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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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February 27, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Small churches are
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February 27, 1986

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Canfield Church, a congregation just a few miles from the Louisiana line, is typical of Southern Baptist churches in many ways, but unique in some aspects because of the number of members. The church is one of the subjects of this month's Helpline feature on pages 10 and 11.

In this issue

4 love reaches to Wyoming

Through Southern Baptists, God's love reaches to every corner of the United States. This feature profiles an Arkansas native who serves as director of missions in two distant Wyoming associations.

19 record baptisms overseas

Baptists related to SBC foreign mission work reported record baptisms in 1985. One mission field reported one baptism for each 2.2 members. This article provides an overview of what Southern Baptists get for their foreign missions investment.

Associate executive director dies

L. L. Collins Jr., associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, died Tuesday, Feb. 18, in St. Joseph's Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, of complications after a massive stroke.

Dr. Collins, who joined the state convention staff in 1981, was participating in Scholars' Week activities at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth when he was hospitalized with a bladder infection Saturday, Feb. 15. He suffered the stroke Monday, Feb. 17, while in the hospital.

Collins, 55, a Texas native, was a graduate of Jacksonville (Texas) Baptist College; Baylor University, Waco, Texas; and Southwestern Seminary, where he earned the M. Div. and Th. D. degrees. He served as pastor of churches in



Collins

Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma prior to joining the faculty of Southwestern Seminary in 1973. He was director of admissions and registrar at the seminary 1974-1981. After the death of Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Secretary Huber L. Drumright in 1981, Collins served for one year as interim executive secretary.

Surviving Collins are his wife, Cleo Weldon Collins, of Little Rock; two daughters, Debra Lee Parker of Marietta, Ga., and Sharon Kay Fox of Port Arthur, Texas; one son, Leo Bryan Collins of Houston, Texas; a mother, Mrs. C.M. Lovell of Woodville, Texas; one sister; one brother and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Feb. 20 at South Hills Church, Fort Worth, and a memorial service was held Feb. 22 at Calvary Church, Little Rock. The family requested memorials be made to the Scholarship Fund at Southwestern Seminary or a memorial fund established with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Top 10 giving churches named by F&CCS

Ten Arkansas Baptist churches have been named as the top contributors to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services in 1985, according to Johnny G. Biggs, executive director of the organization.

Leading all contributors by a wide margin was Hope First Church in Southwest Association, with total 1985 gifts of \$35,097.50.

Following, in order, were El Dorado First, Liberty Association, \$12,149.44; Pine Bluff First, Harmony Association, \$7,790.64; Little Rock Ceyer Springs First, Pulaski Association,

\$6,347.83; Prescott First, Red River Association, \$5,402;

Hot Springs Second, Central Association, \$5,147.55; Keo Church, Caroline Association, \$5,079.03; Russellville First, Dardanelle-Russellville Association, \$4,118.50; Smackover First, Liberty Association, \$3,812.50; and Sparkman First, Carey Association, \$3,612.

Total contributions to the organization in 1985 amounted to \$452,825.62.

Hospital dedicated in Forrest City ceremony

FORREST CITY—More than 5,000 persons from eastern Arkansas swamped the 118-bed, \$15 million Baptist Memorial Hospital in Forrest City Feb. 9 for the dedication of that new facility. The three-story, yellow brick structure, located on 55 acres off Interstate 40 on Crowley's Ridge Road, began admitting patients Feb. 10.

Joseph H. Powell, president of Baptist

Memorial Health Care System, which operates the facility; St. Francis County Judge Carl Cisco; and Forrest City Mayor Danny Ferguson addressed the assembly. Henry G. West of Blytheville, secretary of the hospital's board of directors, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Kerry Powell, pastor of Forrest City First Church, delivered the invocation.

Pre-order date March 15 for SBC Book of Reports

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Messengers to the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 10-12 who want to insure they have a copy of the Book of Reports must order them prior to March 15.

Books may be ordered by sending name, address, city, state and zip code, along with a check payable to the SBC Executive Committee for \$3.50 for each book, to: Book of Reports, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203. A separate request should be included for each book ordered.

A receipt will be sent which can be used to secure a copy of the reports in the registration area at the Atlanta convention site, according to an Executive Committee spokesman. Individuals who order and are then unable to attend the convention may return their receipt and a copy of the book will be mailed to them immediately following the convention.

A limited number of copies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the registration desk.



[Editor's note: The following guest editorial was written by James L. Sullivan, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and respected authority on Baptist polity.]

Baptists have adopted the congregational form of church government to protect the welfare of local congregations and thus to defend the religious freedom of its members. However, in history a more aggravating problem still faced them. That concerned the way local churches would relate to each other. Should they compete, ignore each other or find a way of cooperating so as to help each other have a world witness and impact for spiritual good? Discovering how this could be done, historically, was a much bigger problem than most people today realize.

Several systems emerged as Baptist churches were seeking a solution to this problem. Some efforts failed miserably. Others resulted in losses of certain individual liberties. Still others elicited cooperation of vast numbers of local churches in massive mission objectives with their religious liberties still intact.

One system of denominational administration to emerge was the independent local church idea, which expresses itself today in independent Baptist church movements. Feeling that the loss of some degree of their liberty was a price for cooperation, they chose to go it alone. In essence each local church was to be a denomination within itself. For a while some of these churches seemed to thrive and prosper. Almost without exception, however, they would fade from the scene when some strong pastor would get old or die. Too, their works are woefully limited to what one congregation can do. Such was far short of the worldwide ministry required in Scripture. One church can promote missions by itself, but it cannot put on a worldwide mission program by itself. Such a limited approach is obviously an extreme and handicapping one.

The opposite extreme in church administration was for churches to set up a super church with a world head, a controlling body and a powerful human director. Under this system the buildings would be centrally owned, funds would be centrally managed and programs would be centrally developed and promoted. Even the pastors would be centrally assigned without local churches being consulted as to who their spiritual leaders would be. Such an approach was rejected by Baptists because it would grind human liberties to powder, destroy the creativity of persons and congregations and stifle initiative in many other ways. Inertia would often result. There would be varying degrees of control over local congregations. Some denominational systems have been

more extreme than others, but the hierarchical base is the pattern by which lesser control systems have emerged.

There is yet another approach. It is one which certain Baptists have practiced, but it, too, has extreme limitations. It is a system in which the denomination operates separate and apart from the local churches. It is done so the local churches would not be required to engage in united actions. This is usually referred to as the "society system." Under the plan, Baptist colleges have self-perpetuating boards and the various institutions would be set up where they would be supported by the persons who would make the contributions to carry on the work assigned to that board, agency or institution.

While this is a system with certain advantages in which institutions can be more easily born, the system in time tends to create situations in which those institutions can be separated from the people. They then lose their denominational identity. The witness they then give is quite different from the original purposes that brought that board or agency into being.

The Southern Baptist approach is for churches to work together in eliciting support and cooperation from the many local autonomous congregations to carry on a worldwide work of missions, education, and charity. The Southern Baptist Convention is not made up of churches. Rather, it is made up of messengers from the churches. This is to keep the Convention from becoming a super church with controlling powers over local congregations. The Convention does not control the churches.

Under our system, local trustee groups are elected by the Convention to operate those institutions and agencies which the Convention feels are necessary to help the churches do the job they are to do. At the same time, provisions are made for such cooperation. No church is ever coerced. Any time there might be a violation of conscience, a person or a congregation could simply decline to cooperate in a project. . . .

This has proven to be the best balance between freedom and responsibility ever devised. It keeps the churches free. At the same time, it provides a vehicle by which thousands of churches can cooperate to do a worldwide work which could not be done without such a method.

History has validated the convictions of our fathers. The best way of doing the work is God's way, as free men worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences and work for causes on their hearts, supporting them with gifts through their local churches.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas' third largest publication,
meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

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NUMBER 9

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

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Reaching out in pioneer areas: Paul Lewis

by Carol S. Garrett

In a chapel meeting at Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia, a missionary asked students a question: "If 10 men were carrying a log, nine at the light end and one at the heavy end, who would you help?"

For young student Paul Lewis, the answer was obvious. It was so obvious, in fact, he began building a ministry around helping that one lone man carry the heavy end of the log.

Today Paul Lewis is a home missionary stationed in Cheyenne, Wyo. His work centers around helping start new Southern Baptist churches in an area where the need is great and the workers few.

Lewis is the director of missions for both the Frontier and Energy Basin Associations. Of the 160,000 people living in this area, only 12 to 14 percent are in any church at all. "Wyoming is rugged. People live off the land, and the attitude is more of a trust in themselves than in God," Lewis said. The atmosphere in this wilderness mission field is laid back and relaxed.

Beginning a conversation about spiritual things isn't difficult. "Most of these people will talk with you about God. Just about everybody will visit with you, take time with you," Lewis said. The difficulty is helping them replace a dependence on themselves with a dependence on a personal relationship with Christ.

There are nine Southern Baptist churches in both the Frontier and Energy Basin Associations. Frontier Association has six missions, and Energy Basin one. These churches are in an area about 300 miles wide and 80 miles long. Often there are 70 to 80 miles between towns.

With so few churches and so much distance between them, pastors often feel isolated and alone. The work is hard, and sometimes the results seem slim in coming. Lewis traveled more than 40,000 miles last year offering himself as a resource person, counselor and friend. "Pastors need somebody to talk to, too," he said.

Often just his listening has made a dif-



Arkansas native Paul Lewis (left), Home Mission Board appointed director of missions for Frontier and Energy Basin Associations near Cheyenne, Wyo., estimates only 12 to 14 percent of the area's 160,000 people are churched. Starting new churches like Mision Bautista Emmanuel, the only language work in the association, is a priority of his work.

ference in whether a pastor continued his work. "One of the biggest problems we have here is having pastors who are willing to come and stay," Lewis said.

And what the people need, he continued, is to see a constancy on the part of both the pastor and the church. "They need to see that the pastor is there to stay, and that the church is there to stay," he said.

The work that has been established is solid. A church with 25 members may baptize 10 people in a year. "Those are good statistics," Lewis said. The Frontier Association is working toward starting 12 new missions in the next five years.

Lewis is grateful that the Week of Prayer for Home Missions calls attention to needs in pioneer areas. "Prayer doesn't change things, it changes people, and people change

things. A change in attitude can bring about a commitment to reaching people," he said. This type of commitment could ultimately result in individuals sending themselves to areas such as the one where Lewis serves.

Prayer that causes commitment can also change the life of a church. "God always blesses the work and provides the needs of churches that put a priority on reaching people for Christ," Lewis said.

Pray for Paul Lewis and the work Southern Baptists are doing in Wyoming. Pray for the more than 3,700 home missionaries during the March 2-9 Week of Prayer for Home Missions. Pray that God will bring you and your church to greater commitment and service.

Carol S. Garrett is a writer for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

How Far Love Reaches

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 2-9, 1986

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$33,500,000

You'll be glad to know...

... New church start efforts are already paying off. Even with some churches disbanding and one or two others withdrawing from cooperating with the convention, we have had a net increase of three churches reporting in 1985. You will see this pick up significantly this year. The groundwork has been laid, property bought and sponsors established for a number of new works.



Moore

I recently preached in a relatively young church which has already bought property to start another church. They want to do for other people what their mother church did for them. Could such a ministry unfold for you and your church? If you think it could, give us a call and let us help you.

... Associations and churches have joined together to help bear the expense of Good News America advertising! How we do thank you! God bless you for joining together with your brothers and sisters to do a good work. Television time and billboard rent is expensive. If you and your church or association can help supply this need, it would be appreciated.

... The time draws ever so near for our Good News Revivals. In fact, they are so close we should begin to feel strong rumblings of God's activity in our midst. Prayers, preaching, visitation and cultivation should be reflecting our growing concern and God's increased activity. If these are not beginning to vibrate with Holy Spirit power, then emergency measures need to be taken. Desperation praying, fasting and repentance on the part of all concerned are some of the measures that should be considered.

We cannot afford to have meetings and call them revivals if God's power is not manifested in saving and life-changing experiences. For many, this will be the last time around to preach or witness. For others, it will be the last opportunity for backsliders to return to God. For some, it will be their last chance to be saved. "Oh God, we must have revival, real revival!"

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



Letters to the editor

Peace at any price?

I believe Southern Baptists desire peace, but I do not think the average Southern Baptist wants peace at any price. Peace at any price in many cases is compromise. I do not believe we as Southern Baptists should compromise biblical truth, biblical doctrines and biblical principles.

Our Peace Committee has a monumental task of bringing both sides together without compromising the Word of God. The problem they are faced with is not a cooperative problem but a theological problem. I believe the committee will eventually come to this conclusion, if they don't already know it in their hearts.

We as Southern Baptists must not compromise on the great doctrinal issues that we have stood for, built upon and accepted throughout our existence.

It would be ideal to have full acceptance by all, of all, to do Christ's work in our world. But if we preach watered-down sermons, from a watered-down gospel, we will not be doing the work of Christ.

