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8-29-1991

August 29, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



Vol. 90, No. 18

August 29, 1991



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the pain**

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new thrust**

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Arkansas Baptist

At a glance

6 Overcoming the pain

In the third in his "Road to recovery" series, Pastor Larry Pillow takes a very personal look at overcoming the pain of a dysfunctional family. "My major source of help has come from my relationship with Christ," Pillow says. In addition he has found significant help through a support group. He comments, "Nothing has facilitated change in my life like being in a 'safe place with safe people' where I have been able to be honest about my pain struggle. I have come to believe 'you cannot heal what you cannot feel.'"

11 Ready to give an answer

For the past three years, Arkansans Charles and Thannis Phillips have been ready to give answers to any Chinese who asked. As English teachers at the Coal Ministry University in Beijing, China, they were forbidden to approach non-Christian Chinese regarding their religion. But as walking examples in Jesus' steps, the Phillips created a curiosity as to their faith, opening the doors to a positive witness.

15 'The Streets' to air on ABC

"The Streets," a Southern Baptist-produced television documentary about Christians' efforts to help meet peoples' needs in inner cities, will be aired nationally over ABC-TV in September. Actor Paul Winfield hosts the hour-long program, which will be shown in Little Rock on Sept. 29. Fort Smith and Fayetteville stations will also air the documentary, with the date to be announced.

16 Gambling fight begins

Texas lottery opponents suffered a major setback last week when Lone Star lawmakers meeting in special session yielded to intense lobbying pressure, voting to place legalization of the state-run number game on the November ballot.

23 Parks urges new global thrust

Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, returned from a mountain pilgrimage with a vision for powerful new foreign mission initiatives to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals. Parks, who will turn 65 in October 1992, also expressed personal commitment to lead preparations up to a 1995 launch date for his "Missions 21" vision, which extends into the 21st century.

Cover story

ABN photo: T. Colleen Backus



New literature meets variety of needs 18

About two-thirds of Southern Baptist churches have fewer than 150 enrolled in Sunday School, and the SBC Sunday School Board is going to provide curriculum and a leadership magazine designed specifically for their particular needs. Youth, children's, and preschool materials have also been updated.

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Fighting porn

J. EVERETT SNEED

The efforts of the American Family Association of Arkansas and local ministers of Benton County to rid the area of pornography have met with less than helpful response from certain elected officials. The arguments made by these officials are totally flawed. These officials maintain that pornography is a "victimless crime" and "that the police simply do not have time to be concerned with such trivia."

The Bible clearly teaches that all forms of sexual immorality are wrong. Paul said, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves" (Ro. 1:24). The word translated "lust" or "desire" means a desire for forbidden pleasure. It is that which makes a person do immoral or shameful things, a kind of incentive which makes a person do sexual acts that he would not have done had it not been for evil desire.

The argument that pornography is a victimless crime simply does not hold up. For example, Ted Bundy, just prior to his execution, told Dr. James Dobson that an addiction to pornography had played a key role in his killing as many as 28 young women and children. He said, "Those of us who are or who have been so influenced by violence in the media, particularly pornographic violence, are not some kind of inherent monsters."

"We are your sons and daughters," Bundy continued, "and we are your husbands, and we grow up in regular families. And pornography can reach out and snatch a kid out of any house today. It snatched me out of my home 20, 30 years ago and as dedicated as my parents were, and they were diligent in protecting their children and as good as a Christian home as we had, and we had a wonderful home. There is no protection against the kind of influence that are loose in our society. . . . The FBI's own study on serial homicides show that the most common interest among serial killers is pornography."

Bundy's statement shows that pornography is not a victimless crime. It simply is not true that pornography does not harm anyone. The argument "that at worst it is a victimless crime which keeps law enforcement officers from battling more serious crimes" is absolutely absurd when viewed against the backdrop of the real facts.



Second, there are those who argue that pornography should be legal because the First Amendment to the Constitution opposes censorship. This is not true, because the Supreme Court ruled in 1963 that materials do not

have to be "utterly without redeeming value" to be declared obscene.

The guidelines of the Supreme Court were very general and, thus, ambiguous. The important thing about the decision is that it gives people in any area opportunity to make decisions against pornography and enforce them. We call on the authorities in Benton County to enforce the desires of the good citizens of their area.

Third, some argue that pornography should be legal because it teaches people to be sexually uninhibited and sophisticated. The truth is, as already noted, pornography destroys healthy sexual concepts because it deals in fantasy, perversion, and immorality. The end result of pornography is clear as one looks at the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

What causes the problem of pornography? First, there is tremendous profit in the sale of pornographic materials. Some years ago a government committee studying the problem estimated that filth peddlers make between \$500 and \$700 million a year. It is conservatively estimated

that dealers make 200 percent profit on each piece of pornography sold.

A second reason for pornography flourishing is ignorance and apathy. Most people are aware that sex is being used to attract attention to advertisers, but many are unaware of the kind of filth that can be bought at many drug stores, grocery stores, and convenience shops. If anyone doubts the accessibility of these kinds of materials, a quick survey will be very revealing.

Apathy is, perhaps, a greater reason for the increase of pornography than ignorance. It is easy to look the other way. Fighting pornography requires time. It may anger friends. No Christian, however, who is really concerned about the moral level of his own society can sit idly by and watch pornography destroy our nation.

Several pastors and laypeople in the Benton County area have taken a strong stand against the sale of pornography. Among these are: Bobby Hester, a member of Jonesboro Central Church and the director of the American Family Association (AFA), a Christian organization that promotes decency in television and other media; Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton County Association; and George O'Neel, pastor of Bella Vista Church.

We commend the good people of Benton County for their efforts to eliminate pornography from their area. We can stop pornography if Christians are willing to devote time and energy to fight it. The steps are obvious. We must: (1) urge local officers to crack down on it; (2) refuse to trade with businesses that sell it; and (3) support groups which uphold the family. When we work together, the trend can and will be reversed.

Arkansas Baptist

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

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

Excitement over finishing high school, joy over sort of being on their own, fear of how they will make the adjustments, and some mixture of joy and sadness over the changes they are experiencing—these are a few of the emotions that afflict freshmen as they go off to their first year of college. Mom and Dad are not without their own set of emotions. Grief, loneliness, fear, and relief may all be experienced by the parents.

At this juncture of life, Baptists have provided one of their most significant ministries, the Baptist Student Union. BSU is the best place for meeting the right kind of friends. It is a place where everyone can sense belonging or community without the risks that are typically run by a freshman trying to get "in" with a group that will accept them.

Enormous choices and changes are experienced during the first few months of the freshman year at college. Their lifestyle, their values, their friends, their activities—all of these find some sort of expression. Often their life companion is chosen during this period.

Honestly, I believe the best influence that can come to bear upon a young person at this point in life is the ministry of the Baptist Student Union.

Parents, pastors, youth workers and other friends should encourage the student's early participation in BSU. The student's name and address on campus should be forwarded to the BSU director on the campus where the student will attend. Class and work schedules should be arranged, as much as possible, to provide for maximum participation in BSU.

Tremendous ministries are provided through BSU. Students often find their gifts, develop their leadership and really blossom into outstanding Christian leaders through the BSU. Will you do your part to help make it happen?

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



LEGALIZED LOTTERY: FIRST IN A THREE-PART SERIES

A government operated scam

On June 24 of this year, Arkansas Attorney General Winston Bryant certified a proposed initiative constitutional amendment that would, if adopted by voters, repeal the state constitution's prohibition against a state-run lottery. Arkansas law requires proponents of initiative or referendum acts or constitutional amendments to submit the popular name and ballot title of the proposed act or amendment to the Attorney General for approval. In order to secure a place on the ballot for the next general election in November 1992, lottery backers would need to obtain some 70,000 valid voter signatures. They have approximately one year in which to accomplish this requirement.

Unlike last year's effort to amend the constitution's ban on a lottery, this amendment would neither provide for a commission to regulate a lottery nor actually establish a lottery. Additional action by the Arkansas General Assembly or an initiated act by the electorate would be necessary to implement a lottery.

Arkansans are fortunate to have been spared the lunacy of the lottery this far. We have had time to examine the "track record" of lotteries elsewhere. We can now confidently oppose this unfair "tax" by simply citing its dismal failures in the states

where either the electorates or the legislatures bought into the "pie in the sky" promises of lottery backers.

Does a lottery actually enhance a state's fiscal health? In 1986 lottery revenue to states averaged 1.9 percent of total revenue compared with sales tax (29 percent) federal aid (24 percent), income tax (22 percent) and user fees (8 percent). Clearly, lottery revenue is not the windfall its touters claim it to be. It was estimated in last year's election season that if Arkansas enacted a lottery and if it brought in the maximum amount, the funds derived from lottery sales would operate the schools for less than four days.

