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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

10-10-1991

October 10, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



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At a glance

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In the first of a two-part series on Christian victory, H.D. McCarty, senior pastor of University Church in Fayetteville, presents needed words of "truth and encouragement." McCarty says, "All Christians have been called by God to help build little colonies of heaven on earth."

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Foothills Chapel, Mountain View, organized into a church Sept. 22, with 117 members. The chapel was started in August 1981, sponsored by Mountain View First Church. The congregation met in a portable chapel for nearly three years, and completed a permanent building in February 1989.

20 Computer link update test

Weekly, computer-transmitted teaching helps will provide youth Sunday School workers with last-minute suggestions in a one-month test project conducted by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

23 Seminary funding revision?

The presidents of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries and a committee of five Southern Baptists experienced in the field of education met Sept. 18 to study the possibility of revising the formula used to determine the amount of Cooperative Program money flowing annually to each seminary.

Cover story

(BP) photo / Jim Veneman



Strengthening God's Family

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The 1991 Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be held Nov. 19-20 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock. Included in pre-convention coverage: program personalities, tentative program, credentials and committees, Pastors Conference, Ministers' Wives, alumni meetings, other interest groups meetings, budget recommendation, and restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

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The Word is Missions

"Missions Involvement
Through Embracing the Word"



ROYAL AMBASSADOR WEEK
NOVEMBER 3-9, 1991

Serving in small places

J. EVERETT SNEED

In our Baptist life, great emphasis is placed on church growth and rightly so. Yet, it should be remembered that every church does not have the same opportunity or potential to reach new people. It is self-evident that a church in a suburban area where new homes are going up every day has a greater opportunity than a church in a rural community where there is a decline in population each year.

Sometimes in an area of limited opportunity, pastors and people may be distressed because of wrong standards. An old story tells of a pastor who, on Monday, after again not reaching the only lost man in the village, walked down the road. His head was lowered. He was extremely depressed as he met one of his neighbors who was headed toward the river with his old decrepit dog. "What are you doing today?" the pastor asked.

"Oh, I am on my way down to the river to drown my dog," the neighbor replied. "He's so old that he can hardly see. His teeth are so bad that he can barely eat. He can't hunt anymore. He's just good for nothing."

"Give him to me," the pastor said, "I know just how he must feel."

Now, it will may be that pastor was doing an excellent job with his church. He may have just had the wrong standards. As someone has said, "You fish differently if you are fishing in a pond where there is only one fish than you do in an ocean where there are thousands of fish."

It takes a particular type of pastor in a rural community which is losing in population or in an inner-city area where everyone is moving out to the suburbs. Fortunately, God in his wisdom has called such men. Some of the characteristics of such a man are as follows:

—His main objective must be to minister to the needs of the people in the community. He will need to be able to relate to all of his people.

—Spiritual growth of his flock must give him great joy. Since there are not large numbers of lost people, he must gain satisfaction from the maturity his congregation obtains. Great emphasis is given in Scripture to spiritual growth. Approximately 90 percent of all the Scripture is written to Christian people. A pastor, in a setting where there is not a large number of lost or church prospects, must major on exhortation of the Word of God. This is a



wholesome and worthwhile objective.

—He must never lose sight of those who are lost in his area. No matter how few there may be, he should remember their plight without Christ. In every area of our state there are some who do not know Christ as their Savior. Without a personal encounter with the living Lord, those individuals will spend eternity separated from Christ.

—He must gain his satisfaction from his own local church membership. It may be that sometimes he will go unnoticed. Each of us must always be aware that God does not always evaluate in the same way that people sometimes do. God judges our success on how well we fulfill our responsibility, as related to our opportunities.

—Sometimes, he must be willing to support his family, at least partially, through a secular vocation. There are many churches which do not now and will never have the potential of providing complete support for a pastor. These churches need spiritual guidance. It is a great service to the kingdom when men are willing to accept God's call to such places. The truth is, that much of the greatness of the Southern Baptist Convention lies in the fact that we have ministered in all types of communities and to all kinds of people. In a very real sense the numerically small churches of the SBC provide us with our

greatest strength. If we ever discontinue the ministry of these numerically small congregations, our convention will lose much of its strength.

Bi-vocational pastors have a noble heritage. The Apostle Paul, for example, was skilled in a second occupation—tentmaking. He was pleased to have never been a burden to anyone. He said, "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought, but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you" (2 Th. 3: 8, 2:9; 2 Co. 11:9). Paul, through his tentmaking, located some excellent helpers in carrying the gospel. It appears that the husband and wife team, Aquila and Priscilla (Ac. 18:1-4), were already committed Christians. But their mutual occupation, as well as their commitment to the gospel, drew them together at a time when Paul needed help.

Another benefit derived from a preacher's working at a secular vocation is the fact that he always knows what the life of the "working man" is like. This was one of the reasons the Jewish rabbis were required to be bi-vocational. Rabbi Gamaliel III said, "All study of the Torah (law) which is not combined with work will ultimately be futile and lead to sin" (Bruce, *The Book of Acts*, pg. 367).

We salute the men who are serving God in these places. If your church is located in such an area and your pastor has the qualifications we have outlined, you should thank God for him. Be sure to let your pastor know that you appreciate him. Often, a simple word of encouragement can be of great benefit to your pastor. In expressing gratitude for what your pastor is doing, both you and he will be blessed.

Arkansas Baptist

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The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6506) is published by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.25 per year (individual), \$5.76 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.48 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request. Send correspondence and address changes to *Arkansas Baptist*, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-1791. Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

VOLUME 90

NUMBER 21

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



The changes that are taking place around the world are staggering. Most have been drastic changes for the better. That is, as of this date, the changes appear to be better. By the time of publication, the situations may have changed. In fact, by the 6 p.m. news today they may have changed.

Along with the rate of change has come the change of direction. It appears that the two century old model, of a government "of the people" and "by the people," could become acceptable and desirable for many peoples of the earth. If it would mean that the enjoyment of the freedoms and opportunities which we have experienced would soon come to them, we would rejoice. No one knows whether that can or will happen in many places. In this state of flux, the greedy, the power mongers, and self-seeking will naturally try to seize the opportunity and once again enslave the people for their own advantage. Prayer and mighty missionary efforts are called for by God's people.

Our country is also undergoing radical changes. Again, we do not know whether most of them are for the better or for the worse. Whichever the case, as difficult as it may be, believers in Christ must be on their toes and be at their courageous best.

Our denomination is undergoing radical change. The financial base shows signs of eroding. Shortfalls in Cooperative Program funding have traditionally been offset by special mission offerings. Foreign, home and state mission offerings are now falling short. Loyalties once unquestioned are quickly being shoved aside. Structures and strategies once unquestioned are now being evaluated and often abandoned. Methodologies, once rather uniformly accepted are being replaced by entrepreneurial creations. The safety of sameness is leaving us. We may not feel good about it, nor be able to do anything about it, but it is happening.

God hasn't changed! Whatever is changing is not God. Therefore, we should not be too shaken by all of this. But, we must stay before him to find out "what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 P. 3:11,12).

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

MIKE HUCKABEE

The President's Corner

Defining abundant life



We went as far as our vehicle would take us and then set out on foot, up a hill toward the church. As we walked, we had to artfully step past piles of human excrement and other obstacles. Missionary Yvonne Helton, an energetic and bubbly 18-year veteran in Guatemala was our guide. She took us to view a church whose English name is Abundant Life Church. As we walked past scores of children playing outside dwelling places that more resembled a primitive camp than a home, we realized their "poverty" existed to a level few North Americans could fully comprehend.

When we arrived at the Abundant Life Church, it occurred to me that most good hunting dogs in Arkansas have a much nicer place to stay than those people have for a worship service. A single piece of rusted tin on a hinge was the door. The walls were chicken wire with sticks and corn stalks filling in the gaps. The nicest things to be seen were the carefully and proudly stacked chairs which had been provided through gifts of Arkansas Baptists and the sign hanging on a post near the entrance provided by the Guatemala Convention and the mission. As we visited with the pastor and some of the members of Abundant Life Church, however, it became evident that the church was not misnamed at all. The people exuded the very warmth and joy of Jesus' life.

For so many of us, abundant life would be a nice church facility, a well-educated pastor and staff, a diverse program offering all kinds of recreational and social ac-

tivities for the members to enjoy. We would insist that our restrooms were sparkling clean, that parking was close to the building, that the pews were comfortable, and the length of the service timed so as not to infringe on personal schedules.

The partnership Arkansas Baptists are having with Guatemalan Baptists is having a dramatic impact in that nation! It is thrilling to know that, collectively, we've had a part in helping to thrust forward the cause of Christ as we've linked with our Central American brothers and sisters, but the ultimate benefit of the Guatemala/Arkansas partnership will go well beyond the borders of Guatemala. We will leave behind a host of facilities, new churches, training centers, the stunning and useful Arkansas House, thousands of people whose lives will have been touched by medical teams, crusade teams, and the like. But we will have learned something as well. We will have learned that abundant life is not the materialistic American norm of getting and having things. We will discover that real abundant life is not a matter of wealth but of worship. Yes, maybe we'll teach our Guatemalan friends a few things about mission strategy, church building, and evangelism, but they may well teach us a great deal more about the good shepherd who came to give us life and give it more abundantly.

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Texarkana Beech Street First Church, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

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Enduring Triumphantly

First in a two-part series on Christian victory

by H.D. McCarty

Senior Pastor, University Church, Fayetteville

These thoughts are directed primarily to the pastors of our churches. We, above all others, need a "prophetic word" of truth and encouragement. I am hopeful they will also strengthen all members of our congregations who truly seek to be leaders in "drinking the cup" of Christ-centered discipleship.

All Christians have been called by God to help build little colonies of heaven on earth. Though not perfect, they are the best taste of eternity this world will ever get. The church, with all its faults, remains the greatest organization on earth. Some other organizations may look better, but it's only because they are dealing with secondary issues! A hospital may save a life, the Cowboys may win a game, fellowship might be real honest in a bar and the company might turn a profit; but none of them are commissioned to proclaim the real message of Christ. . . . redemption and deliverance from sin and death!

Churches have the major responsibility of taking on evil and destroying it in the lives of members and friends. Many pastors and churches have succumbed to a maintenance mode and have all the eternal impact of a religious civic club. True spiritual combat is vicious, exhausting, and costly! Many fall away, some call their mediocrity victory while others seek safety in the caves of religiosity! May God save us from those seducing traps.

The battle to build true New Testament churches in an increasingly hostile and valueless culture demands supernatural wisdom and power. Pastors and their key laymen in the congregation are targets for satanic attack. . . . be it subtle or obvious. We are destined to take the "hits" of injustice, the "blows" of betrayal and the "anxieties" of our own weaknesses. No wonder our Commander in this warfare calls on us to "endure!"