We must not come preaching "another gospel." I do not believe we can walk together and work together if part of us say the Bible contains errors and part of us say the Bible is God's inerrant word. We need peace among us if we are to reach our potential as a convention. We need to remember through that it is God who is reaching the lost for himself and he has always done it through the preaching and teaching of the truth. We need peace, and to that end we should pray, but we do not need peace at any cost of biblical compromise. — Cliff Hutchins, Jacksonville



The Southern accent

Jim Tillman

Investment, not charity

There is a big difference in a gift for investment and a gift for charity. We do not want to feel we are "giving away" our money, but investing it and getting something in return.

Southern Baptist College, for example, works with young people to equip them for the market place with professional skills in a Christian context. Support of this program helps produce solid, productive Christian citizens. In other words, we are getting something in return for our investment in Southern Baptist College.

The churches in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention invest in many worthy ministries through the Cooperative Program each month. Southern takes its place in these mission endeavors, and continues to be dedicated to being a good steward of these investments.

It takes a long time for some investments

to produce dividends. A church or an individual may send a check to advance the cause of Christ through this Christian college, and the results are immediate in many cases. A student pastor is influential in leading someone on his church field to Christ, a youth team from the college provides the catalyst to help a young person find the will of God, and the investment "pays off."

The mission of Southern Baptist College is to provide you, the investor, with opportunities to do great things, to challenge and inspire you, to involve you in enterprises that will make life better for our generation and future generations.

Thank you for investing in "The Campus of Christian Purpose."

Jim Tillman is vice president for development of Southern Baptist College.

Scholarship ended at Ouachita

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University recently received a gift of \$100,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Pat Henderson of England to establish the John William Henderson Scholarship Fund, named to honor the memory of Mr. Henderson's son.

"We are pleased that Mr. Henderson has chosen to honor his son in a way that will benefit young people at Ouachita for generations," said Roger Harrod, vice-president for development at Ouachita. "This gift evidences a great deal of confidence in Ouachita and its mission. We know that the

selection of this university as the recipient of this fine gift was not taken lightly, and we are committed to do our part in making this a fitting memorial to John."

Proceeds from the endowed fund will be awarded to one or more students preparing for the gospel ministry or for a teaching career, with the Ouachita Scholarship Committee determining both the amount and number of scholarships available each year. The recipient(s) of the first scholarship will be announced in May at Ouachita's annual academic awards ceremony.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Laramore

Raymond Laramore began serving Feb. 16 as pastor of Paragould Immanuel Church. A native of Belgrade, Mo., he is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of churches in both Missouri and Texas prior to moving to Arkansas. He and his wife, Donna, have three children, Todd, Michelle and Tammy.

Steve Dewbre joined the staff of Cabot First Church Feb. 23 as minister of education and administration. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of North Little Rock, he has served as children's church coordinator and youth minister for Wheatland Church in Fort Worth and also was a summer missionary in Syracuse, N.Y. Dewbre is married to the former Kathy Thy. They have two children, Erin Elizabeth and Benjamin Thy.

Kathy Holler of Jonesboro; Randy and Nan Maxwell of Batesville; and Robert Pruett and Bobby Shows of North Little Rock participated in a January senior adult special consultant's workshop and leadership lab at Ridgcrest Baptist Conference Center. The event was sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Senior Adult Section.

Faron G. Rogers is serving as pastor of Pochontas First Church, coming there from Trinity Church in Valliant, Okla.

Mike Pollard has resigned as pastor of Graphic Church in Clear Creek Association.

Frank Shook is serving as pastor of Oark Church. He is a graduate of College of the Ozarks and attended Jacksonville Christian Academy. He and his wife, La Tanya, have two children, Jason and Jacob.

Henry Hornbuckle of Kennett, Mo., is serving as pastor of Nimmons Church.

Fred Holst is serving as pastor of Peach Orchard Church. He is a student at Southern Baptist College.

Jackie Thomason is serving as pastor of Shiloh Church at Corning. He is a student at Southern Baptist College.

Kurt Caddy is serving as pastor of Greenway Church. He is a student at Southern Baptist College.

Eloise H. Short died Feb. 12 in Paris, Texas. A former Arkadelphia resident, she attended Mary Hardin-Baylor College. Survivors include her husband, Mark Short Sr., a former Arkansas music evangelist; three sons, Mark Short Jr. of New Orleans, retired Army Col. F.W. Short of Colorado Springs, Colo., and retired Army Lt. Col. J.W. Short of Paris; one brother; nine grandchildren, including Mark Short, minister of music at Fayetteville First Church; and 10 great-grandchildren.

briefly

Vimy Ridge Immanuel Church will observe Arkansas' sesquicentennial March 2 with a 10:55 a.m. service, according to pastor Danny Franke. J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, will be featured speaker. Donna Faith of North Little Rock will be guest musician. State officials present will be Gov. Bill Clinton, Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin and Rep. Larry Mitchell.

Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock held a Feb. 16 commissioning service for Edwina Walls. Walls will be serving as a missions volunteer for one month in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board.

Spring Lake Assembly at Lonsdale had two buildings, Pryor Hall and Finch Cabin, destroyed Feb. 8 by an arson fire, according to camp manager Charles Holcomb.

Gravel Hill Church at Benton ordained its pastor, Gary Gipson, to the gospel ministry Feb. 23.

Heber Springs First Church has voted to sponsor Center Ridge Church as a mission and has allocated \$22,500 to assist in the re-location of that mission to Highway 110 east of Heber Springs. They also will assist the mission with \$7,500 annual support from 1987 to 1989.

Marked Tree First Church ordained Rusty Holmes to the deacon ministry Jan. 26. Pastor Jim Cooper served as moderator

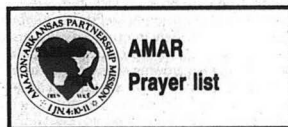
and delivered the ordination message. Kyle Sumpter led in the questioning. Other deacons assisting with the service were Frank O'Roark, Clyde King and C.M. Blain.

Ozark First Church ordained Greg Blackman, minister of youth, to the ministry Jan. 12. Those participating in the service were Pastor John C. Matthews; Randy Vest; George Domere, director of missions for Clear Creek Association; and Don Moore, executive director of Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Matthews Memorial Church at Pine Bluff recently observed payment of its parsonage indebtedness with a noteburning service. Charter members participating were Irene Ingram, Mary Sue Ellis, Doris Stamper, Ethyl Holt and George Watts. Pastor Edgar Bryan directed the service.

missionary notes

Mrs. Virginia W. Oliver, missionary to Brazil, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 1404, 66000 Belem, PA Brazil). The former Virginia Winters, she was born in Leslie. She and her late husband were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1950.



February 26 - March 12, Team from Benton County led by Al Maines and Mack Mills, Boa Vista, Roraima, church construction.

March 2-26, Mr. and Mrs. Benny Ellis, FBC, Harrison, printer, "Good News Para", Belem.

March 2-30, Donna Bannert, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Belem and Manaus, puppet ministry.

March 16-26, J.W. Rowe and Larry Barton, FBC, Hope and Harry Kennedy and Donald Parker, Calvary, Hope, Alenquer, Santarem.

For information about the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission, contact Glendon Grober, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 or (501) 376-4791.

Stereotypes stymie mutual understanding, former KGB agent says

by Mark Kelly

ABN photo / Mark Kelly

ARKADELPHIA—Citizens of the Soviet Union and the United States have much in common, despite their differences, and their failure to understand each other creates tremendous problems for each nation's security, a former Soviet intelligence agent told an Arkadelphia gathering recently.

Distorted stereotypes cause people to forget the humanity of other people, said Vladimir Sakharov, a former KGB agent who is now a U.S. citizen and professor of international affairs at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Sakharov was at Ouachita Baptist University as a guest of the Joint Educational Consortium, a project of Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University which is supported by foundation and endowment grants. The third speaker in a series on "Cultural Roots and Continuities," he spoke on "Conformity versus Dissent."

Sakharov recalled the misperceptions he had of the United States as a young person in the Soviet Union of the late 1950s and early 1960s, when increased cultural exchanges brought displays of expensive cars, glamorous fashion models and Hollywood movies to the U.S.S.R. Sakharov said he came to picture U.S. citizens as "free-wheeling, fun-loving individuals with virtually no limits on what they can do."

Upon his emigration to the U.S., however, he discovered that, although U.S. citizens do enjoy more freedom of expression than their Soviet counterparts, the U.S. also is a conformist society, with laws which govern the actions of its citizens.

He also discovered a view of the Soviet Union which he described as distorted and highly politicized. U.S. government-funded studies of the Soviet Union must conform to "acceptable" perspectives of the Soviets or face loss of federal funding, he said.

By the same token, U.S. movies and television commercials contribute to a popular view of Soviet citizens as "boring, stupid people who wear blue dresses to the beach," Sakharov complained. People then draw the easy conclusion, "Since we can't communicate with them, let's go wipe them out," a view reinforced by movies such as the "Rambo" series and "Rocky IV."

Such distorted stereotypes at both the popular and governmental levels create difficult national security problems, Sakharov pointed out. Governments and people who neither understand nor trust each other may be prone to grave mistakes in their relations.

Sakharov pictured Soviet society as a people in the turmoil of transition. Caught in a conservative reaction against the reformism of the last generation, the Soviet people are looking for a "strong leader," he said. Textbooks hail Josef Stalin for his leadership, ignoring his "purges" of millions of people and completely overlooking more moderate leaders such as Khrushchev, he noted.



Vladimir Sakharov, a former Soviet secret agent, told a crowd at Arkadelphia that distorted stereotypes keep the U.S. and Soviet people from understanding each other.

At the same time, various influences are placing tremendous pressure on Soviet society, Sakharov explained. The disaffection of Third World Soviet satellite countries and the rapid decline of oil prices—a major source of Soviet economic strength—are creating a need to try new directions in the U.S.S.R.

Sakharov also noted a rising tide of Moslems within the borders of the Soviet Union. Although the country's total population has fallen short of doubling in the last 60 years, Moslem areas have grown to three to five times their 1927 population. The emergence of a Moslem Soviet Union within 30 years will create strong new internal pressures, Sakharov predicted.

Such turmoil makes the Soviet Union a nation with little to lose and much to gain through international relations, Sakharov explained. As a result, "it is very important that Americans shake off the stereotypes of the Soviet people as boring and stupid" and try to influence the country where opportunities exist, such as cultural exchange and

commercial consumer enterprise, he said.

Sakharov chided the U.S. educational system for the "criminal neglect" of other languages and cultures. In a world moving toward fragmentation and dissent at every level, the U.S. has limited its ability to influence other nations by failing to study and understand them, he charged.

With no experience of "liberty" to fall back on, the Soviet citizen readily accepts a political system which provides the order and security he values, Sakharov said. This offers an opportunity for the U.S. to demonstrate the value of personal freedom.

Such progress cannot be made, however, until U.S. citizens "shake off" their stereotypes of the Soviet people and recognize that "human considerations"—work, family and living from day to day—motivate them just as they do citizens of the United States, he said.

Mark Kelly is a staff writer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Cooperative Program report: January

Summary for January 1986	Year	January gifts	
		Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
Received	1981	\$83,762.48	29.83
Budget	1982	\$59,055.24	8.72
Over	1983	\$5,348.34	2.41
	1984	(\$170,698.74)	-12.71
	1985	(\$52,195.17)	23.50
	1986	\$155,398.44	29.80

We represent 1986 in a fantastic fashion. We are \$155,398.44 over budget, which represents an increase of 29.8 percent. Let us pray this is a preview of the best financial year Arkansas Baptists have ever known. — L.L. Collins Jr.

Reality demands change to reach Bold Mission Thrust, says Parks

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists must be willing to face a new and changing reality and make necessary adjustments in their mission efforts if Bold Mission Thrust is to be accomplished, warned Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, president of the convention's Foreign Mission Board.

Speaking during the board's trustees meeting Feb. 10-12, Parks expressed "serious doubt that we are now on a course that will accomplish" the convention's Bold Mission Thrust goal of helping present the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone by the year 2000.

He challenged trustees, staff and missionaries to examine their maps of reality, quoting from M. Scott Peck's book, "The Road Less Traveled." In the book, Peck says one's view of reality is like a map. He suggests most people have grown tired by middle age and no longer are interested in new information which could cause them to revise their maps.

Again referring to Peck's book, Parks wondered aloud if the reason he and others are sometimes reluctant to revise their maps is "laziness based on fear of what would happen if we grappled with the situation as it really is."

These concepts disturb him, Parks said. "I have to ask myself, our staff and this board if that's where we are in transforming the vision of Bold Mission Thrust into reality. Have we tended to keep our maps of reality as they were in 1976, and were they accurate then? Have we deluded ourselves to believing that, in fact, we were on the road to accomplishing the overarching objective of Bold Mission Thrust?"

"I do not have a blueprint for transforming that vision into reality," he acknowledged. But he offered several points to consider in reaching that reality.

