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5-23-1991

May 23, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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May 23, 1991



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At a glance

6 'My child is making bad decisions'

Parents tend to overprotect and control a child at the very point she needs to be exploring and experiencing life for herself, according to Glen McGriff, director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He says many families make the mistake of trying to parent an older teenager like they did when she was a small child. Other methods, including letting the child make mistakes, are needed during this period.

12 African Children's Choir

A casual onlooker never would have suspected the happy, energetic children performing April 21 at Benton First Church had ever known hunger or any form of misery, but many of the 26 children that compose the African Children's Choir have wandered aimlessly in search of food, seen their parents killed, and hidden in the jungle to avoid torture. But when these children sing, whether in Swahili or English, the message is clear: their deep faith and Christian commitment are alive and well.

15 CP rankings announced

Five Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches are included in the top 100 churches in Cooperative Program gifts nationwide. They are: Little Rock Immanuel Church, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church, North Little Rock Park Hill Church, Fort Smith Grand Avenue Church, and Springdale First Church.

16 Arkansas ACTS takes top honors

Three Arkansas affiliates were honored at the sixth annual American Christian Television System Awards ceremony in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 25. Little Rock ACTS was awarded Program of the Year and Best Educational/Informational Program for "PowerSource: Satanism—The Seduction of the Supernatural." ACTS of Texarkana and ACTS of Springdale also were honored.

17 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship formed

After 12 years of hard labor, 6,000 Southern Baptist moderates gave birth to a new religious body called the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship May 11 in Atlanta. Some called it a new denomination, others called it the precursor to a denomination, while still others called it a fellowship or renewal movement within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cover story

(BP) photo / Charles Ladford



Hidden heroes

23

Workers at a tiny international school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, call Southern Baptist Cooperative Services International worker Gloria Carlton of Elkins, Ark., an "unsung hero" because of her tireless work with children at the school. She and her husband, Bruce, are Southern Baptists' only representatives in a land left ravaged by the Khmer Rouge.

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Adequate retirement

J. EVERETT SNEED

Most committed lay persons recognize the important role that a pastor plays in the life of a church. Both the Bible and observation establish the vital worth of the man of God. However, sometimes congregations overlook the necessity to assist a pastor in preparing for retirement. Preparation for retirement involves at least two elements: adequate money being given to annuity so that an ongoing salary will be provided when a pastor can no longer serve, and a home for a retired minister.

The worth of the spiritual leader is emphasized in both the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament clearly states that the priest was a gift to the children of Israel. He also was to serve the people of Israel in spiritual matters.

Repeatedly in the New Testament emphasis is given to the primary role of the pastor as being "prayer" and "the ministry of the Word." Because of the spiritual ministry that is performed by the pastor, Paul emphasizes the honor, respect, and the support that is to be given to him. The apostle said, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward" (1 Ti. 5:17-18).

Most pastors' salaries are relatively small. When a church provides a house for the pastor, this is given in lieu of salary. So the pastor does not accumulate equity with which he can purchase a home at the time of retirement. In essence, pastors are the ones who are providing for the church to have property which is entitled "a parsonage" or "a pastor's home."

There are several arguments that are used for providing a house, rather than a housing allowance for the pastor. Some maintain that it would be difficult for the pastor to find an adequate house that he could purchase or rent in certain communities. While this may be true in some areas of the state, in order for the pastor to accumulate equity for a home, it is worth the difficulty.

A second argument that is used is the difficulty in buying and selling a home. When a pastor comes to the community, he must find property and purchase it. When he leaves to go to another field of service, he must then sell the house, usually before he



can purchase another home on his new field of service. It is true that this will produce some difficulty. But again, it is worth the extra effort in order for the pastor to have a home when he retires. When a pastor owns his own home, it relieves a number of problems for the church. The church is no longer responsible for repairs and upkeep. It also provides freedom for the pastor to make any change in his home that he desires. When the home is owned by the congregation, any major change in the house would need to be approved by the congregation. Each pastor and his wife have their own desires as to the appearance of the home in which they live. This is as it should be. People should have the right to decorate and maintain their home in the fashion they desire.

Another tragedy which repeatedly transpired in past years was for the man of God to come to retirement without adequate retirement income. In recent years, this difficulty has been compounded by inflation. An adequate income in 1950 certainly is not an adequate income today.

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention have taken steps to alleviate much of this problem. In the past, churches contributed \$33.34 a month for the retirement of their pastor. At the time this was set up, it would

roughly have been 10 percent of the pastor's total income package. Of course, no pastor today has a total income package of only \$333.40 per month. The new proposal is that the congregation will invest 10 percent of the pastor's total income package with the Annuity Board. If this is started while a minister is young, he is likely to have an adequate income in his retirement.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention also has increased its contributions to the Annuity Board. In the past, the state convention had a maximum monthly gift of \$16.67 in behalf of each pastor. Now the convention contributes one-third of the amount contributed by the church or the pastor, with the maximum amount being \$35. All of this is to assist the pastor in providing proper retirement income.

Almost all pastors are committed to their congregations. They are men of prayer and men of the word. Almost everyday a preacher will have heavy responsibilities. Among these life-shaping events are: counseling, comforting the bereaved, planning the future activities of the church, and presenting the message of salvation.

Churches have responsibilities to their pastor's retirement years. These responsibilities include assisting the pastor to have a home in which he can live during his retirement years, as well as providing adequate annuity so that the pastor will have an adequate retirement income. A church which fulfills its responsibility to its pastor will reap many benefits. They will know the smile of God, their work will prosper, and in most situations the church will grow. Above all, the members will know they have done that which is right in the sight of God.

Arkansas Baptist

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

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



There are so many people we owe so much in these days of intense kingdom labor. Close to the top of the list would be our directors of missions. They serve in so many different capacities most people would not believe it if we told them. They have made it possible for us to develop good relationships with our bivocationalists. They helped us do maximum training in preparation for "Here's Hope" revivals. They were the keys to our recent World Mission conferences. They get their associational leadership to the Key Leader Meeting, where we share the latest and best we know to help them in the association. They have been the key people in finding places and congregations to help plant new churches.

"The care of all the churches" is a statement the apostle Paul made about the burden of his heart. The director of missions shares that responsibility and burden. He counsels, supplies, teaches, preaches, dreams, plans, and encourages. He is a helper to all of our departments and a helper to every agency and institution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Such a person seldom feels strong affirmation. He is too often taken for granted, presumed on, ignored, caught between power struggles, and seldom has anyone who will be an advocate for him and his family. This results in most of them being paid poorly and having little finances to provide programs and ministries that are needed by the churches in their association.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire," the Scriptures declare. Neither the Southern Baptist Convention nor the state convention employ or provide for compensation of directors of missions. He is free from the pressure, control or influence that could be placed on him if his support came from these other sources. That is good, as it should be. But it leaves the local churches of that association solely responsible for seeing they are cared for and that they have funds sufficient to do a good work with the churches.

Enough said! I am out of space anyway!

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

RANDALL O'BRIEN

A Pastor's Perspective

Jimmy's wet britches



You laugh. But you never saw Bubba Walker either. And even if you did, you never saw him throw a baseball. We did. Plenty of times. Jimmy Brumfield sure did.

Bubba was a large human. Goliath's big brother. Even when he was little, he was big. He would go on to star in two sports as a 6'4" dominant athlete at McComb High. Then off to State on full scholarship.

Bubba reached manhood somewhere around 12. Just prior to his last year of Little League baseball, as I recall in a cold sweat. Asteroid size, maybe bigger. Age 12.

Which brings me back to Jimmy Brumfield. We all dreaded batting against Bubba Walker. No exceptions. 'Course we all tried to hide it. I hate to say we were scared to death of Bubba, but we were scared to death of Bubba. The man threw so hard the catcher wore a sponge in his mit!

Usually what we'd do when we had to bat against Bubba was five things: (1) cry, (2) pray, (3) swing at the first 3 pitches, (4) go back to the dug-out and pray, beg, "Please Lord, let coach put someone in my place. I'll be a preacher. Anything!" (5) think of ways to gracefully quit the game forever.

Poor Jimmy. Had his new white uniform on and everything, that hot summer day in '58. Praying in the batter's box helps. Jimmy was praying. Bubba went into his wind-up. And Jimmy went in his pants.

Poor Jimmy Brumfield. We all saw it. The girls. Parents. Ump. Bubba. Everybody. We all saw it. The dark large wet expanding circle against the otherwise bright white dry pants. Poor Jimmy Brumfield. What can you say in times like that? "Excuse me!"

Wow is me. Life is like that. Jimmy could be any of us. Secretly, are we not all scared to death of facing Bubba: The next grade in school, leaving home, getting married, responsibility for providing adequately for others, new job, social interaction, finding the meaning of life, aging, death and dying. Bubba throws hard.

And we, we try to hide our secret fears. Don't we? Well, Jimmy couldn't. But Jimmy is my hero. Why? Cause everybody in McComb knew Jimmy Brumfield wet his britches. Yet Jimmy hung in there. Never quit. Faced the fiddler. Everyday. Going through life's beltline.

Courage. That's what I call it. That's what life takes. And character. Heroes. That's who you are. All you folks out there standing in the batter's box everyday against Bubba. With courage and character, you stand in there. When life scares you to death, humiliates you, laughs at you publicly. Still you stand.

"For God did not give us the spirit of fear, but the spirit of power and love and self-control" (2 Ti. 1:7).

No, Jimmy Brumfield never made it to the Major Leagues. You might not either. But if ever they name an All-McComb, All-Time Baseball Team based on courage and character, I think I've got a nominee.

Eight batters after he soiled his suit in front of God and everybody, guess who stepped back into the batter's box?

So what about you? Life treating you roughly? Scared? Tired? Ever feel like quitting? Who knows? One day someone, somewhere, just might name an all-world, all-time team of unsung heroes.

So, Hey, Hey, what d'ya say? Batter up?

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

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ERWIN L. McDONALD

The Golden Years

'Where he leads me I will follow'

"And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Lu. 9:23).