This word appears in the King James text 17 times. It is a combination of two Greek words which mean "to re-

main under." The same Greek word is used in 32 other locations and translated as "patience." The words are close in their meaning. Patience would lean toward a more passive expectancy in growth; while endurance would suggest a more aggressive courage in the hardships of battle. The command is to remain under pressure. Don't seek escape from conflict against evil.

Our Lord uses the word three times (Mt. 10:22; 24:13; Mk. 13:13) telling us to endure to the end. He also exhorts us in Luke 21:19 that. . . . "In your patience you will possess (gain) your souls!" The Greek word presents many fascinating options for study, preaching, and practical application.

For the purposes of this article I point to Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:10 and 12. Made bold by the contemplation of the greatness of Christ and the power of his Word (vv. 8-9) Paul declares. . . . "I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory!"

Those of us in church leadership must come back to this verse. We must resolutely declare that "I will endure all things!" We must make sure this endurance is for the people Christ loves and not a self-seeking glory for ourselves. Flesh motives lack spiritual power!

Verse 12 further assures us that if we endure (not suffer as the KJV has it) . . . we shall reign with Christ! The reigning is both total in the future and partial in the present. The power to reign "now" is in direct proportion to our confidence and expectations for the "then!" The faith that increasingly know the future finds increasing triumph in the present!

What then is the pastor's first mandate as he seeks to lead one of Christ's churches? I am persuaded that the pastor's top priority is not to build numbers, budgets, or buildings! His first task is not even to preach sermons, win the lost, or establish a discipleship strategy. Neither should he be consumed with the rounds of

hatch, match, dispatch, legitimate though they be.

The spiritual leader's supreme task is to witness to the supernatural touch of God in his own life. He does this by "demonstrating resurrection" before his people over all the blows, hurts, criticisms, wounds, pressures, mistakes, failures, and even victories, that touch him. People look to those leaders who solve their own problems! They don't quit! They come back again and again and again from every setback!

The very meaning of the word resurrection in the Greek. . . . *ana* (again) *stasis* (to stand) tells us we can "stand again!" One of the greatest sermons Jesus ever preached was just "hanging on the cross" until God said "done!" Enduring in spite of everything is one of the most impactful messages we can proclaim!

Many church members have a failed attitude toward their pastors. . . . "I was here before you came and I'll be here after you leave so I'll never take you seriously." Nothing is more demeaning! Folks slowly begin to take you seriously when they are forced to admit the "resurrection demonstration" of your life. This sometimes takes years. I have vowed that no matter how much hell I walk through Monday through Saturday, by God's grace I will rise again every Sunday! The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in us (Ro. 8:11)!

Successful people are problem solvers. They are in demand! Interestingly, the more problems you have, the greater your potential to show yourself a success! The weak disciple runs from problems. The spiritual hero has a "search and destroy" mentality! Remember John's testimony about the Master. . . . "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 Jn. 3:8).

Bud Grant, former head coach for the Minnesota Vikings, is one of the NFL's great legends in motivational talks. His short and impactful words always stirred! Before one big contest he told the team. . . . "Make up your

mind what kind of beating you're willing to take to win this game!" Make up your mind! To endure all things means to take some beatings in the process!

My conversations with most pastors over the years almost invariably reveal immense hurt and self-doubt! People do mean things to their pastors. Some folks seem to glory in magnifying our weaknesses and minimizing our strengths! I've been there! Most of us don't have the heart to defend and we usually shouldn't. I agree with old Dr. H.A. Ironsides who commented . . . "Preachers are an ungody lot!"

But, what are we to do? Simple! Endure! We know we're inadequate. Our theological limitations, preaching deficiencies, administrative gaps, pastoral failures, and devotional shallowness assail us daily. Young pastors begin with a vision of "whipping their church into shape for God!" Mature shepherds of the flock smile as they discover God using his church "to whip the pastor into shape!" Our only biblical response is to accept the reality of it and endure!

There are at least five inescapable laws of church leadership as I've experienced them. Spiritual leadership is, first, a commitment to be misunderstood. Second, a commitment to suffer. Third, a commitment to continuous tension. Fourth, a commitment to being in charge of that over which you have little control. Fifth, a commitment to being blamed for what you would have been against if you had known it was going on!

One book that should be on the most reading list of every pastor and

lay leader is: *Liberating Ministry From The Success Syndrome* by Kent and Barbara Hughes, Tyndale, 1988. They quote another brother who has been there and who magnificently captures the agony and ecstasy of the preacher, "The pulpit calls those anointed to it as the sea calls its sailors; and like the sea, it batters and bruises, and does not rest. . . To preach, to really preach, is to die naked, a little at a time and to know each time that you must do it again" (p. 182).

Even the great C.H. Spurgeon once wrote. . . "I would rather take a whipping . . . than to preach again. Who is sufficient for these things? . . . (I have

wished) that I had never ventured on so bold a life-work. Preaching becomes difficult because it can never be good enough" (p. 182).

John Paul Jones, the great American Naval Revolutionary, challenged his fellow officers with his intent to carry the fight to the enemy. "Those who sail with me had best sail fast, for I intend to put myself in harm's way" (Navy Academy, Annapolis).

Those who dare to take Christ's mantle as his pastors and spiritual leaders have chosen to place themselves "in harm's way."

Once done, there is no alternative to victory except to "endure."

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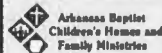
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(BP) photo / Jim Veenman



Program personalities

Tim LaHaye, president, Family Life Seminars, Washington, D.C., will bring the Bible study.

Betty J. Merrell, director, Age-level Involvement Section, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will bring the prayer emphasis for each session.

Morris Chapman, pastor, First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas; president, Southern Baptist Convention, will bring the message on Tuesday morning.

LeRoy McClard, retired from Church Music Department, BSSB, will lead the music in all sessions.

Mike Huckabee, pastor, Beech Street First Church, Texarkana; president, ABSC, will bring the President's Message on Tuesday afternoon.

Jim McDaniel, pastor, First Baptist Church, Brinkley; president, ABSC Executive Board, will bring the Executive Board report on Tuesday afternoon.

Don Moore, ABSC Executive Director, will bring the Executive Director's report on Tuesday afternoon.

Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, will bring the report of the seminaries.

Rex Holt, Jr., pastor of Central Church, Jonesboro, will bring the Convention Sermon on Wednesday morning.

Wyndell Jones, executive director, Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship/Convention, will bring the report on the Iowa/Arkansas partnership.

HOPE
for the
HOME

1991 Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Geyer Springs First Baptist Church
Nov. 19-20 Little Rock

Welcome to Little Rock

Dear Co-Laborers for Our Lord:

LET ME SINCERELY

welcome you to Geyer Springs First Baptist Church for the 138th session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. It is always a delight to have you use our facilities for worship and for discussing our Lord's work. It is a great time of fellowship and inspiration for all of us. It is also a time when the Lord meets specific needs in our life and ministry.

THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

look forward to your coming, and pray this will be a special time of praise, planning and spiritual growth. Please pray that this will be a time of openness to our Lord, of Christian love for each other, and of gaining the Lord's vision for reaching people. Looking forward to seeing you.

Thankful for Our Lord and for You,



Paul Sanders, Pastor

STATE CONVENTION

Annual Meeting Preview

ABSC Tentative Program

Strengthening God's Family

Tuesday Morning November 19, 1991

8:30	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
8:35	Prayer Emphasis	Betty Merrell
8:45	BIBLE STUDY	Tim LaHaye
9:15	Call to Order	Mike Huckabee
9:20	Welcome	Paul Sanders
9:25	Appointment of Committees	Mike Huckabee
	Enrollment of Messengers	Sid Carswell
	Adoption of Order of Business	C. A. Johnson
	Tellers Committee Instructions	Ken Goad
	Resolutions	Larry Pillow
	Constitution Amendments	Betty Harp
9:45	Announcements	Mike Huckabee
9:50	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
9:55	Message	Morris Chapman
10:25	Guatemala Mission Report	Glendon Grober
10:45	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
10:50	Special Music	Adult Choir, First, Benton
	Soloist: Jamie Gilbert, Beech Street, Texarkana	
11:00	President's Message	Mike Huckabee
11:30	Benediction	Rick Ballentine

Tuesday Afternoon Nov. 19, 1991

1:30	Music Men Brass	Glen Ennes, Director
1:35	Prayer Emphasis	Betty Merrell
1:45	Recognitions	Mike Huckabee
	Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Memphis	
	Former Presidents	
	Retired Baptist Workers	Daniel R. Grant
		H. E. Williams
	New Arkansans	Don Moore
2:00	Foreign Mission Board Report	Russell Fox
2:10	Recognition of Missionaries	Mike Huckabee
2:15	Quachita Baptist University Report	Ben Elrod
2:30	Miscellaneous Business	
2:40	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
2:45	Arkansas Baptist Foundation Report	Harry Trulove
2:55	Nominating Committee	Johnny Ross
3:05	Executive Board Report	James McDaniel
3:25	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
3:30	Report of Seminaries	Russell Dillard
3:35	Executive Director's Report	Don Moore
3:50	Special Music	
4:00	BIBLE STUDY	Tim LaHaye
4:30	Benediction	Gary Fulton

Tuesday Evening Nov. 19, 1991

6:05	Prelude	Handbell Choir, First, Little Rock
6:15	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
6:20	Williams Baptist College Choir	
		Bob McGee, Director
6:35	Prayer Emphasis	Betty Merrell
6:45	Christian Civic Foundation Board Report	
		Larry Page
6:55	Recognition of Denominational Guests	
		Mike Huckabee
7:00	Williams Baptist College Report	Jimmy Millikin
7:15	Cooperative Program Awards	Jimmie Sheffield
7:25	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
7:30	Iowa-Arkansas Partnership Presentation	
		Wyndell Jones
7:40	Bold Mission Prayer Thrust	Pete Petty
7:55	Church Music Recognition	Lester McCullough
8:15	Special Music	Master Singers and Singing Women
8:25	BIBLE STUDY	Tim LaHaye
8:55	Benediction	Paul Williams

Wednesday Morning Nov. 20, 1991

8:15	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
8:20	Prayer Emphasis	Betty Merrell
8:30	BIBLE STUDY	Tim LaHaye
9:00	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:10	Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Report	Johnny Biggs
9:20	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:30	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Report	
		Everett Sneed
9:40	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:50	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
9:55	Baptist Medical System, Little Rock	
		Russell D. Harrington
10:05	Special Music	
10:20	CONVENTION SERMON	Rex Holt
10:50	Congregational Singing	LeRoy McClard
10:55	Miscellaneous Business	
11:20	Resolutions	Larry Pillow
11:55	Presentation of New Officers	
	Benediction by New President	

In this section

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Credentials and Committees</i> • <i>Pastor's Conference</i> • <i>Minister's Wives</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alumni Meetings</i> • <i>Other Interest Groups</i> • <i>Budget and Recommendations</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws</i> • <i>Child Care</i> |
|--|---|---|

Proper Credentials

Membership and messengers to the 1991 Convention are determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of the *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their findings and recom-

mendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization similar to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. —**Sid Carswell, chairman, Credentials Committee**

Registration

Messengers elected by Arkansas Baptist churches who are planning to participate in the annual meeting Nov. 19-20 in Little Rock must bring messenger registration cards approved by their churches and signed by their moderators or church clerks.

