population cannot name any of the four New Testament Gospels.

Despite these contradictions, the Bible remains the most widely read book in America, the Princeton Religion Research Center says in a newly published study titled, "The Role of the Bible in American Society." The booklet is a compilation of several Gallup polls on the Bible, including data collected as recently as November 1990.

The report offers insight into Americans' beliefs about the Bible, reading of the Bible and knowledge of the Bible.

The percentage of Americans believing the Bible to be the "literal" word of God rose to 42 percent in 1990, up from a low of 37 percent in the 1970s and 1980s. By comparison, 65 percent of Americans believed in a literal Bible in the 1960s.

In 1990, another 40 percent of Americans described the Bible as the "inspired" word of God, but not always to be interpreted as literally true.

Through the years, a fairly constant 11 to 14 percent of the population has classified the Bible as a book of fables, history and moral precepts. In 1990, about 4 percent of the population was uncertain about how to regard the Bible.

A more in-depth study conducted in 1988 found 31 percent of Americans believe the Bible should be taken literally word-for-word, 24 percent believe it does not contain errors but some verses are to be taken symbolically rather than literally, and 22 percent believe it is inspired but may contain historical and scientific errors. Only 17 percent said the Bible is not in-

spired by God, while 6 percent had no opinion.

### Reading

In 1990 polls, 17 percent of Americans said they read the Bible daily, while 23 percent said they read it weekly and 13 percent said they read it monthly. Another 25 percent said they read it less than monthly, and 20 percent said they never read it.

Protestants are three times as likely to read the Bible daily as Catholics. Also, females are more likely to read the Bible than males, adults age 50 and above are more likely to read it than younger adults, and Southerners are more likely to read the Bible than residents of other regions.

## Growth: five common traits

by Mark Wingfield  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Five common traits characterize churches with high baptism rates and growing Sunday schools, a Southern Baptist evangelism leader says.

Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism with the Home Mission Board, studied 25 growing Southern Baptist churches in a search for common characteristics.

For the study, Ramsey isolated the 30 Southern Baptist churches which baptized more than 100 converts in 1989 and experienced at least a 10 percent increase in average Sunday school attendance over the previous year. He interviewed representatives from 25 of those churches, including 20 on-site visits.

The churches range in size from 102 to 22,832 resident members, with average Sunday school attendance ranging from 60 to 5,558. Their number of baptisms for 1989 ranged from 101 to 547.

Despite diversity of demographics, types of pastors and worship styles, Ramsey identified five traits common to all the churches he studied.

(1) *Pastoral vision for growth.* "Each of the pastors realized his vision must become the vision of the people for growth to be accomplished," Ramsey said. "When I interviewed lay people I found they shared the same vision and dreams of their pastor. They continually shared this excitement in their neighborhoods, at their workplaces and in their daily walks with others."

(2) *High commitment level of leadership.* "Every pastor, staff member and

Nationally, 26 percent of adults claim to have read all the Old Testament while 35 percent claim to have read all the New Testament. Only 11 percent say they have read little or none of the Old Testament and 13 percent say they have read little or none of the New Testament.

When it comes to Bible study groups, 21 percent of American adults say they are involved. Protestants are twice as likely as Catholics to be involved in Bible study groups.

### Knowledge

When asked to name the first four books of the New Testament, the four Gospels, only half the population could name any.

Mark is the least-known Gospel, with only 40 percent naming it. Among the other books, 41 percent named Luke, 44 percent named Matthew and 45 percent named John.

core layperson I interviewed practiced a daily quiet time, gave well above the tithe of their income, witnessed regularly and placed a higher priority on service to the Lord than on free time, position or secular employment," Ramsey noted.

(3) *Exciting worship.* "Regardless of the pastor's preaching style, the type of music used or the length of the service, there is a sense of expectancy, and the services are exciting," Ramsey said. "Visitors are welcomed in different ways, but in every church visitors seemed to know they were welcome and felt free to participate in the service."

(4) *Flexibility and innovation.* "Growing churches do not let location, lack of space, condition of facilities or limited finances blur their vision," he said. "Growing churches provide whatever activities and ministries are needed to make contact with all classes of people. Each church had a deep sense of caring and was people-oriented."