They started out as "bouncing baby girls," a year apart in time and half a world apart in space. Today, nearly 70 years later, and more than 32 years as a missionary healing team in Indonesia, they are happily involved in a retirement career with greater Little Rock as a mission field.

Meet Dr. Kathleen Jones, a native of Recife, Brazil, and her associate, Nurse Ruth Vanderburg, a native of Little Rock who "grew up in First Baptist Church."

Now more than three years into retirement, they still serve as a healing team and are having the time of their lives as members of the staff of Dr. Orman W. Simmons and his Cornerstone Clinic for Women in Little Rock.

The open secret of their lives, they'll tell you, has been finding God's will for themselves, both as individuals and as team members, and "looking to him to move heaven and earth to bring it to pass."

Dr. Jones, born to missionary parents Dr. and Mrs. R.S. Jones, received her education through high school in Richmond, Va. She graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and received her M.D. degree from Southwestern

Medical School. She went to Indonesia in 1953 as Southern Baptists' very first missionary.

Nurse Vanderburg was a missionary volunteer from age 13. She is a graduate of Little Rock (Central) High School; Baptist Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing in Memphis, Tenn., and the University of Tennessee. She was appointed missionary to Indonesia in 1959, joining Dr. Jones a year later.

Dr. Jones and Nurse Vanderburg believe Dr. Simmons was used of God as an answer to their prayers for a fruitful ministry in retirement. On a visit to their mission field shortly before they retired, Dr. Simmons told them he had been praying that God would lead them to join his staff upon their retirement.

Dr. Jones spoke for both the missionaries as she said, "God is good to us. All the doctors and staff members at the clinic are Christians, and we start every day in prayer. We have opportunity every day to witness for the Lord and to do Christian counseling."

Not the least of their blessings is having Nurse Vanderburg's 96-year-old mother, Lucille, with them to love and care for on a daily basis.

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

ABN photo © Miltie Gill



Ruth Vanderburg, Dr. Kathleen Jones, and Dr. Orman Simmons review cases.

Letters to the Editor

God's opinion

In the Baptist Adults Discipleship Training lesson for May 5, James L. Evans presents a well-written study of marriage as "A Lasting Union." He does not however, provide an accurate account of God's opinion of divorce. He states, "God does not forbid divorce, but discourages it strongly." A more precise statement would have been a quotation from Malachi 2:26, which says, "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away." This phrase "putting away" is *shalach*, on which Gesenius spends a page and a half in definition. Its meaning is "to send, to dismiss, to let go." In other words, God hates divorce.

Shall I and my fellow pastors then tell our flocks that God hates something but doesn't forbid it? I think not.—Warren Watkins, Pine Bluff

More than lip service

The emphasis on acknowledging the importance of bi-vocational pastors to Southern Baptists continues to be little more than lip service. This fact is borne out by "Nominees, Appointees Named," ABN, May 9 issue. You will not find a bi-vocational pastor among those nominated to serve on the various boards. Only one man comes from a church with less than a thousand members. The average membership of the churches represented is more than 2,300.

The editorials and conferences are commendable, but when will this vast group of faithful servants be included on SBC committees and boards?—Donald Cochran, Fort Smith

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LAST IN A SIX-PART SERIES

'My child is making bad decisions'

by Mark Kelly

Contributing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

There she stands. Your pride and joy. A beautiful 17-year-old. Brimming with youthful enthusiasm. Full of potential. Fairly bursting with energy.

You've done your best. You've told her what she needs to know. You've tried to set a good example. Now she's testing her wings. And it's got you worried.

You're afraid she's making some serious mistakes. She's rejected college out of hand. She's dating a boy you don't approve of—a dropout and drinker. They seem to be getting serious. You're afraid she'll get pregnant and have to get married.

What do you do? Lecture? Scold? Lay down the law? Intervene?

Parents tend to overprotect and control a child at the very point she needs to be exploring and experiencing life for herself, says Glen McGriff, director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

McGriff says many families make the mistake of trying to parent a teenager like they did when she was a small child. They lecture her on values. They tell her what she ought to think or do. And if she doesn't seem inclined to do what they want, they step in and try to do it for her.

A teenager rightly resents such interference, no matter how well intended. She has heard the lectures before. She knows what her parents want even before they tell her. Ironically, she probably would want make the same things, given a chance to think it through for herself.

The atmosphere has been poisoned, however, by her parents' reluctance to recognize her need to make her own choices. She becomes defensive. They try to break through those defenses. The conflict intensifies and escalates into a power struggle. To prove her independence, she does exactly what her parents forbid. Everyone will suffer the consequences.

When an older teenager begins making bad choices, McGriff urges parents

to resist their instinct to overprotect and control. Instead, he says parents should focus on facts and get their teenager to think for herself.

If parents can get a teenager to explain for them the facts of the situation that have the parents worried, then they can ask the teenager to express her own feelings about those facts, McGriff says. They can lead her to think for herself about the possible consequences of the choices before her. They can help her discover for herself the ways she may be unrealistic about the situation.

If parents do not get "preachy" or become threatening, they usually can get their teenager to think for herself and look at her own values and goals, McGriff says. Many times, the truth will break through, and the young person will come up with a decision of her own that is surprisingly consistent with her parents' values.

McGriff suggests a rule of thumb for parents concerned about their teenager's choices: Explore what she feels before you say what you feel. Turn the discussion away from per-

sonalities and toward the teen's perception of facts and feelings. Concentrate on enabling her to make a wise decision, rather than on getting her to do what you want.

Many parents find it hard to accept that parenting is only for a period, McGriff observes. In most cases, that period lasts only about 12 years. At that point, parents must set out to move their child toward independence. A successful transition turns parents into friends.

"Our goal is to move from a parenting process to a friendship with our adult children," McGriff points out. "We are trying to help that person become a good decisionmaker. We want her to explore what she thinks, feels, and really wants. Then she can decide whether the choice before her is really a path to what she wants or a barrier."

"Our control of a teenager is very limited anyway. If we have taught her well, and if she has confidence in us, we can give her more and more power to make her own choices, based on what she has observed in us."

'I feel guilty. . .'

Guilt feelings often overwhelm parents who see their adult children making bad choices. Many are tortured by the question: "Where did we go wrong?"

Feelings of guilt usually are based on irrational emotions, not reality, says Glen McGriff, director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The feelings arise from a natural concern and sense of responsibility.

Parents whose children are making bad choices must recognize they are not responsible for their offspring's decisions. No matter how good—or bad—a job parents do, their adult children still are responsible for their own decisions, McGriff observes. Parents who did their best must trust

their motives in raising the child, even if the outcome is not what they had hoped.

However, some parents may realize they failed to set a good example or help their child learn to become a good decisionmaker. In that case, McGriff urges parents to acknowledge their failure and seek forgiveness. Even that failure, though, does not make parents responsible for their adult child's bad choices.

Under no circumstances should parents use past failures as an excuse to intervene and rescue their child from the consequences of a bad choice. Even though suffering will be involved, the best way for that child to learn life's hard lesson is to struggle and discover it for herself.

Leadership Profile for ABSC Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee for the 1991 Arkansas Baptist State Convention want Arkansas Baptists to submit names of persons for that committee to consider when they bring the convention nominations for state committees and boards.

This recommendation will not insure nomination, but the committee will consider each recommendation. The commit-

tee will not contact any person recommended until they approve the nominations.

The Nominating Committee will hold its first meeting July 12 and needs all recommendations no later than June 14.

Members of the committee: Johnny Ross, chairman; Bill Bledsoe; Mark Tolbert; Carl Fawcett; G.B. Hambrick; Harry Smith; Stephen Davis; George O'Neal; and David Tate.

June 14 is the deadline for recommendations

Nominee _____ Layperson () Minister () Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Member of what church? _____ Association _____

Current leadership responsibilities

Professional _____

Civic _____

Church _____

Association _____

State or SBC Boards _____

Past leadership experience (within last five years)

State or SBC Boards _____

Association _____

Local Church _____

Personal

This person's greatest contribution, based on his or her past record, knowledge, and experience, should be in the area of _____

Is this person currently active in a local church? _____

Is this person able to be away from family and work for at least one or two days three times a year? _____

Give the name and phone number of at least one person who knows of the nominee's involvement in Baptist life beside his or her pastor or director of missions. _____

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rank this person's understanding of and commitment to the way Southern Baptists work together? (Circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6th 7 8 9 10

Check the board, committee or commission on which you believe this person could best serve.

Boards of trustees

- Executive Board
- Children's Homes & Family Ministries
- Foundation
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis
- Christian Civic Foundation
- Ouachita Baptist University
- Williams Baptist College
- Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Committees and Commission

- History Commission
- BSU Advisory Committee
- Ministry of Crisis Support Advisory Committee
- Constitution and ByLaws Committee
- World Hunger Committee
- Convention Program Committee

Mail this sheet to:
Johnny Ross, chairman
c/o Executive Director
ABSC, P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Signed _____
(Name of person making this recommendation)

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Jon Woods will join the staff of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock June 2 as associate pastor of youth and activities. A native of Huntsville, Texas, he will graduate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary this month.



Ken Bunch is serving as pastor of First Church in Fouke.

John Wright, who recently resigned as pastor of First Church in Little Rock, began serving May 5 as interim pastor of Second Church in Hot Springs.

William Merritt has resigned as pastor of Opello Church because of health conditions.

Francis McBeth, the Lena Goodwin Trimble professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University, has been elected vice-president of the American Bandmasters Association, an association of bandmasters in America whose membership is by invitation only.

Bob Endel recently celebrated five years of service as music and youth director of Salem Church, Benton.

Jerry Parks has joined the staff of Barcelona Road Church at Benton as part-time minister of youth.

W.J. "Wimpy" Hendricks of Arkadelphia died April 4 at age 77. He was a retired maintenance foreman with Ouachita Baptist University, having served for 35 years. He was a deacon of Riverside Church, Donaldson. Survivors are his wife, Geraldine Patterson Hendricks; two sons, W.J. "Sonny" Hendricks, and Larry Hendricks; two daughters, Miriam Buck, and Georgia Cole; four brothers; and one sister.