Officials in states with a lottery quickly became disillusioned. California's public school superintendent laments, "The lottery was supposed to be extra money for schools and it turned out to be part of the regular school program. For every five dollars the lottery gives to the schools, the state takes away four dollars." A study conducted in recent years by two University of North Florida professors "found that earmarking lottery money for education simply meant tax money that had been going for education was spent elsewhere." — **Larry Page, director, Christian Civic Foundation**

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Southern Baptist Annuity Board



HEARTLAND

of the Ozarks

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE

September 20-21, 1991
First Baptist Church, Fayetteville

FEATURED SPEAKER

Neil Jackson

Growth Consultant
Baptist Sunday
School Board



CONFERENCES

Interpretation of all literature series and pieces

GENERAL OFFICERS

Reaching Ethnic Through the Sunday School
Resources for Ethnic Sunday Schools
How to Motivate People
Outreach Ideas at Work
Basics of Sunday School Growth
Training Present and Potential Sunday School
Workers
Help! I'm a Sunday School Director
Organizing to Teach, Reach, and Minister

ADULT

Leading Collegiates
Making Bible Study Come Alive
Working with Single Adults
Class Meetings?
Fellowship Ideas
Outreach in the Adult Class
Visitation Using the Prospect File
Working with Adults in the
Smaller Membership Church

YOUTH

Youth Trends in the 90's
Breakthrough in Youth S.S.I How It Can Happen
Methods - Friend or Foe?
Youth Outreach

CHILDREN

Children and Conversion
Children and Self-Esteem
Creative Story Telling
Preparing Bible Study to Teach Children
Meeting the Needs of Sixth Graders
Using Music to Teach the Bible

PRESCHOOL

Using the Bible with Preschoolers
Responsibilities of Preschool Teachers
Babies Can Learn
Bible Learning Activities for 2- and 3-Year-Olds
Bible Learning Activities for 4- and 5-Year-Olds

CONFERENCE LEADERS

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Freddie Pike, ABSC, Little Rock
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ADULT

Ruth Ann Hill, BSSB, Nashville, TN
David James, ABSC, Little Rock
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Ed Hinkson, ABSC, Little Rock

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Gwen Sherman, Special Worker,
Gravel Ridge
Larry Sherman, ABSC, Little Rock

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of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK
Becky Thomason, Special Worker, Berryville
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Waco, TX
Kaye Smith, Special Worker, Cabot
Pat Ratton, ABSC, Little Rock

Childcare provided for
preschoolers 3 years old
and younger.

SCHEDULE

September 20

Friday evening

- 6:50 General Session
Neil Jackson, Speaker
"How Do You See People?"
7:45 Conferences
9:15 Adjourn

September 21

Saturday morning

- 8:45 Conferences
10:00 Break
10:15 Conferences
11:35 Break
11:45 Conferences
1:00 Adjourn

Bring your Bible and your
Oct./Nov./Dec. teachers' books

Overcoming the pain

The road to recovery: third in a series on dysfunctional families

by Larry Pillow

Special to the Arkansas Baptist

In trying to share with others how to find help, I feel a bit like Harry. During World War II, Harry and his new bride were walking down the streets of London when the air siren went off warning of the coming bombs. Everybody scurried into the basement; all the lights went off. In the dark you could hear, but not see, a loud kiss taking place.

When the lights came back on, Harry's bride looked at him and said, "Harry, why did you kiss me that way?" Harry responded, "I didn't kiss you. But I'd like to know who did. I'd teach him a thing or two." "Oh, Harry," she said, "you couldn't teach him a thing."

I'm not sure I can teach anybody a thing about recovery, but God has led me to try.

Like 28 million other adult Americans, I grew up in an alcoholic family. Unlike most of them, I have found help in dealing with some of the pain of my past. This article describes some of the ways I've received help, which hopefully will motivate you to get help or decide to help others.

I was never physically or sexually abused and fortunately I had a loving, nurturing mother, but from the time I was four until I left home at age 16, my dad drank often and in large amounts. To this day the smell of whiskey sets off an emotional volcano of pain and fear inside me.

My dad's drinking impacted me economically and emotionally. As a middle-aged, middle class American, the economic impact is history, but the emotional impact lingers to this day. The fact that I'm in the ministry and pastor of a Baptist church does not alleviate the pain.

I've spent all my life looking for the "Dad I Never Knew." My thoughts and feelings are summarized in a poem I wrote a year after my dad's death. The poem is personal and private and could be mistaken for "parent bashing." Nevertheless, I share the poem because, "Blessed be the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Co. 1:3-4 NASB).

I never knew a Dad who smiled or squeezed.

I never knew a Dad who prayed or played.

Who loved or laughed or who was ever there.

I never knew a Dad who watched or wept, I never knew a Dad who prayed or played.

I never knew a Dad who saw me hit a ball, Or was there to watch me grow tall.

I never knew a Dad who stayed sober, Or was nice to friends I had over.

I never knew a Dad who kissed my mom, Or held her or helped her.

I never knew a Dad who tucked me in or took me out, He was rarely there, and I never knew him.

Cancer came and changed everything, One last time I looked and listened for the Dad I never knew, "Dad, I love you, and my family does too."

"Son, I think I loved the world and all of you too."

All of the sudden I met the Dad I never knew.

I've found help in dealing with the pain of my past. My major source of help has come from my relationship

with Christ. I have discovered the reality of the promise, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you" (He. 13:5 NASB). A scene from the movie "Dr. Zhivago," shared by Dr. Tim Sledge of Katy, Texas, illustrates the truth of this verse.

The Comrade General was talking with Tanya and he asked her, "How did you come to be lost?" She replied, "Well, I just got lost." "No," he said, "how did you come to be lost?"

Photo: Jim Newman



Unlike children from happy, interactive families, Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families often carry a volcano of pain and fear inside.

Tanya replied, "I was just lost. My father and I were running through the city and the city was on fire and the revolution had come and we were trying to escape the city and I was lost." The Comrade General asked more emphatically, "How did you come to be lost?"

She still did not want to say. Finally she said, "We were running through the city and my father let go of my hand and I was lost." Then she added plaintively, "He let go!" This is what she didn't want to say. The Comrade General said, "This is what I've been trying to tell you, Tanya. Komorav was not your real father. Zhivago is your real father, and I can promise you, Tanya, that if this man had been there, your real father, he would never have let go of your hand."

Our earthly father may "let go of our hand," but our heavenly Father will "never leave us or forsake us!"

*I have come to believe
you cannot bear what
you cannot feel'*

I've also found lots of help from a loving and accepting wife. Her stability and commitment to God and her commitment to me and my healing has been a major key in helping me. She is a jewel of a rare cut.

I've also experienced growth and change from learning and obeying the Scriptures. At one time, I memorized over 500 verses of scripture, and this has been a big help in "transforming my mind."

But in spite of all the help I received, I still need more help in several areas. For example, I frequently cannot get in touch with my feelings. I get angry and won't admit it until I'm depressed. I also fight the battle of always needing to be in control. I chuckle when I read about the guy who said, "I feel better now that I've resigned as General Manager of the universe," but inside I know that is a decision I need to make daily. Most of the time I feel guilty when I do something for myself such as buy new clothes or do something for fun. I have learned this guilt is caused by being "shame bound."

God has given me help in recent months through two additional sources: First, I have been greatly blessed by reading the materials written for and by Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families. In my last article I mentioned several of those books and would be happy to furnish a bibliography to any interested readers.

Secondly, I have been immeasurably helped and charged by interacting with other Adult Children in support groups and retreats.

Nothing has facilitated significant change in my life like being in a "safe place with safe people" where I have been able to be honest about my pain struggle. I have come to believe "you cannot heal what you cannot feel." A support group sponsored by our church has helped me and several others experience major breakthroughs.

Somebody may say, "Why look at the past? Just forget it and move on." Theoretically that's true, but a true story of an American hostage that appeared in the *Arkansas Gazette* illustrates the need to deal with our past.

For 39 months Robert Polhill saw no sunlight. He was chained to the floor of a windowless room in Beirut, an American hostage held by Muslim extremists. He finally came home only to go through a series of physical problems including the loss of his voice.

He told the physical therapist who worked with him to regain his voice that "memories of his captivity were sealed tight, forever in the back of his mind." "I don't talk about my captivity. I don't need to get it off my chest. There's nothing to be gained by talking about it."

As Paul Harvey would say, here is the rest of the story. His speech pathologist who praised Polhill for his courage, progress, and fortitude points out that his patient "refuses to be in a room with all the doors closed." Why? "He had enough of that in captivity."

He may have chosen to leave the pain of his past alone, but it would not leave him alone. Neither will yours. I urge you to get help today. The painful feelings we bury will stay alive and affect us dramatically until we deal with them.

Larry Pillow has served as pastor of Second Church in Conway for the past nine years. He is completing his doctor of ministry studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City with an emphasis on ministry to Adults Children of Dysfunctional Families.

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Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Rick Davis has resigned as pastor of Oak Bowery Church, Conway.

Gerald Garrett has resigned as pastor of First Church, Ash Flat.

Leonard Williams has resigned as pastor of Guion First Church near Melbourne.

Mark Fawcett has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church in DeWitt to continue his education.

Fred Spann has completed his service as interim minister of music at Wynne Church to return to his mission assignment in Recife, Brazil.

Don Davis is serving as minister of music at First Church in Kensett.

James Grafton is serving as pastor at First Church in Thornton, coming there from Bernice, La.

Clarence Bengé of Parks is serving as pastor of Friendship Church, Blackfork.

Edward L. Hardister was honored Aug. 11 by Park Place Church in Hot Springs in recognition of five years of service as associate pastor and minister of music.

Don Travis has retired as pastor of Lawson Church.

William V. Garner will preach his final sermon Aug. 18 as pastor of Cornerstone Church in Texarkana prior to his retirement Aug. 31. Garner, who began serving as pastor of Immanuel Church in Texarkana in December 1960, serving as pastor of that church until it merged with Calvary Church in 1989 to form Cornerstone Church. During his more than 30 years of tenure, he has served in various capacities of denominational activities, including trustee of Williams Baptist College. Garner will continue to reside in Texarkana and may be contacted through Cornerstone Church, 2101 Hays, Texarkana, AR 75502; telephone 501-774-6978.

Don Smith, who recently moved to Fort Smith from ministering in the pioneer areas of Idaho, is serving as interim pastor of Trinity Church in Fort Smith.

Elvin Steed of Texarkana began serving Aug. 4 as pastor of Second Church in McNeil.

Ira Upton of Van Buren is serving as pastor of First Church, Coal Hill.

Dennis Reynolds of Altus is serving as pastor of First Church in Hartman.

Bill Powell has resigned as pastor of Eastern Heights Chapel, Van Buren.

Charles Langley has resigned as pastor of Hagarville Church.

J.C. Matthews has joined the staff of Greenwood First Church as publishing coordinator.