(5) *Evangelism.* Ramsey said he found "a total commitment to evangelism, which expresses itself in one-to-one witnessing and worship services with an invitation carefully planned to call people to commitment. Although growing churches use a variety of equipping methods for evangelism, the pastors always model personal evangelism and challenge laity to share their faith, he said.

"I am convinced that the majority, if not all our churches, can grow if these five characteristics become the norm," he said. "Some can grow more rapidly and larger than others, but all can grow."

## THINK ABOUT IT!

Positive thoughts are deterrents to the fears and pessimism that wait at every juncture. Every life that goes forward has to decide, at some point, to let the positive thoughts have the last word.

Let us believe neither half of the good people tell us of ourselves, nor half the evil they say of others.—J. Pettit-Senn

## SOUTHERN SEMINARY

# 'Covenant' considered

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees are expected to vote April 8 on a "covenant" document that effectively would replace controversial new guidelines for faculty employment adopted last September.

Seminary faculty March 28 voted, 38-5, their approval of the document "as a guideline for faculty, trustee and administrative cooperation." Consideration of the document is expected to be among the first items of business during the trustees' annual meeting April 8-10.

The six-page "Covenant Renewal" was hammered out in a series of meetings over the past four months between two seven-member trustee and faculty ad hoc committees.

While declining comment on the substance of the document, seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said it addresses trustees' concerns for adding more conservative evangelical scholars to the faculty. The document also comes in response to

concerns that have prompted an investigation by one of the seminary's accrediting agencies, he said.

"I want in no way to presume upon the deliberations of the trustees," Honeycutt said, "but I do wish to affirm the process that has brought us to this crucial moment in the seminary's history. The proposed document is a roadmap to guide trustees, faculty and administration in shaping the agenda for the future of Southern Seminary. It is the product of many hours of open, candid and prayerful dialogue between trustees and faculty."

If approved by the 63-member board of trustees, the statement would amend action at a called trustee meeting last September that added the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention "Peace Committee Report" as a guideline for employment, promotion and tenure of all faculty. The action stipulated the entire report—"both findings and

recommendations"—be used as a guideline in addition to existing academic personnel policies and the "Abstract of Principles," the confessional statement that has governed the school since its founding in 1859.

In the findings section, the Peace Committee report declared "most Southern Baptists believe" people who say the Bible is true believe "Adam and Eve were real persons," "named authors did indeed write the biblical books attributed to them," miracles "did indeed occur as supernatural events in history" and "the historical narratives given by biblical authors were indeed accurate and reliable."

In response, seminary faculty voted unanimously to ask the board to rescind its action. They were joined in that appeal by officers of the seminary's alumni association. Faculty argued in a statement that the trustee decision created "significant problems" in the faculty's relationship with the board, misused the Peace Committee report and introduced "ambiguity and confusion" into the seminary's instructional process.

## Baylor regents incorporate campus seminary

WACO, Texas (BP)—Baylor University's board of regents has approved the incorporation of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary and elected its first trustees.

The possibility of offering degree programs and enrolling students on the Baylor campus was approved by the regents in a meeting Mar. 22. Earlier, the regents had reserved the Truett name, commemorating the ministry of the prominent Southern Baptist pastor and ardent advocate of religious liberty.

Truett, an 1897 Baylor graduate, was pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas for 47 years until his death in 1944.

Baylor could begin seminary operations if the regents determine the six Southern Baptist seminaries were being led away from their historic mission by extremist elements, according to President Herbert H. Reynolds.

The articles of incorporation provide for a 15-member, all-Southern Baptist board of trustees for the seminary, elected by Baylor's regents.

## SEBTS accreditation intact

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Despite some concerns and even the possibility of probation, officials of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary are adamant the seminary is in no danger of losing accreditation.

Southeastern is presently on warning status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and will have this status reviewed in December. In addition, the Association of Theological Schools recently has requested separate reports from the faculty, administration and trustees. Reportedly, the reports will show why Southeastern should not be put on probation in June, seminary officials said.

"We are going to give ourselves unreservedly to keep accreditation," said President Lewis A. Drummond. "We are addressing point by point the concerns of our accrediting agencies."

Roger Ellsworth, trustee board chairman, urged students not to give up on the seminary.

"We are going to make progress, and we still offer a quality education. . . . We are still hopeful of satisfying both SACS and ATS, but prudent planning requires we take into account every eventuality and prepare for it."