Charles Hampton is serving as interim pastor of Second Church in Arkadelphia.

Jim Shaw will join the staff of Wynne Church June 1 as summer youth director. A native of Marshall, Texas, he is a student at East Texas Baptist University.

Lon Vining joined the staff of Clarendon First Church May 19 as minister of youth and music. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

John Holston will complete nine months of service May 31 as interim pastor of Amboy Church in North Little Rock.

Wayne West has been called as pastor of Amboy Church in North Little Rock. He will move there from Joplin, Mo., where he has been serving as associate pastor of Calvary Church.

Charles Bradley began serving May 19 as pastor of Grace Church, Augusta, coming there from Butler, Mo.

Roger Wagner has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church in Kensett.

Jerry and Linda Muse, members of First Church in Piggott, are planning a July medical mission trip to Brazil.

Clark Lasse began serving May 1 as pastor of First Church in Winslow. He is a graduate

OBITUARY

Frances Crawford

Frances M. Crawford, whose 50 years of service to Ouachita Baptist University had made her a campus legend, died May 1 at age 94. A native of Arkadelphia, she had known every president in Ouachita's history, including Dr. John William Conger, who became the school's first president in 1886.

"Miss Frances," as she was called by those who knew her, was a 1918 graduate of what was then Ouachita Baptist College. Her long career at the school began in 1926, when she became secretary to the president, Dr. A. B. Hill.

Ten years later, she became registrar, a post she held for 26 years. In 1962, she was named director of Ouachita's Former Students Association and Placement Office, where she continued to serve on a full time or part time basis until she retired in 1977. Frances Crawford Dormitory was named in her honor in 1970.

Her funeral services were held May 3 at First Church in Arkadelphia, where she was a member. Memorials may be made to either the church or to OBU.



Indian Springs Church, Bryant, retired its sanctuary indebtedness with a note-burning service April 7. The congregation currently is constructing a family life/worship center with projected late summer completion date. Burning the note (left to right) were Don Lasiter, Chuck Payne, and Pastor Benny Grant. Others participating were (left to right) Ricbard Craft, Phil Harris, Tom Young, Derrell Greene, Chris Reade, Al Dennis, and Steve Lawson.

of the University of Arkansas and Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Penn. He has pastoral experience in Pennsylvania, Florida, and Arkansas. Lasse is married to the former Joyce South. They have three children, Kara, Whitney, and Jonathan.

Mike Lee has accepted a call to join the staff of First Church in Searcy as minister to youth and singles. He will come there from First Church in London, Ky. Lee is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lee Dobson is serving as music and youth director for Fellowship Church, Witcherville. He previously served on the staff of First Southern Church, Central.

Paul Scantling is serving as pastor of Calvary Church near Booneville. He and his wife, Kim, have a son, Phillip.

Missy Collier, a junior at Ouachita Baptist University, and **Doug Compton**, a sophomore at OBU, will serve as summer youth interns at Barling Cross Church, North Little Rock.

The Cates began serving May 5 as minister of music and youth at First Church in

Haizen, going there from North Main Church in Sheridan.

Larry Page, newly elected director of Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation, was ordained to the gospel ministry May 19 at South Highland Church in Little Rock where he is a member. Don Moore, ABSC executive director, preached the ordination message. Others on program included Pastor Mark Tolbert; ordained men of the church; John Finn, retired executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation; and Harry Trulove, president of Arkansas Baptist Foundation. Special music was presented by Page's daughter, Sarah.

Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro, interim pastor of Wynne Church and pastor emeritus of Central Church in Jonesboro, was in Dallas, Texas, May 19 at Park Cities Church, where he preached at the evening worship service and spoke to the Berean Bible Class, for which he was the first teacher prior to entering the Navy during World War II.

Donna Bowman has resigned as youth minister at First Church in Heber Springs to join the staff of First Church in Stephenville, Texas, as minister of students.

Byron Allen has resigned as pastor of East Side Church in Mountain Home to take early retirement. He and his wife, Pat, will reside in Texas.

Dwayne Oxner has resigned as youth director at Dermott Church to move to Fort Worth, Texas.

Keith Baker has joined the staff of Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro as summer children's intern.

Tommy Cunningham has resigned as pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock, effective June 2, following more than four years of service. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Church in West Memphis.

David L. Ray is serving as pastor of North Side Church in Monticello.

Todd Parr has joined the staff of Grace Church in Camden as youth minister. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Aubrey Neal began serving May 5 as pastor of Gilmore Church, coming there from Monroe Church.

Frank Shook is serving as pastor of Batson Church, Ozark, having previously served there from September 1987 to July 1989.

Bob Shelton began serving May 20 as pastor of First Church in Alma, coming there from First Church in Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Hulén Faulkner of Manila celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 26. They were honored April 27 in the fellowship hall of First Church of Manila, where he serves as a deacon. He is a retired banking officer, and she is a retired school teacher. They have two sons, George and Bill Faulkner, and five grandchildren.

Briefly

Indian Springs Church, Bryant, observed "Good News" Sunday April 21 with activities that included a banquet in the family life/worship center. Rick Caldwell was speaker. Benny Grant is pastor.

Amboy Church in North Little Rock participated in North Pulaski Association's World Missions Conference May 16-19. Speakers at Amboy Church included Conway Sawyers, retired director of the Missions Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention; Paul Rhode, foreign missionary to Guyana; Gary Hargrove, home



The churches of Central Association dedicated a new Baptist Center ministry at Dixonville April 21. The community, located in an isolated area between Benton and Malvern, has been the site of summer feeding programs the last two years under the leadership of Diana Lewis, associational church and community ministries director. Four professions of faith have resulted from the feeding ministry, which is intended to supplement the diets of disadvantaged children who do not receive nutritious school meals during the summer months. The new ministry will include weekly worship services, a clothes closet, and a food pantry. James Swendenburg, Central Association director of missions, and Tim Reddin, pastor of Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village, were among those participating in the dedication service.

missionary in Florida; and James Johnson, foreign missionary to Nigeria. John Holston is the church's interim pastor.

Charleston First Church observed Instrumentalist Sunday April 21, recognizing organist Linda Neissl for 25 years service, and pianist Betty Van Meter for 23 years service. The two were presented plaques and honored at a reception.

Leslie First Church was in a revival April 28-May 1 led by William Blackburn of Fort Smith, evangelist, and Mike Reynolds of Sikeston, Mo., music director. Pastor Joe Bagwell reported 36 professions of faith and 28 rededications.

Springdale First Church observed Norman and Ruth Marie Crowder Sunday April 28 in recognition of his retirement as business administrator, following more than eight years of service.

Henderson First Church held a spring revival that resulted in eight professions of faith and one addition by letter. Ron Berry of Newport was evangelist. Carl Huddleston is pastor.

Huttig First Church was in a revival April 21-25 led by evangelist Don Phillips, pastor of Calvary Church, East Camden, and worship leader Michael Bridges of First

Church, Princeton, Texas. Pastor Ron Curtis reported 21 professions of faith and two additions by letter.

Calvary Church in Dardanelle ordained Terry Dunn, Denny Robinson, and Jim Sanders to the deacon ministry April 28.

Central Church in North Little Rock youth and adults recently participated in a week long retreat to Panama City, Fla., that resulted in four professions of faith, one commitment to a vocational ministry, and 15 rededications. Mike Landrum of Lake Wales, Fla., was retreat speaker.

Warren First Church recently participated in a world missions conference that resulted in two commitments to more personal witnessing, two decisions on seeking God's leadership into full time missions work, and a commitment by Chip Arnold to the preaching ministry. The congregation also is studying the possibility of a mission project in Bland County, Va.

Blytheville First Church hosted an evening fellowship May 12 in recognition of five years of service by Pastor Larry Kindrick and his family.

Cass Chapel recently completed a four day revival that resulted in nine professions of faith. Wayne Myers from near Biloxi,

Miss., was evangelist. Ron Clark is pastor.

Green Meadows Church at Pine Bluff held a potluck luncheon May 19 in recognition of five years of service by Pastor Garland Brackett.

South Highland Church in Little Rock launched a deacon-yokelfellow ministry May 5 with a commitment commissioning service that included all deacons and yokelfellows, as well as the congregation. Pastor Mark Tolbert led the service.

1991 RA Congress

In spite of heavy rains, Royal Ambassador Congress did go on under restricted conditions with some 1200 boys in



the Ouachita gym for Friday evening and Saturday morning, April 26-27. Arkansas RA counselors did a superb job in guiding that many boys in extremely overcrowded facilities, according to

ABSC Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober. The winners of the Speakout Tournament were:

Division I (1st-3rd grades): 1st place, Michael Wasson; 2nd place, Darrel Harkins; 3rd place, Chad Kennedy.

Division II (4th-6th grades): 1st place, Marty Wages and Jarod Rice; 2nd place, Chris Hughes; 3rd place, Jeff Smith.

Division III (7th-9th grades): No winner.

Division IV (10th-12th grades): 1st place, David Brundage.

Although point tabulation was somewhat limited and difficult, the overall church winners were: First place, FBC Forrest City; Second place, Second Baptist Church Forrest City; Third place, Salem Baptist Church, Benton; Fourth place, Cedar Heights Baptist Church, N. Little Rock.

OBU alumni gathering at SBC

Ouachita Baptist University will host a fellowship time for alumni, former students, and friends of the school attending the annual meeting of the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. The fellowship is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4 from 9-10:30 p.m. following the evening session of the convention in the Essex Room of the Atlanta Regency Hotel.

For more information, Andy Westmoreland, OBU director of alumni affairs, P.O. Box 3753, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, telephone 246-4531, ext. 308.



Highland Hills Church, Texarkana, held a noteburning and baptismal scene dedication service April 21. The indebtedness was on educational space, constructed in 1984. The 3,000 square foot adult educational space included seven Sunday School rooms and one assembly room. The \$13,000 of promissory notes, purchased by the congregation, were paid off in December 1990. The baptismal scene was painted by Katherine McRae. A new sanctuary and office complex will be started in the near future. Speaker for the special occasion was Editor J. Everett Sneed. Pictured are A. A. (Buddy) Smeltzer, chairman of the building committee, Jimmy Hickey, chairman of deacons, and Pastor James Lindsey.