First, prayer for God's presence, power and answer to the problem. Then, a definition of Bold Mission Thrust by which Southern Baptists will know if they have accomplished their goal. Once that definition is in hand, "we will need to stand at the year 2000 and look this direction. How can we get from here to there?" he asked.

Some things which may need to be changed are the board's organization, its budget, the structure of its missions on the field and the way Southern Baptists work with Baptists and other Christians around the world, Parks suggested. The last step is to determine the appropriate role for the board.

"This is where a fear generated by an unrecognized laziness may be blocking my vision," Parks acknowledged. "We are all busy. Yet there continues to stir on an emerg-

ing map of a new reality that some of that 'busyness' is not strategic. There appear to be other more serious matters that need to grab the attention of missionaries, staff, board and Southern Baptists.

"If, in fact, the vision of Bold Mission Thrust is transformed into reality, much of the burden, responsibility and privilege will be borne by this board and this staff and these missionaries. May God give us the faith and the love for a lost world that casts out the laziness created by fear."

In another report to the board, Isam Ballenger, director for Europe and the Middle East, explored some of the reasons the board works with registered churches in east European nations. He said the board has been criticized for not working with unregistered or "underground" churches but insisted that the board remains concerned for and interested in these groups as well.

"We seek to obey the laws of the various countries, believing that this approach will offer us more possibilities in the long run," he said. "We desire to assist all Baptists where possible. I think we must say that God

is using both groups, and neither group is of such perfection as to condemn the other."

Ballenger acknowledged that leaders of certain socialist countries allow measures of freedom for Christians with a definite degree of self-interest. In turn, Baptists welcome every opportunity for evangelistic visits, training pastors, building churches and importing Bibles.

Even for those living in communist countries, the choice is not easy. Ballenger recalled sitting with a Romanian pastor and denominational leader as he and his wife wept over the dilemma. If they did not cooperate with the government, they would get no permits to build, to renovate, to carry on without harassment. If they cooperated, others would call them agents of the government or compromisers.

Yet Baptist work in east Europe continues through all the channels that are open, Ballenger said. And the board will "with love and understanding" stand by those who must decide what allegiance belongs to their government and what to God.

CP surpasses \$12 million for first time in January

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Monthly contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program exceeded \$12 million for the first time this January, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Cooperative Program received \$12,772,933 in January, Bennett said. That amount is almost \$2 million—or 18.13 percent—more than the offering for the same month last year. That month previously was the second highest Cooperative Program month in history.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified system of financing SBC mission, education and ministry programs worldwide. The program's funds are sent by local churches to state Baptist conventions. The state conventions retain a portion of the funds for their own ministries and pass along a portion to the Executive Committee, which disburses the funds to about 20 agencies and institutions.

The \$12.77 million figure is the amount sent to the Executive Committee.

For the first four months of fiscal 1985-86, Cooperative Program receipts are up 8 percent over the same period in 1984-85, Bennett noted. The four-month total is \$41,864,163, compared to \$38,761,536.

That 8 percent increase surpassed the current U.S. inflation rate of 3.8 percent.

Bennett cited two reasons for the gain.

"The increase in Cooperative Program receipts is a direct result of commitment on the part of Southern Baptists and is attributable to Planned Growth in Giving," he said.

Planned Growth in Giving is an SBC campaign to encourage systematic increases in giving to local churches and the Cooperative Program during the remainder of the century. Of the early influence of the campaign, Bennett noted, "Southern Baptists have adopted a lifestyle to grow in stewardship.

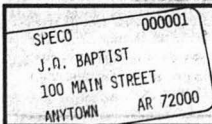
"Great commendation also must be expressed to the state conventions and their actions last fall in annual meetings," he added, noting 27 of 37 state bodies voted to increase their giving to the Cooperative Program. "This is attributable to the state executive directors and other state leaders because of their commitment to share the whole gospel with the whole world."

The January Cooperative Program total included about \$600,000 in December contributions which were late in being forwarded to the Executive Committee, noted Tim Hedquist, the committee's vice president for business and finance. Nevertheless, January receipts topped \$12 million on their own, he pointed out.

The previous single-month high was \$10,991,903, set in August of 1985.

Two copies are not better than one

As church leaders are placed on the ABN mailing list for this monthly *Helpline* issue, duplications of the regular subscriber list may occur. In case this happens, please help us save Cooperative Program dollars. Send the one marked SPECO, like the one at left, to the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, for deletion.



Helpline

for the local church

There is still so much excitement over the recent Evangelism Conference that many will find it difficult to get excited about anything else. Looking back over the past year, it seems that almost everything we are doing on a statewide basis is being unusually blessed of God. Record numbers of people are participating, and God is truly speaking to people through the experience. The Sunday School Convention, Youth Evangelism Conference (Joy Explo), the annual State Convention and now the Evangelism Conference are representative of the events where the power of God and the participation of the people have been tremendous. Praise to him! Thanks to you. We are glad we could help.



Moore

March holds promise for continued great experiences!

WMU Convention: You want to be blessed with great fellowship and inspiration? You need to attend the annual Woman's Missionary Union meeting at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 18-19. Our ladies know how to plan a program and make it move. It was my privilege to speak to this group last year. They packed the sanctuary of First Church, Jonesboro. I predict Park Hill will be pressed to accommodate the crowds this year. Isn't it exciting to be part of the greatest missions program in the history of Christianity?

My review of the program prompts me to say, "there is no way you can be disappointed if you attend the meeting." You've never heard anyone just like Lillian Isaacs. She will take you from the mountains of Kentucky to the frozen reaches of Alaska with spinning testimony of the grace of God. All of the other speakers I know, too. They will be equally used of God.

It will be wonderful if the pastor "has" to drive the van or his car to get all of the ladies from the church to the meeting. He will find he is not the only man at the WMU Convention. I will be there. No, I'm not speaking. I just need what I find there. In fact, one of my Good News revivals I shifted one week ahead of the simultaneous dates so I could be there. If you can't come, you can pray for a great move of God on our hearts.

Youth note: It is an annual event, but each new year brings so many new faces and new challenges that every year is like a first-time experience. I'm talking about the Youth Convention, which will be held at Robinson Auditorium, March 28. No, I'm not mistaken. It will be at the Robinson Auditorium rather than the Convention Center.

The guest speakers and singers are sure to bless. James Pleitz is an excellent communicator with any age group. You may see him from time to time doing inspirational moments on television. And Faye Burgess is a young lady who will thrill you beyond words. She is an outstanding blind singer and pianist. You will marvel at what happens in your heart when you hear her.

It will be a good investment of time and money for those who

work with youth to get their teenagers to the convention.

Growth Spiral: Nearly everyone has heard something about the Growth Spiral. Most of the churches who have marked growth in the Sunday School are using the Growth Spiral. The last church I pastored increased from an average attendance of 560 in Sunday School to 1,325. The last several years, when growth was most dramatic, we were working with the Growth Spiral as an instrument or tool for planning and measuring what we were doing.

Many of our churches that are static and plateaued could begin growing again if they would use a plan like the Growth Spiral and lead their people to do it. Andy Anderson, the father of the Growth spiral and a dynamic speaker, will be leading this workshop April 22 at Central Church, North Little Rock.

Northeast Arkansas: Your best opportunity to receive training in Continuous Witness Training (CWT) is coming to you. A national CWT seminar will be held with the Gosnell Church in Blytheville, March 3-6. Bo Mitchell, a national leader, will be here to lead us. Churches large and small begin to breathe deep with new life when the pastor equips the saints in soul winning as the Scriptures teach (Eph. 4:11-13). Pre-registration is necessary through your Evangelism Department. There is a fee for materials.

March holds great promise!

by Don Moore

Bi-vocational pastors and pastors of small churches may qualify for a scholarship. Contact Clarence Shell if you need assistance.

Super Summer: The deadline is very near for registration of your youth for Super Summer at Ouachita. In fact, you need to act now. Unless the deadline is extended, you have until March 1 to secure a place for your youth at this spiritual spectacular. There hasn't been anything like it in Arkansas. Trust me, you'll never do anything better for your youth. Go for it!

Home Missions—Know, Pray, Give: This is not the theme, but it is the process by which missions take place. Unless people know the needs, the ministries and response to what we are doing, they will not likely pray nor give. The WMU has it right. Begin with mission study and prayer for Home Missions, March 2-9. Then receive the Annie Armstrong Home Mission offering. The offering needs to be taken early so it will not overlap the love offering for the Good News America Revival.

Do not fail in the Annie Armstrong offering. It supports 3,500 missionaries. The revival love offering will say thank you to one or two people. You can do both well if you purpose to. Two-thirds of our churches received this offering last year (858). That means 414 churches did not even try to help with a special offering. I hope we can correct that this year and all have a part.

One-third of all of the missionaries in the U.S. are Southern Baptist. No one else seems to be serious about winning our nation. Please help through the Week of Prayer and Easter offering.

This monthly Helpline is a cooperative ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and the Arkansas Baptist News magazine, designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to the churches.

10-11 Small is also big

Since small churches are in the majority in Arkansas, this month's Helpline feature looks at a couple of "small" congregations and the uniqueness of smaller membership

14 Looking ahead

Equipping and inspirational events sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention during the months of March, April and May are listed.

CANFIELD, Ark.—Follow fields and ranch lands more than crop lands distinguish the land around this South Arkansas community where Canfield First Church is located. The farms are long-time family operations and the farmers usually have already paid off their equipment. Now, some of the grown children are moving back to keep the farms running as their elders near retirement.

For the non-farmers in the community, however, having a job means driving to another town. Some residents find work across the Louisiana line, at such industries as the paper mill at Shreveport, 60 miles away.

Canfield First Church pastor Larry Webb also works outside the Canfield community, at an egg distribution company in Hope. He and his family come to Canfield Wednesday nights and Sundays.

"Generally, people grow up and move away," explains Webb. The 63-member church is primarily senior adults and has only two preschoolers and three young people.

But that doesn't mean they are a backward looking congregation. Webb points out that, in his three months as pastor, he has found quite the opposite. "Our people have been quick to try things to grow and reach the community."

Fortunately, finances are not a drawback for the church, Webb finds. "I have served in a church where funds were so tight the youth had to collect cans to get money for a trip," he relates. No such problem exists at Canfield, and Webb cites the good jobs available within commuting distance as being part of the reason.

A congregation that has been averaging 25 in Sunday School and 32 in Sunday morning worship services was able to give \$550 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, Webb notes.

Since the church is free of debt on its property and offerings are consistently good, the church is in a position to look for opportunities. The congregation adopted goals for 1986 in a business meeting recently, and Pastor Webb is looking forward to longer-term plans after he has been with a congregation a while.

The church has begun Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union organizations recently and is gearing up for a visitation program, Webb explains.

Actually the visitation program only will be formalizing outreach. "Members keep up with others in the community daily," says Webb. "They share every Sunday about needs."

Pastor Larry Webb sang in the choir on Feb. 16, the first Sunday it was reorganized, but told the men he did want to be the only male the next time.

He sees the closeknit fellowship as one of the advantages of a small congregation and views that closeness as an encouragement for members to live exemplary Christian lives. "We were discussing that on a recent Wednesday night," Pastor Webb relates. "None of us wants to be the one to cause another to stumble, and it is hard to live on the fringes of the group and keep secrets in this small a fellowship."

The pastor contrasts that with his observation of some large churches. He thinks that, in a bigger group it is possible for members to be involved in select parts of church life and go their own way the rest of the time.

The negative side of that, Webb allows, is that a member who makes a mistake in his or her personal life will find it more difficult for others to forget, even if they forgive. Webb recalls one small church he served where one man felt it necessary to leave the congregation after confessing to wrongdoing.

But the openness has been much more of a plus than a negative in the three other small churches Webb has served. Canfield is no exception to that, he says. "The people have been so open and honest," he says. "The love and understanding is there and they are eager to work with me. It's really been a dream," he says of his pastorate at Canfield.

He credits the members and the pastors who have preceded him, several of whom have been seminary educated and helped to lay a good foundation of trained workers. Webb is still working on his education, taking college courses several nights a week, and has studied at Boyce Bible School on the Southern Seminary campus.

Besides trained workers, resources of the church that are encouraging to Pastor Webb include a commitment to support Southern Baptist enterprises by giving 10 percent through the Cooperative Program.

Webb looks at the Canfield church as similar to the other Arkansas small churches he has served. "The people have been the greatest asset."

Small churches

Small churches: a look at

Small churches have been called the backbone of the Southern Baptist Convention. In Arkansas they are also called the majority. Of 1,269 churches cooperating with the state convention, 659 have 150 resident members or less.

Despite being the majority, leaders of small churches sometimes express the feeling that they go unrecognized for their particular needs. And some Southern Baptists, lacking knowledge of history and heritage, do fall to credit the "small" congregations for carrying the responsibility for evangelism and missions and making the SBC what it is today.

The purpose of this look at two of Arkansas' small churches is twofold. It seeks to inform other Arkansas Baptists about the unique situations of the under 150-membership church. And it seeks to show "small" churches that they are not the only congregations with only four pews or no regular choir.