"Many students are concerned about the accreditation of Southeastern. Some have even asked whether or not the events at Southeastern will affect future oppor-

tunities for service with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. These are reasonable questions, but I have reason to believe we will be successful in resolving all matters of concern to our accrediting agencies," said Russ Bush, vice-president for academic affairs.

Bush said he did not believe the two mission agencies would exclude or bypass Southeastern students because of the matters the school faces with accreditation agencies.

"(We) have a good relationship with both boards and will actively maintain that relationship. Southeastern is working closely with the boards to keep them informed of its status," said Bush.

Faculty members also see the seminary's accreditation problems being worked out.

"The faculty have worked very hard to ensure the school keeps its accredited status with both accreditation agencies. We intend to continue working hard to see our accreditation is kept," said Fred Grissom, president of the seminary's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Officials also stressed that students should understand their degrees from Southeastern are fully accredited now. If probation is announced it does not equal loss of accreditation, nor does it immediately or inevitably lead to loss of accreditation.

## UGANDA

# Journeyman found dead

by Mary E. Speidel  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)—Southern Baptist journeyman Darla Lovell, 23, was found dead in her home in Kampala, Uganda, March 24. Lovell apparently died in her sleep of natural causes, but an autopsy was being performed, said Bertie Paul, a missionary in Kampala.



Lovell

Lovell, from Effingham, Ill., was a secretarial assistant in the Southern Baptist mission office in Kampala. She lived next-door to Paul and her husband, Wayne, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Uganda.

On the morning of March 24, Lovell was to have met the Pauls for worship services at Nakawa Baptist Church in Kampala, where Wayne Paul was preaching. The Pauls became concerned when she did not show up. After church Mrs. Paul went to check on Lovell and found her dead in bed.

Lovell had reported waking up March 22 sweating profusely and feeling dizzy. She ate and then felt well enough to go to work. At noon she left the mission office to present an evangelistic program at a local primary school. When she returned to work that afternoon, she felt weak and went home to rest.

The next day, Lovell said she felt much better. She was able to do chores and visit some other missionaries, Mrs. Paul said. She spent the evening with the Pauls and returned home at about 8 p.m., saying she wanted to write some letters. She also said she wanted to make a tape for her parents. "I don't know if she ever finished it," said Mrs. Paul.

Lovell's mother, Kay Lovell of Effingham, said her daughter had been in good health except for a brief illness in 1990 during her last semester at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. One morning her roommate was unable to awaken her and called an ambulance. Physicians at a local hospital examined her and found nothing wrong.

Lovell was then in the middle of student teaching and final exams, so "we thought it was just tension and stress-related," her mother said. Later she was given a clean bill of health before Journeyman training last July.

Lovell arrived in Uganda last August. She helped Mrs. Paul, mission treasurer, with

bookkeeping. Her colleagues said in her short time there she won the hearts of Ugandans. "She was able to relate to them as equals, as peers. She made them feel very comfortable," said missionary Linda Rice. Outside the office, Lovell worked in ministries to children, recent university graduates and members of an evangelistic basketball team.

Lovell's interest in missions grew out of her involvement in missions education organizations at her home church, First Baptist Church of Effingham. As a member of Acteens, a mission organization for teenage girls, she was a camp counselor and a volunteer in Ohio and Oklahoma with Acteens Activators.

Lovell had wanted to become a career missionary after she finished her two-year journeyman experience, said Roger Marshall, pastor of First Baptist in Effingham.

Before he heard about Lovell's death, Marshall had planned to use her as an illustration during a March 24 sermon on Christian service. In his sermon, he noted that her job in Uganda was posting bills, a job many would not consider glamorous. "But she was willing to do the small things—things that others may not consider important or that others might be unwilling to do," he said.

Before going to Uganda, Lovell was in the same journeyman training class as Mary Anna Gilbert, a Southern Baptist teacher who was killed in the Oct. 2, 1990, crash of a hijacked Chinese jetliner in Guangzhou, China.

Born in Charleston, Ill., Lovell grew up in Effingham. She also lived in Oakdale, Ill., while growing up. She received the bachelor of science degree in business education from Southwest Baptist University.

Lovell is survived by her parents, a brother, a sister and her grandparents.