Arkansans Praise 1991

New Baptist Hymnal

"We are thrilled with the New Baptist Hymnal. The hymnal has great flexibility and is a great aid to worship." Rusty Hart, Minister of Music, Central Baptist Church, North Little Rock, AR

"Our congregation from the youngest to the oldest love it! I would recommend this hymnal to any congregation." Don Hall, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Nashville, AR

"It is a book of our denomination at the heart of its people. This hymnal contains praise, worship and doctrine with many styles of music making it a book for the entire congregation." Richard Wade, Minister of Music, Second Baptist Church, Monticello, AR

"It's a great hymnal! I'm very pleased at the amount of music available. The selection of the old hymns retained was well done and the new hymns are being well received." Tom Wideman, Minister of Music, Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR

"We began using our new hymnal on Easter Sunday and our folks are delighted. The supplementary resources, too, help make this the finest hymnal to be found for a Baptist Church to use in its congregational services." James Alcock, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Hope, AR

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Martha Kirkland rehearses the mass choir

Statewide young musicians festival

The Statewide Young Musicians Festival drew 691 children in grades 4-6 from 34 churches across Arkansas to Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock on Saturday, April 20. Martha Kirkland from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., directed the mass choir rehearsal and closing worship celebration. Thirty-one choirs sang for adjudication. More than 200 adults rounded out the total attendance to 900.

Sponsored by the state Church Music Department, this event combined the regional festivals into one big festival in an attempt to boost attendance and interest. The state Children's Choir Committee will evaluate whether to have the combined festival triennially.

Lords reappointed

John and Lisa Lord were reappointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its April meeting in Baltimore, Md.

The Lords will live in Tanzania, where they will start and develop churches.

Born in DeQueen, Lord is a graduate of Louisiana College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Lord, the former Lisa Steele, is a Louisiana native and a graduate of Louisiana College. The Lords have three children.

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Agency staff changes

David Perry has been selected to fill the position of director of program and staff development for Arkansas Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries, effective May 1. His responsibilities include supervision and coordination of direct services through the agency's area offices.



Perry

Flynn

Perry has been director of the agency's Little Rock office since January 1985 and has overseen operation of three of the agency's Emergency Receiving Homes. "I look forward to new ministry opportunities and especially the chance for increased involvement with the men and women of this agency who minister to children and families throughout the state," Perry said.

A native of Monahans, Texas, Perry is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the University of Georgia. He has been with Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries since 1979.

He and his wife, Lucia, have three children: Austin, Nathan, and Amanda.

Johnny Biggs, agency director, commented, "I'm grateful for David and for his proven abilities and commitment to our ministry to children and families."

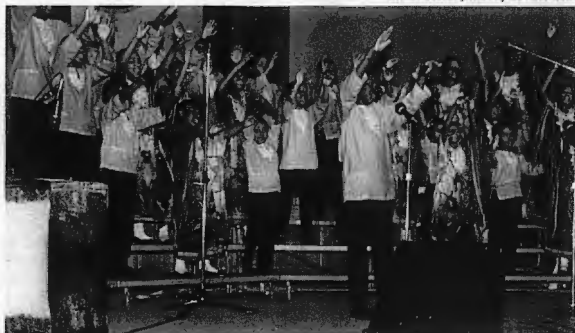
Taking Perry's place as director of the Little Rock Area Office is Charles Flynn, a Louisiana native.

After several years of service on the staff of various churches, he obtained his master's of social work from Louisiana State University in an accelerated program while working at Louisiana Baptist Children's Home.

Flynn is also a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Lana, have four children: Natalie, Adam, Jared, and Caleb.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with Arkansas Baptists to reach out to families and children in need," Flynn said of his new position.



The African Children's Choir performs at Benton First Church.

African Children's Choir

by Lynda Hollenbeck
Special to the Arkansas Baptist

An uninformed person would never have suspected the happy, energetic children performing April 21 in concert at Benton's First Baptist Church had ever known hunger or any form of misery.

However, many of the 26 children comprising the African Children's Choir have indeed been truly hungry. Some have wandered aimlessly in search of food. Some have seen their parents brutally killed. Some have hidden in the African jungle to escape tortures most people only read about in novels.

But these children have been given a new beginning through the choir program. And whether they're singing in English or Swahili, the message is clear: Their deep faith and Christian commitment are alive and well.

The African Children's Choir began in 1984 as an outreach program of Friends in the West, an interdenominational relief agency founded by the Rev. Ray Barnett, whose story is depicted in "Where the Brave Dare Not Go" by Lela Gilbert. Members of Barnett's organization had worked among Uganda's persecuted Christians on human rights issues during Idi Amin's reign of terror during the 1970s.

When the group's director, Gary Oliver, introduced the choir, he said: "If you came tonight to see skinny, sad children, you're in the wrong place."

The procession of enthusiastic children who marched into the church shortly afterward confirmed Oliver's statement.

In an interview following the local concert, the director described his choir

members as "very special children" who prove that entire regions can be helped "when you start by helping one child at a time."

The children "show their love for God through their music" and have inspired many persons to choose lives of Christian service. Included in this number is a missionary, assigned to Africa, who has started a choir for children with handicaps, he said.

Oliver himself finds the performances inspiring. "There's nothing like African kids. They're very responsive.

He teaches the songs to the children "by rote" and says they are "very bright" and can learn the music in a relatively short time.

"It's unbelievable what God does to people's hearts when they hear the children," Oliver said. "They become aware of what kids in other countries face... and it's amazing to actually see the joy in their hearts."

The choir normally presents four concerts each week and tours for approximately a year, Oliver said. A teacher travels with the group to provide instruction through an accelerated Christian program that permits simultaneous teaching of the varying ages and allows them to proceed at their own pace.

Some of the children who have parents will rejoin their families after their tour with the choir, but most will live in a boarding school developed through the program, he said. Whatever their place of residence, their continued education is guaranteed by the choir's sponsoring organization.

The real thing

50 area churches participate in Jonesboro crusade

by Curt Hodges

Special to the ABN

"He's real." "It brought us together." "It will have a lasting, positive impact on the area."

Those were among the comments of Southern Baptist pastors who participated in the Jay Strack Northeast Arkansas Crusade held April 14-19 in the Arkansas State University Convocation Center in Jonesboro.

"I believe the crusade raised the God-awareness level of our whole area, and I believe the crusade will have a lasting impact on the youth, especially," said James Strait, pastor of the North Main Church of Jonesboro. "I believe all churches will feel some lasting, positive effect of the crusade."

Rex Holt, pastor of Central Church of Jonesboro, agreed with Strait and the assessment of other pastors whose churches participated in the crusade.

Area churches in the Mount Zion Association "were drawn together in a single purpose" as never before, Holt said. "Seldom do Southern Baptist churches get together like that," he said. "I see that as one of the positive aspects of the crusade."

More than 50 churches of the association participated in the crusade. From those churches came the ushers, counselors, media workers, pastors and thousands of members who attended the six-night crusade.

More than 600 decisions for Christ were made during the six nights. "There were more than 300 first-time decisions for salvation," Pastor Holt said. Area churches felt the impact of those decisions last Sunday with the public commitments for Christ and baptisms.

Holt believes the greater impact of the crusade will be among the youth. "The

Photo / Curt Hodges



Jay Strack leads revival services in Jonesboro.

kids have changed," he believes, partly due to the fact that Strack was able to take his message about drugs and alcohol and his experiences coming from a broken home into most area high schools and junior high schools.

That portion of Strack's message also impressed Stan Ballard, pastor of the Nettleton Baptist Church.

"With Jay's ability to hold their attention and tell his personal story of dealing with drugs and alcohol and his coming from a broken home, I think he was able to relate to many of the students," Ballard said.

"He was able to share with the young people in their schools that there is hope. He couldn't say it there, but we know the hope is in the Lord," Ballard said. "I think that part of his message will really be lasting."

"The best description I can give of him is that he's real," he added.

While Strack was able to visit most of the area schools, "we could have gotten into many more," Holt said. "We're grateful for the positive response of officials of the schools. There just wasn't enough time."

The Jonesboro affiliate of ACTS, the American Christian Television Service, recorded the Jay Strack Crusade on video and plans to air it nationwide over the ACTS network in July.

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ABN deals with deficit

For the past five years, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, like many of its sister publications around the country, has been forced to deal with increasing expenses and declining revenues. During this time period, the *Newsmagazine* had expenses in excess of revenues, but until 1990 had ended the year with a positive operating balance because during the early 1980s the ABN had accumulated operating funds well in excess of expenses.

During recent years, as the ABN staff and board of trustees began to see this trend, cost containment programs were instituted in an effort to help the *Newsmagazine* stay in the black.

However, although these programs were successful in bringing spending in line, revenues continued to fall, and the preliminary audit report for 1990 fiscal year shows that the operating balance ended the year in the red.

With that information in hand, the board and staff were forced to deal with several serious issues at a recent meeting, and the board adopted a plan to resolve the current deficit and begin to bring one outstanding balance current.

The plan includes not replacing three staff members who have left the employment of the *Newsmagazine*, not giving any raises for 1992, and maintaining a publication schedule of every other week.

However, there is good news to report. Churches which have the *Newsmagazine* in their budgets, on an average, double the missions offerings and give twice as much to the Cooperative Program as churches which do not receive the *Newsmagazine* (see story in May 9, page 7 issue of ABN).

The goal of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* is to work with local churches to fulfill the Great Commission. The ABN informs and inspires with local churches and state updates and news from the home and foreign fields—but it also helps with the "gritty" part of missions and stewardship.

The ABN board and staff wants Arkansas Baptists to be informed so they can pray effectively. Please pray that the ABN staff can fulfill its mission: to help local churches fulfill the Great Commission.

Corrections

The May 9 ABN should have listed Mrs. D.C. Ellen as an honoree of the Sesame Club of Fordyce and noted that Pine Bluff Second Church dedicated a family/youth center May 5.

