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### October 24, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# Arkansas Baptist



*Crow Mountain*  
Page 16

Vol. 90, No. 22

October 24, 1991

## COVER STORY

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# Arkansas Baptist

## *At a glance*

### **6** Enduring Triumphantly

In the last of a two-part series on Christian victory, Pastor H.D. McCarty states, "One of the great powers available to the pastor or spiritual leaders is the simple resolve, 'I will not quit.' Once spoken, the demons, the world and the flesh will test you savagely! It's normal and should be expected!"

### **15** Moderates hold forum

The Arkansas Fellowship of Concerned Baptists, with 80 in attendance, met Sept. 12 in Little Rock. James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, was the major speaker for the forum, which also included discussion groups.

### **16** Crow Mountain organizes

Crow Mountain Chapel, Russellville, was constituted into a church Sept. 22. Originally a mission of Russellville Second Church, the church constituted with 67 charter members. Al Sparkman is pastor.

### **18** HMB elects new vice president

Election of a new vice president, adoption of the 1992 budget and acceptance of Baptist mission work on three Pacific Ocean islands topped the agenda of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustees' fall meeting in Atlanta.

### **23** FMB defunds seminary

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted 35-28 in their October meeting to defund the board's contribution to the 1992 budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The action was based on the trustees disagreement over the seminary's theological stance. The trustees also voted to expand the Soviet area ministry, and affirmed Parks after a late-night session to "clear the air."

## *Cover story*

Brotherhood photo / Mike Day



### **Moscow Project** 12

Jeff Howard of Little Rock was one of nine Arkansans on a team of 29 Southern Baptist volunteers who paid their own way to the Soviet Union in response to appeals from Soviet Christians to help share the gospel message and help distribute Russian language New Testaments.

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**Next issue: Nov. 7**

# Diffusing bigotry

J. EVERETT SNEED

All Christians should feel a sense of sadness, defeat, and remorse because of the recent convening of the Ku Klux Klan in Arkansas. We agree that we should not forbid the Klan from meeting in our state since all points of view, no matter how obnoxious, should be allowed to express themselves. But it is tragic, indeed, that our state has even a few who would desire such an organization. Every Christian should use his influence to eliminate such bigotry.

The Klan is founded on principles of hate and the character of the organization is revealed by the hidden identities of most of its members. The organization directs its hate toward blacks, Jews, and Mexicans. It seeks to carry out an ungodly objective through violence, threats, and harassment. All of its methods are totally contrary to the teachings of Christ.

Hatred is as old as mankind. It was hatred that prompted Cain to take the life of his brother, Abel (Ge. 4:8). It was hatred that incited the crucifixion of hundreds of Jews at the hands of Greeks during the inter-biblical period. It was hatred that enabled Hitler to conduct the mass murder of thousands of Jews in Nazi Germany prior to and during the Second World War. It was hatred that produced the agony, crucifixion, and death of our Savior. Hatred is as dangerous today as it has ever been. The hidden, hooded hawkers of hate are a threat to the well-being of all who oppose their base philosophy. Thus, the existence of the Klan is an anonymous threat to the well-being of every Christian.

The Bible clearly states that racism is wrong. The Apostle Paul said, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Ga. 3:28).

In the New Testament era, Jews made every effort to limit their association with Greeks (Gentiles). Kosher food laws made it impossible for Jews and Gentiles to even eat a meal together. Many of the Jews considered Gentiles "dogs." Conversely many of the Gentiles hated the Jews. This hatred has continued even until this very day.

Again, Paul graphically portrayed the necessity of Christians breaking down barriers between races as he said, "For he (Christ) is our peace, who has made us both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of the partition between us" (Ep. 2:14). In this verse, Paul was using the



imagery of the temple. The temple consisted of several sections in which only certain people were allowed to go.

The outer section of the temple called "the Court of the Gentiles" was open to everyone. On the wall at the end of the Court of the Gentiles was a warning stone which said, "Any Gentile who goes beyond this point will be guilty of his own death." Under Jewish law any non-Jewish person going beyond the Court of the Gentiles was to be stoned to death.

The second division of the temple was the court or the area of the women. Jewish women could enter deeper into the temple than could Gentiles. But, they too were forbidden from going further into the temple. The next section was available to all adult Jewish men. But, they too were restricted from going further into the temple.

The final sections of the temple were the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. In the Holy Place the Priest made sacrifice daily for the sins of the people. The Holy of Holies was restricted to the High Priest alone, and he was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies only on the Day of Atonement.

When Christ died on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. Paul said that this was a dramatic statement from God that all bar-

riers had been eliminated. We are one in Christ Jesus.