Lendol Jackson, pastor of New Hope Two Church, Hardy, recently graduated from the Fred Maher School of Ventriloquism. "The Preacher and Joe" recently performed at both the National Campers on Mission Rally in Cherokee, N.C., and Siloam Springs Baptist Assembly. Jackson serves as volunteer coordinator for Arkansas Campers on Mission.

J. Wayne Moore resigned Aug. 11 as pastor of East Side Church in Osceola, following 12 years of service to serve as pastor of First Church in Clarkton, Mo.

Ron Roughton recently observed five years of service as pastor of Park Street Church in Bentonville.

Kenneth Moore will begin serving Sept. 1 as pastor of First Church of Walnut Ridge, coming there from Enon Church near McComb, Miss. A native of Mississippi, he

is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana. He and his wife, Janice, have three children, Kelli, 18, and two sons, Chris and Jody, 15.

Don Hall has announced his resignation as pastor of First Church in Cove, effective Sept. 1.

Jon Selph resigned Aug. 7 as minister of youth at Calvary Church in North Little Rock to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bart Barber, a student at Baylor University, was ordained to the gospel ministry Aug. 4 at Lake City First Church.

Jerry Holcomb has resigned as pastor of Mount Zion Church, Paragould, to serve as pastor of Fellowship Church near Bentonville.

Briefly

John Grace Memorial Church in Belleville will observe its 100th anniversary Oct. 6. Pastor Ernest Ashcraft reported that former members and pastors will share in the celebration.

GEYER SPRINGS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Begins Sept. 18th

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Geyer Springs First Baptist Church - 565-3474
5615 Geyer Springs Rd. - Little Rock, AR 72209
Paul R. Sanders, Pastor



Dr. McGriff

Ozark First Church launched a Wednesday evening children's program Aug. 28 that will include Bible study, missions, education, children's worship, and a recreation time. Dorothy Kimery and Dianne Ross are serving as coordinators.

Forty-Seventh Street Church in North Little Rock will celebrate its 43rd anniversary with homecoming Sept. 8. A potluck luncheon and afternoon musical program will be part of the day's activities.

Indian Springs Church in Bryant is dedicating its new family life/worship center in September with programs that will feature Christian recording artists, The Martins, Sept. 8; Judge Paul Pressler of Houston, Texas, Sept. 15, and David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, Sept. 22. Miller will preach for the morning worship service and at 3 p.m. when the 37,000 square foot facility, is to be dedicated. Benny Grant is pastor.

Cornerstone Church in Texarkana will observe William V. Garner Day Aug. 25 in recognition of his Aug. 31 retirement as pastor. Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will be featured speaker at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A reception will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.. A special testimony/share time will be held at 6 p.m.

Temple Church in Fort Smith will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sept. 6-8 with services that will feature Jack Porter, a former pastor, Elva Adams, Wade Carver, and Kenneth Williams as speakers. Special music, testimonies, and a history of the church will be a part of the anniversary celebration. Elton Pennington is pastor.

East Side Church in Osceola observed Pastor Appreciation Day July 28, presenting Pastor J. Wayne Moore with gifts. The church held a vacation Bible school July 29-Aug. 2 that had an enrollment of 84, an average attendance of 64, and an offering of \$92.

East End Church, Hensley, observed homecoming Aug. 25. Earl Ashley of Oklahoma, a former member, was speaker for the morning worship hour that was followed by a noon luncheon and an afternoon music program featuring the Happy Rhythms from Forest Tower Church in Little Rock.

Maple Avenue Church in Smackover hosted the Union County Singing Convention Sept. 7 that honored the J.T. Stocks family as a memorial to J.T. Stocks.

Pleasant Valley Church at Heber Springs observed its 50th anniversary of service Aug. 17-18. David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, was speaker for the Saturday evening service.

Conway Second Church will conduct "Hope for the Home" Sunday Sept. 15 with activities that include a musical presentation by the adult choir at 10:45 a.m., a potluck noon meal, and family-related seminars from 12:45 p.m. to 3 p.m. Seminar leaders will be professional counselors, local ministers and businessmen, and lay leaders of the church. Childcare for children 12 years and under will be provided. Information may be obtained by calling the church at 501-327-6565. Larry Pillow is pastor.

Arkansans graduate

Four Arkansans were among the 140 who graduated recently from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Receiving the master of arts in religious education degree was Phil A. Brown of Rogers.

Receiving the associate of divinity degree was Roger Glen Duffel of Welner.

Receiving the master of arts in communication degree were Mona L. Johnson of Little Rock and Stevie Joe Roberson of Magnolia.

Missions up close and personal



Bob Lever (far left) and Johna Gaddis (far right) presented a \$1,300 check to the Monticello Children's Home as a result of mission efforts by VBS kids.

First Church, Fort Smith, sought to really involve children in missions through its vacation Bible school, held June 24-28, and succeeded in a big way. Associate Pastor Bob Lever and Johna Gaddis, director of childhood education, proposed Arkansas Baptist Children's Home in Monticello as the mission of the week. John Ross, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries representative, made sure that the VBS children had a personal experience with the Children's Home every day. Two girls who grew up in the home gave their testimonies, Ross presented a slide show with the audio portion from the Monticello kids, and a multi-media presentation. Each department had an adopted brother or sister for the week on whom to focus its efforts. The initial goal was to raise \$500 for a new refrigerator for the home. By the end of the VBS day on Friday, \$807 had been collected—so the kids decided to up their goal to \$1,000. By the end of the evening's Family Night, the church had given more than \$1,300. The VBS had an attendance of 491, resulting in 51 decisions.

Bryant reflects on Thai ministry

"Words of encouragement for the churches" is the way that missionary Jim Bryant describes his present furlough ministry in Arkansas. Bryant and his wife, Virginia, recently have completed five years of service in Bangkok, Thailand, where he was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church. Although currently on furlough, the Bryants feel led to pursue a permanent ministry in stateside missions.

Previously having served as a church planter in Bangladesh, Bryant left in 1986 to help the international Bangkok congregation move toward self-support. While in this position, he was able to encourage the church to further develop its prison ministry, and also to work with refugees.

The prison ministry already was a monthly focus when the Bryants arrived, primarily sponsored by the Thailand Baptist Mission. Under Bryant's leadership, the church moved to assume primary financial responsibility, with help from team members drawn from church, staff, and sister churches in the Thailand Baptist Churches Association.

The focus of the prison ministry is on two prisons in Bangkok, one with lesser sentences, and one with inmates serving 20 years to life, or under the death penalty for more serious crimes. First the ministry focuses on month to month, one-time contact with prisoners from foreign countries. Then one on one and Bible study opportunities are available.

Even though results are hard to deter-

mine at best, the ministry has been able to establish five "cell-block" churches within the prison. Since the prison granted the team permission to baptize new believers in the spring of 1989, 400 have been immersed. The team's Thai evangelist has assumed primary leadership responsibilities for the ministry.

Another significant part of the work of the Bangkok church is with refugees. Because Bangkok is a major center of operation for those working with Indo-Chinese and Asian refugees, the church is a natural center of activity for those needing help. A dozen or more refugees come seeking assistance in any given week. While assisting them with physical needs, the church also has reached out to the refugees with the gospel, resulting in about 12 baptisms a year.

The Bryants and their daughters, Michele and Amber, make their temporary home in Harrison while seeking a place of service. They can be contacted at 709 W. Bower, Harrison, AR 72601; telephone 741-4139 or 741-3064.

Long-time Arkansan graduates Golden

Dorothy J. Edwards received the master of arts in Christian education degree during commencement exercises at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary on May 31. Edwards is senior adult director in Santa Clara, Calif. She was born in Pine Bluff and lived in Little Rock for 21 years. She also attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

Looking Ahead August

29 IMPACT 91 Meeting, Harrison First Church (WMU)

31-9/2 Single Parent Family Camp, Arkansas Baptist Assembly (SS)

September

1-7 Brotherhood Leadership Week (Bbd)

5 Brotherhood Blitz, West Memphis First Church (Bbd)

6 Furloughing Missionaries' Orientation, Baptist Building, Little Rock (SA)

7 Baptist Youth Day, Magic Springs (DT)

9 IMPACT 91 Meeting, Crossett First Church (WMU)

9 Brotherhood Blitz, Texarkana Beech Street Church (Bbd)

9 Arkansas Praising Celebration, Jonesboro Central Church (M)

9 Bivocational/Small Church Evangelism Conference, Farmington First Church (Ev)

10 Brotherhood Blitz, Concord Association, Fort Smith (Bbd)

10 Arkansas Praising Celebration, Little Rock Second Church (M)

10 Bivocational/Small Church Evangelism Conference, Phippin First Church (Ev)

10-11 IMPACT 91 Meeting, Camden First Church (WMU)

12 Brotherhood Blitz, North Pulaski Association, North Little Rock (Bbd)

12 Arkansas Praising Celebration, Fayetteville University Church (M)

12 Bivocational/Small Church Evangelism Conference, Mena Dallas Avenue Church (Ev)

12 IMPACT 91 Meeting, Texarkana Cornerstone Church (WMU)

20-21 Heartlands Sunday School Conference, Fayetteville First Church (SS)

22 Baptist Men's Jail Ministry Sunday (Bbd)

23 IMPACT 91 Meeting, Little Rock Markham Street Church (WMU)

Abbreviations:

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

SummerSing gains popularity

SummerSing is growing in popularity as new participants join with those who have attended for three and even all four years of its existence. The most popular class continues to be ukulele. The stage of Mabee Fine Arts Center of Ouachita Baptist University was packed with singers as they presented the musical "Some Golden Daybreak," directed by Larry Bradley, First Church, Hot Springs and accompanied by piano, guitar, trumpet, harmonica, ukuleles, and a washbass played by Wes Kent, the camp pastor. SummerSing '91 was held July 22-26.

Retha Snider, 83, a member of Warren First Church, was the recipient of the "Opismathy" award. She says that she hopes to be an example to others that "they will realize getting older does not mean you have to stop enjoying life."