College Digest

Williams Baptist College

Walkway completed—Williams Baptist College recently completed construction of an enclosed walkway that connects the Mabee Student Center to the Southerland-Mabee Center, the campus' athletic complex. The walkway, 80 feet long and 10 feet wide, was completed at a cost of \$41,275.

Library receives grant—The Felix Goodson Library at Williams Baptist College recently received a \$1,000 grant from the Union Pacific Corporation, to assist with library acquisitions.

Ouachita Baptist University

Ground-breaking—A ground-breaking ceremony for a new 1,500-seat auditorium at Ouachita Baptist University was held Thursday, April 25 in the area across from Cone-Bottoms Hall on the main campus. The new 40,000 square foot facility will be joined to a renovated Verser Drama Center. Funds for the project were received from an anonymous donor. The projected completion date for the auditorium portion of the \$5.5 million project is August 1992.

Named to honor roll—Ouachita Baptist University has been selected as a member of the 1991 John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Free Enterprise Teaching. The honor roll, selected by college presidents and academic deans, identifies schools that have "an institutional

commitment to traditional Western political and economic philosophies."

Early academic orientation—This summer, Ouachita Baptist University will offer three Early Academic Orientation (EAO) sessions for freshman and transfer students who will enter Ouachita this coming fall. The dates for the EAO's are June 15, July 12, and August 3. For further information, contact the office of vice-president for academic affairs, OBU, P.O. Box 3755; telephone 246-4531, ext. 196.

Pine Bluff student elected—By vote of the student body, Paul K. Williams of Pine Bluff, a junior youth ministry major, has been elected as president of the Student Senate at Ouachita Baptist University for the 1991-92 academic year.

Publications win awards—OBU's two student-run publications, the 98-year-old *Signal* newspaper and the *Ouachitanian* yearbook, walked away from the Arkansas College Media Association's annual conference in Little Rock on May 3 with total of 22 awards for design, writing, and photography. The *Signal* received the top award in college and university newspapers in Arkansas with first place honors in general excellence. The 1990 *Ouachitanian* was awarded third place in the general excellence category.

The 1990 *Ouachitanian* also recently was named a National Marketing Sample book by Walworth Publishing Co. of Kansas City, Mo.



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CP rankings announced

Five Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches are included in the top 100 churches in Cooperative Program gifts nationwide, according to a letter received by Don Moore from James L. Powell. Powell is executive vice-president, Cooperative Program Promotion, SBC Stewardship Convention.

According to Powell, the information on these churches came from the Uniform Church Letters of 1989-1990. The report also indicated the total church membership of each church as well as the ranking of these churches in 1989 and 1990 in Cooperative Program giving.

The Cooperative Program is the channel through which Southern Baptist churches support mission work in Arkansas, the United States and around the world in over 120 countries. Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists are able to sup-

port more than 8,000 foreign and home missionaries, six seminaries, the Radio and Television Commission, and other agencies and ministries.

Through the Cooperative Program, Arkansas churches support two colleges, the Arkansas Children's Homes and Family Ministries, the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, the *Arkansas Baptist Neumagazine*, and 12 departments of work assigned to the Executive Board. These departments provide training for church and associational leadership, BSU programs across the state, new mission sites, language work, special mission ministries, and many other programs for Arkansas churches.

The five Arkansas churches listed in the report, their total members, 1990 Cooperative Program gifts, and the 1990 ranking are listed below.

<u>Church</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>CP Gifts</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
Immanuel, Little Rock	4278	\$412,832	13
Geyer Springs, First	3775	328,203	25
Park Hill, N. Little Rock	3465	234,920	69
Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith	4135	228,987	74
Springdale, First	5755	200,000	100

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Prayer requests



Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up' (Ps. 5:13 KJV).

Give thanks to God for answered prayer in behalf of the BYW Mission Team that served in Eureka Springs May 3-5. The eight-member team sponsored a Kids' Korner at the War Eagle Craft Fair. More than 100 faces were painted and puppet shows were held throughout the day. Both activities focused on the love of Jesus. A Sunday morning worship service for crafters had 27 in attendance. Continue to pray for Amy Hester, US-2 resort missionary, as she coordinates Ozark Mountain Ministries activities this summer and the volunteers that will be working with her.

Praise: Chaplain (Col.) Kenneth Robertson has overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to survive a massive heart attack and receive a heart transplant. He and his wife are grateful for the thousands of Christian people who have prayed for them during their long and faithful journey since Jan. 6.

Give thanks for the six new Christians at the Dixonville Baptist Center. Pray for the ministry there as it disciples these new persons in Christ.

Please pray for Felipe Soto, new pastor among Hispanics in Hope. Pray for those who have been reached through this ministry and the 45 who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, as they are disciplined in their faith.

Continue to pray for our search process to call a new director for the Migrant Mission Center at Hope.

Pray for Central Baptist Association's Summer Feeding Project for children in Hot Spring County that will take place the weeks of June 24-28 and July 15-19. Pray that many children will be reached through Bible stories and songs, as well as the nutritious meals.

Looking Ahead

May

23 Adult Choir Festivals, *Jonesboro Walnut Street Church, Magnolia Central Church (M)*

28-31 Student Summer Missionary Orientation, *North Pulaski Association Camp, Mills Valley (Ms)*

30-31 Student Summer Missionary Supervisors Meeting, *North Pulaski Association Camp, Mills Valley (Ms)*

June

1 Disaster Relief Training, *Little Rock (Bbd)*

4-6 Southern Baptist Convention, *Atlanta (SBC)*

7-8 GA Mother-Daughter Camp (grades 1-3), *Camp Paron (WMU)*

14-15 GA Mother-Daughter Camp (grades 1-3), *Camp Paron (WMU)*

17-21 Super Summer Arkansas, *Ouachita Baptist University (Ev)*

17-21 RA Camp, *Camp Paron (Bbd)*

18-19 RA Man and Boy Camp, *Camp Paron (Bbd)*

24-27 Young Musicians Camp, *Ouachita Baptist University (M)*

July

8 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *El Dorado First Church (SA)*

8-9 Student Summer Missionaries Mid-Summer Retreat, *(Ms)*

8-10 GA Mini-Camp (3rd-6th grades), *Camp Paron (WMU)*

9 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *Jonesboro Central Church (SA)*

10 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *Little Rock Baptist Medical Center (SA)*

10-12 GA Mini-Camp (3rd-6th grades), *Camp Paron (WMU)*

11 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *Roger First Church (SA)*

Abbreviations:

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

ACTS affiliates honored

Three Arkansas affiliates were honored at the sixth annual American Christian Television System Awards ceremony at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, April 25.

Little Rock ACTS was awarded Program of the Year and Best Educational/Informational Program for "PowerSource: Satanism—The Seduction of the Supernatural," produced by Joel Strickland. Little Rock ACTS also took top honors in the religious series area for "Just Kids," produced by Linda Bennett.

ACTS of Texarkana received top honors in the best human interest series category for "Positive Alternatives" and best event coverage series for "Texarkana Game of the Week."

ACTS of Springdale took first place in the best Christian message and best spot of the year categories for "A Special Place." The Springdale affiliate also was nominated for two other awards.

Other Arkansas affiliates nominated for awards were ACTS of Fort Smith, ACTS of Pine Bluff, and ACTS of Jonesboro.

ACTS is a 24-hour-a-day television network owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. The network offers religious and family-oriented programming accessible to 7.2 million cable television households and 2.5 million other households via full-and-low-power television stations.



Arkansas winners at the Sixth Annual ACTS Awards were (clockwise from front center): Linda Bennett, Little Rock ACTS; Joel Strickland, Little Rock ACTS; Gary Underwood, ACTS of Texarkana; Dan Perryman, ACTS of Springdale; and Jack Johnson, president, ACTS network and SBC Radio and Television Commission.

Shared growth for ministers, mates

Christian ministry is demanding. Claims by individuals, church, community, and family tend to drain the minister and his mate and can lead to burnout or other emotional or physical problems. Ministry couples need periods of refreshing, renewal, and growth.

One of the efforts to meet the needs of ministers and their mates is the Personal Growth for Ministers and Mates Conference. Terry Peck, Baptist Sunday School Board consultant, will lead the conference.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide the ministry couple with a shared personal growth experience in a supportive context. The intent is to stimulate understanding of self, relationships, support needs, and role expectations.

The conference will be held June 24-25, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. Registration deadline is June 1, and enrollment will be limited to 25 couples. For more information, contact, L.B. Jordan, Church Leadership Support Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5148.

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Cooperative Baptist Fellowship formed

by Mark Wingfield
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—After 12 years of hard labor, Southern Baptist "moderates" gave birth to a new religious body called the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship May 11.

However, those who birthed this infant organization and those who observed the birth offered different assessments on what had been born. Some called it a new denomination, others called it the precursor to a denomination, while still others called it a fellowship or renewal movement within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Less than one month before the "conservative"-controlled Southern Baptist Convention held its annual meeting in Atlanta, more than 6,000 "moderates" gathered in the same city to form the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Regardless of perspective, the new fellowship bears many characteristics of a denomination or convention. Participants approved:

- a constitution and bylaws and plan to seek incorporation in the state of Georgia;
- a three-track funding mechanism with a proposed operating budget of \$545,336;
- formation of a missions coordinating committee to be led by a permanent director with a 1991-92 budget of \$507,295;
- support for 12 home and foreign missions projects.

John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., was elected moderator of the group. He replaces Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, who had been chairman of the interim steering committee of The Baptist Fellowship since last August. John McClanahan, Pine Bluff, was among those elected state/regional representatives, and will serve a one-year term.

With the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Baptist Fellowship ceased to exist. The latter group had been formed last August at a meeting of "moderates" in Atlanta after Vestal's defeat by conservative pastor Morris Chapman for the presidency of the SBC.

Another organization formed at last year's "moderate" convocation also will be merged into the new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Cooperative Baptist Missions Program Inc. was established as an alternative missions funding program for individuals and churches choosing not to give through the SBC Cooperative Program.

Outgoing BCMP chairman Grady Cotten, former Baptist Sunday School Board president, said \$1.57 million had

been given through BCMP as of April 30.