To complete the picture of the small church in Arkansas, a statistical portrait of the average small church has been

□ Canfield



ABN photo / Millie Gill



Photo by Curt Duncan

the average

drawn from the figures submitted on the 1985 Uniform Church Letter by the churches. (The compilation of these statistics was made possible by the foresight of L.L. Collins Jr., associate executive director for the state convention, in using data processing technology.)

The average Arkansas Baptist church under 150 in membership reported the following for 1985:

- Baptisms, 3
- Other additions, 4
- Resident members, 75
- Percent of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program, 5.73
- Total receipts, \$19,373
- Expenditures at home, \$17,045
- Amount sent to the association, \$646
- To home missions offering, \$99
- Amount to foreign missions, \$210
- Church debt, \$4,758
- Sunday School enrollment, 56
- Sunday School attendance, 33
- Church Training enrollment, 27
- Music ministry enrollment, 7
- Missions organizations enrollment, 4

usually the majority

Text by Betty J. Kennedy

Betty J. Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Crossroads □

A committed, though small in number, congregation drives to Crossroads Church from surrounding communities on a typical winter Sunday morning and then drives home again.

DELL, Ark.—A few gained or lost can have a great effect on a congregation the size of the one Warren Watkins serves. He recalls the devastating sense of loss felt by the entire congregation of Crossroads Church at the death of one senior member. "It was just hard to get up and preach when I knew everybody was so down," Watkins admits.

But having 10 teenagers to make professions of faith over a period of two months, like they did recently, can involve the whole group in rejoicing, he notes. "Our young people just kept on bringing other teenagers, at the rate of about two a week," Watkins explains.

The 60-plus member congregation dates to 1938 and has had their ups and downs in numbers. Watkins sees the recent growth as "one of the most encouraging trends in recent years. They are trying to reach out to people in three surrounding communities, Manila, Blytheville and Osceola.

The church is fairly typical of Southern Baptist churches of membership under 150, which is the denominational definition of "small" church.

For 1985 (through October) the church reported in their Uniform Church Letter a Sunday School enrollment of 55 and average attendance of 34. Three were baptized into the congregation and four others joined the church. Their total receipts were just over \$12,000 and three percent of that was sent to state and SBC causes through the Cooperative Program. The church has no debt and owns property valued at \$56,500.

Watkins cites one statistic that makes the church unusual among Southern Baptists: they have had the same pastor for four years now. The average tenure across the Convention is 18 months.

He came in 1982 and cites his love for the people as one factor in his staying. Another is his four-year course of seminary studies. Watkins attends classes at Mid-America Seminary four days a week, driving 70 miles round trip each day. He expects to graduate

in May.

Watkins got his B.A. from Ouachita Baptist University much the same way, serving as pastor of a slightly smaller church at Moro, and driving 400 miles a week.

The student/pastor's present church meets in a building three miles from Dell, situated at a crossroads. There are only 29 inhabited dwellings in 16 square miles with a population of just under 100 persons, Watkins estimates.

Although Crossroads Church is located in a farming area, the church does not have any active farmers. Watkins lists a computer programmer from Blytheville Air Force base, a farm worker and a retired farmer among the members, but no active farmers. "Most of the farms have been taken over by big operations and the farmers lease the land from them," says the pastor.

Low per capita income has been pushed by economic problems to crisis level in the community and Watkins has had some folks come knocking on his door asking the church to help them get food for the family. Sunday before last they had an old fashioned "pounding," bringing canned goods and other staple food for a family having a rough time temporarily.

The church also tries to minister to the community. Building relationships is the way the members reach out with the gospel to individuals. "I hope we can adopt a mindset of relationship evangelism," Watkins says.

"We encourage the members to reach out to their neighbors," Watkins says. "Often the first I know of a prospect is when they come with a member. Then I follow up." He feels it is preferable to knocking on doors of people they do not know.

Warren Watkins hopes to lead Crossroads Church to do the things he thinks churches of any size are supposed to do. The congregation has a burden for the lost in the community and, through the Cooperative Program, supports missions around the world. That makes them like other Baptist churches, just fewer in numbers.

Church renewal journey

What is "Renewal Journey"? If your answer is: a caring, working, alive fellowship, read on—you are going to

like what you read! The Church Renewal Journey is not a formula for a quick fix, although there will be immediate results. It is a journey for you and your church. A journey filled with excitement, discovery, growth and accompanying struggle.

Many people want to see their churches come alive. They yearn for a congregation that feels called to joyful service, not obligation. They pray for a church that does not look to the pastor

Lottery threat is real

Public opinion polls seem to indicate a growing acceptance of legalized gambling. The gambling menace is not new.



Parker

ological gamblers, the suicide rate, domestic violence and crime.

Centuries ago Isaiah quoted enemies of God's people who said, "Lie down that we may walk over you" (Is. 51:23). Earlier Isaiah said, "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil" (5:20-23). Ezekiel spoke of those who "did what was not good among his people" (Ez. 17:18b).

We absolutely must organize in every county over the state of Arkansas. There

Christian Life Council

should be a Christian Civic Foundation Committee in every county. These should be ready to serve as a part of a network to defeat any extension of gambling, as well as deal with other moral issues.

Ironically wherever lotteries have won, those who can afford them least—the poor—comprise the largest voting bloc in favor of them. Gambling entrepreneurs appeal to greed and false hopes to get the votes of the poor, who have the largest share of heartaches if state operated lotteries prevail.

Pastors are urged to preach sermons sounding words of warning to both young and old alike about gambling. Lottery gambling is often presented as harmless, but people do become addicted through it. Since the poor are the ones hardest hit by lottery gambling, special studies from God's Word should be made as to how we as Christians are to relate today to the poor, oppressed, widows and orphans.

Arkansans take great pride in referring to their state as "the Natural State." Whenever wrongs of any type are added to its activities, it becomes less of a "Natural State". The term should refer to both the natural and the moral beauty of the state and its people.

Christian Life Committees all over Arkansas are urged to give leadership in organizing county Christian Civic Foundation Committees. We must be prepared to successfully combat the ominous lottery threat. — Robert Parker, director

Your retirement plans

The Annuity Board, SBC, offers ministers and church employees two plans for retirement planning. The Church Annuity Plan is a defined contribution plan. It is designed to provide retirement benefits as early as age 55.



Walker

Retirement income provided by the Church Annuity Plan is based on these factors: length of participation, adequate monthly contributions, tax sheltering and earnings.

Participants have a choice of four funds for their contributions. The Fixed Fund is invested primarily in fixed income assets.

Annuity/Stewardship

The annual rate of interest is determined at the beginning of each year and the principal is guaranteed. The Fixed Fund rate is 11 percent for 1986.

Rates for the Balanced Fund, Short Term Fund and Variable Fund vary from year to year. The Balanced Fund produced 21.72 percent during 1985, and the Short Term Fund had a 9.1 annualized rate. The Variable Fund reached a record high, increasing from \$4.19 per unit in early January to \$5.40 in December, a gain of over 31 percent.

When ministers participate in the Church Annuity Plan, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention contributes \$200 a year to provide disability and survivor benefits. Only ministerial personnel qualify, at this time, for the protection benefits provided by the state convention. All church employees who work 20 or more hours per week may participate in the retirement program.

The Expanded Church Annuity Plan, effective Jan. 1, 1988, encourages increased participation from churches and individuals. The State Convention contribution will increase in 1988 and provide both protection and retirement benefits for those who qualify.

Tax-deductible contribution accounts which operate under IRA rules are offered by the Annuity Board through the Voluntary Annuity Plan.

All employees of Southern Baptist churches, agencies and institutions are eligible to make tax-deductible retirement contributions through the Voluntary Annuity Plan. Contributions may be made in the Fixed, Equity or Short Term Funds. Request further information and applications forms from the Annuity/Stewardship Department. — James A. Walker, director



Guthrie

Brotherhood

to do all the work and the members to be board of directors. They want to see healed relationships and changed attitudes. The Church Renewal Journey will not automatically bring about all of these changes, but it can bring about a surprisingly large number of them.

Renewal is the term used to describe the journey. It is called renewal because that describes exactly what thousands of churches and people have experienced.

The Church Renewal Journey usually begins when there is a deep desire to see the church come alive.

Renewal means awakening and equipping Christians to exercise faith in the everyday world by sharing the message and ministry of Christ. It means calling the church to a deeper commitment to Christ as lord.

Renewal is achieved as the church experiences (1) renewed emphasis on the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers, (2) a rediscovery of the ministry of the laity, (3) a recommitment to continued openness to the Holy Spirit's leadership, (4) a renewed emphasis on deep personal relationships with God and with each other and (5) an involvement in evangelism and ministry in the world.

Renewal happens through rediscovering key biblical principles, allowing the Holy Spirit to free his people for heartfelt ministry and personal renewal of faith.

An upcoming Renewal Event for our state is a Pastor/Wife Retreat scheduled for April 10 and 11 in Little Rock at which time those attending will experience the Journey Inward Event. For information concerning the Retreat contact the Brotherhood Office, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 or call us at 376-4791. — Neal Guthrie, director

IFW Skillshop training

Interfaith Witness does not seem important to many people. That is until a member of their family or a fellow church member becomes a part of one of many Christian deviation groups active in Arkansas.



Petty

Arkansas is not immune to religious pluralism. The increase in the state's population has brought many beliefs to Arkansas which were not here in the past. Five million Americans may be members of cults, sects and new religions. This religious pluralism must be addressed.

The Home Mission Board and the Missions Department, ABCS, join efforts to help Baptists in Arkansas understand other faith groups and prepare them to share a Christian witness.

One way to achieve this is by conducting Interfaith Witness Skillshops. A skillshop is scheduled for First Church, Monticello, April 14-15, 7-9:15 p.m. Some of the subjects for study are: Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Cults, Transcendental Meditation and Worldwide Church of God.

Interfaith Witness associate training is also scheduled as a part of this conference. An Interfaith associate is a volunteer who

Missions

has studied for 12 hours in one of the interfaith witness areas and has met the certification requirements. The IWA then serves as a volunteer to lead conferences in churches and associations.

The IWA training schedule for First Monticello will begin April 14 at 10 a.m. and conclude April 16 at noon. The IWAs will have opportunity to attend the skillshop dealing with the same group in which they are being trained.

Three subjects for the IWA training are: Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and Hindu based sects such as Transcendental Meditation, Unity School, Hare Krishna, New Age Movement, etc.

We need trained, certified IWAs in every Arkansas association. These volunteers could help to develop an awareness of the opportunity to learn and share with other faith groups in the area.

Gary Leazer, Maurice Smith and James C. Browning of the Home Mission Board will lead both the skillshop and IWA training. Contact Missions Department for information. Scholarships available for IWA training. — **Pete Petty, Interfaith Witness state coordinator**

WMU Annual Meeting

Approximately 4 billion people inhabit Planet Earth. As Southern Baptists, we are committed to reaching all people with the gospel by the year 2000.



Porterfield

With vast numbers and great need, it is often difficult to find my place in God's world. The 1986 WMU Annual Meeting will focus on "God's World... My Place Today." The dates are March 18-19, 1986. Park Hill Church, North Little Rock will host this annual event.

Beginning with the 10 a.m. session Tuesday morning and concluding with the 9:30 a.m. session on Wednesday, all program elements will challenge participants to consider their place in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to their world and ultimately to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Ted and Mary Stanton will convey through music and words their place in God's world as missionaries to Argentina. Missionaries to Zimbabwe Gerald and Barbara Schleiiff will have opportunity to tell of their work and also challenge others to consider going to the fields that are without laborers.

Retired home missionary Lillian Isaacs will share how she and her husband used literacy work to make the word known in Kentucky, Alaska and Florida.

Coming from Amarillo, Texas, is Winona Cobb. Along with her husband, Morris, she

Woman's Missionary Union

has participated in more than 30 volunteer assignments overseas since 1968.

The Tuesday evening session promises to be a real highlight. LOTTIE D., the musical drama depicting the life of Lottie Moon, will be presented. Encourage many from your church to be a part of this 7 p.m. session.

Theme interpretations, an AMAR report, a state missions feature and much more are included in the program. You won't want to miss any of the four sessions.

A nursery is provided for preschool children during each session. A Baptist Book Store display will also be available for your use. Housing arrangements need to be made direct with area motels.

For more information, contact Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — **Carolyn Porterfield, BW / BYW director**

State Youth Convention

Friday, March 28, 1986 marks the annual invasion of thousands of junior and senior high youth into Little Rock. They will be gathering for the State Youth Convention at Robinson Auditorium.



Pleitz

This year's Youth Convention will focus on the theme of DiscipleLife... Good News for Youth. Our featured speaker will be Dr. James Pleitz, pastor of the Park Cities Church, Dallas, Texas.

Other program personalities will include Faye Burgess, a Christian concert artist from Nashville, TN. Although physically blind, Faye's strong faith and Christ-centered personality exhibit a vision far beyond physical limits. Mark McMasters, a Christian mime from Buies Creek, NC will

Church Training

communicate God's message through the poignant medium of mime and clowning.