Messengers who present themselves for registration without properly certified credentials will be sent to the Credentials Committee.

Balloting

In accordance with the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and in keeping with previous policies and procedures, the following guidelines have been established for voting at the annual meeting.

All duly-elected messengers who register

at the convention will be given an official book of numbered ballots. Messengers are encouraged to print their names on the front of the ballot book as soon as they register.

A ballot is considered the property of the person to whom it is issued. Therefore, a ballot can be used only by that individual. Ballots are not to be exchanged or used by any other messenger or nonmessenger, even with the owner's consent. When ballots are used, instructions will be given designating which ballot is to be cast. Ballots which do not bear the appropriate number for a specific vote will be considered invalid. Ballots which are not legible or which are submitted blank will be considered invalid.

Messengers who lose or find ballot books should notify the registration desk. An owner may claim a lost ballot book only if the book bears his or her name.—**Ken Goad, Tellers Committee chairman**

Resolutions

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Mike Huckabee has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Nov. 1, 1991. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to Larry Pillow, 701 Polk, Conway, AR 72032.

We would like to express our appreciation in advance for your cooperation in this matter.—**Larry Pillow, chairman, Resolution Committee**

Convention committees

Order of Business

C.A. Johnson, Paragould, chairman
Jerre Hassell, Stuttgart
Rich Browning, Little Rock

Credentials Committee:

Sid Carswell, Little Rock, chairman
Gene Stacks, Mena
Glen Power, Nashville
Phil Whitten, Fort Smith
J.T. Harvill, Camden

Tellers Committee:

Ken Goad, Mineral Springs, chairman
Eugene Thomas, Crossett
Coy Camp, Pine Bluff
David McCord, Hazen
Ronny Noles, Mount Ida
Barry King, Malvern
Phillip Drennan, Wooster
Doug Grubbs, Clarendon
Michael White, Rison
Larry Plummer, Fort Smith

Resolutions Committee:

Larry Pillow, Conway, chairman
Bruce Tippitt, Fort Smith
Ronnie Mayes, Beebe
Stan Parris, Hope
Kay Sanders, Little Rock

Parliamentarian

Monty Murray, Texarkana

ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Interest Group Plans

In addition to the regular sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, a variety of special interest groups will offer programs for messengers.

Pastors

Arkansas Baptist pastors will convene their annual pre-convention conference at 9:45 a.m. on Nov. 19 at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock. Three sessions will be conducted, with the last session starting at 8:20 p.m.

This year's conference theme will be "Stand Firm in Your Jordan." Delton M. Beal, pastor of Forrest City First Church, is president of the Pastors' Conference.

Program personalities will include Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas; James Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta, Ga.; Mack Evans, Old Time Gospel Hour, Lynchburg, Va.; Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.; Ron Herrod, pastor of Central Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Walter K. Ayers, evangelist, Rowlett, Texas; Delton M. Beal; Mark Brooks, pastor of Eldmade Church, Springdale; Harold Danley, pastor of Elaine Church; Ray Edwards, pastor of Berryville First Church; Larry Plummer, pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Fort Smith; Tony Preston, pastor of Bentonville First Church; Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs; Paul Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock; David Oliver, minister of music, Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock; and Jeanie Beall, Forrest City First Church.

Ministers' Wives

This year's Ministers' Wives Conference will be held on Monday, Nov. 18, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

The conference theme, "Turn Your Heart Toward Home" will be interpreted by keynote speaker Rosemary Wade, pastor's wife from First Church in Arlington, Texas. Other seminars will include "Healthy lifestyles for women," by Baptist Medical System; "Making the most of your home," by Betty Jo Grant; "Getting control of your life through finances," by Nell Pinson; and "Stress in family and ministry," also by Rosemary Wade.

The conference will include a luncheon.

The registration of \$7 is due by Nov. 11, and may be sent to: Bobbi DeBusk, 3508 S. Apple, Pine Bluff, AR 71603. Make checks payable to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Child care for preschoolers will be provided by Geyer Springs First Church by reservation only; send request with luncheon reservation.

Religious Educators

The Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 1991 meeting Monday, Nov. 18 at Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock starting at 12:30 p.m. and concluding with a 5 p.m. banquet.

The featured speaker will be Gary Chapman, director of Adult Education and Family Counseling, Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Registration fee is \$13; a check made payable to ABREA can be sent to Pat Raton, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Alumni Meetings

Ouachita Baptist University fellowship dinner for alumni and friends will be held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. in Room 206A of the Adult Education Building at Geyer Springs First Church. Tickets are \$5, and can be purchased

through the OBU alumni office; telephone 245-6741.


Williams Baptist College alumni luncheon will be held Tuesday, Nov. 19, during the noon hour at Geyer Springs First Church in Fellowship Hall Room 101A. Tickets will be \$5 at the door. For more information, contact the WBC alumni office at 886-6741.

New Orleans Seminary alumni will meet for lunch at 12 noon on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock. For more information, call Floyd Lewis at 501-863-7177.

Southern Seminary alumni are invited to a reunion luncheon Nov. 19 at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock. The luncheon will begin at noon and will include an address by Bob Johnson, dean of Boyce Bible School. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance and \$8.50 at the door and can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Byron Eubanks, president of Southern Seminary's Arkansas alumni, at 183 Lower Dam Pike, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.

Southwestern Seminary will hold an alumni luncheon at noon on Nov. 19 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. Seminary President Russell Dilday, will bring an informative report. Rex Holt is alumni president. Tickets are \$6.50 and may be ordered by contacting David Uth at 501-836-6456.

Golden Gate Seminary alumni will hold a luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall of Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock. Tickets are \$6.50



Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference

Monday, November 18, 1991
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock

9:30 - Registration-Coffee

Cost: \$7

9:50 a.m. - Welcome & Music

10:00 a.m. - Baptist Medical System "Healthy Lifestyles for Women"

11:00 a.m. - Seminars

- ♥ "Making the Most of Your Home" Betty Jo Grant
- ♥ "Getting Control of Your Life through Finances" Nell Pinson
- ♥ "Stress in Family & Ministry" Rosemary Wade

12:00 noon - Luncheon-Business, Music and Keynote Speaker

1:30 p.m. - Seminars-(choose from above)

2:30 p.m. - "Turning our thoughts toward home"


Pre-Registration

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Registration due by Nov. 11, 1991 (Monday). Make checks payable to Ark. Baptist State Convention. Mail to: Bobbi DeBusk, 3508 S. Apple, Pine Bluff, AR 71603. Childcare provided for pre-schoolers by Geyer Springs Baptist Church by reservation only. Please send lunch with your child.

Child's Name _____ Age _____



and must be reserved by Oct. 26. Send reservations with payment to William V. Garner, 308 Grape Street, Texarkana, AR 75502.

Midwestern Seminary alumni will hold an alumni luncheon at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Geyer Springs First Church in Room 207A. Tickets are \$6.50 and must be reserved by Nov. 8. Send reservations with payment to Keith Byrd, Calvary Baptist Church, 18th and Lyon Sts., Batesville, AR 72501; telephone 793-5480.

DOMs

The Arkansas Baptist Director of Missions Fellowship will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 18, at the Western Sizzlin, 8312 Geyer Springs Road, Little Rock, for a fellowship time. For more information, contact Billy Kite at 364-9395.

Retirees

Retired pastors, staff members and employees of Southern Baptist churches, agencies and institutions are invited to a fellowship dinner Nov. 19 at 5 p.m. in the Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

For reservations, contact the ABSAC Anniversary/Stewardship Department at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 376-4791, ext. 5114.

Child care

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Pre-registration for babies through five year olds is necessary in order to provide quality care with a planned program for pre-schoolers. No child care will be provided for school-age children at any session. A pre-registration form is provided on page 16.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1 1992 Budget

I. State Causes

	1992 requests
1. Administration	\$294,161
2. Business Services	288,312
3. Annuity	18,888
4. Baptist Student Union	669,733
5. Brotherhood	126,657
6. Church Music	176,525
7. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	125,231
8. Discipleship Training	214,715
9. Evangelism	243,875
10. Ministry of Crisis Support	103,086
11. Missions	518,729
12. Church Leadership Support	95,309
13. Stewardship	93,332
14. Sunday School	299,057
15. Woman's Missionary Union	302,859
16. Media Services	60,823
17. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	197,392
18. Camp Paron—Operating	57,589
19. Camp Paron—Improvement Fund	25,504
20. Expanded Church Annuity Plan	332,500
21. Baptist Student Union—Buildings	124,000
22. Convention	85,008
23. Historical Commission	8,722
24. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes	298,007

Total Executive Board Programs \$4,760,016

25. Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries	401,823
26. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	236,956
27. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	204,180
28. Christian Education	2,915,505
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	2,151,403
(2) Williams Baptist College	647,973
(3) Ministerial Scholarship Fund	116,130

Total State Programs \$8,518,480

II. Southern Baptist Convention \$6,105,520

Total Budget \$14,624,000

Recommendation No. 2

1992 Priority Projects, Goals, and Projects

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1992 Priority Projects related to Building God's Family and the 1992 department goals and projects.

In 1992, the Building God's Family priority emphasis is Strengthening Families. The priority projects for this emphasis include:

- State Conference on Moral Issues
- Confronting the Family
- State Senior Adult Convention
- State Single Adult Convention
- Family Enrichment Emphasis for Ministers

Each department has goals and projects that relate to Building God's Family and to the departments assigned programming responsibility. The departments have written goals with supporting projects to reach these goals.

Recommendation No. 3

Ministry of Crisis Support Committee

The Executive Board recommends that the Ministry of Crisis Support Committee be discontinued.

This recommendation comes as result of several factors. First, the purposes for which the committee was established are no longer concerns. These were concerns that this new work have some input and direction from a larger group rather than from a single individual. After these many years of operation without the feared problems, it seems that the need for such supervision and counsel are no longer necessary.

Second, after a number of years of staffing the committee and finding no practical function for them, it seemed an unnecessary expenditure of time and money simply to have meetings of the group without them serving any particular purpose.