The major single amendment approved from the floor was to change the name of the organization. The interim steering committee had recommended naming the group "United Baptist Fellowship."

Due to concerns the fellowship would be confused with United Baptists in some areas of the United States, the alternate name was chosen.

Here are other highlights of the approved constitution and bylaws:

—Membership in the fellowship is defined by financial contribution, although no minimum contribution is stated. A portion of the bylaws designating individuals, churches and institutions giving \$1,000 or more as "founding members" and those giving \$100 or more as "sustaining members" was deleted.

—The group will be governed by a moderator, moderator-elect and recorder who will serve with a 79-member coord-

inating council.

—An administrative committee will conduct business between the quarterly meetings of the coordinating council.

—All meetings of the fellowship, its coordinating council, administrative committee and all subcommittees except the nominating committee are required to be open meetings.

—The coordinating council has authority to amend the bylaws upon a two-thirds vote if necessary to meet legal requirements for incorporation or to obtain tax-exempt status.

—Bylaws call for five ministry groups: world missions, literature, ethics and public policy, theological education, and equipping the laity.

—Additionally, the coordinating council is virtually a self-perpetuating board.

Four regional clusters—Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and West—have three representatives each.

Steering committee statement

ATLANTA (BP)—Formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does not stem from "petty rivalry," according to a statement presented by the interim steering committee of The Baptist Fellowship, precursor to the new group.

The statement identified six areas where "moderates" differ with the conservatives who have gained control of the Southern Baptist Convention in the past 12 years:

1. Bible. "The Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching. Bible claims must be based on the Bible, not on human interpretations. . . ."

Inerrancy—generally defined as the belief that the Bible is literally true in everything it says—was the rallying cry for "conservatives" as they gained control of presidential appointive powers in the SBC.

2. Education. "Fundamentalists educate by indoctrination. . . . We seek to enlarge and build upon such truth as we have."

3. Mission. "Fundamentalists make the mission assignment narrower than Jesus did. They allow their emphasis on direct evangelism to undercut other biblical ministries of mercy and justice. This narrowed definition of what a missionary ought to be and do is a contention between us."

4. Pastor. "They argue the pastor

should be the ruler of a congregation. . . . Our understanding of the role of the pastor is to be a servant/shepherd."

5. Women. The statement said "conservatives" generally believe women should be submissive to men in church leadership roles, but "moderates" believe women are "equally capable of dealing with sacred issues."

6. Church. Describing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as "ecumenical" and "inclusive," the statement said: "We are eager to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the faith and to recognize their work for our Savior. We do not try to make them conform to us; we try to include them in our design for mission."

"The points of difference are critical," the statement said. "They are the stuff around which a fellowship such as the Southern Baptist Convention is made. "At no place have we been able to negotiate about these differences. Were our fundamentalist brethren to negotiate, they would compromise. And that would be a sin by their understandings. So we can either come to their position or we can form a new fellowship."

Primary authors of the statement are Walter Shurden, professor of church history at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Faculty affirms articles of faith

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty has voted to affirm the school's articles of faith, prompting seminary President Lewis A. Drummond to classify it as a "first positive move. . . ."

The faculty adopted, without dissent, a "Statement of Continuing Commitment and Cooperation" which affirms practices and positions the faculty has made through the years, according to Fred Grissom, president of the school's chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

"This is seen as a first positive move on the part of the faculty in addressing some of the important issues of the seminary in its relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention and the seminary constituencies," said Drummond in response to the statement signed April 17.

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty L. Russ Bush agreed but said other important steps still need to be taken.

"I want to affirm the faculty for its initiative. Confidence is a fragile commodity. . . . I hope we will be able to point to this faculty action as the early rays of a new day at Southeastern," said Bush.

The faculty statement contained seven points: an affirmation of "our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. . . ." scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God; "our loyalty to the churches of which we are members. . . ."; "our historic relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention"; the statement of purpose of Southeastern seminary; the Articles of Faith of the seminary; and the "criteria of accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools."

Baylor offered proposal

DALLAS (BP)—A special study committee named by Texas Baptists in the wake of Baylor University's surprise charter change last September drafted on May 13 a proposal outlining a new relationship between the state Baptist convention and the university.

Under the proposal, the Baptist General Convention of Texas would ask Baylor to agree the convention directly elect 25 percent of regents elected annually and the university regents elect 25 percent. Of the remaining 50 percent, Baylor would nominate two Texas Baptists for each vacancy and the BGCT would choose one.

The proposal includes governance by a single-tiered board of regents for Baylor, eliminating the 48-member board of trustees previously elected by the BGCT.

The agreement also calls for at least a 90 percent vote of the regents to amend three key provisions of the university charter: the university operates according to Christian and Baptist ideals; university assets would be transferred to the BGCT upon dissolution; and each regent be a Baptist.

If ratified, the agreement "concludes whatever controversy may have existed between the convention and Baylor regarding Baylor's Sept. 21, 1990, action amending the university's charter."

The proposal will be presented to the BGCT executive board at its June 11 meeting in Dallas. If Baylor does not accept the recommended agreement by July 20 after its board meeting, the committee will make a new recommendation to the executive board at its September meeting.

If Baylor agrees to the proposal, the committee recommends the convention's coor-

inating boards for education and human welfare institutions consider releasing escrowed 1990 funds totaling \$1.5 million, including interest earned.

The agreement also calls for all expenses directly related to the Baylor action to be deducted from the funds. Total BGCT committee expenses are about \$80,000.

Robert Naylor of Fort Worth, chairman of the special committee, said he hoped Baylor "would find in this proposal the protection it desired and the participation which the BGCT felt was basically necessary for a relationship."

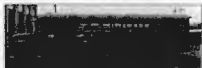
Naylor termed the proposal "a positive effort toward reconciliation and a new relationship."

Phil Lineberger, president of the BGCT and pastor of Richardson Heights Baptist Church, Richardson, said, "I have a great deal of confidence that the proposal that has been made will be received in a good spirit and will be carefully evaluated and, hopefully, accepted by (Baylor President) Dr. (Herbert) Reynolds and the leadership of Baylor University."

"Our great desire is to continue to demonstrate a spirit of togetherness in our common goals of winning Texas to Christ and providing young people with a quality Christian education."

Last Sept. 21 Baylor trustees revised the school's charter to establish a board of regents as the university's governing body and elected 16 people to the new board, citing fears Baylor's academic freedom would be endangered if the "fundamentalist takeover" of the national Southern Baptist Convention extended to state conventions such as the BGCT.

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On campus enrollment is approximately 1,900 with a total enrollment of approximately 3,000. The institution has a broad array of undergraduate programs with particularly strong and sizable programs in teacher education, theology, business, and health sciences. Bolivar has a population of approximately 6,000 and is located in southern Missouri. Information should be sent to Patty Edwards, Secretary, Presidential Search Committee, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri 65613.

Brotherhood president honored

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Described as a man of leadership, inspiration, and prayer, Baptist Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith received praise from his board of trustees and from representatives of other Southern Baptist agencies at a retirement dinner April 27 in Memphis.

Smith has served the Brotherhood Commission as president since 1979 and plans to retire June 30.

"I learned many lessons about leadership serving with Jim Smith for eight years in Illinois," said Charles Chaney, now vice president of church extension for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "I learned that leadership requires vision and change" and a "willingness to walk out on the edge to risk yourself, your position, and your influence to stand for something you believe is right."

A resolution presented by the Brotherhood Commission trustees praised Smith for leading "sweeping and unprecedented changes" in the agency's curriculum, encouraging the development of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men concept now involving thousands of missions volunteers annually, and implementing the concept of coed missions involvement with World Changers national projects.

Smith also received recognitions from representatives of Woman's Missionary Union, the Sunday School Board, the Home Mission Board, and the Foreign Mission Board.

After his retirement from the Brotherhood Commission, Smith will work as a special assistant to Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, in promoting the partnership missions program.

Miscellaneous Atlanta info

ATLANTA (BP)—An update on parking, an "as soon as possible" request for resolutions, and a reminder about airline travel are offered in an update by officials for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta, June 4-6.

David Hankins, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, has requested persons wishing to propose resolutions at the Atlanta convention to send them "as soon as possible" to the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., #750, Nashville, Tenn., 37203, Attn: Resolutions Committee. They then will be disbursed to

members of the committee.

Earlier reports had asked for the proposed resolutions 30 days in advance, but Hankins said his committee would appreciate them "as soon as possible."

For those parking around the site of the meeting, the Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta police will not enforce parking regulations after 6 p.m. and on weekends. Police officials said, however, if a special problem or exceptional situation is created, the regulations will be enforced.

Unauthorized vehicles are impounded from loading zones during truck loading hours and vehicles from taxi stands when the space is needed for a taxi and at the request of a taxi driver.

Illegal parking charges range from \$10 for overtime parking to \$60 for parking in a handicapped space. Parking illegally in a restricted space or zone has a charge of \$25, and during rush hours this charge is increased to \$40.

For bus and RV owners who plan to park at Stone Mountain Park, east of Atlanta, the \$5 entrance/exit fee is per vehicle, officials said. The park is a "first come, first served" basis at \$12.50 per night. MARTA provides bus/rapid rail service to the World Congress Center.

In addition, persons utilizing the special fare Delta Airlines has extended to those attending the convention may contact Delta directly and refer to File Number D0569. The discounted fares also may be made through WorldClass Travel, Inc., in Nashville, officials said.

Academy BSU will aid cadets

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 26-27 as new basic cadets. Members of the BSU will meet their plane, and provide lodging and transportation. If pastors, parents, friends, or the cadets themselves will provide the BSU with name, address, and telephone, the BSU will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times.

The Air Force Academy BSU can be contacted at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919; telephone 719-599-9094. Similar ministries are provided for anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy. At West Point, contact: Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall-Hudson, NY 12520; telephone 914-534-7934. At the Naval Academy, contact Dick Bumpass, 201 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401; telephone 301-263-0963.