The Jews hated the Samaritans even more than the Gentiles. In 721 B.C., Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom, fell. Many of its inhabitants were carried away into Assyria. From Babylon and other countries they were brought to Samaria. As a result, a mixed race of Jews, Babylonians, and others was developed. These individuals were called Samaritans.

In one of Christ's most graphic illustrations he told of a Samaritan who assisted an individual who had been wounded by thieves. In this illustration, Christ was portraying the value of an individual is not determined by his race, but by his actions.

The point has been made that the First Amendment allows the peaceful convening of the Klan. Freedom of assembly is one thing, however, and freedom to harass or harm is quite another. Groups such as the KKK and the Black Panthers must be closely watched to prevent their philosophy of hate from being put into action. When persons are threatened or harassed, the organization has stepped outside of the law.

How, then, should we react to the organization of the Klan? Although every Christian abhors the philosophy and actions of the KKK, our conduct should be based on love. Such love must include: (1) concern for those who are harassed and hated; (2) a desire to see God's saving grace at work in the lives of klanismen; and (3) activities to create a new environment in which such hate-mongers cease to thrive.

Christians should remember that it is only through changed lives that hatred can be eliminated. And such change can only be accomplished by God's saving grace.

## Arkansas Baptist

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. . . . . . Editor  
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron, president; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Harold Gateley, Fayetteville; and Don Heuer, Batesville.

DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know

Exciting plans are in the making for our convention this fall. The auxiliary meetings have been planned with excellent guest speakers. The themes and emphases being followed are on target with where we are today. Almost all reports from your agencies and institutions will be gratifying. I have requested of the Program Committee that I not be scheduled to preach. I do want the privilege of speaking to the work of the Executive Board. That work has never been more exciting.

The agenda this year will be quite full, as it has been every year since we compressed the convention into only four sessions. An unusual amount of business will be presented. In order to act responsibly and with dispatch, all messengers needs to acquaint themselves with the information in the Oct. 10 convention issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

If you have questions concerning any of the items being presented, I would encourage you to call me, the Executive Board, or convention president, or any agency or institutional executive. We want to answer your questions.

The Restated Articles of Incorporation contain a lot of information. Four things have been addressed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee in the new version. (1) The amendments adopted by the Convention since 1978, but not included in the articles of record with the secretary of state, have been included. (2) Additions have been made that require all agencies and institutions to amend their charter to prevent them changing their charters without approval of the Convention in annual session. (3) Language has been changed to try to avoid the problem of "ascending liability." (4) Provisions for distribution of assets upon the dissolution of the various entities, and compliance with statutes that govern non-profit corporations have been added.

Let's pray for a great time and renewed commitments to "Strengthening Families."

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



SHERRY HOLT

## Woman's Viewpoint

### In my mother's purse

At the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention, on leaving the Super Dome we would attempt to share the gospel with our taxi driver. One day we had asked about this man's family, occupation and religious background and he had been so responsive my husband was searching in each of the pockets of his suitcoat and pants looking for a tract. He turned to me and asked if I had one.

Reluctantly I began to open the purse compartment that held a tract. All the while I was pondering if I wanted to give up this tract or not. Finally, I leaned forward and handed the little booklet over the man's shoulder. "My mother died 10 months ago," I explained, "and my sister and I chose some things of hers to keep. I kept a purse and when I carried it for the first time, I found this. My mother had a very strong faith which she loved to share with others. I had intended to keep this as a reminder of the precious Christian heritage my mother had given to me; however, I know that giving this

to you is what would please my mother the most."

He was very hesitant to receive my gift, yet he had really demonstrated to us a seeking heart. He did take it and humbly assured me that he would really cherish the little book. We parted ways as he left us off in front of the hotel; he expressed gratitude to us for sharing with him.

We had ridden in the taxi with a friend who had a room down the hall from ours. As we said good-bye in front of our door, he noticed my soberness and encouraged me by saying, "Though she is dead, yet does she live." And with that comment, the joy and peace that passeth human understanding returned to my heart.

**Sherry Holt** is a member of Central Church in Jonesboro, where her husband, Rex, is pastor. A former missionary to Togo, West Africa, she is the mother of three children.



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

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## Letters to the Editor

### Religious freedom

I wanted to write and say "Amen" to the letter written by Shafer Parker Jr. of Marion. I find it difficult to believe that Ron Dunn and the BJC can claim to be protecting Christian values and religious freedom in our society while they fight in court with people like the ACLU to prevent voluntary prayer at a public school graduation ceremony. I, too, "pray for the day when no Baptist, and no state convention, will continue to fund the BJC's attempts to put a knife in the back of religious freedom."—**Jerry Hill, Nashville**

[Editor's note: James Dunn is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.]