LOW COST LEVEL PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE		
Permanent Term Policy Examples of Monthly Premiums Male, Non-Smoker		
AGE	\$50,000	\$100,000
45	\$ 29	\$ 52
55	55	104
65	114	221
Premiums and death benefit remain fixed for the life of the insured. Issued to age 80. Company rated A+ (Superior)		
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Recommendation No. 4

Family Ministry Task Force

The Executive Board makes the following recommendations for developing a program for Strengthening Families during 1992.

- (1) That all major meetings during 1991 have some feature that will highlight the emphasis that will be made in 1992 on Strengthening Families.
- (2) That materials and promotion be developed to enable every church to have a "Hope for the Home" conference. The suggested time would be between Mother's Day and Father's Day, 1992.
- (3) That the convention, sponsor a Moral Issues Conference, August 7, 1992.
- (4) That a conference be conducted in 1993 that will equip parents and church leaders to deal with sex education from a Christian perspective.
- (5) That six regional Marriage Enrichment Retreat for Pastors and Staff families be conducted in 1992.

Recommendation No. 5

Task Force on Church Conflict and Forced Termination

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the recommendations of the Task Force on Church Conflict and Forced Termination:

Area I—Prevention

1. Foundations for preventing conflict
 - (1) That time be allotted on the 1992 State Convention program for a message addressing the biblical basis for dealing with conflict.
 - (2) That time be allotted on the 1992 Evangelism Conference program for a message addressing conflict management and its relationship to evangelism.
 - (3) That conflict management be addressed at the annual pastors' retreat.
2. Training for managing conflict
 - (1) That training be conducted for Directors of Missions and a network of selected pastors in order that they may become the primary resources for helping churches manage conflict.
 - (2) That the Directors of Missions use their 1992 retreat as a time for instruction on conflict management. (This has been approved by the DOM's.)
 - (3) That training be conducted for selected retired ministers before or after the Retired Ministers' Association annual meeting in 1992.
 - (4) That the convention continue to promote and support the Bi-Polar Seminars for pastors and staff members. Suggest that two seminars be conducted each year.
 - (5) That classes in conflict management be taught each of the six weeks of the Siloam Springs summer camps.
 - (6) That Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist College be encouraged to include conflict management as a part of the curriculum for ministerial students.

(7) That the Church Leadership Support Department develop a three or four year plan to begin in 1992 to conduct conflict management seminars in each of our associations.

3. Promotion of prevention strategies

- (1) That planners of the state Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and State Associational Leadership Training meetings give time to making our convention aware of what is being done to help churches prevent conflict.
- (2) That the smaller Membership Church Task Force plan ways to get information about conflict management to our smaller membership churches.
- (3) That the Church Leadership Support Department promote current effective resource materials and make these materials available to churches, search committees, pastors, etc.
- (4) That the Church Leadership Support Department distribute resource materials during the new pastor/staff member orientation each year.
- (5) That the Church Leadership Support Department display resource materials during state meetings each year.
- (6) That articles be written for *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* by Dr. Moore and Dr. Sneed.

Area II—Intervention

1. That a Conflict Management packet be developed made available to DOM's and/or other designated persons in the associations.
2. That suggestions be made as to how and when such materials be used or distributed and approach made.
3. That associations set up meetings to inform pastors, staff, deacons, etc. as to what is available for churches.

Area III—Redemption

Ministries to pastor/staff

1. That Crisis Support Department continue to provide personal counseling to pastors and staff families who have been terminated.
2. That ABCS continue to provide limited financial assistance to approved terminated pastor/staff members.
3. That the Church Leadership Support Department assist terminated pastor/staff in relocating by sending resumes to churches requesting resumes.
4. That an annual Career Assessment/Development Seminar be provided for pastor/staff and spouses through the Church Leadership Support Department.
5. That the Church Leadership Support Department seek to locate temporary housing for terminated families when necessary.
6. That interested congregations be encouraged to consider providing temporary/part-time staff positions for terminated ministers.
7. That the Arkansas Baptist Foundation seek to increase the Needy Pastor/Staff Emergency Fund and cooperate with Administration and Church Leadership Support Department in distribution.
8. That we provide an annual conference for terminated pastor/staff and families.
9. That the Crisis Support Department continue to conduct support groups that would include terminated pastor/staff and families as deemed feasible by the Crisis Support Director.

Ministries to churches

1. That the Church Leadership Support Department assist churches in finding pastor/staff in response to requests from the churches.
2. That the Church Leadership Support Department provide training, upon request, of church pastor search/personnel committees.
3. That conflict/forced termination area awareness conferences be provided for church leaders.
4. That we provide training for those who want to serve as interim pastors, giving special emphasis to conflict resolution and the healing process.
5. That the Church Leadership Support Department make available, through the DOM's, suggestions that have potential for helping in the churches.

Recommendation No. 6

A Partnership for Kingdom Growth between Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship mutually agree to establish a working relationship to link associations and churches in a partnership intended to advance the growth of God's Kingdom in both Arkansas and Iowa.

Recommendation No. 7

National Soul-Winning Encounter

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1995 evangelism emphasis, National Soul-Winning Encounter, with the promotional theme "Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You/Share Jesus Now!"

The purpose of the project is designed to help plateaued churches begin to grow, reduce the number of baptismless churches and involve Christians in a continuing effort to share the gospel.

A description of the project includes:

1. Enlist and train 1,500,000 denominational leaders, pastors, staff, and laypeople to commit to present the plan of salvation to at least one lost person each day for 60 days between January 9 and March 10, 1995.
2. Enlist 80 percent of our local churches to participate in statewide simultaneous, associational simultaneous, or a local church harvest revival between March 10 and September 30, 1995.
3. Close the Harvest Revivals by challenging persons who have shared Jesus for sixty days to make a lifetime commitment of sharing Jesus Christ with at least one lost person each day. The commitment recognizes that there is substitute for obedience. If we are going to know the Lord's joy, power, peace, and blessing as God has designed and desired for our lives.

Recommendation No. 8

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the plan of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* Board for dealing with the deficit they faced at the end of 1990. This includes:

1. A \$50,000 note to be repaid over a three year period to Twin City Printing.
2. Reducing the number of issues of the ABN from 48 to 26.
3. Changing the postage rate from second class to third class.
4. Negotiations of a new contract with Datamatics resulting in a stable savings.
5. Reduction of staff by not replacing three people who left the ABN.

These plans are also expected to enable the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* to operate without a deficit in 1991.

Recommendation No. 9

Unified Budget Formula for Arkansas Baptist State Convention

I. Budget

The budget shall be based and governed by a weighted average of the ratio between the six major increase or decrease and the yearly increase (or decrease) for the three preceding years. The Executive Board, upon recommendation coming out of the budget planning process, can alter the dollar amount of the total budget plus or minus ten percent (10%) taking into consideration the economic forecast and the condition of the Cooperative Program reserve balance.

II. Southern Baptist Convention Causes

The percent increase designated for the Southern Baptist Convention causes shall be equal to the percentage increase to the Cooperative Program from the total undesignated gifts to the churches as reported in the previous year's annual Uniform Church Letters. The increase can be up to one percent (1%), but in no year will the percentage be decreased.

III. State Causes

- A. Ouachita Baptist University, Williams Baptist College, and the Ministers' Scholarship Fund shall receive eighty-seven percent (87%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the percentage decrease. If the state causes plus thirteen percent (13%) of the percentage decrease.
- B. The Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries shall receive an increase of seventy-nine percent (79%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes plus twenty-one percent (21%) of the percentage decrease.

- C. The Arkansas Baptist Foundation shall receive an increase of seventy-five percent (75%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes plus twenty-five percent (25%) of the percentage decrease.
- D. The Arkansas Baptist News Magazine shall receive an increase of seventy percent (70%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes plus thirty percent (30%) of the percentage decrease.
- E. The convention and the Church Annuity Dues budget shall receive an increase of one hundred percent (100%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes.
- F. The Executive Board programs shall receive the remainder of the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes after the amounts for A - E above have been determined.

IV. Overages

All funds received above the sum of II and III shall be placed in a Cooperative Program reserve fund. This fund shall be used to supplement Cooperative Program receipts in the event of shortage in any given month or year.

V. New Programs or Ministries

In keeping with the Unified Budget concept, the funding of new or additional programs or ministry changes approved by the Convention in annual session shall be accomplished by subtracting the new program or ministry cost from the total of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention budget for the year the new program or ministry goes into effect. The remainder of the budget for that year will be distributed by the current budget formula. This results in all Arkansas Baptist State Convention agencies, institutions, the Executive Board, and the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program sharing proportionately in the cost of the new program or ministry.

The amount for the new program or ministry will be added to the budget of the appropriate entity in the succeeding year. This total then becomes the new budget base for future increases or decreases.

VI. Motions to Alter this Financial Plan

Motions made by messengers at the annual state convention dealing with financial support or changes in allocations of funds must be referred to the Executive Board of the Convention and the trustees of the appropriate agency or institution and reported to the next convention in annual session.

VII. Budget Formula Period

This formula will be operative beginning in the budget year 1993 through the budget year 1997 at which time a review will be made by the Executive Board.

(Adopted by Executive Board, 1964 - Amended, 1972, 1975, 1980 - Revised, 1982, 1986. Recommended by the Executive Board, August 27, 1991)

Constitution and Bylaw Amendments

Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Arkansas Baptist State Convention

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will recommend to the State Convention in its annual meeting the following restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Article I.—Name, Duration and Agent for Service

Section 1. The name of this body shall be "The Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

Section 2. The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

Section 3. The Agent for Service of Process of the corporation shall be the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, c/o the corporation's headquarters, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

Article II.—The Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is to assist the churches of the Convention in fulfilling their mission, and to encourage cooperative support of and involvement in our worldwide mission enterprise.

Section 2. The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on May 9, 1963, shall be the doctrinal guideline for this Convention.

Article III.—Membership

Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention. Each messenger who is present at the time a matter is submitted to the messengers shall be entitled to one vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles of *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers, with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

Article IV.—Authority

Section 1. While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, this Convention shall never exercise any authority whatever over any church, nor shall it in any way interfere with the constitution of any church, or with the exercise of its functions as the only ecclesiastical body, but will cheerfully recognize and uphold the absolute independence of the churches.

Article V.—Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Convention shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer of the Convention shall be elected annually, except the Recording Secretary and Treasurer who shall be the same person serving as the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention shall be elected by the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and shall continue in office until his successor in office shall have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the deliberations of the Convention and to discharge such other duties as may devolve upon the presiding officer of a deliberative body. He shall appoint all committees unless the Convention shall otherwise determine. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside in his stead.