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Larry L. Lewis, President, Home Mission Board, SBC

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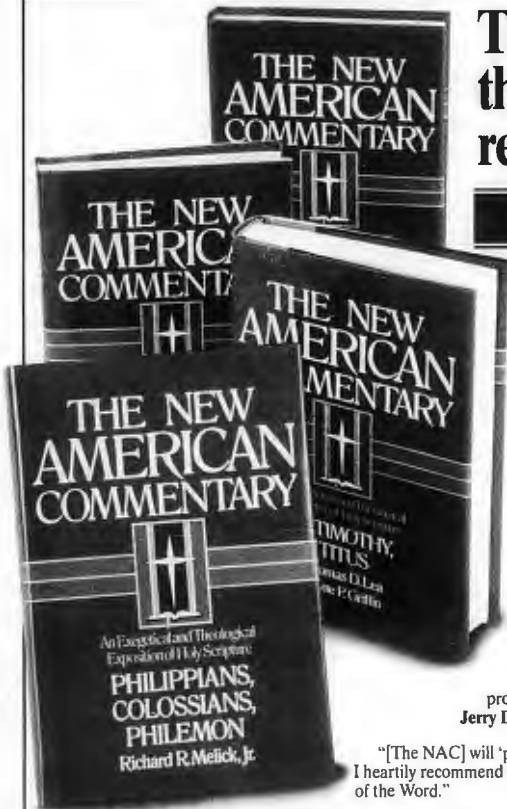
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Convention Uniform

Hope renewed

by Richard Maness, Immanuel Church, Fayetteville

Basic passage: Ezra 1:1-8, 11

Focal passage: Ezra 1:1-2, 4-8

Central truth: What God has promised, he will perform.

Our unit of study deals with the Jews' return to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity to begin rebuilding the temple. In this session, we will examine the return of the first group of Jews under Sheshbazzar. The focal passage contains three insights into the Jews' return.

First, the Jews' return was based upon the promise God had given to his people through the prophet Jeremiah while they were in captivity (v. 1). God was acting in history to bring his promise to fulfillment. A closer look at the events in our world around us reveal that God is at work directing the affairs of men toward his purpose. We must know God's promises so that our hope will rest in him. This knowledge will sustain us in difficult times and keep our focus on him rather than the events themselves.

Second, God moved the heart of the king, Cyrus of Persia, to proclaim that the Jews could return to Judah to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem (v. 2). God works through those in authority to accomplish his will. God was able to change the heart because as his Word says, "the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord, as the streams of water; wherever he wills, he turns it" (Pr. 21:1). Hope is the result of our faith. Faith in God's power sustains us. It is essential that we look beyond those in authority over us and see the hand of God at work in the events that occur. Man may disappoint us, but God will not.

Finally, their return was made possible through God's provision of finances to rebuild the temple. God's Spirit moved upon the hearts of the people to give toward the return trip and the building program that came from the heart of God (v. 6). God will provide the funds to build what he wants to be built. Let us trust him to provide before we build. God's providential hand points us in the right direction, it controls the heart of those he has placed over us, and it contains the provisions for accomplishing his plan. In spite of our past failures, in his mercy God renews our hope to prepare us for a new beginning.

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Life and Work

Walking worthy

by Joseph Jones, First Church, Prairie Grove

Basic passage: Ephesians 4:1-16

Focal passage: Ephesians 4:1

Central truth: All believers are called to full-time service and have gifts to be used in the church.

In chapter 4, Paul begins a new section of his epistle to the Ephesians. In the first section, Paul spoke of the church as a mystery hidden from the world; but now it is going to become visible. Before, it was the work of God to the church, but now it is the work of God through the church. We will now deal with the conduct of the church and the service of the believer.

Paul tells us in verse one to walk worthy of the vocation that we are called to. This is not referring to those who are paid ministers, such as pastors and staff. We are all called to be full-time ministers. Pastors and the paid staff are people with gifts that are used to help all the saints to mature in faith and be equipped for the work of the ministry (vv. 12, 13). Every Christian is called into full-time ministry and is as much a minister as the pastor. Each believer also has been given gifts which are to be used in the church. Paul speaks of this in Romans 12 and again in 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14. These gifts are not to be kept to oneself, but are to be used for the edification of the church so that the church can function efficiently in this world.

In verse 2, we are told how we are to walk in our vocation. First, we are to walk in lowliness and meekness. This means that our walk should not be with worldly pride. Lowliness and meekness are the base of all Christian virtues. Paul said in Philippians 2:3, "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." Secondly, we are to walk with longsuffering. This is the fruit of the Spirit (Ga. 5:22), and it means that we should have a long temper. There is a lot of damage done to a believer's testimony when his temper explodes. Instead, we are to strive to keep the unity of the spirit.

There is nothing more damaging than a church or individuals who do nothing but stir up strife and contention. No one enjoys a church that likes to fight and break up into different factions. Paul reminds us that although we have different gifts, we have but one faith and one God.

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Bible Book

God frustrates Absalom

by J. Troy Prince, First Chapel, Jonesboro

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 16:23; 17:1-4, 14-16, 21-22

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 17:1-4, 14-16, 21-22

Central truth: God protects his own people.

Ahithophel, former friend and adviser to David, became the trusted confidant to Absalom. He was an astute individual whose advice was so outstanding that his words were almost equated with God's pronouncements. He may have had an ulterior motive of revenge, since he was the grandfather of Bathsheba.

A battle plan was presented to Absalom by Ahithophel designed to bring David to defeat. It was based on quick, night strike, creating panic that would result in the death of David. Absalom and the elders were impressed, but asked for a second opinion. "Call Hushai!"

Hushai had arrived from David's camp ready to subvert any scheme put forward by Ahithophel. The battle plan of Hushai contradicted the plan previously presented. He based his reasoning on the obvious: (1) David's troops were seasoned fighters; (2) David, although weary, was an expert in war and would not expose himself recklessly, and (3) Absalom's army would panic when faced with death in the initial phase of the conflict.

Hushai proposed a large army gathered from Dan to Beersheba, followed by a massive strike that would destroy David. Absalom accepted the plan. The hand of God was in the matter "to the intent that the Lord might bring evil upon Absalom" (2 S. 17:14b).

The advice of Ahithophel and Hushai was sent to David with the strong suggestion that he move quickly from the area. Absalom, learning that David had been alerted, tried to find him, but was unsuccessful. He returned to Jerusalem empty-handed.

Ahithophel, distressed and humiliated that his counsel was rejected, went home, set his house in order, and hanged himself.

David, God's anointed king, continued to enjoy the blessings and leadership of God, in spite of his sin.

Absalom eliminated himself as successor to David because of his sin against God and his deceitful, treacherous way of life.

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Lesson
Date:
June 9

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

A new beginning

by Richard Maness, Immanuel Church, Fayetteville

Basic passage: Ezra 3:1, 6-8, 10-12

Focal passage: Ezra 3:1, 8-12

Central truth: Obedience to God makes a new beginning possible.

This session focuses on the laying of the temple's foundation. When the Jews arrived in Jerusalem, they were ready to begin the foundation of the temple. Laying the foundation symbolized a new beginning in their existence as God's people. Before they began work on the foundation, they held a convocation and reinstated the prescribed sacrifices and kept the Feast of Tabernacles. When the temple foundation was laid, the people saw the visible evidence of their renewed hope. True faith brings visible results. Faith is subjective, but true faith has objective results. In addition to their obedience to God's direction to return to Palestine to rebuild the temple, two actions on their part highlighted their new beginning. The people worked together in laying the foundation for the new temple (v. 8). They directed their energies toward a common goal. The mission ingredient in many churches is work. There is no substitute for work. Worthy goals and objectives are important. Organization is needed, funds are essential, but the key is people who are willing to work.

The Jews avoided a common modern mistake. They did not leave worship out of their activities. Lack of worship together cannot be justified by excessive work. They worshipped together (v. 11). They sang responsively in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. These are important elements of worship. Work can unify people, but worship brings people together before God to experience his presence in a corporate sense. God desires that we work for him, but he is honored when we worship him.

A new day was dawning in the life of Israel. This new beginning was characterized by their unity in work and worship. God can give his people a new beginning because he is a God of mercy. God brought a revival to his people that resulted in their working and worshipping together in accomplishing his purpose of rebuilding the temple. May God in his mercy give to our churches a new beginning of obedience to him, which will result in our willingness to work together for him and a new spirit of worship from the heart.

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Life and Work

Putting on the new man

by Joseph Jones, First Church, Prairie Grove

Basic passage: Ephesians 4:17-32

Focal passage: Ephesians 4:24

Central truth: We are to put on our new man which God through Christ has created in us.

Paul in Ephesians 4:23 makes a very important statement. He says that we have a renewed spirit and have become a new man in Christ! This is wonderful news, because it tells us that we don't have to conform to this world, but to be transformed "by the renewing of our minds." The lost person doesn't have this source of knowledge because they are without Christ and their understanding is darkened.

Paul is telling the Ephesians (and us) to put off the old man and put on the new man. Positionally, the old man has been crucified with Christ (Ro. 6:6), but experientially we find that we still struggle with it and will continue to struggle with it as long as we are in our fleshy bodies. However, as we learn to walk in the Spirit and grow stronger in the faith, we will be putting on the new man more than the old. It is important to note that, although we have power through the Holy Spirit to put on that new man, it is a learning process.

Paul begins in verse 25 speaking of the negative side of the believer's life. One of these is found in verse 26, "Be ye angry and sin not." The apostle Paul is telling us that there is a time when believer's should be angry. In Psalms 7:11 it says that God is angry with the wicked every day. Jesus became angry several times (Mk. 3:5, 10:14). However, we should not be angry with hatred or malice, but should be quick to forgive and forget lest Satan get an advantage on our lives.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth," is another negative Paul writes about. This not only means filthy language, but also dirty jokes and stories, racial slurs, gossip, and all other language that is considered questionable.

In verse 30, Paul gives the catch to all of the negatives. "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God." The Holy Spirit is grieved when any of these offenses mentioned in chapter 4 are committed and includes those that aren't mentioned. The Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation and the power by which the new man can shine forth for the glory of God.