But, that's not all! The afternoon session will be climaxed with a "Good News America Rally." We plan to make this rally a time of personal commitment of our youth to share their witness with someone in their world. A symbol of this commitment will be a release of 5,000 helium balloons containing a personal message of God's love and a youth's concern for the person who finds that balloon.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Well, add the State Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speakers' Tournament finals, great music features from Ouachita University and Southern College and much more, and you've got the best and biggest Baptist youth event in Arkansas. We hope you and your youth will join us for all three sessions (10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m.) of the State Youth Convention.

The District Bible Drills and Youth Speakers' Tournaments will add to the excitement in preparation for the Youth Convention. District dates and locations are: Northwest, March 10, First, Huntville; Southwest, March 10, First, Hope; West Central, March 11, First, Paris; Southeast, March 11, First, Warren; North Central, March 13, Mountain View; Northeast, March 13, Central, Jonesboro; Central, March 14, Olivet, Little Rock; East Central, March 14, Wynne.

Contact the Church Training Dept., for further information regarding these events.

— **Bill Falkner, associate**

Non-returnable people

Today is the day of the throw-away. Cans, bottles, diapers, razors, typewriter ribbons, people. People? Yes, we as Southern Baptists throw away people by the hundreds every October. We do it "cleaning" the Sunday School rolls. For some reason we feel guilty when we try to get folks to attend regularly and we don't succeed. Because of our guilt feelings over our lack of success we take them off the roll and throw them away. This way we don't have to be reminded of our "failures" every time we look through our rolls. Occasionally, our conscience will not let us throw them away so we slip their cards into the back of the book and call them inactive, and forget about them being back there.

Let me point out some factors to consider concerning this practice.

1. The Lord asks us to be faithful not necessarily successful. We water. He gives the increase. Let us be faithful waters!
2. People may not feel a need for Bible study right now, but later, when a crisis arises, they will turn to the church which cared enough to stay in touch.
3. The Sunday School is the outreach arm of the church. It should be easy to join. No set number of times present before joining should be required. A person should be allowed to join anytime he chooses.

Sunday School

4. Persons should be taken off the roll for only three reasons: (1) they die; (2) they move out of the reach of the church; or (3) they join another Sunday School and become active.

Please love people enough to keep them on the roll, seeking to minister to their spiritual needs. It costs the church practically nothing to keep them on the roll. It could cost them an eternity without Jesus to take them off.

Two events in March and April are geared to help you know how to reach people. The Youth Plus Workshops at First, Camden, on March 24 and at Trinity, Texarkana, on March 25 are designed to help youth ministers, youth Sunday School workers and pastors to learn how to involve youth through the Sunday School. They will offer new ideas to involve youth in witnessing, reaching and ministering. Conferences will be lead by Bob Metcalf, youth consultant from the Baptist Sunday School Board. The two hour workshops will begin at 7 p.m. in both locations.

On April 22 at Central, North Little Rock, Andy Anderson and a team of age group consultants will lead in our state-wide Growth Spiral Conference. The meeting will be from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mark your calendar now. — **Freddie Pike, director**

Drama Festival Workshop

Drama, puppets and clowns will be the subjects of the Drama Festival Workshop March 7-8 at First Church, Arkadelphia.



Falkner

These three areas are increasingly effective tools for ministry.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide in-depth training for staff members, puppet teams, clowning and drama troupes, and other church recreation leadership. The workshop will begin with a

banquet meal at 6 p.m. at First Church on Friday, March 7, and will adjourn at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Church Recreation

Workshop conferences will deal with the following areas: Ministry Through Drama, Scott Holsclaw, OBU drama faculty; Drama Production and Performance, Gene Ellis, OBU drama faculty; Clown Makeup & Technique, Pete Petty, Missions Department, ABSC; The Clown as Minister, Roy Cook, Baring Cross, North Little Rock; Puppet Construction & Technique, Norene Reed, Warren; Developing a Puppet Ministry (to be announced).

The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person. This includes the banquet on Friday, lunch on Saturday and conference materials. There will be a \$2 charge for materials in the puppet construction and clowning conferences. Limited dormitory housing is available at OBU for \$3.50 per person (double) along with motels in the area. Contact the Church Training Department for reservations or lodging information.

More Church Recreation training opportunities are now available to you and your church than ever before! The national Rec Labs in Florida, Kentucky and Glorieta are finding more and more Arkansans in attendance. BTN is now broadcasting a wide variety of messages on virtually every area of Church Recreation ministry. Add to all this Centrifuge, Crosspoint and the Rec Weeks at Glorieta and Ridgcrest, and you have the greatest network of Church Recreation events and resources ever available to Southern Baptists. Information on any of these items is available through the Church Training Department.

Oh, one more thing! We can also provide personal consultations with you and your church leaders on anything from building a recreation facility to starting or expanding a particular ministry. Give us a call; we want to help. — **Bill Falkner, associate**

Start-a-church Sunday

Lakeshore Estates Mission began near Marion in May 1985. In eight months the mission has enrolled 54 in Sunday school



Tidsworth

baptized 32, received 28 by letter and offerings are averaging \$1,203 per month. Ten families received ministries at Christmas and new Christians are growing in the Lord.

Behind this exciting mission experience is Marion First Church. This caring

church began visiting and ministering to people in the manufactured home community months before the mission began. Pastor Eugene Ray and members decided that the best way to really minister to the community was to start a mission inside the park. Neal Stevens was called as pastor.

Information about Arkansas indicates that Baptists should take responsibility for at least 375 new churches. Thirty fields are

Missions

already identified where a new congregation is urgently needed. Benton County Association alone has located five communities for church-type missions.

In order for Arkansas Baptists to start 25 to 30 missions each year, about 100 sponsors will be needed. Start-a-church Commitment Sunday is on the Southern Baptist calendar for March 23, 1986. Churches are being asked to consider doing one of the following: (1) commit themselves to try to start a new mission, (2) join with other churches to support a new work, or (3) commit themselves to pray for a specific new congregation.

Churches that are already sponsoring a mission can have a special day of celebration and prayer for their mission. A person representing the mission may be asked to give a testimony in the church.

Jack Redford, director of church extension for the Home Mission Board, has said "As long as there are people who need to become Christians we will start churches. We also will involve people in churches where they can mature as Christians."

Nelson Tilton, director of the church starting department of the Home Mission Board, says with Good News America we anticipate many new converts as a result of revival meetings and we're committed to providing new churches for them. This year has great potential for being Southern Baptists' greatest year for evangelism and church starting. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

GNA revival participation

Arkansas Baptists are committed to sharing the good news of Christ in revivals. Surveys show that a multitude of our people were saved during a local church revival. During the past several weeks preparation has been made, prayers prayed and publicity displayed as we look forward to revival.



Shell

The prospects have been found. Many have been visited in past weeks and cultivated in friendship. Teams of committed Christians will be going out during the

Evangelism

revival to share with them the good news of Christ. The pastor and evangelist will be going each day to tell people about Jesus. We are attempting great things for God and expecting great things from God.

Counselors have been enlisted and trained to assist the pastor during the revival. These men and women are very important to the pastor and evangelist for a time like this. Remember, during the invitation, when the lines start forming, people stop coming.

During the Good News America, Monday is suggested as Sunday School Rally Night. The goal is to have as many people present on Monday evening as you average in Sunday School. Each class is responsible for signing up all the members and prospects to be present that night. These teachers and outreach leaders should seek to get the lost pupils to come to the rally.

The Tuesday evening service is designated as Teen Rally Night. There should be a pre-revival time for all youth. This can be a pizza pig-out, hamburger supper or home made ice cream. The program for this rally should be one that would interest youth in music and testimony. The preaching should be left to the revival service. All young people should be encouraged to bring their lost friends. Family Night is a very special time during the revival when all families come and sit together. The oldest married couple is recognized. The youngest married couple is given attention and the largest family group should be given special recognition. The evangelist perhaps would preach a strong message related to the salvation of the home.

Every person saved during the week should be baptized the closing night. This will be a great climax to the revival. I pray that we can close every revival singing "Victory in Jesus." — Clarence Shell, director

Good News America!

Good News, America, God Loves You! Has anyone in Arkansas not heard this yet? Everywhere I go folks are busy getting



ready for simultaneous revivals. Revival time means lots of good music, and good music comes only with adequate preparation. Now is the time to do it.

The music sung by the Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas at the State Convention and

Evangelism Conference would make excellent choir music for revival. It all came from two collections entitled 2000 A.D., A Call to Witness, and Good News America, God Loves You Revival Choir Book. Both are available at the bookstore.

The Music Men and Singing Women will travel to Wichita, Kan., on April 16 to sing

Music

the opening concert of the "Musicians on Mission" workshop at the Metropolitan Church. The workshop is expected to draw several hundred people from a four state area. Following the workshop, 40 or more Arkansas musicians will be involved in Good News America revivals throughout Kansas and Nebraska. This is a mission project on the part of our people as we reach out to a less established area to help them by providing song leaders, instrumentalists and soloists for their revivals. A few pastors will also be going to serve as evangelists.

Our 1986 Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Workshop is scheduled for Camp Paron on March 14-15. We have enlisted fine leaders for each area of study. Jimmy McCaleb, the author of *Church Music: RFD*, will lead the music directors. Jesse Reed will conduct the Bible study for pastors, and Martha Rosenbaum and Joyce Fellers will lead the studies for pianists and organists. Registration information has been mailed to each church. If you have not received yours yet, please call us. Registration deadline is March 3. Our main thrust this year will be making preparation for the Good News America revivals.

State Handbell Festivals will be conducted in two locations on March 7-8. You are invited to come by the First Churches of Searcy and Pine Bluff on these dates to enjoy the beautiful music of hundreds of bells ringing together in praise to the Lord. If you have never experienced a handbell festival, we encourage you to do it this year. — Ervin Keathley, state music secretary

What is Shared Ministry?

Shared Ministry is not a program. It is not really a new emphasis. It is a renewed emphasis on the church as the body of



Holley

Christ, the importance of every member to the function of the body and the call of every believer to some ministry in and through the church. Shared Ministry has been described as a practical application of the doctrine of the "priesthood of all believers."

Joe Stacker of the Baptist Sunday School Board has described Shared Ministry as "a biblical concept which asserts that the ministry of the church is shared by all members. While it recognizes specialized callings and gifts, it nevertheless affirms that each member is a minister."

Four groups or segments in the church are involved in Shared Ministry. These include (1) pastors and staff, (2) deacons, (3) volunteer leaders and (4) church members.

Church Administration

There are projects and resources to help involve each of these four segments of the church in meaningful ways.

Shared Ministry: A Journey Toward Togetherness in Ministry is the basic book setting forth the concept and the approaches for a church.

The Shared Ministry Start-Up Kit includes a copy of this book plus a church evaluation survey, a congregational worship guide, a guide for Spiritual Emphasis planning, a deacon retreat planning guide and a resource guide for planning church staff meetings and retreats. This Start-Up Kit is the basic planning tool for the church seeking help in implementing Shared Ministry.

Last week pastors and staff members were introduced to Shared Ministry through area conferences in nine areas of our state. However, involvement in Shared Ministry is certainly not limited to those churches involved in these conferences. The resources described above, along with personal assistance from our department, can help you implement Shared Ministry in your church. Several specially trained consultants are available to lead associational Shared Ministry conferences, also.

Churches that implement Shared Ministry can expect an increased participation in the church's ministry, greater understanding among church leaders and strengthened relationships between pastors, deacons, volunteers and church staff. — Robert Holley, director

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
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March 2-9, Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering. Annual event in the local church to focus on home mission work by the SBC and to promote a special offering.

March 3-6, National Continuing Witness Training Seminar. Blytheville, Gossnell. One of three this year to train leaders for training in CWT in the local church. The state Evangelism Department is the sponsor. Advance registration is required.

Next month in Arkansas: March

March 7-8, State Handball Festival. Searcy First Church and Pine Bluff First Church. Annual event bringing together handball choirs from churches across the state for adjudication and a mass concert.

April

April 1, Church Building Conference. Baptist Building, Little Rock

April 4-6, BSU Leadership Training. Camp Paron.

April 12, Baptist Young Women Retreat. Lake Nixon, Little Rock.

April 14-15, New pastor / staff orientation. Baptist Building, Little Rock.

April 14-15, Interfaith Witness Conference. Monticello, First Church.

April 14-16, Interfaith Witness

May

May 2-3, Pastor-Deacon Retreat. Camp Paron. Training and fellowship for deacons and their pastors.

May 5-6, Chaplaincy Awareness Conference. Camp Paron.

May 5, Golden Age Evangelism Conference. Springdale, First Church.

May 6, Golden Age Evangelism Conference. North Little Rock, First Church.

March 7-8, Drama Festival Workshop. Arkadelphia, First Church. Annual event for church staff, church recreation committees and workers with drama, puppets and clowning in local church ministries. Arkansas Church Training Department sponsors the event.