Retha Snider received the "Opismathy" award for the second year in a row.

Ready to give an answer

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"We had no unpleasant experiences with Chinese in the three years that we lived in China," declared Dr. and Mrs. Charles D. Phillips Jr. Phillips has been a minister of education in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. He taught education, administration, counseling, and guidance at Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, La. Upon his retirement, the Phillips moved to Arkadelphia in 1979.

The first year the Phillips spent in China, where they taught English in a medical university at Zhengzhou, was arranged by the Don Elliotts of Cabot. At the end of this year they were asked to serve an additional two years under the auspice of Cooperative Services International (CSI), returning to Arkadelphia for two months prior to returning to China.

During the next two years they taught English at Beijing in Coal Ministry University. The Phillips had more opportunities to share their faith when serving under the auspices of CSI.

The Phillips observed that there is a lot of interest in religion in China and worship attendance has dramatically increased. But, all Chinese churches are guided by the three self policies: self support, self propagation, and self governing. There is absolutely to be no outside interference or influence exerted on a Chinese Christian congregation.

Even for a Chinese Christian it is illegal for him to approach a non-Christian regarding his faith. If, however, a Christian is approached by a non-Christian it is acceptable for him to respond to questions that are asked.

For the Phillips, members of First Church, Arkadelphia, their opportunities to witness came through their lifestyle and questions that arose in the classroom. For example, Mrs. Phillip's sister died while they were teaching at the university in Beijing. They had known that this could occur because she was in poor health. The Phillips did not return to the United States for the funeral and many of the people who knew them were amazed at the way she was able to handle her grief. Mrs. Phillips observed, "Christians, unlike



Charles and Thannis Phillips

atheists, have the blessed hope of reunion with Christian loved ones."

Students also would ask questions about Christianity. Holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, gave unique opportunities to share the Christian faith. Phillips recalls a student asking, "Do you believe in God?" He explained that several religions such as Islam, Judaism, and Christianity all believe in God. But, as a Christian he not only believed in a supreme being, but in Jesus Christ.

One of the greatest deterrents to Christianity is the absolute control of the communist state. If an individual wishes to advance in his job, he needs to be a member of the Communist Party. Communism, of course, embraces an atheistic approach to life. Even if an individual regularly attends church it can negatively impact his opportunity for advancement.

A great number of changes are taking place in China today. For example, free enterprise is taking place all over China. On every street in Beijing, numerous private businesses can be seen in operation. These small businesses had their inception with the government committing to farmers all the produce that they produced above a certain goal. When the government instituted this policy, collective farms began to produce tremendous amounts of grain above their goals. The farmers then would sell this extra produce as small private businesses. There is, however, no private ownership of land or property.

The Phillips want to encourage others to go to China under the auspices of CSI. Dr. Phillips said, "This is a tremendous opportunity for qualified retired couples to have the opportunity to share their faith. CSI can quickly place all such individuals."

Mrs. Phillips observed that you reach

people in China as you build trust and relationships. She said, "The verse that became my motto while we were serving in China was 1 Peter 3:15 which says, 'be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear'."

The Phillips are available to speak to church groups and can be contacted at 1050 Haddock St., Arkadelphia, AR 71923; telephone 246-8003.

Classifieds

Ski Trip—Wanted youth/singles to join exciting church group(s) to Crested Butte, Colorado over Thanksgiving. Lots of other locations available for spring break trip! Kimberling Kids Travel, 227-8447. 812

Senior Adults—Visit Niagara Falls Oct. 11-20. Lots of sightseeing, fellowship, educational and spiritual development. For information call Central Baptist Church, N.L.R. 771-1125. 828

Service—20 yrs exp. piano tuner. Central Ark. 1-800-467-8025. 1010

Needed—Church pianist seeks position in Little Rock/Jacksonville area, 20 yrs. experience and B.A. 835-1309 829

Position Available—Forrest Park Church, Pine Bluff, is seeking to fill the position of part-time Music/Youth Minister. Interested persons should send a resume to Forrest Park, 3708 Cherry Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603 — Dr. Toby Adair, Pastor. 829

Position Available—First Baptist Church, West Plains, Missouri, is seeking a full-time minister of students and evangelism. Send resume or recommendations to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 202 Walnut Street, West Plains, MO 65775. 829

Position Available—First Baptist Church Cove, Ark. is now receiving resumes for position of Pastor. Send resumes to P.O. Box 248, Cove, AR 71937. 829

Wanted—Part-time youth director. Send resume to Marshall Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 726, Jacksonville, AR 72076. 812

For Sale—Church furniture for sale, 847-2815, Indian Springs Baptist Church. 829

Diffie celebrates 25 years of service

Harold Diffie recently observed his 25th anniversary of service as pastor of New London Church in Strong when the church held a recognition service for him and his wife, Gloria.

Diffie, who began serving the church Aug. 7, 1966, has pastored churches in Arkadelphia, Strong, and Missouri. He also was a customer service representative for Arkansas Power and Light Company for 31 years.

The Diffies are parents of two daughters, Marsha Diffie and Melanie Odum, and two sons, Mike and Mark, all of El Dorado. They also have a granddaughter and two grandsons.



Diffie

The SBC Brotherhood Commission recently began publication of a new monthly magazine specifically prepared for those serving in the military. Included in *Full Armor* are personal testimonies of service men and women telling how the Lord gave strength and courage, often in extremely difficult times. The magazine also has a section encouraging daily devotional time.

The other publication that needs to be sent to military personnel is the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. It keeps them informed as to what is happening worldwide involving Southern Baptists, beginning right here in Arkansas. Weekly Sunday School lessons are included.

The address and yearly subscription of *Full Armor* is as follows: *Full Armor*, c/o Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104-9955; \$17.50 each.

The address and yearly individual subscription of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* is: P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; \$8.25.

Arkansans work at Ridgcrest, Glorieta

Nearly 500 summer staffers are taking care of business at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers where chores range from servicing bicycles to planting flowers.

Hailing from California to North Carolina and Florida to Minnesota, 241 students, senior adults, and all ages between were hired as 1991 summer staffers at Ridgcrest and 242 where employed at Glorieta.

Six Arkansans are working at Glorieta and four at Ridgcrest. Both centers are operated by the SBC Sunday School Board.

Working at Glorieta are: Kristy and Stacy Ask and Traci Atchley, State University; Bill Dunham, Walnut Ridge; Rocky Smith, Newport; and Randy Triplett, Maumelle.

Working at Ridgcrest are: Suzette Carver, Conway; Alicia French, Paragould; Rhoda Green, Alexander; and Brian Kirby, Star City.

Sigsby appointed

Kevin Sigsby was appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in July. Sigsby will serve as ministries director in Salt Lake City, Utah.

A native of Paragould, Sigsby is a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He is a former youth minister and Centrifuge director. He currently serves as Baptist Student Union director at the University of Utah where he has been a Mission Service Corps volunteer for five years.

Veterans group touts publications

The recently formed Baptist Veterans Fellowship Group of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood Department urges each church to prayerfully consider seeing that two publications be sent to its members serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Those serving in the Reserve might also be considered.

Many who have served in the Armed Forces during peace time, as well as wartime, would attest to the great need for spiritual support from back home.

Correction—The Aug. 15 edition of the ABN, pg. 24, should have reported that Sherri Burnett and Karen Fields are going to Russia as a part of BYW Enterprises.

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We've planned some great activities and ministry opportunities for the Fall semester and really want your student to participate! Call or send a card with your student's name, campus address & phone number to us. We'll call 'em!



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First Baptist Church

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Farmington, AR 72730

Telephone [501] 267-3159

A SMILE OR TWO

It's nice to know that the great American traditions are still with us. A century ago, people would run out to their front lawns, look into the distance, and with joy and expectation shout, "The showboat is coming! The showboat is coming!" And this September that same wonderful moment is repeated as mothers run out to their front lawns, look into the distance, and with joy and expectation shout, "The school bus is coming, the school bus is coming!"

Osborne employed for ASU post

Linda Osborne has been employed by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board to be associate director of the Baptist Student Union at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Arliss Dickerson is BSU director at the campus.

A 1991 graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., Osborne is also a graduate of Mississippi State University in Starkville. She has served as minister of youth in several churches; BSU director at Longview Community College and Maple Woods Community College in Missouri; and Holmes Junoir College in Mississippi; and BSU intern at Mississippi State University.



Osborne

She also has missions experience as a summer missionary in Iowa, youth worker in Mississippi churches and camps, and overseas in Israel and West Africa. In addition to leadership positions in BSU, she also has been recognized by several professional organizations.

George Sims, associate in the ABSC Student Department, commented, "We welcome Linda and her husband John to Arkansas and we look forward to hearing good results from her ministry at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro."

Area crusades bring results

An area wide crusade held in the Greets Ferry area June 23-28 resulted in one profession of faith and 14 rededications.

Shelby Bittle of Wynne was evangelist and Clarence Hill of Hot Springs directed music for the revival that was held in a tent loaned by the ABSC Evangelism Department.

Nine Southern Baptist churches participated in an area crusade held in Benton High School auditorium July 14-18. Oscar Golden, pastor of Calvary Church in Benton, general chairman reported 38 professions of faith, 35 coming for assurance, and 32 other decisions.

Angel Martinez of Fort Smith was crusade evangelist and Steve Taylor of North Carolina directed music.

Arkansas Baptist Youth Day

Saturday, September 7, 1991

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

DiscipleLife Rally:

4:30 - 6:00

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College Digest

Williams Baptist College

Women's volleyball coach named—Lee Ann Edmondson of Walnut Ridge has joined the WBC athletic staff as the women's volleyball coach. She is a graduate of Arkansas State University. The team will open its season Sept. 3.