Section 3. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention or his designee is authorized to execute and sign all official and legal documents involving transactions in agreement with the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and/or approved by the Convention, the Executive Board or its Operating Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Executive Director-Treasurer to keep a record of the proceedings of the convention, to edit and arrange publication of a suitable number of the minutes for distribution among the churches, as the Convention may direct, as soon as reasonably possible after the close of the annual meeting. He shall file and keep in order all papers deemed important to the work of the Convention.

Article VI.—The Executive Board

Section 1. This Convention shall elect a Board of Trustees which shall constitute the Board of Directors. This Board shall be known as the "Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention." This Board shall be composed of one member from the bounds of each cooperating association with a membership up to 5,000, and one additional member for each additional 5,000 constituency, or major fraction thereof, provided however, that no association shall be entitled to more than five (5) members. In addition, the Convention shall elect one lady from the bounds of each of the eight districts in the state to serve on the Executive Board. The President of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be a member of the Executive Board with full rights and privileges. Upon the removal of any Executive Board member from the bounds of his or her association, his or her membership on the Executive Board ceases thereafter. His or her successor in office shall be nominated by the Convention Nominating Committee and elected by the Convention in annual session to fill the unexpired term. No person shall be a member of this Board who is an employee of any board, institution or agency of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, or receiving financial aid from the State Convention. One-third of this Board shall be elected annually to hold office for three years, and a majority of the Board Members shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Board of the Convention shall manage the Executive Board meetings and the Executive Board committee meetings for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on the Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Convention in keeping with the Convention's instructions. The Executive Board shall raise, collect, receive and disburse all the funds of the Cooperative Program, for both state and Southern Baptist Convention, and shall have the authority. The Executive Board shall be a clearing house for administering the business affairs of the Convention, and a headquarters for Baptist information. Its books, records and files shall at all times be open for the review and inspection of any cooperating church which may desire to examine them.

Section 3. The Executive Board of the Convention may authorize the withholding of Cooperative Program funds from any institution or agency which fails to act in conformity with its Articles of Incorporation or fails to utilize funds given the institution or agency by the Convention according to stipulations and conditions attached to those funds by the Convention.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall render to the Convention a complete and detailed statement of all its business for the year.

Article VII.—Trusteeships

The Convention shall elect trustees who shall serve as directors to manage and operate the institutions and agencies that the Convention may possess, as follows:

Section 1. Ouachita Baptist University, 24, Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, 18; Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis), 9; Williams Baptist College, 24; Arkansas Baptist Foundation, 15; Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, 9.

Section 2. One-third of the members of the Boards of Trustees shall be elected annually to serve for a term of three years. Any member of the Board of Trustees who misses all the meetings of that Board for one year shall be automatically dropped from membership on this Board.

Section 3. Each Board of Trustees shall elect from their membership a Chairman and a Recording Secretary and such other officers as seems advisable.

Section 4. All Trusteeships shall render to the Convention at each annual session complete and detailed reports of all transactions of business. The Trustees shall be sensitive to the expressions of the Convention's will in all matters.

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STATE CONVENTION

Section 5. The Articles of Incorporation of each agency and institution of this Convention shall contain the following provisions:

- The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall be the corporation of the member;
- The Arkansas Baptist State Convention shall elect the corporation's Board of Trustees which shall constitute its Board of Directors;
- The Articles of Incorporation shall first be approved by the Convention and thereafter no amendment to the corporation's Articles of Incorporation shall be made without the prior consent of the Convention;
- A vote in favor of the proposed amendment(s) by a two-thirds majority of the messengers present and voting at the state convention shall constitute consent required by this section. No proposed amendment shall come before the Arkansas Baptist State Convention unless it has been reported to the Executive Board of the Convention at least sixty (60) days prior to the first session of the Convention's annual meeting; and
- The corporation is organized exclusively for religious purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in [including the publishing or distribution of statements] any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activity in which it may engage, by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, convey all of the assets of the corporation to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention if at that time the Arkansas Baptist State Convention qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Article VIII.—Operation of Agencies

Section 1. Each board, agency, and institution of this Convention shall submit to the Executive Board at its annual budget planning meeting, which is to be held prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, a detailed statement of its sources of income, and a budget of proposed expenditures for the ensuing year. When received and adopted by the Convention, these budgets shall become the basis for the ensuing year.

Section 2. No appeals for funds may be made to churches without the recommendation of the Executive Board and the approval of the annual convention in session, or from appeals through the Cooperative Program or from the annual Children's Homes and Family Ministries and the Dixie Jackson State Mission offerings. Other appeals may be made to individuals, organizations, corporations or foundations.

Section 3. A deficit in a board, agency or institution operational budget for any year shall be reported to the Executive Board and the convention in the following year. Such deficit may not be carried over into the second year without the approval of the Executive Board and the convention in annual session as to how this deficit will be eliminated.

Article IX.—Meetings

Section 1. The Convention shall meet annually, "if God permit," on a date to be fixed by the Convention. The Executive Board is empowered in emergencies to call special sessions of the Convention and to change either the time or place of meeting or both should the occasion demand.

Article X.—Amendments

Section 1. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting and concurring in two successive annual meetings of the convention, except Article IV, which shall remain forever unalterable in substance.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall be presented to the Convention in writing, for its consideration, upon the first day of the annual meeting, and may be voted on, on any subsequent day during the meeting, provided adequate publicity has been given by previous announcement.

Article XI.—Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall be the standard for deciding questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article XII.—Districts

The Convention shall establish such geographic districts as it may deem wise to facilitate its promotion, administration, and organization of its objectives, provided, it will never violate in any way the boundaries of any association within the area of the convention. The boundaries of such districts shall be drawn so as to provide equitable geographical and numerical voice and representation on all convention committees, commissions, and boards, except the Executive Board. Each tenth year hereafter, the whole matter of districts shall be readjusted to take in consideration the flow of membership in our Baptist churches.

Article XIII.—Internal Revenue Requirements

Section 1. The corporation is organized exclusively for religious purposes. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of its charitable purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise

attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in [including the publishing or distribution of statements] any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 3. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, convey all of the assets of the corporation to an organization which qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.

Amended and Restated Bylaws Arkansas Baptist State Convention

The following bylaws are enacted by The Arkansas Baptist State Convention for the purpose of carrying out its Articles of Incorporation and for the governing of the Convention.

Article I.—Enrollment of Messengers

Section 1. The Recording Secretary of the Convention shall enroll, upon arrival, messengers who present proper credentials from the churches. These messengers, together with others who may be enrolled upon presentation of approved credentials during the session, shall constitute the Convention. Any contention concerning seating messengers shall be presented to the Credentials Committee appointed by the President for recommendation to the Convention for its action.

Section 2. A standing Credentials Committee with five (5) members shall be appointed by the President of the Convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive Conventions. The President of the Convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the Chairman each year.

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Please circle sessions needed:

Monday, Nov. 18 Morning 9:45-11:35 • Afternoon 1:30-4:00 • Evening 6:25-8:20

Tuesday, Nov. 19 Morning 8:30-11:30 • Afternoon 1:30-4:30 • Evening 6:15-8:55

Wednesday, Nov. 20 Morning 8:15-11:55

Mail to: Linda Holbrook
Geyer Springs First Baptist Church
5615 Geyer Springs Road
Little Rock, AR 72209

Article II.—Officers

Section 1. The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be elected on the second day of the Convention, their terms of office to begin with the conclusion of the final session of the Convention.

Section 2. The election of all officers shall be by ballot; provided, however, there is only one nomination for an office, then the Recording Secretary or any other messenger present may be directed to cast the ballot of the entire assembly for the single nominee.

Section 3. The First Vice-President shall be nominated and voted upon and elected after balloting for the President has been completed. The eligibility announced, and the Second Vice President shall be nominated and voted upon and elected after the balloting for the First Vice-President has been completed and the winner announced. Each office of the Convention shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast. In all cases of removal from office, by death or otherwise, of the President, the Vice-Presidents shall automatically succeed to the office of President in the order of their election. The President may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4. All elected officers of this Convention shall be members of churches cooperating with this Convention. This must also apply to members of the Executive Board, agencies and institutional boards of this Convention.

Article III.—The Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board is empowered to act for the Convention between sessions of the Convention, provided that it shall not exercise any authority contrary to the expressed will of the Convention.

Section 2. When any unforeseen emergency occurs in any of the affairs of the Convention, or in any of the interests it controls, that in the judgment of the Executive Board requires action before the next session of the Convention, the Executive Board shall have full authority to take such action as may seem necessary, and all interests concerned shall be governed by such action, provided the Executive Board shall make full report of all matters pertaining thereto to the next session of the Convention for its approval, and provided further, that nothing in this article shall be construed as giving the Executive Board authority to execute any matters already committed by the Convention to any of its agency or institutional Boards of Trustees.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall maintain at its offices a record of the names and addresses of the messengers determined to be eligible to vote at the convention, and the books and records of account. The Executive Board shall allow any messenger to inspect at any reasonable time these records, a record of the proceedings of the Convention and of the meetings of the Executive Board, its committees, and committees of the Convention.

Section 4. All proposals requiring the expenditures of money by the Convention, or the Executive Board of the Convention, from the annual budget, shall be considered by the Executive Board, before being presented to the Convention.

Section 5. No loans shall be made by the Convention to its officers, or to the members of the Executive Board.

Section 6. This Board shall be charged with the responsibility to have the books and financial affairs of each agency and institution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention audited annually by an accredited firm of auditors, all audits to be accessible to the Executive Board at its budget planning session, and to be included in the institution's report to the Convention.

Section 7. Members of the Executive Board, having served two full terms of three years each shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 8. The various associations of Arkansas whose churches are affiliated with this Convention, may submit to the convention nominating committee names of those whom they believe should be considered for membership on the Executive Board as members from that association.

Article IV.—Trusteeships

Section 1. All trusteeships of this Convention shall be sensitive to expressions of the Convention's will in all matters.

Section 2. Members of Boards of Trustees having served two full terms of three years each shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 3. Not more than two (2) members of the Board of Trustees shall at the same time be members of the same local church, nor shall more than six (6) members reside in any one association. A member of the Board of Trustees of any agency or institution of the Convention may not at the same time be a member of any other Board of Trustees of any agency or institution of the Convention. No member of the Board of Trustees of any institution of this Convention may at the same time be a member of the Executive Board of the Convention.

Section 4. Any person receiving compensation from the Convention through the Executive Board shall not be a member of any Convention agency or institutional board. The President of the Convention by virtue of his office shall be a member of the Executive Board for the duration of his term of office.

Article V.—Nominating Committee

Section 1. A nine-member rotating Nominating Committee, comprised of at least three lay persons, will plan and conduct the annual convention nominating of persons to fill vacancies on all Convention boards and committees not provided for otherwise. Following each annual convention, the President will appoint three people to a three-year term to replace the three people retiring off, plus filling any vacancies that may exist on the Committee at that time. The President shall also name the Chairman, who shall come from a one-year term member.