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Bible Book

Faith with a broken heart

by J. Troy Prince, First Chapel, Jonesboro

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 14, 15, 33; 19:7-8a

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 10:5-9, 14, 15, 33

Central truth: A father's failure continues to bring tragedy.

Crucial as it may seem, David probably looked forward to the battle with Absalom. It was inevitable. Regardless of the outcome, David would be left with a heart full of grief. Should the forces of Absalom prevail, the hopes of David would be crushed for many days. If the army of Absalom was defeated, then he would be taken captive, humiliated, and put to death.

The battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim in dense undergrowth, which gave David's army a decided advantage. More than 20,000 casualties resulted from the encounter. Absalom, one of the casualties, was victim of a freak accident. His hair was caught in the branches of a tree as he rode underneath it. He was left suspended in mid-air.

None of David's men would kill Absalom, but they reported the situation to Joab. Promptly, he stabbed Absalom in the heart. Armor bearers made sure that he was dead.

Ahimeaz insisted that he carry the news of Absalom's death to David. He outran another messenger and arrived confused and unable to give an accurate account of Absalom's death. A Cushite was charged by Joab to "go, tell the king what you have seen" (2 S. 18:21). Upon arrival in David's presence, a customary greeting was extended, and then he gave an indirect, but positive answer to the king's question about the welfare of Absalom. David was deeply moved. In his grief, he uttered a lament "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 S. 18:33).

The lesson for today provides a challenge to fathers, especially young fathers, to examine relationships with their children. Teaching children, however effective, will not replace responsible behavior and a proper example.

While it is easy to see the mistakes of David with his children, it is hard for us to recognize our own shortcomings. We need to have a sense of empathy for him, for we may stand in his shoes one day.

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CAMBODIA

Hidden Heroes

by Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP)—For months Gloria Carlton kept a packed suitcase beside the door in Phnom Penh.

No one expected Cambodia's communist government to last long after Vietnam pulled its troops out in late 1989. This year she unpacked.

Carlton, of Elkins, Ark., and her husband, Bruce, of Georgetown, Ky., are Southern Baptists' only representatives

living in this ravaged land. They brought their children, Elizabeth, age 8, and Mary, 7, with them. Carlton coordinates humanitarian aid projects in Cambodia for Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

When the Carltons arrived a year ago, people told them the government wouldn't last past December 1990 in the face of attacks from the Khmer Rouge and other rebel groups. Other expatriates with non-government organizations started shipping personal belongings out of Cambodia. Sporadic gunfire and exploding mortar rounds reminded them their adopted country was still suffering through a 20-year fight for survival.

"You hear things like that, and when you're new to a situation, it just reinforces the idea that you're not going to be here very long," Mrs. Carlton said in her living room in Phnom Penh.

She admits months went by before she even wanted to go look for a place to live or buy furniture. The Carltons operated out of a hotel room. Why set up a household if all expatriates would soon be leaving?

"Then I realized we weren't leaving, so I might as well get something to live in," she added with a smile. "It wasn't that I didn't feel the Lord would protect us. It was the feeling that it's not permanent. But it is."

The Carltons transferred from Hong Kong in April 1990 to direct CSI work in Cambodia. They begin a six-month U.S. furlough in June. This first year, CSI administrators asked them only to maintain ongoing relief projects, build relationships and learn to speak Khmer.

(BP) photo / Charles Ledford



Gloria Carlton (left) shares a moment with daughter Mary at the tiny international school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Since Marvin Raley, a medical doctor, first opened Southern Baptist work in Cambodia in the mid-1980s, CSI has worked with the Mennonite Central Committee to open a nursing school at Prey Veng. It also has built a RINE (short for rehydration, immunization, nutrition and education) center, outfitted a medical library, supplied medicines and medical equipment to two hospitals in Phnom Penh, and begun construction of a hospital in Oreang Ocu.

But the Carltons quickly learned the government had its own expectations. Once they established a residence, authorities needed a reason to allow them to stay. So they were thrust into developing a wider program of work.

Their new program focuses on factory workers and their families. Huy Han Song, a medical doctor who directs work at Kbal Thnol Dispensary in Phnom Penh, is the Carltons' main Cambodian counterpart. Responsible for health care in 57 government factories with 13,000 workers, Song is a bridge for the Carltons into the lives of more than 50,000 family members.

Using a "community impact" approach, the Carltons decided to concentrate on four areas in the factories:

—teaching workers and their families to grow gardens. Food supply is a problem and malnutrition is the basis for much of the disease in Cambodia.

—helping managers improve safety. A Chinese Baptist from the Carltons' former church in Hong Kong recently did a three-month study in several factories. He found every one has major safety problems as workers—lacking such basic equipment as masks, goggles and earplugs—are exposed

to many hazards.

—doing primary health care. Tests in several factories showed, on average, more than 50 percent of all workers tested positive for the typhoid virus. Three of the five food handlers in one factory tested positive.

—conducting Bible studies and trying to be public Christian witnesses as far as the government allows.

In March the Carltons signed a protocol with the ministry of industry to expand CSI work with Kbal Thnol Dispensary. The project calls for installing an \$8,000 water treatment facility and building a \$70,000 polyclinic.

In April CSI allocated \$60,000 in relief funds to help fight a typhoid epidemic in Phnom Penh. The Carltons have requested typhoid vaccine for 10,000 factory workers. Phnom Penh also faces a cholera epidemic.

"I'm physically tired. Exhausted," Carlton admitted, slumping into an overstuffed armchair. "It's about killed me," he said of the past 12 months. "But the Lord's taken care of us. We're only here right now by the grace of God. I don't see how people could come out and live here without having the Lord (in their lives). It would overwhelm me."

The Carltons aren't overwhelmed, perhaps, but they certainly have been affected. The stress of Cambodian life—coping with poverty and disease—as well as a hectic pace, contribute to Carlton's high blood pressure. And feelings of instability persist. The country remains unstable as war rages on, keeping Cambodia in the basement of the Asian economy.

Praise hymns drift from a cassette player as Carlton starts each day with Bible study and prayer. He jots down helpful Bible verses on "post-it" notes and pastes them around like markers to guide his path through the day.

Getting through tough days is nothing new to Mrs. Carlton. She learned early on to make the best of what she had. She picked beans as a child to pay for school clothes. As a teen-ager, she milked cows every morning before school. She paid her way through college by working at a hamburger stand.

A cross-stitch picture hanging in the Carltons' home declares: "Unless you're opportunity... don't knock." They really mean it. She stitched the slogan nearly 10 years ago, and it has accompanied them through every move.

He is the determined overachiever. She is the unsung hero, feeling successful when he is successful. Together they make a team tailor-made for a place like Cambodia.

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ETHIOPIA

More missionaries leave as war worsens

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—The TV news images of war haven't hit the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital—yet.

No running gun battles between fatigued soldiers are seen. Burned-out cars don't stud the streets. But the noose of civil war is tightening around the city, and more Southern Baptist missionaries have left the country.

Three missionary couples remain: Jerry and Rosie Bedsole of Foley, Ala.; Rob and Patricia Ackerman of Wheaton, Ill., and Albuquerque, N.M. (and their three daughters); and Sam and Ginny Cannata of Houston, and Hollandale, Miss. Exit visas in hand, they weigh the factors of going or staying.

Rebel forces are closing in on the capital and its embattled government. Dire rumors are plentiful, gasoline scarce. But instead of air raid sirens, quiet desperation permeates the atmosphere. Instead of bursts of machine gun fire, the steady pounding of wartime inflation beats on. Live chickens sell for \$12 each; ground beef is pushing \$3 a pound. Eggs are unavailable.

"I'm convinced we must accept as valid any individual decision to stay as well as any choice to come out," said John Lawrence, a missionary veterinarian from Jonesboro, La., who left Addis Ababa April 30 with his wife, Mary Lou.

David and Debbie Brownfield of Bozeman, Mont., and Columbus, Ohio, are in the United States on personal leave following the death of Brownfield's mother. Jeff and Margie Pearson of Mora, Minn., and Paul and Hannah Gay of Cuthbert, Ga., and Jackson., Miss., are on furlough.

BANGLADESH

Baptists release \$345,000 for relief

DHAKA, Bangladesh (BP)—Southern Baptists will spend \$345,000 to buy food for Bangladeshis and help them rebuild their villages after the April 30 cyclone that killed at least 125,000 people.

In their first relief request, Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh outlined plans for a \$120,000 food-for-work program. They also sought \$225,000 for rebuilding about 400 houses not related to the food-for-work program.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators have agreed to dip into a portion of the special contingency funds originally set aside for an extensive relief response to the Persian Gulf War aftermath. Funds generally used for relief needs not related to hunger have been depleted.

To help meet needs not related to hunger in Bangladesh, the mission board has set up a Bangladesh relief fund. People who want to contribute should address their gifts to Bangladesh Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

IRAN

Feeding effort delayed; physicians needed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Already lacking funds, Southern Baptist relief work in the postwar Middle East now lacks volunteer physicians.

Meanwhile, the start of Southern Baptist feeding operations for Kurdish refugees in Iran was delayed May 9 by the failure of an engine of a cargo plane carrying equipment and volunteers.

One of the C-130 cargo plane's four engines failed about two hours after the plane left London carrying equipment for two large outdoor kitchens, six Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers, a journalist and a photographer. The plane continued flying to Cyprus, arriving there about five hours later.

The engine problem means a delay of four or five days in opening outdoor feeding stations for Kurds in Iran, said Tim Brendle, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Persian Gulf Response unit.

The ministry that owns and operates the aircraft, LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry in South Bend, Ind., planned to fly it to Portugal May 11 for a replacement engine, Brendle said. The possibility of a temporary substitute cargo plane also was being explored.

The C-130 was to fly from Cyprus to Iran May 10 to launch a feeding operation in a Kurdish refugee camp near the city of Sanandaj, about 300 miles west of Tehran and 180 miles northeast of Baghdad. A subsequent flight was scheduled for the week of May 13 to open a second feeding station in Iran.

Four feeding operations originally had been planned, but plans now call for deployment of the equipment and volunteers at two sites, each with about 50,000 refugees among the 1.5 million Kurds in Iran.