## Survey team heads to Kuwait

*Team includes Graham, needs entry visas*

by Art Tolstoun  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Still needing permission to enter Kuwait, a Christian survey team nevertheless departed for the ransacked country April 1.

They believe they can get visas on the island nation of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, said John Cheyne, one of three team members who will assess opportunities for Christian ministry in Kuwait. Cheyne coordinates human needs ministry for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The other team members are Maurice Graham, a Southern Baptist worker stranded in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait for more than four months after the Iraqi invasion, and Jerry Zandstra, pastor of the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait. Zandstra was in the United States during the invasion. Graham was associate pastor of the church after he arrived in Kuwait last summer.

Exploring ways Southern Baptists and other Christians can meet the physical and emotional needs of foreign laborers stranded in Kuwait will be a high priority for the survey team, Cheyne said. An estimated 80,000 workers from Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and other Third World countries endured the Iraqi occupation, he said.

"We don't know what their condition is," Cheyne said, or what sorts of food

supplies, medical assistance or emotional ministry they might need.

Once the team members secure visas in Bahrain, they will travel to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to reclaim the car Graham and his family used in Kuwait before the invasion. The car, bullet-riddled but with a new windshield, was used by a Texas Baptist couple and an Australian to escape from Kuwait Aug. 13.

The drive from Riyadh to Kuwait normally takes about five hours, Graham noted, "but I don't know what it will be under this kind of situation."

The team will pack the car with all the water and food they will need for a week's stay in Kuwait, along with such supplies as surgical masks to protect against polluted air from the hundreds of oil wells set ablaze by the Iraqis.

After the trip to Kuwait, Cheyne will visit Egypt and possibly Jordan to explore ministry opportunities among people made refugees by the war.

Already, Cheyne noted, the Foreign Mission Board has had numerous offers of assistance from various groups interested in helping.

Displaced people "are particularly receptive to compassionate concern and hence to the gospel," Cheyne said. "Ultimately some refugees may become instruments of the Lord to go back to their own people and share the gospel."

## LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

*Love's instructions*

by Bob Parker, interim director, Christian Civic Foundation

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 12:14-13:13

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Central truth: Agape love takes precedence over all other gifts.

God is love! He demonstrated that love in his only begotten son (Ro. 5:8). Those who believe on him have eternal life (Jn. 3:16).

Agape (Christlike) love loves the unlovely. Such love is divine. This is the type that is referred to as "a more excellent way" in the last verse of chapter 12. This means that it is more important than all other spiritual gifts.

In chapter 13, we note how this love should be lived out in all Christian human experience. Without this love in a person's life all other gifts are vanity. It would be better for one not to have been born than to live a life without agape love.

The qualities of this love is easily noted in the 13 verses of this chapter. Some consider the number 13 as being unlucky, but those who abide by the truths found therein are not just lucky, but most fortunate of all!

Some of the fruit of the Spirit (Ga. 5:22-23) are noted in these verses. Some believe Paul's first letter was to the churches in Galatia. In this Corinthian letter, he affirms those evidences of a true Christian life.

Agape love is patient. If God had not been patient with us we would not likely have been saved. Love is kind. The greatest of all kindness is noted in our Lord's example. Love is not envious or arrogant. Such demands deep humility of spirit.

This love is not rude or self seeking. Those who possess such are not easily provoked and with the mind of Christ think no evil. Agape love rejoices primarily in truth and is hopeful and enduring. It is genuine, it is unfeeling, though surrounded by failures.

Finally, this love comprehends all knowledge which basically is in Christ and it should be mature, not childlike. Looking forward to our heavenly home, we should rejoice in knowing ourselves being complete in his love.

Let us contribute to more rejoicing in the Lord by lives characterized by this agape love. It is imperative that this be done!

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## Life and Work

*Our blessed assurance*

by Joseph Jones, First Church, Prairie Grove

Basic passage: Ephesians 1:3-14

Focal passage: Ephesians 1:5, 13

Central truth: Predestination and seal of Holy Spirit confirms our salvation.

In this week's lesson, we are going to discuss two points which I feel are very significant to us. The first is the word "predestination," mentioned in verse 13 which says that we are: "sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Both of these points confirm to the believer the assurance of his salvation and our position in Christ Jesus.