Section 2. For all boards by this Nominating Committee must be as equally divided as possible between the eight existing districts of The State Convention.

Section 2. A member filling an unexpired term not yet served the full term of years as prescribed by the Articles of Incorporation, shall be, at the discretion of the Nominating Committee, eligible for election to a full term.

Section 3. No member of a commission or committee delegated to study or make recommendations concerning our agencies and institutions shall be a member of any Board of Trustees of such agency or institution.

Article VI.—Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee

Section 1. A standing Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee shall be composed of six (6) members to be nominated by the Nominating Committee. One third of the membership shall be elected annually to serve for a term of three (3) years. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two terms until one year has elapsed. In determining eligibility for re-election, any individual filling a vacancy, shall be deemed to have served a full term if that individual shall have served two-thirds or more of a full term.

Section 2. The President of the Convention shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee each year. The Chairman must be one who has been a member of the Committee for at least one year and may succeed himself until his term of eligibility shall expire.

Section 3. The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of advising the presiding officer concerning matters related to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws during the annual meeting of the Convention with reference to matters which may arise from the floor or from other committees. The Committee will act ad interim in all matters concerning the Convention Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws referred to it by any agency or institution of the Convention. The Committee will receive all proposed changes before the convention and will be responsible for presenting them in writing for Convention consideration upon the first day of the annual meeting after adequate publicity has been given. The duties of the Committee in no way preclude amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws by messengers to the Convention.

Classifieds

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Notice—Evangelist Shelby Bittle may be reached at 362-6135 or 103 W. Quilman St., Heber Springs, AR 72543. 1010

Position Available—Part-time Minister of Music wanted. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 201 E. Haywood, England, AR 72046-1843. 1010

Position Available—Fairfield Bay Baptist Church is seeking a part-time music/young minister. Interested persons should send resume to Fairfield Bay Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1029, Fairfield Bay, AR 72088. 1010

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

Position Available—Parkview Baptist, one of the leading churches in Louisiana, is seeking an experienced (at least 3 years in a medium to large setting) Minister of Education. Send resume to Parkview Baptist Church, Education Search Committee, 11795 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816. 1010

Position Available—Minister of Youth wanted. Send resume to First Baptist Church, 201 E. Haywood, England, AR 72046-1843. 1010

Position Available—Part-time Music Director. Lead choir and congregational singing. Send resume to Gethsemane Baptist Church, 5301 Summertree, N. Little Rock, AR 72116. 1010

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 90 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unresolvable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

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Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Delores Ann Atchison of Harrison died Sept. 15 at age 55. She was the wife of L.B. Atchison, director of missions for North Arkansas Association. Her memorial services were held Sept. 18 at First Church in Harrison where she was a member and Sunday School teacher. She was also serving as Children's Day Camp director of North Arkansas Association. The memorial services were led by Paige Patterson of Dallas, Texas, and Sam H. Jones of Pittsburgh, Texas. Other survivors include her daughter, Kimberleigh Paige Atchison of Harrison; a brother; and a sister.

Troy A. Akers of Mayflower died Sept. 11 at age 72. A member of Gold Creek Church near Conway, he was a retired barber and Baptist minister. Survivors are his wife, Willie Ehl Akers; two sons, Troy A. Akers II of Crossett, and David L. Akers of Bastrop, La.; two daughters, Carla Siganos of New Orleans, La., and Lynda Ellenburg of North Little Rock; two sisters; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Bruce Qualls is serving as pastor of Mount Pleasant Southern Church, Mount Pleasant.

Johnny E. Bratton, pastor of Mount Taber Church, was ordained to the ministry Sept. 15 at Rock Springs Church, Buckville. Participating in the service were Bratton's father, Darrell Bratton, and Jimmy Scott.

Barry King is serving as pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs, going there from First Church, Social Hill.

Briefly

Ebenezer Church in El Dorado held a potluck luncheon and reception Sept. 29 to honor Phelan and LaVerne Boone prior to their moving to Texarkana, Texas. Boone has retired as pastor of Ebenezer Church following more than six years of service.

Linwood Church near Pine Bluff will celebrate its 40th anniversary Oct. 13 with a 11 a.m. worship service, a noon meal, and a 2 p.m. anniversary service. Mark Fricke is pastor.

Valley Church at Searcy will celebrate payment of its indebtedness Oct. 13 with activities that begin with a 10:55 a.m. worship service for which Bill Burnett, former director of missions for Calvary Association, will be speaker. A noon meal will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a 2 p.m. noteburning service. A note in excess of \$100,000 that was to be paid by the year 2001 has been paid 10 years early. Bert Thomas is pastor.

Keathley joins state WMU staff

Monica Keathley, WMU consultant for Mississippi WMU, joined the staff of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union on Sept. 16, in the position of associate executive director of Baptist Women and BYW associate.

Keathley is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. She also holds a diploma in French from Institut de Touraine, in Tours, France.

She has served as a missionary to Upper Volta (Burkina Faso), a missionary journeyman to Accra, Ghana; minister of music and youth at churches in Missouri and Mississippi; and as Baptist Young Women consultant with the Mississippi WMU.

In her new position, Keathley will be in charge of the office when the executive director is absent, responsible for planning association WMU leadership training, the work of Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women on both church and associational levels. She also will work with leadership of Campus Baptist Young Women organizations at university and colleges in the state.

Julia Ketter, executive director of Arkansas WMU, said, "We're excited and very pleased to have Monica joining our staff. Her experiences as a missionary journeyman, as a career missionary, and as a state WMU staff member offer much to the work of Arkansas WMU."



Keathley



BAPTIST MEN'S PRAYER RETREAT CAMP PARON — NOVEMBER 1-2, 1991



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Foothills Chapel constitutes

Foothills Chapel, Mountain View, was organized into a church Sept. 22. Pastor J.R. Hull said, "The numerical growth and financial strength are both strong. This has enabled our chapel to become a church."

The chapel, which was started in August 1981, was sponsored by First Church, Mountain View. It also received assistance from the ABSC Missions Department and Independence Association.

The congregation was constituted with 117 members. Individuals joining within 30 days of the constitutional meeting also will be charter members.

Hull became pastor Jan. 3, 1982. The



Pictured (left to right) are Pastor J. R. Hull; Owen Tucker, teacher of the older married adult Sunday School class; and Jo Ann Lancaster, Sunday School teacher for the younger adults.

congregation worshiped in a portable chapel for approximately three years, but completed a permanent building in February of 1989. The chapel was started with 12 members, but by the time Hull

became pastor there were approximately 20 members. About one-half of the 117 members have come into the congregation through baptism. Currently, the congregation is averaging 58 in Sunday School and more than 80 in the worship service.

Jack Ramsey, ABSC Church Extension director, delivered the morning message based on Luke 13:18-19. His message "A Parable on the Kingdom of God" encouraged the people to take their abilities and move forward for the Lord.

The afternoon organizational service message was delivered by Eddie L. McCord, director of missions for Independence Association. McCord spoke on "Walking About Zion" based on Psalm 48. He emphasized Zion's glory, deliverance, and trust. In each instance he applied this to the local church.

Others participating in the afternoon service included Jackie Fendley, pastor of First Church, Mountain View.

Pastor Hull sees a strong future for the newly organized congregation. He said, "Mountain View is experiencing significant growth. Much of it is in the vicinity of the Foothills Church. Our people are excited and want our congregation to grow. We also have the most dedicated, praying people with whom I have ever worked. When there has been a need the people have prayed about it and God has always provided."

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Indian Springs Church, Bryant, dedicated a new family life facility and worship center Sept. 22. The new 37,000 square foot building was erected at a cost of \$625,000, but has an appraised value of \$1.3 million. The building includes basketball, racketball, and volleyball courts; an exercise room, craft room, library, dressing room, game room, snack area, and nine Sunday School rooms. It will provide seating for 750 people during worship services. The speaker for the dedicatory service was David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, who spoke from Hebrews 1:1-4 on the "Superiority of Christ." Pastor Benny Grant sees a bright future for the church. In the last four years the church has added 650 members, baptizing 74 people in 1990 and 88 this year. The congregation is averaging 330 in Sunday School.

COORDINATOR

COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP Atlanta, Georgia

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) seeks to call its first Coordinator who will serve as the organization's chief executive. The Coordinator, who will report to the Administrative Committee of the Coordinating Council, will have responsibility for the advocacy of the CBF and its mission and for the management of the CBF office.

The Coordinator should have extensive experience in Baptist causes in the United States, demonstrated competence and creativity in administration, and proven leadership and communication skills in Baptist life.

Resumes must accompany applications, and nominations should be sent to The Rev. Dr. James Statten, River Road Baptist Church, River Road and Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229.

The deadline for receiving resumes is November 1, 1991.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Computer link update test

Sunday School Board to offer youth helps

NASHVILLE (BP)—Weekly, computer-transmitted teaching helps will provide youth Sunday school workers with last-minute suggestions in a one-month test project conducted by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board through SBCNet, the denomination's computer communication network.

The test project will begin Oct. 24 and will offer teaching helps for Sunday school workers who use "Youth in Action: Teacher," a periodical for youth in grades 10-12 in the Life and Work Series, according to Richard Barnes, design editor of youth Life and Work materials.

Included in the service will be current news stories, up-to-date statistics, ways to use current movies, TV programs and music to teach youth Sunday school and other fresh teaching ideas. The service addresses a need expressed by Sunday school workers for age-graded teaching plans and resources for each grade, Barnes said.

"Our research for the curriculum improvements showed that teachers want suggestions that are current. No one is providing anything this current," Barnes said.

"The potential is for regionalized suggestions with teaching ideas for the West Coast, cities, rural churches... the

possibilities are endless," he pointed out.

Based on the test project results, the service may be expanded to "Youth in Discovery," the Life and Work material for younger youth, as well as Bible Book Series materials, Barnes said.

A target date for offering the service has not been determined and will be part of the test evaluation, Barnes said.

SBCNet, a denominational computer network, has been available since April 1 through CompuServe, a national computer network service, and at present primarily provides computer networking between convention agencies, state conventions and associational offices, said David Haywood, SBCNet systems operator.

The test project for youth Sunday school workers will be the first SBCNet service specifically directed to the local church.

There will be no charge for the test. Users will pay only for the CompuServe user fees. If not already an SBCNet subscriber, churches or individuals wanting to test the service must purchase from the Sunday School Board a \$20 membership kit which includes a \$15 usage credit and software. After purchasing the kit, subscribers pay a usage fee to CompuServe for actual time used.