Offers new degree—WBC will offer its students an additional baccalaureate degree program this fall—the bachelor of science degree in psychology. The program provides two tracks for psychology majors; one designed for students who plan to pursue graduate studies in psychology, the other for those who intend to pursue post graduate work in seminary or another field of study, such as counseling.

Ouachita Baptist University

Missionaries in residence—Clarence A. Allison and his wife Alta, of Lobster,

Botswana, have been named as missionaries in residence at OBU for the 1991-92 academic year. The Allisons are Arkansas natives and have served in Botswana since 1982.

Southwestern program—The OBU religion department has entered a program with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, to allow OBU religion major graduates to earn up to 30 hours advanced standing credit toward the master's degree in divinity.

Venture—OBU will host approximately 1,200 high school students from Arkansas and surrounding states on Saturday, Sept. 28, for "Venture '91." The program will feature youth minister vocalist Rick Briscoe of Houston, Texas; the contemporary Christian group "Truth," from Mobile, Ala.; and the OBU Praise Singers. For more information, call Ian Cosh at 246-4531, ext. 536.

Ministry's heartbeat is reaching people

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"Eddie Combs ministry is one from which many churches could benefit," declared John Horne, pastor of South Side Church, Fort Smith. "Reaching people is Eddie's heartbeat and his enthusiasm, sweet spirit, and love for the Lord make Church Support Services a worthwhile ministry."

The South Side Church had been in decline for several years. Pastor Horne, who had been a minister of education, said, "It seemed we could never quite 'get on track.' During the six months that Combs' has worked with the church it has had good growth in all areas."

The three churches previously reported in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* (Spradling, Fort Smith; First Church, Lavaca; and Rye Hill Church, Fort Smith) have had an average enrollment increase of 19 percent and an average attendance increase of 20 percent. In a one year program, Combs developed a specific program to meet the needs in each of these churches (see ABN Sept. 13, 1990).

Combs has now developed a variety of programs to assist churches. He has worked intently during the past year with nine churches and has led conferences in a total of 23 different churches.

Initially Combs provided only a one year approach for churches. Now he offers four different levels of service. First,

there is a one day Sunday School revival in which Combs speaks in both the morning and evening services. He also observes the Sunday School and meets with the Sunday School workers during the discipleship training hour, giving them suggestions on improving the Sunday School program.

Second, Combs provides a one week Sunday School growth campaign. The campaign begins on Sunday, concluding on Wednesday with the option of a Thursday and Friday teaching improvement campaign.

Another approach includes a three month growth process which is similar to the one year approach. In this process, Combs is on the church field once a month, develops a one year strategy, completes a Sunday School space evaluation, develops future growth projects, and gives direction for implementation.

All of the new approaches developed by Combs have come as a result of specific requests. He also is continuing a second year strategy for some churches. In this second year growth process, he evaluates the first year's growth to determine areas that need consistent effort.

Combs is committed to church growth through the programs developed by the Southern Baptist Convention. He said, "I believe that any church that is led by the Holy Spirit with a proper God honoring program can grow."

Missionary Notes

Robert and Kay Cartwright, missionaries to Burkina Faso, are on the field (address: Ecole Baptiste, BP 1171, Bouake, COTE D'IVOIRE). He was born in Texas, and his wife, the former Kay Goodwin of Oklahoma. Both consider Bella Vista their hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Board in 1982.

Sharon Doyle, missionary associate to Nigeria, has arrived on the field to begin her first term of service (address: Baptist Seminary, P.O. 30, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria). The former Sharon Reece, she was born in Texas. She is the widow of Duane Doyle. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1990, she was working in Bentonville.

Leon and Kathy Johnson, missionaries to Zimbabwe, are in the States (address: Tamotsu Kumabe, 2258 Palolo Avmie, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816), their hometown. He was born in Piggott and she is the former Kathy Kumabe. They were appointed in 1982.

Jon and Lisa Lord, missionaries to Tanzania, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 723, Mbeya, Tanzania). He was born in DeQueen. The former Lisa Steele, she is from Louisiana. They were appointed in 1990.

Larry and Janet Murphy, missionaries to Togo, are in the States (address: P.O. Box 455, Folkston, Ga. 31537). He considers Bentonville, his hometown. The former Janet Harris, she considers Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed in 1986.

Glenn and Pauline Nicholson, missionaries to Panama, are on the field (address: Apartado E, Balboa, Panama). He is a native of Forrest City. The former Pauline Vaughn of Arkansas, she was born in Harborsburg and considers Cherry Valley her hometown. They were appointed in 1987.

Rick and Beth Wolfe, Baptist representatives to New Zealand, are in the States (address: 1720 S. Willow, Independence, Mo. 64952). He is a native of Alabama and she is the former Elizabeth Brooks of Rogers. They were appointed in 1987.

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'The Streets' to air on ABC

FORT WORTH (BP)—"The Streets," a Southern Baptist-produced television documentary about Christians' efforts to help meet people's needs in inner cities, will be aired nationally over ABC-TV Sunday, Sept. 22.

Actor Paul Wingfield, who won an Oscar nomination for his role in his film debut in "Sounder" and who has a lengthy list of movie, television and theater credits, hosts the hour-long program.

"The Streets" was

produced by Radio and Television Commission production staff members on location in Los Angeles county, Chicago, Miami and New York City. Although the broadcast's national kickoff is set for Sept. 22, some stations will air the documentary later. Readers should check their TV listings to determine when stations in their areas will show the program.

"The documentary is not designed to show an overview of inner-city problems in the United States, but rather to focus on



RTVC photo

Co-producer Bob Thornton, actor Paul Wingfield, and producer Bernie Hargis confer about the taping of the Southern Baptist documentary "The Streets."

a few efforts involving Christians," said Bob Thornton, executive in charge of the production. "We are simply looking at some of the needs and individuals and groups trying to make a difference. Our emphasis is on people more than programs. "We hope the viewer will be drawn into the picture and see life from the perspective of people on the streets."

Stories include Christian work with gangs and victims of gang violence in the Los Angeles area. In Miami, a Christian

physician who works with the homeless is featured. Scenes videotaped in Chicago depict the Uptown Baptist Church's work with the disadvantaged. In New York, the Graffiti center, a Southern Baptist ministry, is featured.

In Arkansas, station KATV, Little Rock, plans to show "The Streets" at 7 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29. Stations KHBS-TV, Fort Smith, and KHOG-TV, Fayetteville, will show the documentary, with the date to be announced.

Hospitality Hotline

Call 758-1424 for assistance in planning your central Arkansas get-togethers. We've got fast information on moderately-priced accommodations, dining and metropolitan attractions on both sides of the river.

- Catfish restaurants to steak houses to cafeteria chains
- Wild River Country water theme park
- Major malls and antique shops to explore
- Burns Park, The Old Mill, an excursion riverboat

Annuity trustees hear growth reports

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Assets of the Annuity Board grew by more than \$1 million a day for the first six months of 1991, trustees were told. At a July 29-30 meeting of the board, it also was reported the Southern Baptist agency is on track for paying \$100 million in retirement benefits this year for the first time.

The trustees continued their tradition of holding the summer meeting near a major Southern Baptist Convention agency. Forty-five of 48 trustees attended.

Annuity Board president Paul W. Powell told trustees of the gain in assets. Treasurer Harold Richardson and investment head John R. Jones told how it was done.

Member contributions continued strong, said Richardson, with more than \$92.5 million flowing into individual retirement income accounts of more than 67,000 members. The contributions represented a 4 percent increase over the

first six months of 1990.

Earnings for January-June were \$164.3 million, with almost 82 percent coming in the first quarter. Richardson reported total assets of \$3.19 billion on June 30, a 9.5 percent increase since June 30, 1990.

Earnings credited to fixed fund accounts continued on target for the estimated 8.8 percent for 1991. The balanced fund earned 6.9 percent (non-annualized) in the first six months and the variable fund earned 8.8 percent (non-annualized) for the same period. The short-term fund earned 3.01 percent (non-annualized).

Richardson reported \$52.1 million in retirement benefits paid to more than 21,000 annuitants during the first six months of 1991. He raised the possibility that this year, for the first time, the Annuity Board could dispense \$100 million to retirees.



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TEXAS

Gambling fight begins

by Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (BP)—Texas lottery opponents suffered a major setback last week when Lone Star lawmakers meeting in special session yielded to intense lobbying pressure, voting to place legalization of the state-run numbers game on the November ballot.

But anti-gambling advocates pledge an all-out, grassroots campaign to inform voters the lottery is "all smoke and mirrors," not the answer to the state's budget woes.

In spite of a more than seven-hour filibuster by Sen. John Leedom, (R-Dallas), the state Senate approved the lottery measure 22-5 on Aug. 10. Leedom took the floor at about 7 p.m. Aug. 9, soon after the Senate gave tentative approval to the lottery referendum by a 24-7 vote on second reading. His lone voice echoed through the virtually empty Senate chamber until the wee hours of the morning.

Legislative approval of the bill means a constitutional amendment legalizing lotteries will appear on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot.

Weston Ware, citizenship associate, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, said approval of the lottery proposal was the result of a concerted lobbying effort by the govern-

nor, lobbyists for the lottery industry and lobbyists for horse and dog racing tracks "all of whom have taken advantage of the state's fiscal situation to see what they could foist off on the people of Texas."

"They had a lot to offer the legislators," added Sue Cox, director of Texans Who Care. "All we had to offer was good government."

"Now the question is whether we can let Texans know the truth about the lottery," Ware said. "Many have been convinc-

ed that the lottery would enable the state to avoid a massive tax increase. What will happen when Texans learn that was all a lot of smoke and mirrors?"

Lottery proponents cleared their first major hurdle when HJR8 won the needed two-thirds majority approval in the state House of Representatives on Aug. 5 by a 101 to 46 vote.

On the eve of the vote, Gov. Ann Richards sent a videotaped message to Texas television stations, urging citizens to ask representatives to approve the legislation. In the video release, she said, "Either we have a huge tax bill or we approve a lottery. That's what it comes down to."