"Predestination" is a word that many teachers and preachers bypass when they run across it here in Ephesians and in other Scriptures. I admit that it does pose some intellectual problems, but when approached head on it gives us a wonderful assurance of our salvation. The word means "to determine beforehand or to mark out." In Scripture, God has never predestined anyone to hell, but rather to salvation to adoption (Ep. 1:5), to his glory (Ep. 1:11). A man is lost because, out of his own free will, he chooses to remain lost. God, foreknowing who would respond to his love, predestined us to salvation, adoption, and glory (Ro. 8:28,29). We are not saved because we got baptized or walked down to the front of the church during an invitation, but rather we responded to his love (our free will) and he chose to save us (predestined). Now, if it has been determined beforehand (i.e. predestined), how could we possibly lose our salvation? We can't, because the issue of salvation has already been settled!

The second point, which again gives us great assurance, is that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. In ancient times, kings would set their seal on important documents and decrees. This seal would signify ownership and that the document or decree was irrevocable. The seal of the Holy Spirit, which has been given to all believers at salvation, is our assurance. It speaks of ownership because God has purchased us with his blood and of an irrevocable transaction because God has put his seal of promise upon our lives. It's a great comfort to know that my salvation is as sure as God's Word. It is not so much "Blessed assurance Jesus is mine" but rather, "Blessed assurance I am his!"

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## Bible Book

*King for the reunited land*

by J. Troy Prince, First Chapel, Jonesboro

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 9-12, 19-20a

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 5:1-7

Central truth: God has a plan for every nation, every life.

The tribes of Israel, a best, were a loose confederation of weak and independent groups who lost their rallying point with the death of King Saul. Their hope of survival lay in uniting with the forces of King David.

Their choice was based on three things: (1) they were David's bone and flesh, (2) David had been their real leader during the time of reign of Saul, and (3) God had by the mouth of the prophet given the throne to David. David was only 30 years of age when he became king over Israel and Judah. His reign lasted for 40 years.

Approximately 250,000 people from Israel and Judah assembled at Hebron for the ceremony in which David was anointed king. A brief account of the event is recorded in 2 Samuel 5:1-5 and also in 1 Chronicles 11:1-3.

People who supported David are described as being "mighty men of valor," "men who understood their time." "All these men... came with a perfect heart... to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king" (1 Ch. 13:38).

The actual coronation of David occurred when "the elders of Israel came to the king of Hebron; and King David made an agreement with them in Hebron before the Lord; and they anointed David king over Israel" (2 Ch. 5:3).

Days of celebration followed. People who had been estranged became friends. A bonding was begun that helped them to appreciate the value of unity.

David was a young adult when he became king of Israel and Judah. The hand of God was upon him as he learned responsibility in his father's house. Skills were developed during his shepherd years. Faithful in things that were small, he was equipped when the "big" moment came.

David placed God first in his life. The nation was second and he, the shepherd-ruled, in a servant role was third.

You may become such a leader if this sense of dedication is a vital part of your commitment to God.

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# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### *Suffering and comforting*

by Bob Parker, Interim Director, Christian Civic Foundation

Basic passage: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Focal passage: 2 Corinthians 1:7

Central truth: Christians must share suffering and be comforters to each other.

As we daily endeavor to share with fellow Christians suffering and pain of all types, there must absolutely also be a willingness to bring comfort in any way possible. This sympathetic sharing of suffering and extending of comfort are ways of demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Ga. 5:22-23).

Many important and needed truths are set forth to be applied daily in this lesson's basic passage of 11 verses.

To begin with, Paul gives his usual opening greeting, in which he bestows grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

He then emphasizes that the author of extending help to the suffering and the giving of comfort is God himself in Christ.

We must pray for God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to be clearly evident in all attempts to minister to the suffering and to extend needed comfort.

The word "comfort" is found six times in three verses (4-6). As one who suffered much and who received much comfort from others, he sought always to share his experience with all.

The word "consolation" is used four times in verses five through seven. Paul noted that such assistance abounded in Christ. He also wrote of his hope for the Corinthian church to partake of this consolation.

In conclusion, Paul states that the sentence of death was overthrown and that deliverance is found through God who raises the dead. He also requested prayers for himself and that thanksgiving be given for the gift of consolation.

Are you and I as Christians doing what we should to let others know that we hurt when they hurt? Are we seeking to comfort those who are hurting with more than just mere words? We absolutely must pray for God's guidance!