March 10, 11, 13 and 14, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments. Chance for youth in grades 1-12 to demonstrate Bible and speaking skills in competition. Part of SBC-wide participation that culminates with state winners participating at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Assemblies.

March 11-12, Literacy Missions Workshop. Pine Bluff, Harmony Association Building. Event will train individuals as tutors in English as a second language. The state Missions Department is the sponsor.

March 14-15, Volunteers/Part Time Music Leader Retreat. Camp Paron. Annual event to train music leaders and

pastors of small churches, sponsored by the state Church Music Department.

March 16-April 6, Good News, America, God Loves You Revivals. Nationwide revival effort by Southern Baptist churches.

March 18-19, WMU Annual Meeting. North Little Rock, Park Hill Church. Annual event featuring missionary speakers and missions drama for inspiration and challenge.

March 24 and 25, Youth Plus Workshops. Camden, First (24) and Texarkana, Trinity. A first-time conference to train youth workers to involve youth, through Sunday School, in witnessing and church involvement.

March 28, State Youth Convention. Robinson Auditorium, Little Rock. Annual meeting for junior and senior youth from across the state, focusing on youth discipleship. Will include a "Good News America" rally culminating in the release of 5,000 helium-filled balloons.

Associate Training. Monticello, First Church.

April 17-19, Northeast Bible Conference. Mt. Zion Association Camp

April 19, Mission Friends Leadership Training. Little Rock, Calvary Church.

April 21, Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Wynne Church.

April 22, Growth Spiral Workshop. North Little Rock, Central Church.

April 22, Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Paragould, East Side.

April 24, Preschool Sunday School Whistle Stop. Osceola, First.

April 25-26, Children's Workers' Reach / Teach Retreat. Camp Paron.

April 25-26, Royal Ambassador Congress. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia.

April 25-26, Acteens Encounter. North Little Rock, Levy.

April 28-29, Key Leader Meeting. place to be announced.

May 8, Golden Age Evangelism Conference. Dumas, First Church.

May 10, State Music Tournament/Ensemble Jubilee. Benton, First Church.

May 12-18, MasterLife/MasterBuilder/DiscipleYouth II Workshops. Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

May 16-17, GA Mother/Daughter

Camp Paron.

May 19-21, Senior Adult Celebration. Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

May 19-22, National Continuing Witness Training Seminar. Blytheville, Gossnell Church.

May 22-23, New Work Conference. Camp Paron.

BSSB trustees vote for new music publishing program

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees have voted without opposition to establish a new music publishing department and to proceed with plans to build a product distribution center.

The music publishing department, described by Board President Lloyd Elder as a "far-reaching change of direction and enlargement of the ministry of the Sunday School Board," will produce music products for sale through trade outlets to churches and individuals.

The new department, which will become operational Oct. 1, will publish products including print, vocal and instrumental audio and video items, music instruments and related products. A department director is expected to be elected in August.

"There is a large demand for Christian evangelical music for churches. Also, we have never before attempted to reach the leisure or home music markets," said Jimmy Edwards, vice-president for publishing and distribution, who will oversee the operation

of the new department.

The church music department of the board will continue to publish all church music program curriculum and periodicals, periodical recordings, Convention Press music books and any future Baptist Hymnals, Director Wesley Forbis announced.

"The two departments will work closely together, but they will perform distinct types of ministry," said Forbis.

Authorization to proceed with development of detailed plans, specifications and receiving bids for construction of a warehouse and product distribution center five miles from downtown Nashville was one of several recommendations that were part of a comprehensive space study. Approval to build the distribution center is expected to be requested at the August meeting.

In another action, trustees approved returning in 1987 to a summer schedule at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Conference Centers in which all conferences begin on Saturdays and end on Fridays.

Responses were adopted to two motions and one resolution referred to the board at the 1985 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In response to a motion calling for the board to publish a new commentary, a multi-phased research project is being conducted to determine whether there is a need for a new commentary and, if it is needed, what its basic design should be. In addition to group interviews and a mail and telephone survey of potential users, a survey of messengers to the 1986 convention will be conducted.

The response to a motion urging use of different versions of the Bible in Vacation Bible School materials noted that the King James Version will continue to be the basic text for VBS. Response to a resolution requesting updating of Sunday school literature noted that a curriculum content-design adjustment study was instituted in the fall of 1985 with changes to be implemented in 1990-91.

Star City pastor begins lesson series

Edward E. Stacks, pastor of First Church, Star City, begins this week writing commentaries on the International series Sunday School lessons in "Lessons for living."

Stacks is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal. He has served as pastor of churches in California and Arkansas in 18 years of ministry. He has taught seminary extension courses.



Stacks

Start-a-Church Commitment

Whereas, our Lord has commanded us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, and

Whereas, new churches greatly enhance the opportunity to carry out his Great Commission, and

Whereas, Southern Baptists around the world are engaged in a great Bold Mission Thrust, and

Whereas, a special emphasis in our churches in America is the Bold New Work, and

Whereas, as a part of this Bold New Work the Southern Baptist Convention has set a goal of 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000, and

Whereas, the fourth Sunday in March is a special time when Southern Baptist churches will make commitments to try to start new churches within the next church year, and

Whereas, our church is convinced that every church in America have an opportunity to experience the witness and ministry of a New Testament fellowship of believers,

Now therefore be it intended

_____ makes the commitment

_____ to start a new church-type mission during the 198_____ church year.

_____ to join with one or more other churches to try to start a new church-type mission during the 198_____ church year.

_____ to lead our membership to pray daily, at home, in group meetings and in worship services, for a new mission congregation.



Name of Church making commitment _____ Telephone No _____

Street Address, City, State, Zip Code _____

Minister or Pastor _____

Missions Committee Chairman _____

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Her words came back to help her through

BEIRUT, Lebanon—A staff member of the Baptist Center for Mass Communication in Beirut was scanning her radio dial for news during one evening of intense fighting. Over a Cyprus radio station, she heard a broadcast that had been produced at the center, with her as the speaker. "A quiet peace flooded my soul and tears of release fell to the floor," she recounted. "The Lord was using my own words to minister to me." Notes Pete Dunn, executive director of the center, "...lest we forget, in our ministering, we are ministered to."

Third missionary home lost in Uganda's political battles

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Continuing strife in Uganda has caused heartbreak and hardship for at least one Ugandan Baptist church and a Southern Baptist missionary couple.

Some members of the Baptist congregation in Soroti have taken refuge in the church building from forces opposing new Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni. The associate pastor, his wife and their four children are among those taking refuge there. The pastor and his family are in hiding. The pastor's father, a schoolteacher, was killed in mid-January. And the Soroti home of missionaries Harry and Doris Garvin has been gutted, the third missionary home lost there in a year.

The Garvins have been on furlough in Texas since August. Garvin learned of Soroti's plight by telephone Feb. 7 and 8.

Museveni and his National Resistance Army are fighting forces loyal to the military

Missionary returns to work in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Jack Hancox returned to work Feb. 10 along with most of the residents of Port-au-Prince as the Haitian capital was reported relatively calm.

"I'm still hearing gunfire this morning," said missionary Doris Hancox by telephone Feb. 10. But she said the violence appeared to be scattered encounters between military forces and vestiges of the Tontons Macoutes, the militia which supported former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. Duvalier fled the country Feb. 7.

Businesses were reopening around the city, Mrs. Hancox reported, with the exception of enterprises associated with the Duvalier regime or the Tontons, many of which were sacked and burned during the weekend. Otherwise, looting and destruc-

tion appear to have subsided. Schools still have not reopened, and the new ruling council has not announced an opening date, she said. An afternoon and evening curfew remained in effect.

"We've heard from several of the churches in the outlying areas and a lot of their warehouses have been vandalized and the food has been taken. But so far as we know, the people are okay," the missionary said. But she added that information from outside the capital was still sketchy. Traffic between some towns and the capital has resumed.

Hancox worked in late January to distribute food to 60 schools where nutrition programs are operated with Southern Baptist relief funds. He said enough food is on order to carry the nutrition programs through the remainder of the school year.

government that was ousted in late January. Museveni opponents still control more than a third of the country, Garvin said, and looting is their basic means of survival.

The Garvins, who have six children, had lived in their Soroti home during most of their 16-year missionary career. It had been purchased by the Foreign Mission Board.

"We had steered ourselves to be ready to lose our goods," Garvin said, "but for the house to burn down, that was a terrible shock. It was so full of memories. It was where we raised our children, where we started a church and over 100 people had come to the Lord as Savior."

Last July, an Foreign Mission Board-owned house where Paul and Kay Eaton lived near the town of Lira and a house rented for Walter and Billie Allen in Lira were destroyed in violence following the overthrow of

civilian Ugandan President Milton Obote. The home of George and Doris Berry in Kamkapa also was looted.

Garvin is not sure how his home was destroyed, whether two opposing groups were battling to loot it or a group attempted to open a locked door with a grenade.

"We're in shock" on July 1." The Eatons are on furlough in Florida; the Allens and Berrys are on temporary assignments in Kenya.

No missionaries remain in the area held by Museveni's opponents, where more than 50 Baptist churches are located.

Included in the Garvins' loss were new appliances, his library and college and seminary notes. Three times during the late 1970s, the home was occupied by various forces. Before furlough, the Garvins had just completed renovations.

Closed Baptist clinic taunted by non-Christians in Benin

BOHICON, Benin (BP)—Non-Christians are shouting curses at a Southern Baptist dental facility that has been closed all but three of the past 21 months because it has no missionary dentist.

In 1983 Southern Baptist missionaries opened the clinic in the small upcountry town of Bohicon, Benin, after negotiating nearly seven years with government officials. But, they had to close eight months later when the career dentist assigned to the clinic left. Missionaries have tried to fill in with volunteers from the United States, but their visits have been irregular and unpredictable.

"The clinic is really a key ministry there," said Tom Starkey, the former missionary dentist who staffed it. "It opens up a lot of doors. The people could sense we were going out of our way to give them the best, and they really appreciated it."

Starkey, who said he left because of personal reasons, usually attended up to 15 patients every morning and worked in the laboratory in the afternoon. Mostly he pulled

teeth, but he also did fillings, crowns and dentures. People came for miles to get help.

Now, however, some are using the vacancies in the clinic to discredit the work. "People are passing by and shouting that the Christians' God cannot keep the clinic open," said Marilyn Bonnell, coordinator of health and social services for Southern Baptist missionaries in Benin. "This causes us a great deal of heartache. The testimony to the community is counterproductive when we have to close the doors."

The clinic's most urgent need is a volunteer or volunteers to staff it continuously until July or August, when a long-term volunteer is expected to take over. But the real need is for someone who wants to make a career out of practicing dentistry as a missionary to Benin, said Bonnell, adding that it would take about three years to prepare to practice in the country.

"We have a national staff on contract with nothing to do. However, we cannot let them go and then expect to have trained help on

hand for the volunteers," she said.

The nearby nation of The Gambia faces much the same situation, said John Mills, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for west Africa.

Southern Baptists have gained a foothold in The Gambia partly because of an upcountry dental program based in their facility at Farafenni. The program places Baptists near a river and at an intersection of two major roads—right where they need to be to reach people, Mills added. But in June a long-term volunteer is expected to vacate Farafenni, leaving a vacancy.

"It's hard to over-stress the need of dentists in these lands," Mills said. "In The Gambia, here's a Muslim country, and this is our key to it. In Benin, here is a Marxist country, and this is our key to it. One of the things that did impress the governments about our missions over others was that we were willing to do the kind of things others weren't. And now we don't have the person to do it."

Baptisms abroad reach record but growth rate declines

by Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A record 158,626 baptisms were reported last year by overseas Baptists related to Southern Baptist missions work. The increase, however, was 1.5 percent, compared to seven percent in 1984.

Overseas Baptists' membership topped two million for the first time, a gain of nearly five percent during 1985.

Cooperative work in 106 countries between local Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries was reviewed by Charles Bryan, Foreign Mission Board senior vice-president for overseas operations, during the agency's Feb. 10-12 trustee meeting.

The number of churches increased to 15,635, nearly six percent over 1984, when there was a nine percent gain. Counting churches, chapels and preaching points, 32,969 locations were reported.

More than a fourth of overseas baptisms, some 43,000, were reported in Brazil. In 1984, with 49,000-plus baptisms, Brazil accounted for nearly a third of the total. Second in baptisms were Nigerian Baptists, with nearly 18,850, up 321 over 1984. In Tanzania, baptisms soared from 8,700 in 1984 to more than 12,500, one baptism for every four members.

In the Philippines, nearly 12,500 people were baptized in 1985 as in 1984; in Mexico, 7,300, compared to 6,700 the year before, and in Korea, some 7,300, down from 8,700 in 1984.

On smaller mission fields, there were 1,200 baptisms in Togo—one for every 2.2 members—compared to 350 in 1984. In Lebanon, baptism's increased 75 percent, 79 in 1985, 45 in 1984. In South Africa, baptisms decreased 65 percent, 2,287 in 1985, 3,765 in 1984.