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Texas committee OKs Baylor proposal

DALLAS (BP)—A specially appointed Baptist General Convention of Texas committee approved a proposal Aug. 15 that potentially could end the controversy over the state convention's relationship to Baylor University and made suggestions to convention coordinating boards about current and future BGCT funding to Baylor.

The proposal by the Committee on BGCT/Baylor Relationship still must be approved by the BGCT executive board and the Baylor University board of regents and by the messengers to the annual state convention meeting, Nov. 11-12 in Waco.

The committee's proposal was an affirmation of a recommended agreement developed by the officers of the BGCT and Baylor University. (See 8/15 ABN, p. 14)

Across the Country

SBC officials affirm Salt Lake City decision

NASHVILLE—Southern Baptist convention officials and Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention leadership have been quick to counter criticism of the decision of the SBC to hold its 1998 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, home of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or Mormons.

Utah missions, a ministry directed at Mormonism based in Marlow, Okla., criticized the decision in a front page article in its July-August issue of *The Evangelist*, its monthly newspaper. Robert McKay, associate editor of the publication, said in his article, "There is no need to expose thousands of Southern Baptists to possible deception, when there are so many alternatives."

"In choosing Salt Lake City, we (the SBC) show that we're serious about the Bold in Bold Mission Thrust," said Mark Coppenger, vice president for public relations for the Executive Committee.

CP gifts pull even with last year

NASHVILLE—Cooperative Program unified gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the month of July were slightly higher than last year bringing the total for the year-to-date nearly identical with the previous year.

The July gifts totaled \$11,591,866 compared to the same month last year of \$11,475,800, an increase of \$116,066 or 1.01 percent, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer.

For the ten months of the SBC fiscal year, 1990-91, the total of \$117,234,356 was short of the comparable period of 1989-90 of \$117,740,707 by less than one-half of one percent (0.43).

Bailey Smith declines Jacksonville church

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Bailey Smith has decided not to accept the invitation of North Jacksonville Baptist Church to become its pastor.

Smith, former SBC president, decided instead to remain with his evangelistic association based in Atlanta. Smith had actually accepted the Jacksonville church's invitation and was to have begun as its pastor this month.

Vestal returns to Texas as pastor of Tallowood

DALLAS—Daniel Vestal will return to Texas Sept. 16 as pastor of Tallowood Church in Houston. The 46-year-old pastor of Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, accepted the almost unanimous call of the church after preaching there at the morning worship service Aug. 19. He will assume the Houston pastorate on Sept. 16.

Vestal will be returning to Texas after three years at the Dunwoody church. Previously he was pastor of First Church, Midland, for 12 years.

Vestal has been a leader among moderate Southern Baptists and was instrumental in organizing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Baptist Mens' crews continue storm response

SWANSEA, Mass. (BP)—Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission disaster relief officials in Memphis, Tenn., have responded to a request from the American Red Cross and activated the Ohio and Kentucky Brotherhood Mobile Feeding Units in the wake of Hurricane Bob, which arrived Aug. 21.

Additional Kentucky cleanup units are on the way, and more volunteer crews from Virginia, Maryland, Indiana and South Carolina are on standby.

James Irwin, astronaut/minister, dies

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo.—Astronaut James Irwin, remembered for his scripture quote during an Apollo moon trip and for his unsuccessful search for Noah's Ark, died Aug. 9 of an apparent heart attack.

An ordained Southern Baptist minister and retired Air Force colonel, Irwin, 61, died at his home in Glenwood Springs, Colo. He suffered at least one earlier heart attack, following his trip to the moon in the Apollo 15 flight of 1971. He was buried Aug. 15 in Washington, D.C., with full military honors.

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New literature meets variety of needs

by Frank Wm. White
Baptist Sunday School Board

About two-thirds of Southern Baptist churches have fewer than 150 enrolled in Sunday School, and the SBC Sunday School Board is going to provide curriculum and a leadership magazine designed specifically for their particular needs.

With curriculum improvements to be introduced for use beginning in October 1991, the board's Convention Uniform Series materials will be designed primarily for use by churches with fewer than 150 enrolled in Sunday School.

Life and Work Series materials will be designed primarily for larger churches with 150 or more enrolled in Sunday School, while the Bible Book materials will meet the needs of churches of any size.

Churches are free to choose the curriculum that best meets their needs, but the Convention Uniform materials will be designed with smaller churches in mind, said Art Burcham, manager of the Sunday School general officer program section of the board.

Approximately 25,000 of Southern Baptists' more than 40,000 churches and missions have fewer than 150 enrolled in Sunday School. Many of the churches have long felt their needs were not addressed in the curriculum, Burcham said.

For smaller churches, terms such as Sunday School department large groups and age-graded classes are alien to the way they are organized. Many smaller churches may have one teaching unit for children and may have multiple age groups in a teaching unit. Sunday Schools are organized in classes rather than departments, he said.

Convention Uniform Series materials will be designed with just that type of organization in mind, Burcham said.

Because Convention Uniform materials already follow the same Scripture text for all age groups when possible, it works well with a structure where all Sunday School workers plan and train together rather than in age divisions, Burcham pointed out.

The shift in focus for Convention Uniform Series materials allows Life and Work Series materials to focus on a Sunday School organization with a department structure and closely age-graded organization, Burcham said.

To support the focus on smaller and larger church, age-group leadership magazines will be discontinued and replaced by the *Sunday School Leader*; *Smaller Church Edition*, published quarterly, and the *Sunday School Leader: Large Church Edition*, published monthly.

The edition for larger churches will



ABN photo / Colleen Backus

All Sizes

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— Based on the *King James Version*.

— Covers all 66 books of the Bible in a way that is consistent with the nature of each book.

— Youth and adults study the same Bible passages.

— Separate periodicals available for members and teachers.

— Resources designed for planning with other workers during weekly meetings.

Larger churches

The Life and Work Series for youth and adults, and the Life and Work Foundation Series for preschoolers and children, are designed primarily for churches with more than 150 enrolled in Sunday school.

— Bible study related to life and the life and work of the Southern Baptists.

— Different Bible passages for each age division.

— Based on *New International Version* with some children's and preschool Bible verses from the *King James Version*.

Smaller churches

The Convention Uniform Series presents major areas of the Bible according to the needs of the learner.

— Designed primarily for churches with 150 or fewer enrolled in Sunday school.

— Six-year study plan covering major areas of the Bible.

— Youth and adult study same passages. Occasional alternate passages selected for preschoolers and children.

— Based on *King James Version* — Resources designed for workers who often plan alone.

relate to pastors, ministers of education and other staff members as well as Sunday School directors and other general officers, and division and department workers.

Leaders will find help for weekly workers meetings, understanding the basics of age-group work and developing leadership skills. Age-group leadership magazines will be included in the teachers' materials when improvements are introduced.

The edition for smaller churches will target the pastor, Sunday School directors, other general officers and workers in all age

groups. The magazine will especially relate to bivocational pastors.

The smaller-church magazine is a particular focus for a Sunday School director who serves in a church that does not have a minister of education. In it will be suggestions for Sunday School assemblies and guidelines for conducting weekly and monthly workers meetings.

Both magazines will make a real effort to help the pastor see his role as leader of the Sunday School and offer help for pastors in that leadership role.

Breakthrough improvements

From simplified teaching plans for preschool teachers to more Bible stories for preschoolers and children, an optional notebook for youth and an increased focus on evangelism for adults, youth and older children, improvements in Southern Baptist Sunday School literature are based on requests of Sunday School workers.

Breakthrough improvements will be introduced in literature for use beginning in October 1991 and will involve all three lines of Sunday School curriculum produced by the SBC Sunday School Board.

Improvements focus on greater emphasis on the Bible, increased evangelism and application, greater ease of use and increased attractiveness.

For youth, an optional notebook, *WORData: Youth Bible Study and Evangelism System*, will provide a hands-on, personalized approach to Bible study. The notebook has 184 pages of additional information to supplement quarterly materials. It includes prayer guides, evangelism aids, Bible study aids and Bible background materials.

While teachers in all age levels will find two teaching plans offering basic and expanded teaching approaches, the two-plan approach meets a need expressed particularly in the children's area, said Muriel Blackwell, manager of the Sunday School preschool-children's department.

Life and Work Foundation Series material for children will have month-long projects in the expanded plan, while Convention Uniform Series Materials will include a month-long project as one of the additional activity suggestions in the expanded plan.

Both preschool and children's teachers will find more Bible stories that will avoid unnecessary repetition. Preschool teachers materials will include simplified teaching plans to show each session's relation to the Bible teaching aim.

With the discontinuation of age-group leadership magazines, articles and materials for age-group leaders will be included in the teachers' periodicals.

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Testament to teaching

by Matthew Brady
Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH (BP)—It seems to former Indiana pastor David Garland that no matter where he goes, he sees a former student.

That's because in his 31 years as professor of Old Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Garland estimates he has taught more than 18,000 students. Since his retirement, effective July 31, Garland admits he will miss the students the most.

"You can learn an awful lot from them—about, the effects of Christianity upon their lives upon their dreams and hopes," he said.

It is these students who, Garland believes, make Southwestern "the shortest distance around the world.

"It's just amazing. You can go almost any place in the world and run upon someone who has been a student of yours," he said.

And that reminds him of the time he and his family were on sabbatical leave sailing

across the Atlantic Ocean on the Queen Elizabeth. In the ship's laundry room his wife met two American women whose husbands had graduated from Southwestern. They were on their way to Africa as missionaries.

"There is no way of determining the influence of this student body around the world, and to be given an opportunity to participate in the ministry here is just one of the great things that happens in life," he said.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Garland attended Union University before joining the U.S. Navy during World War II.

But he had felt called to pastoral ministry since his middle teens, so soon after the war ended he entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

At Southern, Garland concentrated on Old Testament, earning both the bachelor's of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees.