There are absolutely too many hurting people in our world. One of the largest groups of these are those who are physically hungry. What are you and your church doing to give needed comfort?

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## Life and Work

### *The fullness of Christ*

by Joseph Jones, First Church, Prairie Grove

Basic passage: Ephesians 1:15-23

Focal passage: Ephesians 1:22-23

Central truth: The church as the body of Christ is the completeness of Christ.

As we continue in our study of Ephesians, we must stress that, although the theme of this epistle is the church, the focus is still Jesus.

It seems to me that in many of our churches the emphasis is on what Christ does for the individual or for the church. If over-emphasized, this can put the receiver (us) in the center, rather than the giver (Jesus). In our Scripture text this week, Paul is praying for the saints, that they might have a spirit of understanding and salvation (v. 17) concerning Jesus and of the relationship of the church to him.

Reread the focal passage (Ep. 1:22,23) and make note of the word "fullness." Christ (in his humanity) is incomplete without the church. This statement is important for three reasons. One, it gives us a sense of belonging and of being a part of something great. Many employers encourage employees to buy stock in the company. In this way they have a share in the company that they work for. Likewise the church as the body of Christ becomes a very part of Christ and his ministry. Paul says in Romans 8:17 that we are joint heirs with Christ.

The second reason is that being a part of the fullness of Christ gives the individual and his contributions significance. I may not be a very noticeable part of the body of Christ, but I am important in order for his body to be complete. It is the same with you and every other child of God. Every individual Christian's talent, personality, and spiritual gifts are important so that the body of Christ can function properly.

Third, as the body of Christ, we become a part of his ministry instead of a series of individual ministries. For example, when I drive my car, my eyes are on the road, my left hand operates the steering wheel while my right hand shifts the gears, my left foot operates the clutch while my right foot operates the accelerator and the brake. These work together for one purpose: to drive the car. Likewise, as the body of Christ, we may have different functions within the body, but it is a part of one ministry.

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## Bible Book

### *Not God's priority*

by J. Troy Prince, First Church, Jonesboro

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 6:4-8a, 12; 7:1-7, 10-13, 25-26

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 6:4-8a, 7:1-7

Central truth: God's will is better than our good intentions.

The people of Judah and Israel gave enthusiastic consent for David to serve as God's anointed king over them. We immediately see that the covenant between David, his people, and God would bring a joyous celebration over all the country.

David moved quickly to establish a capital city for the reunited tribes. Choosing Jerusalem showed real statesmanship because it was a neutral site. Although the place was in alien hands, David led his army in capturing the stronghold. In so doing he proved himself to be an able leader.

The next move was to establish a center of worship. This was accomplished by bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem. Great merriment marks the procession as it made its way to the new resting place for the ark. Tragedy marred the event when Uzzah attempted to steady the ark when oxen drawing the new cart stumbled. He died immediately.

David left the ark at the house of Obededom for three months. God blessed the house of Obededom during this time. Later the ark was moved to the city of David. During this final procession, David's ecstatic dancing caused Michal, his wife, to despise him. In her mind he was behaving in a manner beneath the dignity of a king. Gently, but firmly, he told her that he would "continue to make merry before the Lord."

Later, in a reflective mood, David proposed to Nathan, the prophet, that God deserved a house rather than a tent for the ark. Nathan readily agreed, but was later confronted by the Lord, who instructed him to tell David that David's offspring would build a house for the Lord. David's greatest contribution would be in finding solutions to national and personal problems and not in construction of a house for the Lord. It was logical for David to feel that God deserved a better house for the ark. This was not God's priority!

While "a house for God" may be desirable from our standpoint, we must remember that his dwelling place is in the hearts of his people.

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# Missionary murdered

## Wife killed, husband beaten in Kenya

by Craig Bird

SBC Foreign Mission Board

KIJABE, Kenya (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Lynda Bethea, 42, was killed, and her husband, Ralph, 43, was injured March 27 when they were attacked by robbers on a Kenya highway.

Kenyan police reportedly have four suspects in custody.

In a cruel parable of the Good Samaritan story, the missionary couple stopped their car to assist a man sprawled across a rural road near Kijabe, Kenya, around 11 p.m. But as Bethea leaned over the man to see what was wrong, he looked into the barrel of a pistol. At least three other men emerged from the brush and punctured the left rear tire of the car before taking all of Bethea's money and disappearing into the darkness.