Ohio Executive Tal Bonham dies

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)—Tal D. Bonham, executive director of State Convention of Baptists in Ohio the past 11 years, died Sept. 18 in a health care center in Columbus. He was 57.

Bonham was in the center to recuperate from a stroke suffered in May which followed open heart surgery in April. He died, apparently, while asleep in the afternoon.

Funeral services will be held Sept. 21 at Dublin Baptist Church in Metro Columbus, where he and his family were members. Another memorial service will be conducted in Oklahoma City Sept. 23 with burial in Clinton, in western Oklahoma, later that day.

Bonham, born July 20, 1934 at Cordell, Okla., grew up in Clinton. He is survived by his wife, Faye, whom he married in July 1958. They have four children: Marilyn, Randy, Daniel and Tal David.

The family asked, in lieu of flowers, that gifts be made to the Ohio state missions offering. Coincidentally, the 1991 week of prayer and offering for state mission was scheduled the week of Bonham's death.

Bonham had been a Southern Baptist Convention leader in three states. He was president of the Arkansas convention, 1970-71; director of evangelism, Oklahoma state convention, 1973-80; and in Ohio since April 1980.

He graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1957 and was awarded the doctor of theology degree in 1963 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He was a pastor of several Oklahoma churches and in Pine Bluff, Ark. He wrote several books on discipleship, evangelism and stewardship. In recent years, he compiled books of jokes.

Bonham was known for his preaching and sermons. He maintained a vigorous schedule of revival and pulpit supply preaching until a series of health complications necessitated a curtailment of the schedule.

During his recovery from the stroke, his associate, Orville H. Griffin, was appointed as acting executive director.

Less than week before his death, Bonham's personally-written letter of disability resignation was sent to the state executive board. Action would have been taken at the November annual meeting.

One of his first actions as executive director in Ohio was to launch an evangelism/church planting project called "104 Miracles." This was an effort to begin 104 new missions within a two-year span.



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- Women's Seminar with Anne Ortlund "Disciplines..."
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375-2347

Convention Uniform*Confronting philosophy*

by Bob Parsley, First Church, Dardanelle

Basic passage: Acts 17:22-34

Focal passage: Acts 17:22-34

Central truth: Paul addressed the most brilliant men of his day and proclaimed God's message in a wonderful way.

Paul was upset by the idolatry he found in Athens. The greatest minds of his time spent their days debating the finer points of philosophy in the Areopagus. They challenged him to explain these strange new things about Jesus and resurrection (vv. 18-20).

Paul's speech at Athens represented the first direct encounter between Christianity and Greek philosophy. We should read it with the understanding that it served as an introduction to the gospel for the elite thinkers of Greece. Paul used the same style of debate which the debaters of Athens employed. There are four main arguments in his address.

The Athenians were very religious people and erected a statue to an "unknown god" among the many statues in their state gardens. They feared omitting any god and Paul stressed their ignorance of the one true God (v. 23) as his first theme.

Paul centered his thoughts on God as creator for the second argument of the speech. God was called, "Lord of Heaven and Earth" and giver of all life (vv. 24-25). Paul exclaimed that God did not live in temples. Of course, Athens was filled with scores of temples. Many of his hearers were allured by the idea of one God.

In order to boost his third argument, Paul quoted two Greek teachers, Epimenides, and Aratus. He proclaimed that God created man to seek after him in this life. With this theme, he moved into the fourth and final powerful statement.

Paul contended humanity lives in great crises because idolatry and ignorance can no longer be overlooked by God. This last argument focused on the judgment of God and the need for human responsibility. Paul's word about resurrection threw most of his hearers into an uproar. Resurrection was foreign to their idea of the soul. It is important to see from this passage that a few believed (v. 34). In spite of the rejection of the majority Paul did not back away from his opportunity of preaching the gospel to those who later mocked him. His words will ring true forever.

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Life and Work*The benefits of God's Word*

by Bob Berry, First Church, Benton

Basic passage: Psalm 19:7-8, Psalm 119:1-16

Focal passage: Psalm 19:7-8

Central truth: Obeying God's Word pays dividends.

We live in a working environment where benefits are crucial. The high cost of health care, the need for adequate vacation, the availability of flexible working hours, and the desire for a comfortable retirement are all considerations which employers must address for their employees.

Serving God also pays benefits. Our God graciously blesses those who obey his Word. However, it is not because we deserve God's favor. We cannot demand benefits. According to Paul, a believer is just a slave. A slave is at the mercy of the master for everything. God gives rewards only because he loves his own.

In our materialistic world, people want to be rewarded financially. In God's economy, the reward for service and obedience is character. Character is almost always developed through hardship. Most people believe money will relieve them of hardship. Thus, many people work for money. Few work for God.

In Psalm 19:7-8, David describes four benefits of obeying God's Word. Four different terms are used for God's Word, each basically synonymous with "law." Four other terms further describe God's Word as perfect, sure, right, and pure. Then David lists the incentives for obedience.

Those who seek God receive a reward which to some may seem rather trivial: a restored soul, wisdom, rejoicing heart, and enlightened eyes. But, if you look deeper, you see what David is really saying: living life according to God's Word and God's will leads to peace of mind. Peace of mind is something everybody is seeking but is only found in God.

God's Word is practical, useful, and necessary for everyday life. It tells how to live and how to get the most out of life. It gives guidance and direction. The Bible presents the life-style prescribed by the one who created life in the first place.

Look at those benefits again. The Bible tells how to know God and how to know right from wrong. Knowing God and living right lead to joy and eyes that see life from God's perspective. God does know how to reward his servants.

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Bible Book*Living a moral life*

by Zane Chesser, First Church, Malvern

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 5:6-11; 6:1-2, 15-20

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 5:6-11

Central truth: Moral purity is vital to the Christian witness.

Along with divisions, immorality also invaded the Corinthian Church. A member of the congregation was cited as living in an immoral relationship with his step-mother. Rather than being shocked by this shameful act the church presented a casual attitude (1 Co. 5:2,6).

At issue was not only the welfare of the erring man, but also that of the church and its witness. Confronted with such a disgraceful situation Paul gives some very stern instructions: (1) He believed the congregation should exclude this man from their fellowship (2 Co. 5:5). This action would be redemptive as well as punitive. It was aimed at bringing him to his senses so that his soul would be saved.

(2) Such immorality could affect the church like yeast in a lump of dough (1 Co. 5:6). In Jewish literature, leaven almost always stood for evil influence. As the Jews disposed of leaven before Passover, so Paul urged the church to remove the leaven of immoral attitude and action in celebrating the Christian's true Passover.

(3) The church members are not to have social contact with other members practicing sins as listed (1 Co. 5:11). Christians are responsible for the life and witness of the church. A different standard applies to those outside the church.

In 1 Corinthians 6:1-2, Paul was concerned that church members were taking each other to court to settle their disputes. Such trifling conduct damaged the church's witness. They should settle their problems outside the public courts (1 Co. 6:1).

The final passage in this lesson presents a powerful case for the Christian to "flee" or "shun" sexual sins (1 Co. 6:18). (1) The believer is in an intimate union with Christ and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. To engage in sexual immorality would defile this sacred relationship (1 Co. 6:15-16). (2) This, too, is a lethal sin against one's person for sex is not just a part of the body, but involves the total personality (1 Co. 6:18). (3) Since Christ has bought us with a precious price we can not do as we please, but do that which glorifies him with the total person (1 Co. 6:19-20).

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Convention Uniform

Accurate teaching

by Bob Parsley, First Church, Dardanelle

Basic passage: Acts 18:24-19:6

Focal passage: Acts 18:24-19:6

Central truth: In spreading the gospel, correcting incomplete teaching is just as crucial as presenting the plan of salvation.

The same basic problem was found by Paul and his companions in Apollos and the 12 disciples in Ephesus. They claimed to know only the baptism of John the Baptist (18:25; 19:3). Apollos and the others had heard about Jesus, but had little or no understanding of the experience of baptism related to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

We are not sure how Apollos heard about Christianity in his native city of Alexandria, Egypt. It was one of the centers of learning in the ancient world and had a large Jewish population. Apollos spoke of Jesus in the synagogue of Ephesus with great conviction and power and impressed Paul's companions, Aquila and Priscilla. They noted his rough edges and lack of knowledge. After their careful tutoring, Apollos became one of the greatest preachers in the first century.

A group of 12 disciples were also taught incompletely about Jesus and his baptism. They, too, had been given the baptism of repentance practiced by John the Baptist. Paul asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" and they meekly replied, "We have not so much as heard there is a Holy Spirit" (19:2). They also gladly accepted further teaching about Jesus and his gospel. They were the first to be rebaptized in the book of Acts.

The special display of the power of the Holy Spirit recorded in Ephesus must be seen as a part of a larger picture (19:5-6). Similar things occurred at Pentecost for the Jewish Christians, when the Samaritans were saved, and when Gentile God-fearers came to Jesus in Caesarea. With this winning of those who had the baptism of John the Baptist, God wanted to make it crystal clear that his power had come to those who had previously had too little of the gospel to experience his Holy Spirit. It remains an extremely important task for modern Christians to assist those who have an inadequate knowledge of Jesus so that they too may be saved, baptized, and filled with the Spirit.

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Life and Work

The transforming Word

by Bob Berry, First Church, Benton

Basic passage: Acts 8:26-31, 34-38

Focal passage: Acts 8:26-31

Central truth: God's Word impacts lives through dedicated witnesses.

One handwritten scroll, painstakingly copied by a Jewish scribe, was carried by an Ethiopian official as he left Jerusalem. It may have been purchased as an addition for the royal library. It may have been purchased out of curiosity. He read it as he rode home. That scroll changed this man forever.

God's Word has a power all its own. It needs no help from Man to accomplish its work. However, in the hands of a committed witness like Philip, the power of God's Word can be channeled to yield dynamic results.

What made Philip an effective witness? First, his own personal relationship with God was as it should be. He was aware of God's leading, and went where he was sent (Acts 8:26-27). Although today God speaks through his Word instead of angels, the child of God must still be listening before God can communicate. And God cannot speak to those who are not right with him.

Furthermore, because he listened to and obeyed God, Philip was the right person in the right place at the right time. This was no coincidence. God set up the meeting. All Philip had to do was be present to use his knowledge of Scripture.

Finally, Philip was a powerful witness because God's Word had been active before he arrived on the scene. A prepared heart is the most neglected aspect of evangelism. Prayer and God's Word must go before a successful evangelistic encounter. God's Spirit must be active before a life can be changed.

The Holy Spirit was already at work in the heart of the Ethiopian. Even though he did not understand what the prophet Isaiah was saying, the eunuch was preparing his heart. He developed a longing for God.