With decreases in some countries and increases or a leveling off in others, Bryan commented, "If our churches (in the United States) are any indicator, there are dips. We can't explain it here and it's hard to explain there.

"Conversion is a work of the Holy Spirit. We have to be faithful to the proclamation and . . . leave the results to the Lord." Bryan said the board must strive for "evidence of

productivity comparable to . . . the resources we have, both financial and human resources."

With sizeable gains in baptisms in recent years—averaging nearly seven percent since 1975—Bryan said some declines occur as churches seek to disciple and involve new members. In various countries, baptisms increased as a result of special projects by Southern Baptist volunteers.

The baptismal total is far short of a one-day increase in the world's population (230,000 people), Bryan said. "It's a world that is turbulent, chaotic and suffering."

World population increased by 84 million during 1985, equal to the population of Mexico, he said. During 1986, the number of non-Christians may increase by more than 50 million.

The need for missionary evangelists remains critical, Bryan said. "We're trying, the best we can, to inform pastors and preachers that we cannot win more people or start more churches without more help."

During 1985, 73 field evangelists were among a record 429 missionary appointees, yet 220 church-planting positions, and numerous others in church support, remain unfilled.

The missionary force grew by nearly five percent to a total of 3,597 at the end of 1985. Two new countries were entered, Zaire and Reunion, while the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in Sudan ended. Overseas Baptist pastors numbered 13,285; self-supporting congregations, 12,858.

Overseas Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries expanded their efforts in crisis ministry during 1985, providing, for example, immediate and long-term aid after an earthquake in Mexico and volcanic eruption and mudslide in Colombia. Hunger relief in Africa was expanded and educational and evangelistic efforts in tense areas of the Middle East continued. Southern Baptists contributed a record \$11.8 million toward relief efforts, up 64 percent over record gifts of \$7.2 million during 1984.

Southern Baptists responded to human need "in a greater way than we've done in

any period of our history," Bryan said.

Theological training continued to increase and, over the past three years, overseas seminary enrollment increased by more than 50 percent and theological education by extension (TEE) by 40 percent. Totals for 1985 were 9,313 seminarians, up four percent over 1984, and 9,077 in TEE, up nearly 16 percent.

Such enrollment figures are hopeful signs for evangelism and church growth in the years ahead, Bryan said, as are translations of MasterLife into 33 languages, including four in India and six in the Philippines.

The number of short- and long-term Southern Baptist volunteers totaled 6,759, nearly nine percent over 1984, when a 31 percent increase was reported. Nearly 2,300 participated in partnership evangelism between overseas and U.S. churches, 68 percent over 1984 and its 40 percent increase.

A key value of volunteers, Bryan said, is, "When they come back, they give their churches and fellow Christians a new vision of what is happening out there and what needs to happen."

In media work, 58 missionaries and more than 200 nationals reached an estimated audience of 233 million people, more than twice the audience of the Super Bowl football game, Bryan said. There were 35,932 radio broadcasts over 370 stations and 762 telecasts over 61 TV outlets.

Sixty-three missionary physicians, eight dentists and 76 nurses in 22 hospitals and 123 clinics worked alongside more than 5,800 national doctors and other medical personnel caring for more than 163,000 inpatients and nearly 1.4 million outpatients.

At 36 publications centers, 93 missionaries and 791 nationals produced nearly 6.4 million periodicals, 2.4 million books and 11.7 million tracts.

In benevolent ministries, 80 missionaries and 289 nationals ministered to 138,000 adults and children in 82 community centers and 3,357 residents in 21 children's homes.

Art Toalston writes for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Lewis says 70 percent of churches grow because of transfers

ATLANTA (BP)—If it were not for transfers of church membership, 70 percent of the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention would not be growing, a church growth consultant told a conference on "Doing Church in the '80s."

"In 92 percent of your churches, the only real growth you've had in the last five years has been from baptizing the children of your members and from transfers from other churches," said Ron Lewis of Nashville, Tenn.

Lewis, a former staff member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Illinois Baptist State Association, was the

opening speaker for a two-day conference on church growth sponsored by Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta.

Lewis listed six factors which will determine whether a church will grow in the 1980s. They were: population, parking, property, preschoolers, singles and a commitment to reaching all people.

"If you want to stop past trends and do church (growth) in the '80s, you've got to have a deep conviction that all people everywhere need the gospel," Lewis said. "And if you do that, you're going to have to change your approach."

Lewis said the churches that are growing fastest are located in key areas where the population is booming. "It's a lot easier to grow a church where the population is growing than it is in a place where the population is stagnant."

Churches that are growing provide the best, most expensive facilities for preschoolers, not for adults, and put strong emphasis on reaching singles, he said.

If a church is going to grow, it has to become "receiver-oriented," focusing ministries on the needs of people outside the church, not on members, he said.

'Don't be diverted,' lawyer tells Southern Baptists

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists were urged "not to be diverted" from their task of presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ because twin lawsuits have been filed against the Southern Baptist Convention.

James P. Guenther, attorney for the SBC and its Executive Committee, made the remark during the February meeting of the Executive Committee as he reported on lawsuits filed in federal and state courts in Atlanta by nine laypersons concerning events at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC in Dallas.

"I urge you not to be diverted by this case," Guenther told the 69-member committee. "While I take this case as seriously as any for which I have ever had responsibility and while it represents a case of grave importance in the history of church-state relations in this democracy, this case is, in the context of what Southern Baptists are about, a mere flash in the pan."

"Let the lawyers man the judicial battlements," Guenther told Executive Committee members. Then, he said, "you may continue the focus of your prayers, your wisdom

and your efforts on the real needs of our convention, seeking new commitments to old truths, growing tolerant and exhibiting fairness, adding breadth to minds and size to hearts, discovering humility in servanthood and concentrating on becoming radical disciples of a radical Savior in a world in desperate need of his good news."

Guenther noted the Executive Committee had an action to recommend new wording to Bylaw 16 concerning election of the Committee on Boards on its agenda for the meeting. The new wording would "make perfectly clear that nominations from the floor" may be made.

That action will be presented to messengers at the 1986 annual meeting for their action. "Thus," Guenther said, "the proper forum for this controversy is the Atlanta convention center and not the Atlanta courthouse."

The SBC "acknowledges no government to be superior to the convention. The convention is in no way dependent upon a grant of privilege or authority from any government. The sovereignty of the Southern Bapt-

tist Convention over its affairs is the exercise of a right the roots of which long predated the Constitution of the United States and its Bill of Rights," he said.

"The authority for the religious sovereignty which we claim is not given us by the First Amendment. . . . Instead, the pre-existing right is celebrated by the First Amendment. . . ."

Guenther said: "While Southern Baptists of late have talked more about diversity than we have talked about cooperation, Southern Baptists are as likely to agree on this one thing as on anything else. Fundamentalists, liberals, moderates, conservatives, whatever their label, Southern Baptists believe their problems must be solved by Southern Baptists within the four walls of the church and not government intervention."

Guenther added: "If reconciliation within our fellowship is to be found, it must be the result of tolerance and forgiveness and love for each other. We know it will not come by Caesar's decree."

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

Executive Committee recommends changes in controversial bylaw

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Messengers to the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be asked to make changes in a controversial bylaw when they meet June 10-12 in Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.


Bylaw 16, which concerns the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, and its interpretation by SBC President Charles F. Stanley, is at the center of a continuing controversy which erupted during the 1985 annual meeting.

During its February meeting, the SBC Executive Committee adopted a recommendation from its bylaws workgroup which would change the wording of the bylaw to allow nominations from the floor, but would prevent the nomination of an alternate slate of candidates.

Under the change, the Committee on Boards will continue to be nominated by the Committee on Committees, but two sentences are added: "Further nominations may be made from the floor. No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person at one time for election to the Com-

mittee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees."

Sullivan said he agrees with the prohibition against the nomination of alternate slates and noted the workgroup "does not see this as impeding the process of democracy, but as involving more people."



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The former two-term first vice president of the SBC told committee members the 1986 Committee on Order of Business has agreed to schedule discussion of revisions to Bylaw 16 on the annual meeting program in advance of the report of the Committee on Committees.

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Peace effort 'really matters,' chairman Fuller says

by Dan Martin

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)—The peace effort underway in the Southern Baptist Convention "really matters," according to Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller.

"I am convinced what we are doing in this peace effort is worth it all because it is something that matters, really matters," Fuller told the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association, made up of editors and staffers of 37 state Baptist newspapers and representatives of Baptist Press.

"I love the people called Southern Baptists," he said. "I cherish my legacy as a Southern Baptist. I am convinced God still wants to use Southern Baptists. Hence, when I hear skeptical and cynical voices rhetorically asking, 'You don't really believe there is hope for reconciliation and restoration in our convention, do you?' I am even more determined to 'stay by the stuff.'"

Fuller told of the "potential for a breakthrough in our pursuit of reconciliation. We have not yet reached a breakthrough, but we may very well be approaching some significant areas where all sides can come together and honor our diversity without dishonoring our convictions."

He did not comment on what such a breakthrough may be but said some of the progress during the Jan. 20-21 meeting of the Peace Committee "was attributable more to

the emerging dynamic of the group than to the planned agenda."

Fuller told the editors, "I would be remiss if I did not express, in my behalf and in behalf of the 122 members of the committee, our genuine appreciation for every contribution you and your publications have attempted to make toward a needed and honest reconciliation in current Southern Baptist life."

He also said: "I realize my two press releases, calling upon Southern Baptists to abide by the convention's action to 'exercise restraint, to refrain from divisive action and comments and to reflect Christian love...' were perceived by some not only as a call for quiet but as a subtle or inadvertent restriction of the press.

"Regardless how those releases have been perceived, they were never intended to quell the rightful duty of any media. I am quite aware that you, who have been called of God to the ministry of Christian journalism, have both a professional and spiritual accountability to fulfill," he said.

"My appeals have been to responsible Southern Baptists in general, without any hidden agenda concerning the press or any particular theological postures. In my opinion, the key is not resentful silence but responsible speech, not a muzzled tongue but a charitable spirit."

The chairman said he would "depoliticize the entire committee" if he had his way, or even recommend a "convention-wide moratorium on denominational politics.

"Such is next to impossible, however, if we respect the Baptist view on personal liberty. We acknowledge the fact that Southern Baptist politics have been an ongoing reality for years, but our need is to reject the bad-spirited politics among us and seek a more wholesome version to the political process."

Fuller said within the SBC the "question is not whether we are theologically diverse, but how diverse can we be and maintain a legitimate denominational fellowship and a trustworthy base upon which to combine our support for mutual ministries."

"At this point the parameters are flexible, but they are not limitless," he added. "The nature of our theological relationships is such that we cannot settle it 'once and for all.' Of necessity, we will periodically pass through the painful assignment of renewing our understanding and re-establishing our oneness."

He said he believes Southern Baptists "are generally quite conservative," adding, "there are those who are fundamental-conservatives and those who are moderate-conservatives." He noted there are those who fit the classic theological liberal designation, as well.

He said many Southern Baptists hold a position of "inerrancy but I do not personally believe it is a position all must take in order to remain Southern Baptists." However, he said to him "one hardly could claim to be faithful to the heritage of Southern Baptists... unless he or she held the Scriptures in the highest reverence, never dealing with them as less than God's written and revealed word."

Fuller also said, "Creedalism is not an answer for us, nor is indulgence."

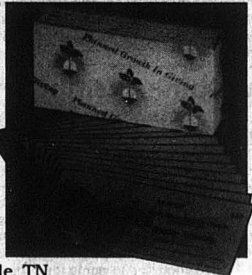
The chairman said each Christian is "competent to interpret the Scriptures, giving account directly to God... (but) if that Christian is going to represent other believers in enterprises they mutually undertake, there has to be some accountability to them as well."

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Family sues church, association, two conventions

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)—The Tar River Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention have been named as defendants in a \$5.75 million lawsuit filed Jan. 29 in Wake Forest (N.C.) Superior Court.

The defendants have 30 days to respond formally to the suit.

The complaint is being brought by Dana Renee Williams, a minor, by and through her parents, Ellerbee H. and Denise C. Williams, also listed as plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs allege Dana Renee Williams was injured in a June 20, 1985, accident in-

volving a log truck and an automobile in which she was riding. The automobile was en route to a Girls in Action camp sponsored by Tar River Association. The camp was being held at Chowan College in Murfreesboro, N.C.

When the accident occurred, according to the suit, Dana Renee, whom the suit says is a member of Hopkins Chapel Church in Zebulon, N.C., was riding with seven other GAs in a vehicle owned and operated by Sharon Walker, also a member of Hopkins Chapel and GA leader at the church.

The plaintiffs contend Walker, as a

member of Hopkins Chapel church, was acting as an agent of the church while she transported GAs to the camp.

Because the congregation in Zebulon is a cooperating Southern Baptist church, the suit alleges Walker also was acting as an agent or sub-agent of the Tar River Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The suit also lists as defendants the driver of the automobile, the driver of the logging truck, the owner of the logging truck and Hopkins Chapel church.