Before Bethea could get the tire changed, the masked men returned and demanded more money. When they attacked her husband, Mrs. Bethea came to his aid and was beaten repeatedly and savagely with iron bars. She died at the scene from severe head injuries.

"I tried to fight them off but they just kept coming, they just kept coming," Bethea later told Kenyan police in a barely audible whisper. "I gave them all the money I had but then they started beating my wife. . . . We asked them for the love of Jesus to go away and Lynda begged them to stop hitting us. . . . She kept telling them, 'We have children. . . .' But they just kept beating her."

Lynda suffered several cracked ribs, injuries to his left shoulder and cuts and bruises over his face and head. His face and hands were badly swollen.

When the men finally fled, two cars passed the bloodied couple without stopping. But the second driver went to the police station in Kijabe and returned with officers.

The attack took place less than a mile from the Betheas' intended destination, Rift Valley Academy, about 45 miles northwest of Nairobi. They had planned to spend the night before taking their two older sons, Ralph III, 17, a junior at the missionary boarding school, and Joshua, 13, an eighth grader, to their home in Mombasa for a month-long Easter break.

Two other children, Luke, age 12, and Lizette, 9, had remained in Mombasa with friends.

School officials contacted missionaries and before daylight 10 missionaries and Kenyan Baptists had gathered at the school to be with Bethea as others came throughout the day from across Kenya.

Kijabe police notified Nairobi police headquarters and officers worked through the pre-dawn hours securing the murder scene and using dogs to track the gang. About 100 yards away they found a smoldering campfire and a pair of partially burned shoes. They described it as an apparent attempt to throw police dogs off the scent. But by midmorning March 28 the suspects were in custody.

A U.S. Embassy representative arrived at Rift Valley Academy about an hour after being notified of the incident and promised to do everything in the embassy's power to help.

Mrs. Bethea, of Jackson, Miss., befriended hundreds of Southern Baptist volunteers who made her home headquarters for numerous evangelistic crusades in Mombasa. The Betheas helped lead in the evangelization of the Mombasa area, where the gospel has found remarkable acceptance recently among once-hostile Muslims.

"One of the missionaries (saw) Ralph and Lynda yesterday and said he had never seen her more relaxed and happy," said Jimmy Draper March 28.

Draper, who spoke to Bethea and other missionaries by phone after the attack, is pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, and a former Southern Baptist Convention president. He is a close friend of the Betheas and worked with them in several Kenya evangelism projects.

"She was just a wonderful missionary wife," Draper said. "She adapted well to not complaining and just putting up with whatever Ralph was doing and she was enthusiastic about it. We've been with them in a lot of different situations. It was typical of Ralph to stop (the car). He could have driven around that man in the road. That would be the normal procedure, but knowing his heart he stopped to help, and knowing Lynda it was like her to get out and try to help. That was the way they lived."

A memorial service was scheduled for March 29 at Brackenhurst Baptist International Conference Center, located between Nairobi and Kijabe. Bethea requested an African choir to sing some of his wife's favorite songs.

Betha and the four children were scheduled to leave Nairobi late March 29 and fly to Tulsa, Okla. His parents, Ralph and Lizette Bethea, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia and India, live in Claremore, Okla. Bethea's brother, James Bethea, is a missionary to Indonesia.

Mrs. Bethea was the 13th member of a Southern Baptist missionary family to die as a victim of murder or other hostile action since the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board started sending missionaries overseas in 1845.

Born in Jackson, Mrs. Bethea, the former Lynda Sharp, received the bachelor of science degree from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in Jackson. She also attended the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. She married Bethea in 1970.

## Probe continues

Efforts to have the body of murdered Southern Baptist missionary Lynda Bethea returned to the United States for an Easter burial failed when Kenyan authorities decided more time was needed for investigation of the crime.

According to the hospital death certificate, Mrs. Bethea could have died from either of two blows to the head, one of which could have been caused by a machete. Bethea denied a widely circulated report by United Press International that said the attackers killed her by driving nails into her head.

A scheduled funeral in Tulsa, Okla., on Easter Sunday and memorial services in Jackson, Miss., and Euless, Texas, later in the week were postponed when permission for the body to be released from police authorities was withdrawn 14 hours before the planned departure.