After his seminary career, Garland served as pastor at Baring Cross Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Ark., for seven and one-half years. And while he thought teaching might be in his future, he was not seeking a position when Robert Naylor, then president at Southwestern, approached him about a position at the seminary in 1958.

"If I have any talents or gifts, I think they are probably in the classroom," Garland said. "I'm most comfortable there, plus I enjoy and appreciate the students. I have



David Garland

a lot of confidence and trust that they are going to make a difference in the world."

Next to the students Garland said he will miss his colleagues on the faculty who he said, are "great men who have had a profound influence upon my life."

As for parting advice for his colleagues and students Garland said simply to "keep doing what we've been doing, and try to do it better. Stand by your convictions no matter what it costs."

Mitchell chosen for CLC post

NASHVILLE (BP)—Christian ethicist Carl Benjamin Mitchell, 36, will be nominated for the position of director of biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land will present Mitchell to the CLC's board of trustees for approval at the board meeting Sept. 10-12 in Nashville.

In addition to biomedical ethics, Mitchell's job responsibilities will include all those currently assigned to Robert M. Parham, who resigned from the CLC effective Sept. 1 to head the new Baptist Center for Ethics. Parham was the CLC's director of hunger and drug concerns and race relations.

Mitchell will complete his Ph.D. course work in biomedical ethics at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in December. If approved, he will join the CLC staff in February and plans to complete his dissertation and receive his Ph.D. degree by May 1993.

He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological.

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Convention Uniform*The blessed encourager*

by Bob Parsley, First Church, Dardenelle

Basic passage: Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-30; 12:35

Focal passage: Acts 9:26-30; 11:19-26, 29-30

Central truth: Barnabas was a great Christian because he was an encourager.

Barnabas is one of the great heroes of the Bible. He was from the island of Cyprus and was cited as sharing his wealth with the Jerusalem church earlier in the book of Acts (4:36-37). His real name was Joseph, but he was nicknamed Barnabas, which meant "son of encouragement." Barnabas was a spirit-filled Christian (11:24).

After Paul escaped from Damascus (2 Co. 11:33), he travelled to Jerusalem for the first time. The apostles there were cool to Paul and may have thought he was only playing a dirty trick on them by pretending to be a Christian. Barnabas spoke up for Paul and his ministry in Damascus. He encouraged Paul and persuaded the church at Jerusalem to accept him as a brother.

Years passed until we next hear of Barnabas journeying to Antioch of Syria in order to help teach the Gentiles who were coming to Christ. He soon realized he needed help and called for Paul from Tarsus. They began a great partnership of teaching for a full year and became loved by the congregation. It was in Antioch that believers were first called "Christians" or "Christ's men" (11:26). Barnabas and Paul worked together in a beautiful way for the church which would eventually send them as missionaries to the Gentile world.

They also proved to be a blessing to the church in Jerusalem. Famine struck all of Judea and Christians in Jerusalem were suffering. The Antioch church collected a love offering which was delivered by Barnabas and Paul in the year A.D. 44. By sharing this offering the Jewish Christians were shown the love of Gentile Christians. By working together, Barnabas and Paul demonstrated that racial differences could be bridged between believers.

None of these good things would have happened without the encouragement of Barnabas. God used him to build cooperation in the lives of individuals and churches. We need modern-day Christians who are willing to become like Barnabas.

Life and Work*God knows our needs*

by Bob Harper, First Church, White Hall

Basic passage: Matthew 6:1, 7-15

Focal passage: Matthew 6:8

Central truth: Jesus instructs us to be honest and genuine with ourselves as we talk to the omniscient God.

Sometimes you and I are guilty of focusing on what we should say to God, rather than seriously considering why we should talk to him. We devote our energies to trying to say the "right things" instead of communicating what is on our hearts and minds. We need to remind ourselves periodically that we don't pray to meet God's needs, but that we pray so he can meet our needs. If our pride and our own desires overshadow the real intent of why we communicate with God, then what we say may make little difference.

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to pray only after he has shared with them that the Father already knows their needs. Thus, prayer is not to inform God, but to become informed by him. Thus, we should spend more time listening to God and less time "babbling like pagans" (Mt. 6:7).

Jesus instructs us to begin our prayer time with a focus on God not self; to remember where he is, not where we are; to consider what his will is, not what we want before we begin to focus on our personal petitions. We would be amazed how many of our "problems" would be solved and our questions answered if we would simply begin to pray in this manner.

Jesus certainly is not telling us that God does not have time for us. Jesus is letting us see that God sees the "real needs" we have and shares a formula for prayer with us that is not rigid, but liberating.

When we listen to God first, reverently seeking his will and kingdom to come here on earth, then our needs for daily bread, forgiveness, and strength in the face of temptation are quickly answered. Realizing our Father knows what we need before we ask him does not decrease our responsibility in prayer, but increases it.

Jesus leaves no doubt about our responsibility in forgiveness of our brothers. Verses 14-15 clearly lay down the ground rules for how God will forgive us. Thus, the terms and actions of an "unforgiving Christian" are simply not biblical. God really does know what we need!

Bible Book*The evil result*

by R.V. Haygood, First Church, Garfield

Basic passage: 1 Kings 15:25-16:30

Focal passage: 1 Kings 15:25-27, 33-34; 16:12-13, 16-19, 23-30

Central truth: Children are cursed by the influence of ungodly parents.

The iniquity (wrong, twisted, or crooked thinking) of the fathers will be visited upon the children for generations (Dt. 5:9). A child tends to accept whatever they experience in their early years as normal and, therefore, right. Unless they are strongly influenced otherwise, they will continue the same pattern of life.

Israel's Northern Kingdom experienced a succession of kings, each of whom led the nation deeper into idolatrous worship of the golden calves Jeroboam had introduced. Nadab, Jeroboam's son, reigned only two years, before Baasha conspired against him and took the throne. He killed all of Jeroboam's descendants, thus fulfilling prophecy (1 K. 14:7-11).

Baasha continued to lead Israel in the same path of sin. He was succeeded by his son, Elah, who was assassinated and replaced by Zimri after only two years. "Zimri destroyed all the house of Baasha for all the sins of Baasha and Elah his son by which they made Israel to sin" and provoked God to anger (1 K. 16:12-13).

Zimri lasted only seven days. When the military troops heard that he had killed the royal family, they proclaimed Omri, the military commander, king. They besieged the capital, and Zimri committed suicide by burning the palace over him (1 K. 16:16-19).

Up to this point, Israel had at least pretended to worship Jehovah God even while perverting this allegiance with idol worship and the degradation that accompanies it. But when Omri's son, Ahab, took the throne, he plunged them even deeper into wickedness. He built a house and altar for the worship of Baal in the capital city of Samaria. He not only worshipped Baal himself, but allowed his wife, Jezebel, to freely oppose God's prophets.

Ahab "did more to provoke... God... to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him" (1 K. 16:33). Thus we see the insidious nature of sin. What began as a variation from God's plan for worship of Jehovah resulted in total rejection of God and all he stands for.

Lesson
Date: _____
Sept. 15

LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

A heart to heart sermon

by Bob Parsley, First Church, Dardennelle

Basic passage: Acts 13:1-3, 13-52

Focal passage: Acts 13:26-39

Central truth: Paul used convincing words to present the gospel.

Some people complain of sermons which put them asleep. In this passage we find an example of a sermon delivered from Paul to the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia. Paul and Barnabas traveled to this crossroads city during their first missionary journey, after first stopping in Cyprus and Pamphylia. It was a sermon the crowd would never forget.

Paul used the same approach that Peter and Stephen exercised in sermons recorded earlier in Acts (chapters 2, 3, and 7). He made a quick review of Israel's history with an eye toward unveiling the promise of Jesus as the Christ, or Messiah, for all people. Jesus was rejected by the religious and political leaders and crucified. On the third day, God the Father resurrected his son from the tomb. Paul carefully declared resurrection as central to the gospel message (Act. 13:30).

Paul went on to explain that the salvation offered by Jesus was ignored in Jerusalem because (1) religious leaders would not accept Jesus as the true Christ, and (2) people, in general, lacked an understanding of biblical prophecy. Paul used Old Testament messianic passages (Ps. 2:7; 16:10; Is. 55:3) to demonstrate the foretelling of Jesus' resurrection.

The great doctrine of justification also was previewed here in 13:38-39. Later, Paul would magnify this teaching in the books of Romans and Galatians. It is only when a person has made a personal relationship with the risen Christ that he or she can be made right with God. Justification is the work begun by God which brings humanity into proper relationship with God, the world, and other people. Forgiveness displayed on the cross by Jesus provides the acceptance needed for salvation. Forgiveness is never the by-product of human effort or the law itself.

Many were saved after hearing the message from Paul in Antioch of Pisidia. A successful sermon always reaches hearers in their hearts and simply offers the timeless truth of the gospel. We need more sermons like this one in our churches today.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lessons for October Yearning, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Missions. Used by permission.

Life and Work

God knows our attitudes

by Bob Harper, First Church, White Hall

Basic passage: Luke 18:1-14

Focal passage: Luke 18:1,14

Central truth: God honors a humble persistence and a teachable spirit in the prayers of his children.

The old saying that someone who nags gets attention just like the squeaky wheel gets oil holds true more often than not. Is this gospel writer telling us that we should persist in prayer until God gives in and grants our desires? Or does the combination of these two parables back to back speak to us of a different attitude toward prayer?

Certainly God does not answer every prayer just as it is offered. If he did, think of what a mess our world would be in. If one farmer prays for rain and another farmer prays for sunshine, and the rain comes does this mean that the farmer praying for rain was more persistent, or closer to God? Or perhaps that God really sees the whole picture and allows the rain to fall on the just and unjust alike.