God's Word is powerful for those whose relationship is right with God, who are obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and who understand the Scriptures. When prayer and preparation have gone before the encounter, and God's timing is perfect, witnessing by a committed believer will yield abundant results. Just ask Philip. Or better yet, just ask the eunuch.

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Bible Book

Marriage and singleness

by Zane Chesser, First Church, Malvern

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 7:1-11

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 7:1-14

Central truth: Biblical principles help guide both married and single.

In this passage Paul turns from disturbing problems in the Corinthian Church to answering questions which some members had raised related to marriage and singleness (1 Co. 7:1).

To understand Paul's counsel to the Corinthians, we must remember he was not writing on the full scope of marriage, but responding to particular questions. In some matters he did not have any recorded teachings of Jesus, so for such cases he gave his own opinion (1 Co. 7:25). Also, his original readers had their concept of marriage shaped by pagan beliefs.

One question asked of Paul was whether or not the Christian should even enter marriage or remarry if widowed. While Paul clearly shows a preference for being single, he recognizes not everyone has his "own gift from God" (1 Co. 7:7). Those not having the "gift" of celibacy should marry or they could fall into sexual temptations (1 Co. 7:2,9).

Others raised the question of sexual abstinence within their marriages, advocating a type of "spiritual marriage" (1 Co. 7:3-5). Paul underscores the sexual partnership of marriage. Neither husband nor wife should deny the privilege of sexual love that is a normal part of marriage. The sexual demands in marriage are the same for both husband and wife. Paul advises that sexual abstinence should only be by mutual consent of the married couple under the circumstances named (1 Co. 7:5).

Some who had been converted from paganism felt they needed to break all social ties with their former life, including marriage to an unbeliever. They wondered if their children from such a union were acceptable to God. Paul urges them to stay in their marriage. (1 Co. 7:10-13).

Paul encourages the Christian husbands or wives to remain with unbelieving mates and the result could be the "sanctification" of their spouse and in such a union, the children are "holy" (1 Co. 7:14). Surely the principle is clear that the influence of a caring, loving Christian mate or parent can impact the entire family. Where such is the case the conversion of others to Christ is always a real possibility.

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Seminary funding revision?

Seminary presidents, five others study formula

NASHVILLE (BP)—The presidents of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries and a committee of five Southern Baptists experienced in the field of education met Sept. 18 to study the possibility of revising the formula used to determine the amount of Cooperative Program money flowing annually to each seminary.

No revisions were acted upon at the meeting. Most of the meeting time was spent reviewing the current formula and present situations at two of the six seminaries, Southeastern in North Carolina and Golden Gate in California.

The Nashville meeting was held under Executive Committee subcommittee "background rules," which means the essence of the meeting can be reported but without direct quotations from participants.

The current formula was developed by a consultant named R. Orin Cornett in 1975 and adopted by the SBC Executive Committee that year. Over the years that formula has undergone minor revisions on several occasions. The formula itself is a complicated mathematical exercise that attempts to compute a variety of factors, including average student expenditure in other non-SBC seminaries, the average enrollment in Southern Baptist seminaries, and the wide range in size of student populations in each of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

In essence, the formula assigns a percentage to each seminary, and that percentage is then used to determine how much each seminary receives from the amount approved by the Southern Baptist Convention for theological education. Together, the six seminaries receive 100 percent of the allocation.

Calls for revision or at least explanation of the complicated formula have come from a variety of sources, including Executive Committee member Kenneth R. Barnett of Colorado.

The situations at Southeastern and Golden Gate have also put pressure on the formula.

Golden Gate's leaders continue to insist the school faces severe financial hardship because of its location in the San Francisco Bay area, a part of the country which is expensive and where Southern Baptists are few in number. The seminary's leaders say its location and surroundings limit its ability to hire faculty, attract students, receive grants and compete on a level playing field with the other five seminaries. To help offset part of the problem, the SBC is current-

ly giving Golden Gate an extra \$200,000 a year for five years to build up its endowment.

Southeastern's leaders, on the other hand, insist that school faces a unique financial situation because of the turmoil that resulted from its abrupt transition from a moderate to a conservative school. In 1987, the number of students attending the school plummeted from more than 1,000 to about 600 in the wake of a walkout by key moderate administrators of the school. The moderate administration was replaced with conservative leadership, but faculty members did not leave, thus producing a situation where enrollment was down and most faculty and facility expenses remained stable.

According to the formula, the drop in student enrollment should have precipitated a decline in the school's income from the Cooperative Program. To stabilize the situation, the Executive Committee froze that part of the formula which computes the average student enrollment over a three-year period. The freeze is scheduled to end by budget year 1994-95.

Southeastern's leaders say they thought the freeze on student enrollment in the formula would get them through the transition, but they now realize the amount of time needed to solve the crisis is going to be longer than they had expected. They say they need more time because of unexpected financial complications resulting from the old faculty's intransigence and the attacks by some of the former moderate seminary leaders which resulted in a sharp decline in financial support from regional foundations and alumni.

Southeastern has reported 17 of its faculty will be departing the school over the next two to three years, in retirement and early retirement packages worked out recently. The school's leaders say development will eventually provide them the window of opportunity to balance their budget with student enrollments.

Leaders of other seminaries said in the meeting they are suffering financially because money that should be flowing to their institutions is instead being used to undergird Southeastern and Golden Gate. Others in the meeting disagreed about the money going to Golden Gate and said if the extra \$200,000 wasn't going to that school it would not be going to any of the other five.

The group will meet again following the Executive Committee meeting in Nashville in February.

Hugh Wamble dies in car accident

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—G. Hugh Wamble, a prominent Southern Baptist educator and religious liberty champion, died Sept. 22 in an automobile accident in Kansas City, Mo. He was 68.

Wamble, who had been battling the effects of a malignant brain tumor since January, died in the emergency room at Liberty (Mo.) Hospital after a car driven by his wife, Beverly, hit a guardrail on Interstate 35 in Kansas City, North, and turned over. As of the morning of Sept. 23, Mrs. Wamble, age 65, remains in serious condition in intensive care.

Professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1959, Wamble underwent surgery for a brain tumor Jan. 18. When pathology reports indicated the tumor was malignant, he was treated with radiation and chemotherapy, but doctors were unable to eradicate the malignancy.

Wamble's photographic memory and mental astuteness were something of a legend at Midwestern. Throughout his 32-year career at the seminary, students claimed the professor could end a lecture in mid-sentence one day, then complete the sentence at the beginning of the lecture period the following day.

A "self-taught" lawyer, Wamble was best known among Southern Baptists for his contributions to a U.S. Supreme Court religious liberty decision made in 1985.

A native of Georgia, Wamble was a Marine sergeant and radio operator during World War II, and was present when the island of Iwo Jima was secured by U.S. military forces. He held degrees from Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; Southern Seminary; and the University of Missouri, Columbia.

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Missionaries evacuate Zaire

by Donald D. Martin
SBC Foreign Mission Board

Five Southern Baptist missionaries and six missionary children left Zaire's capital Sept. 26 on an evacuation flight to Frankfurt, Germany, following the spread of violence sparked by a mutinous rampage by national troops.

Prior to evacuating Kinshasa, the missionaries had moved to the safety of an oil company compound and were waiting with other foreigners to leave the country. The U.S. Embassy in Zaire helped arrange the evacuation flight to Germany. Press reports said U.S. officials plan to evacuate 5,000 U.S. citizens by plane.

Missionary Steve Scaberry, from Laredo, Texas, said the Southern Baptist missionaries arrived safely in Frankfurt, Germany, Sept. 27.

The group included: Scaberry and his wife, Anne, from Denton, Texas, and their three children; Duane and Kristy Falk, both from Dallas, and their two children; Jared Hodges, 17, son of missionaries Al and Karen Hodges; and overseas correspondent Craig Bird, of Camden, Ark., who was in the country working on coverage of the missionaries' work. Bird, former Baptist Press feature editor, and his wife, Melissa, of Deer Park, Texas, are based in Kenya.

Missionaries Al and Karen Hodges, their two other children and journeyman Jane Gouge arrived safely in Washington, on a U.S.-sponsored evacuation flight Sept. 29. Hodges is from Harrison, Ark.; his wife is from Paragould, Ark. Gouge is from Orlando, Fla. At the time of the unrest, U.S. Embassy officials in Zaire told the Hodges family and Gouge to stay at their home in Kitwit and not make the nine-hour drive to Kinshasa to join the other evacuating Southern Baptist missionaries, who left Zaire Sept. 26.

The Falks are now in Lome, Togo, the Scaberries are in the United States and Bird has returned to his home in Nairobi, Kenya.

Unrest in Zaire began Sept. 23 when about 3,000 disgruntled Zairean paratroopers entered the capital and looted stores and closed the international airport and the Congo River port. They were angry because they had not been paid in several months. The unrest quickly spread to a frustrated civilian population beset with economic chaos and an inflation rate of nearly 1,000 percent.

French troops took control of the international airport on the second day of unrest and began protecting French and other foreign citizens. France and Belgium since has dispatched hundreds of reinforcement troops to Zaire to help stop the

rioting and looting, which have killed 30 people since the unrest began.

France also warned Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, who came to power in a 1965 coup, democratic reforms should soon follow restored law and order.

News reports on Sept. 27 said some order had returned to the capital. Government officials in Zaire have ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew and adopted an emergency plan to distribute food to its citizens.

"Although there seems to have been some quieting down, both the missionaries and foreign officials in Zaire anticipate a backlash in two to three weeks because of food shortages in the country," said Bill Phillips, area director for west Africa. "All expatriate personnel are still being advised to leave."

A Belgium relief group estimated at least 40 people have been killed and 1,250-1,750 people have been injured in the rioting.

Southern Baptist missionaries began work in Zaire in 1987. Zaire, a nation of 34 million people, is the third-largest African country.

Virginia court rules for FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Virginia Supreme Court threw out a \$1.56 million judgment against the SBC Foreign Mission Board in a unanimous opinion on Sept. 20.

The opinion of the seven justices reversed a July 1990 verdict in a jury trial in Richmond Circuit Court that awarded the sum to children of a former missionary couple who suffered sexual abuse from their father, G. Thomas Wade Jr. Diana Sue Wade, the children's mother, filed the suit on their behalf.

Since no constitutional issues were raised, the case will not go beyond the Virginia Supreme Court, according to attorneys for the mission board.

The crux of arguments in the appeal to the Supreme Court centered around interpretation under Virginia law about what contractual relationship, if any, existed between the Wades and the board that would call for the board to protect the children from abuse by their father.

The Supreme Court opinion, written by Justice Elizabeth Lacy, said the court found no evidence "which would support a finding that the parties contemplated (when they were appointed as missionaries in 1976) that the board would be obligated to protect one family member from the criminal actions of another family member."