Police also indicated they wanted Bethea to delay his own return to the United States because of the investigation. He was badly beaten in the late-night attack and was the only witness to the crime.

Local police had said four suspects were being detained, but later Kenyan national police officials refused to comment on any aspect of the case.

Officers apologized because mission officials had "incorrectly" been given permission to arrange shipment of the body to Tulsa, but they insisted it was "too soon" for the body to be released. When missionaries protested, the officers contacted their superiors but the decision stood. They said the body could not be released until "we are sure we have no additional need of it for evidence."



Lynda Bethea



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## EGYPT

# Converts kept in jail

by Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

CAIRO, Egypt (BP)—Three Muslim converts to Christianity arrested nearly six months ago will be imprisoned for at least 45 more days after a March 27 hearing in an Egyptian court operating under martial law.

According to Menes Abdul Noor, pastor of the 1,000-member Kasr el Doubara Evangelical Church in Cairo, the converts are charged with contempt for Islam and threatening the unity of Egypt. The men have been part of Noor's congregation since converting to Christianity about five years ago.

"It's a human rights issue," Noor said in a telephone interview March 28. "These gentlemen did nothing against the constitution. They were not arrested because of violence or a crime, but solely because of reports from the secret police office."

People should be free to choose their faith, Noor continued. "A Christian can become a Muslim in Egypt (or) anywhere in the world. So why can't it be the other way around?"

The three men are being held in solitary confinement in the Abu Zaabal Industrial Prison on the outskirts of Cairo. "They are in good health and good morale," Noor said.

For about four months, however, they were "subjected to extreme forms of torture" to renounce their Christian faith, according to reports circulated by the Cairo congregation. They were beaten, drugged, tortured with electrical rods, burned with cigarettes, hung by their wrists with handcuffs and cursed.

The men's names are Mustafa Muhammad Sa'id Al Sharkawi, 30; Muhammad Hussein Sallam, 25; and Hassan Muhammad Isma'el Muhammad, 21. Their names often are spelled in different ways in various English-language reports.

Noor said the men are not being prosecuted through Egypt's judicial system but through the Interior Ministry which has enforced state of emergency provisions since the 1981 assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat by Islamic extremists.

At the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C., however, press officials said they were unaware of charges against three Egyptian converts to Christianity.

"I assure you that if somebody is in prison it has nothing to do with religion at all," one official said.

However, reports about the three converts' imprisonment also have been cir-

culated by Amnesty International and numerous Christian organizations.

In a report last December, Amnesty International called for "the immediate and unconditional release of these three men" who it believes "to be prisoners of conscience."

Converts to Christianity also were persecuted in Egypt in 1989. According to Amnesty International's report for that year, "A number of people who had converted to Christianity from Islam were detained without charge or trial under emergency legislation."

At least one international Christian organization, Atlanta-based Operation Mobilization, has organized a letter-writing campaign for the men's release. It urges letters be sent to the Egyptian ambassador in Washington, El Sayid Abdel Raouf El Reedy, and to U.S. senators and congressmen.

Information about the letter-writing effort may be obtained by contacting Operation Mobilization at 404-631-0432 or P.O. Box 2277, Peachtree City, GA 30269-0277.

Charges of converting to Christianity and seeking to convert others initially were filed against the men last fall. Two of the believers were arrested Sept. 28 and the other was arrested on Oct. 9. The charges were dismissed in "security" court hearings Nov. 23 and Dec. 8, Noor said, but officials of the Interior Ministry ordered them kept in jail. New charges of contempt for Islam and threatening Egypt's security were subsequently filed.

Laws in Muslim countries do not typically forbid conversion to Christianity, said David Bentley, religious rights researcher for the Zwemer Institute of Muslim Studies in Altadena, Calif. As United Nations members, Bentley noted, Muslim countries have subscribed to U.N. declarations affirming the right of people to choose their religious faith.

Instead, pressure against conversion comes through the Muslim community and the family, Bentley said. Statistics detailing such pressures are impossible to compile, he said. "A family could poison a daughter thinking about becoming a Christian or marrying a Christian, and nobody outside the community would ever know about it."

One reason the Egyptian government targeted the three converts—and other Muslim governments periodically target Christians—is to lessen criticism from Muslim fundamentalists, Bentley noted. Many Muslim leaders are moderates seeking to keep fundamentalists in check, he said.