BJCPA files statement on tax reform legislation

by Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—In an effort to protect the tax-exempt status of church pension and welfare benefits boards, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has filed a written statement with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee.

Filed in conjunction with five days of hearings held by the Finance Committee on the Tax Reform Act of 1985 (H.R. 3838), the statement proposes deletion or amendment of Section 1012 of the bill. That section calls for stripping the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and other such church boards of their federal tax exemption.

Before taxing of those church boards could begin, however, the bill would have to be passed by the Senate and signed by President Reagan in the same form as it was passed by the House of Representatives in mid-December. Action by the full Senate is not expected until mid-1986.

In its written statement, the Baptist Joint Committee described church pension and welfare benefits boards as "an integral part of the mission and ministry" of churches since those boards carry out the "churches' spiritual task of providing for their needy and

retired ministers and denominational employees." The statement explained that while the boards are incorporated separately to protect employee assets from creditors of other church organizations, that incorporation has little to do with the actual polity or composition of the church.

"Taxation of these church boards is tantamount to taxation of the churches themselves and as such constitutes a radical departure from the traditional interpretation of church-state separation," the statement maintained.

The statement, which also was signed by the Church of the Brethren, outlined prior Supreme Court and congressional positions that supported tax-exempt status for churches and advocated defining the term "church" broadly enough to encompass pension and welfare benefits boards.

In the statement, the Baptist Joint Committee also warned taxation of church boards would require "continual surveillance, monitoring, periodic investigations and audits resulting in an 'impermissible degree' of entanglement" of the federal government in church affairs.

"Perhaps the most compelling reason for exempting church boards from taxation lies in the potential for state regulation or control of religion," the Baptist Joint Committee stated. Apart from its unconstitutionality, the proposed tax reform bill would "undoubtedly engender conflict and confrontation with the churches" and at the very least would "lead to a quagmire of litigation," the statement continued.

The statement urged the Senate Finance Committee to reject Section 1012 or to add an exception for "church plans" as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

"History demonstrates that both church and state are healthiest when the two are allowed to function apart from each other," the statement concluded. "Although there can never be absolute or total separation, there should be an attitude of neutrality on the part of the state with regard to religion. Tax exemption of churches serves to maintain this neutrality."

Kathy Palen is assistant director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Tax reform bill would tax some exempt group earnings

by Stan Hasty

WASHINGTON (BP)—A virtually unnoticed provision in the House-passed Tax Reform Act would subject tax-exempt groups—including churches and church-supported institutions—to corporate income taxes on dividends earned if they own as little as five percent of the stock in any corporation.

According to Gary Nash, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, the provision most likely would adversely affect private colleges, universities and hospitals. But, he warned, potentially all churches and church institutions and agencies might be losers if the provision were to become law.

As contained in H.R. 3838—the bill passed late last year by the House of Representatives and now the subject of hearings in the Senate—the provision would likely inhibit large gifts of stock to church-related and other nonprofit institutions. It would also

hurt institutional endowment funds in those cases where investments in a single corporation exceed the five percent threshold.

Nash said that while most churches and church agencies—including the Annuity Board—would not be affected by the provision for now, final passage of a tax bill containing it would set a "dangerous precedent." He likened its passage to the proverbial "camel's nose getting into the tent."

That view was supported by tax expert Tom Troyer, of the Washington law firm of Caplin and Drysdale, who told Baptist Press that staff members on Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation told him their eventual goal is full taxation of dividend earnings on all groups, profit and nonprofit alike. The committee seeks eventually to eliminate the corporate income tax altogether, Troyer said.

Asked for examples of institutions that

would feel the impact of the H.R. 3838 provision as passed by the House, he said Duke University and the Eli Lilly Foundation would suffer. The Lilly Foundation provides large gifts to many church-related institutions. He explained that these and other institutions owning five percent of a corporation would be taxed at the full corporate rate—up to 36 percent—on 10 percent of their dividend earnings, the same formula used to tax the earnings of profit-making bodies.

Nash said the Annuity Board would not be affected by the proposed tax on dividend earnings because it maintains a policy of not investing as heavily as five percent in any single corporation.

Stan Hasty is director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

International

A hope worth living for

by Gene Stacks, First Church, Star City

Basic passage: 1 Peter 1:1 to 2:10

Focal passage: 1 Peter 1:3-9,13-21

Central truth: The hope Christians have because of Christ encourages them to live joyful, obedient and confident lives set apart for him.

The Christian hope is constant, that is, it never diminishes in the least no matter the circumstances. Peter's epistle is addressed to the churches in Asia Minor at a time when things were already difficult and about to become even more so. Those Christians desperately needed patience, faith and assurance.

The word translated by the English word "hope" is the Greek word *elpidzo*, which is often translated into the English "expect." Webster defines hope as "anticipation or expectation; something expected to happen." The Christian hope is in no way mere desire; it is joyful expectation!

We Christians "expect" to obtain an inheritance that is "imperishable" (because it is without defect), "undefiled" (free from all impurity), "will not fade away" (unlike earthly things) and "reserved in heaven for us." This is a hope that is worth living for!

Further, in this life we can "expect" to be protected by the power of God from all that the enemy can throw at us. We belong to him, we are his workmanship and "no man can pluck" us out of his hand!

Because of the hope that is ours in Christ, we Christians have determined to live our lives according to his design. The only appropriate response to the one who loves us so much and who has given us such a great hope is to love him, and if we love him, then we must obey him.

The word "holy" is perhaps the single most comprehensive term used to describe the new life that is ours in Christ. Essentially, "holy" means (1) we have been separated to God for his purposes and (2) we have a new life patterned after the Lord Jesus. This is what it means to be "holy in all manner of conversation."

We must remember Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost." If we are to pattern our lives after him, then that must be our ultimate purpose also. The Annie Armstrong offering provides each of us with a truly great opportunity to follow our Lord in his work of "seeking and saving."

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Life and Work

Christ as Lord

by C. Michael Anders, First Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: Matthew 16:13-28

Focal passage: Matthew 16:15-24

Central truth: To confess Christ as Lord is to follow him in self-sacrifice.

Imagine the difficulty of the disciples in accepting their dawning realization that Jesus was the Son of God. These men had repeated daily the Jewish statement, "The Lord our God is One Lord." After three years of observation, the disciples had come to the amazing conclusion that Jesus was no ordinary man. Some may profess him to be only a prophet or a great teacher, but any person who looks long enough at Jesus will be overwhelmed with the conviction that Jesus is Lord.

Peter's confession of faith is the foundation on which God built the church. Many have misinterpreted verse 18. The church is not built on a man. Men live and die and pass on. But the confession "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" is an eternal truth. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (He. 13:8). On that kind of foundation, the church can last.

Christ gave an awesome responsibility to the church when he gave the "keys of the kingdom." That means that the church has the authority to teach and interpret the gospel. God has entrusted his message of salvation to his church. Millions of people in our world still do not know the key that will unlock the gates of heaven for them. The church has the mandate to share Christ with everyone in the world. Jesus implies that the church can boldly march forward because he promised that the "gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (v. 18).

Peter demonstrates he is like most of us. He has his moments of greatness, but he also shows his clay feet. On the heels of his famous proclamation, he finds himself rebuked by Christ who says, "Get thee behind me, Satan" (v. 23). Peter knew enough to proclaim Jesus as Messiah, but he was a long time coming to a full understanding of his confession. Even a child can understand enough of Christ to accept him as Lord, but the most brilliant scholar can spend a lifetime studying and not fully understand the Lordship of Christ.

The mark of true discipleship is a life of self-denial. We must get our sinful selves out of the way so that Christ can truly be Lord of our lives.

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Bible Book

Living in times of stress

by Steve Kelley, Brumley Church, Conway

Background passage: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Focal passage: 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 9-17

Central truth: Paul taught that Christians should avoid those who have erred from the truth and use the Scriptures to equip themselves.

In this lesson, Paul warns Timothy to beware of those who do not practice the truth and encourages the young pastor to profit from the study of inspired Scripture. Paul's words remind us how potentially dangerous evil company is to our spiritual welfare.

In verses 2 thru 5 Paul outlines a catalogue of vices that characterize those who err from the truth. Chief among these is a self-centeredness that denies God his rightful place in our lives. The people Paul has in mind are described as "lovers of their own selves" and "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (vv. 2,4). They appear outwardly religious, but inwardly their lives are empty of God's power. Paul instructs Timothy to not to fellowship with these rebellious individuals (v. 5).

We must be careful not to be numbered among those who forget God. We know that we err from the truth when serving self becomes the primary focus of our attention. Our lives are robbed of the purpose and meaning that only service to God and fellow man can give. The end result of self-centeredness is spiritual bankruptcy. All that is left is religious appearance void of any meaningful content.

Paul tells Timothy the best way to avoid erring from the truth is to learn and practice what the Bible teaches. Paul assures his young reader that Scripture is "inspired" by God. Inspiration means the truth of Scripture is divine in origin. Paul says the primary purpose of God's Word is to thoroughly equip the believer with everything necessary to live a life that pleases God. Thus, God's word serves to make the believer "perfect" in the sense of being completely fit for the task of ministry.

Neglecting Scripture leads to spiritual immaturity. We cannot withstand the contemporary challenge to our faith without an adequate knowledge of God's Word. May God help us to understand and practice eternal truth revealed in Scripture so that we may honor and serve our Creator and Lord.

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Southern Seminary names first black professor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—T. Vaughn Walker has become the first black person to join the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Walker, who is pastor of First Gethsemane Church in Louisville, has been named assistant professor of church social work, announced C. Anne Davis, dean of the Louisville seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work.

The new professor will teach courses on the black family and the black church. He

said he hopes his courses will attract students with little or no exposure to black churches or families so they will become more effective ministers to persons in those environments.

He will continue as pastor of First Gethsemane, he said, explaining, "I really feel a calling to pastor, preach and teach."

Walker is a graduate of Hampton University and Eastern Illinois University and earned a doctor of philosophy degree from Oregon State University.

HMB elects writer for abortion prevention

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a missionary to write abortion alternative materials and heard a report on the status of Good News America Simultaneous Revivals in its February board meeting.

Fred Loper, a medical doctor from Oklahoma City, and his wife, Lavada, were appointed to write the board's first alternative-to-abortion materials and provide leadership in medical missions.

The materials are to be a result of Home Mission Board efforts to encourage the teaching of Christian sex education in churches and to inform them of abortion alternatives. The suggestions include ways churches can become involved in constructive prevention of abortions such as crisis pregnancy centers where women are counseled on abortion alternatives; keeping the baby or placing it for adoption.

Loper, the second board-appointed medical doctor, will devise ways physicians can be used in home missions, said Wendell Belew, board mission ministries division director. The board receives a number of requests from doctors who want to aid

migrants, ghetto dwellers and other indigents, but the current process prevents them from practicing outside of the state in which they are licensed, he explained.

Evangelism committee members reported that all state Baptist conventions and fellowships, about 90 percent of Southern Baptist district associations and nearly 70 percent of SBC churches are scheduled to participate in the Good News revivals set to kick-off next month. HMB evangelism leaders also anticipate 10 million Scripture portions will be distributed by the end of the six-week emphasis.

Committee member Lawson Schroeder of Stone Mountain, Ga., said the amount of Good News participation was an "important message to our country that we are planning and doing something about distributing the gospel of Jesus Christ."

In other personnel matters, the executive committee appointed one missionary, two missionary associates and a church planter apprentice. The committee also approved financial assistance for one student mission pastor, one state administrator, one language pastor and 100 mission pastors.

Annuity Board reports big gains during 1985

DALLAS (BP)—An open enrollment period for church term life and comprehensive medical plans was the most successful promotion in the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's history, trustees learned at their annual meeting Feb. 3-5.

The open enrollment figures were a part of the 1985 annual report delivered by Annuity Board President Darold Morgan.

During the two-month period, 9,374 applicants were enrolled without having to provide evidence of good health, Morgan said, adding this requirement could be suspended because of the strength of the plans.

Morgan's report also showed in 1985: (1) the board's assets rose to almost \$1.7 billion, a gain of nearly \$259 million over 1984; (2) more than \$43.7 million in retirement benefits were paid to 15,127 annuitants, the most in any year; (3) a total of \$42.9 million was paid in insurance benefits; and (4) investments incomes reached \$198 million, a

gain of \$89 million.

In other business, trustees heard a report on a proposed relocation of the board's offices. Twelve sites in the Dallas area are under consideration, said A. George Avinger Jr., the board's director of administrative services, who spoke for the relocation committee. The board sold the building it currently occupies last year. Plans call for it to remain in that building until it builds a new facility or its lease runs out in 1988.

Trustees were notified of the appointment of Marvin T. York as interim director of the investments division. York was investment director for the board before his retirement several years ago. His return follows the resignation of Stan Morrow, the former chief investment executive. Morrow is returning to his work as a private consultant.

Willis L. Meadows of Shreveport, La., president of the Hunter Company, Inc., was re-elected chairman of the trustees.