The truth of the matter is that God will bring about justice for his chosen ones because of their attitude toward his lordship and not because of their arrogant desire to have things their own way.

Verse 9 is the transition point of the passage as Jesus shows us the attitude of those who thought they had arrived in righteousness. The attitude of the Pharisee was "look at who I am and what I have done for God," while the tax collector focused on what God had done for him. Our attitude in prayer must not be "what I can get God to do for me," but rather "what God desires for me to do for him and his kingdom."

It is difficult to always maintain a positive attitude as a Christian. The easy way out is to give up and stop communicating with God or to communicate with a negative attitude. Far too many children of God have resorted to this type of attitude in their prayers with God.

If we will develop a persistent and patient attitude in our prayer lives just like the widow had, and be as humble as the tax collector, to our delight we will discover that God is exalting us to a new height of communication and blessing from him.

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Bible Book

Jehovah's victory over Baal

by R.V. Haygood, First Church, Garfield

Basic passage: 1 Kings 18

Focal passage: 1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-26, 36-39

Central truth: One who honors God can be totally confident of victory.

"The God that answereth by fire, let him be God" (1 K. 18:24). Every king of the Northern Kingdom had continued the evil practices of calf worship introduced by Jeroboam. Ahab was actually entertaining the prophets of the baals and asherah in the palace and Jezebel was actively promoting this worship in Israel.

Israel had turned to men's fertility gods in an effort to insure good crops. Baal was supposed to provide the rain, sun, and other ingredients at the proper time and in the necessary amounts to produce abundant grains and fruit. God had already proven these false gods to be powerless by sending a three-year drought.

Now God had chosen to show his power over Baal in a direct contest to determine once and for all who should be the God of Israel. The people were called together to observe while two animals were prepared for sacrifice. They would be placed on altars, and the god who answered by sending fire to consume the sacrifice would be recognized as God (1 K. 18:19-24).

The 450 prophets of Baal called from morning until evening, but "there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regardeth" (1 K. 18:29). Elijah then prayed, "O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God." God responded by sending fire, which fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the dust and licked up the water that was in the trench.

"When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and said, The Lord, he is God" (1 K. 18:39). And so it is today. Persons place their confidence and hope in all kinds of things which will only disappoint them in their time of real need. But God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ep. 3:20). The proof of his existence and power can be seen in the changed lives of those who become new creatures through Christ. Others will see this miraculous change and glorify God (Mt. 5:16).

"Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph. . ." (2 Co. 2:14).

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Parks urges new global thrust

Offers leadership until 1995

by Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Keith Parks returned from a mountain pilgrimage with a vision for powerful new foreign missions initiatives to help Southern Baptists reach their Bold Mission Thrust goals.

The Foreign Mission Board president, who will turn 65 in October 1992, also expressed personal commitment to lead preparations up to a 1995 launch date for his "Missions 21" vision, which extends to the 21st century.

Parks told FMB trustees at their August meeting the agency's current administrative leadership should remain in place until 1995 to maintain the momentum and direction it will take to accomplish the preparations.

"After that, a transition could be made (in administrative leadership) without hindering what we have prayed and worked so long to accomplish," said Parks, a 37-year veteran of missions.

He was referring to Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's 25-year

plan for sharing the message of Jesus Christ with all people of the world by A.D. 2000.

His 10-point vision for a revitalized Bold Mission Thrust calls for an international mobilization of people of all ages and backgrounds—from students to retirees.

His 10-point plan would:

1. Challenge missionaries and overseas Baptists to convene regional meetings in 1992 to find better ways to evangelize all nations and unreached peoples.

2. Call a worldwide consultation for 1995 to coordinate plans for "extensive worldwide evangelistic efforts" in 1999-2000.

3. Challenge at least 10,000 college students to begin cultural and language studies no later than 1995 and spend 1999 'overseas in world evangelization or (in) becoming tentmakers' to work and witness in nations closed to missions.

4. Challenge 5,000 lay people and church staff members planning to retire between 1995 and 2000 to volunteer to spend 1999 in world evangelization or in starting a second career overseas.

5. Assist Baptist seminaries, universities and state conventions to help this new kind of volunteer gain cross-cultural communications skills.

6. Unite Southern Baptist and international Baptist bodies to provide massive evangelistic training in 1997-98 to prepare

for 1999-2000 "as the greatest year of harvest in our history."

7. Challenge every association of Baptist churches "to pray forth at least two additional career missionaries, plus enough additional funding for support and operational expenses by the year 1995."

8. Determine how many countries beyond those where missionaries are now assigned should have a foreign mission witness and initiate action by the year 2000.

9. Work with other evangelistic Christians to target every major people group with evangelical witness by 2000.

10. Challenge every Southern Baptist church to develop regular prayer for missionaries and world evangelization—and at least 12,000 churches to pray specifically for an unreached people group.

The time is short to respond to new opportunities like those in Eastern Europe and the Persian Gulf, where world events have made dramatic changes and "God is knocking down walls and opening doors," Parks said.

"Many say the Foreign Mission Board is the flagship of our denomination," he said. "Some see it as the hope for our convention's future. However, this awesome responsibility can only be fulfilled with unquestioned spiritual commitment and transparent integrity. My conviction is that if we are unified around a vision like this, God will still be pleased to use Southern Baptists. But we must focus on the highest priorities. . . . We must maintain our sound scripturally-based mission philosophy."

'Green light' given for Soviet trip

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Word came Aug. 21 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to a team of young adult volunteers that their Sept. 2-10 trip to the Soviet Union has been confirmed. The group includes several Arkansans (see ABN, 8/15/91, p. 24).

Team members waited anxiously from the beginning of the attempted coup to oust Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to know whether their trip would happen as planned.

The team has been preparing for months to distribute 70,000 Russian language New Testaments in three cities in the Soviet Union, as well as to conduct a variety of other ministries and worship services in each city at the invitation of Soviet Baptists.

"We see this as an opportune time and not inopportune," said Tom Warrington, associate area director for Europe for the Foreign Mission Board. "We have been in touch with our missionaries in Moscow and foresee no problems," he said.

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Yugoslavian camp burned

Croatian churches pray for peace

by Art Toalston & Stanley Crabb
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (BP)—Baptists in Yugoslavia have lost their "God's Valley" camp facilities to mounting violence that continues to disrupt the republic of Croatia.

The two buildings at the camp, located on the Adriatic Sea about 40 miles from Zagreb, were reported burned in mid-August. But fighting in the area has made it impossible to assess the damage firsthand.

Meanwhile, many people continue to die in daily clashes in the conflict. They range from unarmed civilians to Croatian freedom fighters, soldiers from the republic of Serbia who comprise Yugoslavia's federal army, and armed Serbian insurgents, or "terrorists" as they're described in Croatia, reported Danica Jrgovic. Jrgovic is a Christian worker in the Croatian capital of Zagreb and a member of First Baptist Church there.

A Baptist pastor who also teaches in a high school in the city of Petrinja said one of his top students, a 16-year-old girl, was among a number of people killed in gunfire between Croatian fighters and Serbian soldiers when the soldiers attacked several villages in July.

Warfare in Croatia has made refugees of about 36,000 people, Jrgovic said in a telephone interview Aug. 20. About 15,000 refugees have come to Zagreb, and Christians in the city have initiated relief efforts in cooperation with the Croatian government to provide shelter, food, clothing and medicine. Some of the refugees' homes have been burned or bombed, Jrgovic said.

"In Zagreb we're still safe, but there's fighting 30 kilometers away," she said.

"In the churches all over Croatia, and on the squares every night with candles, there are prayer meetings," Jrgovic said. The prayer movement was initiated in early August by the Catholic bishop of the predominantly Catholic republic.

At First Baptist Church in Zagreb, the nightly prayer meeting starts at 7 p.m. and continues for at least an hour, Jrgovic said. Prayers are for peace and "for Christians in areas where there's fighting every day." Bible readings focus on passages "where God is promising he will protect us."

The Catholic leader, Bishop Kuharic, appealed to Metropolitan Paul, the key religious leader in predominantly Eastern Orthodox Serbia, suggesting they meet to discuss ways to resolve tensions between

Croats and Serbs. But the Orthodox leader refused the offer, Jrgovic said.

Yugoslavia's tensions also have affected Baptists. They amicably divided their national Baptist union into four republic-level unions, but still plan to work together in home missions and theological education.

More than half of Yugoslavia's 120 Baptist churches and missions are in Croatia.

Some of the worst fighting, including bombing attacks by the Yugoslav military, has taken place in eastern Croatia where the republic borders Serbia. The federal army has barred any reporting of the fighting there, Jrgovic said. "Nobody knows the real truth of what has happened. Maybe one day we will ... but until now we really do not know what has happened to the villages there."

A 20-member youth team was working at the Baptist camp in mid-July when a threat against the camp was received. It was immediately reported to local police, who came to escort the group from the area.

Jrgovic expressed concern for the Baptist church nearest the camp, at the village of Barcuga. "We haven't heard from them for a long time. There were about 30 members in this church, and others from the villages attended church there as well."

Baptists had suspended the camp's regular summer sessions this year after the country's mounting tensions caused camp registrations to tumble to 15, compared to several hundred youth and adults in a typical season. The camp, which opened in 1971, was built by Yugoslav Baptists with the help of volunteers from the United States and England.

"We don't know what may happen to our church buildings," said Zelimir Snee, home missions secretary of the Baptist Union of Yugoslavia, after the camp was burned. "In some areas they are endangered also."

Snee also reported two pastors departed their churches in strife-ridden areas to leave Yugoslavia, and at least two other pastors have moved to more secure regions of the country. "The economic situation in Yugoslavia is a disaster," Jrgovic said, citing reports the country has lost an estimated \$5 billion in tourist income along the Adriatic Sea. "Really, there is no Yugoslavia anymore; the country is falling apart."

Snee commented: "No one expected the situation would become so critical for us. We feel the need of help from our brothers and sisters all over the world."