### Praise for Praising

Thank you for mentioning Praising in the excellent recent article about *The Baptist Hymnal* and Mark Blankenship. The

three Arkansas Praising had a three-fold function. In addition to celebrating the new hymnal, their second function kicked off what I hope will be a year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Church Music Department, which was the first such State Music Department in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Arkansas Praising we attended in Little Rock showed Arkansas Baptists at their very best. The evening of music included a combined choir from many churches, a wonderful instrumental ensemble, selections for piano and organ, and a very fine handbell team.

The third purpose of the Arkansas Praising was to celebrate the 50th jubilee year of Southern Baptists' Church Music Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, and the leader of the Praising at Fayetteville was more than merely "another committee member." Their Praising featured Dr. Wesley L. Forbis, the editor of *The Baptist Hymnal*, and the highly respected

director of the Church Music Department in Nashville. No other denomination can match the products and services we Southern Baptists receive through our Church Music Department in Nashville.

Thank you, Lester McCullough, Peggy Pearson, and Glen Eñnes, for the excellent work you and those who preceded you in Arkansas have done, and are doing now.—**James Allcock, Hope**

## Bold Mission Prayer Thrust

### Answered Prayer

—Hamburg First Church, under Bobby Pennington's leadership, carried out a very successful building project that increased attendance at Linda Vista over 200 percent followed by increased conversions.

—Thank God for the 25 persons recently trained in literacy missions.

—Thank God for the Church Extension answered prayer for two vans, piano and organ for use in missions.



### Prayer Requests

Pray for the following teams working in Guatemala.

—Evangelistic team from Jonesboro Central Church working at San Marcos, Oct. 26-Nov. 2.

—Medical team from Berryville working at Luz E Verdad, Oct. 26-Nov. 2.

—Construction team from Immanuel Church, El Dorado, working at El Quiche on Chicua 2 from Nov. 2-9.

—Pray for student summer missionaries Jennifer Fields from New Lebanon, Ohio, and Beth Wilson from Orange, Texas, as they do resort work thru the fall semester at Burrell Springs with Amy Hester.

—Pray for university students as they consider serving as summer missionaries in 1992.

—Pray for Paul and Betty Rodgen as they prepare to move to Hope where Paul will direct the Migrant Mission Center.

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# Enduring Triumphantly

*Second in a two-part series on Christian victory*

by H.D. McCarty

Senior Pastor, University Church, Fayetteville

Endurance, from the Greek word *bupo* (under) — *meno* (to abide) means to abide under pressure! Its close relative, patience, adds force and clarity to this message of truth to the seeking disciple. The implications are clear. Those who determine to follow Jesus Christ are called to endure continuous tension and pressure. There is no escape unless we decide to quit (and live with the guilt of our betrayal) or, far better, vow we will discover the supernatural strength to conquer (the Christ option).

One of the greatest powers available to the pastor or spiritual leader is the simple resolve, "I will not quit." Once spoken, the demons, the world and the flesh will test you savagely! It's normal and should be expected! Even our Lord was tempted to give up his crucifixion. Quitting must be Satan's favorite suggestion. All true warriors of the cross, exhausted, weary and seemingly alone in battle have entertained the thought. I know I have. Many times I've licked my wounds and despaired! Yet, with all my faults and failures I'm grateful for the grace that has enabled me to "never quit" fighting back! I'm confident this is more of him than me!

One of the greatest sources of strength in such testing has to be the experience of the great apostle in 2 Corinthians. In chapter 1, verses 8 and 9, Paul testified that his ministry had brought him "beyond his ability to endure." He was so whipped that he "despaired even life." Sound familiar? But, let's not miss the rest of the story!

This happens, Paul says, to continuously educate us about the source of real power. The God who raises the dead is much to be preferred over our own sagging strength and limited brain. Learning "not to rely on ourselves, but on God" is the foundational spiritual secret of all true biblical endurance.

There is a subtle lie loose among believers that work for God. If you're smart and spirit-filled, can be selective,

always enjoyable and mostly convenient. Those who see themselves as wise in Christ (arrogant is a better word) pity the rest of us who are "busy, busy" in the activity of the church.

These prophets of "darkened counsel" will one day reap the results of their casual style of ministry. The Word of God knows nothing of this widely embraced self-centered Christianity.

Again, look at Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:5. He says his body had no rest (physical), he was harassed by outside conflicts (people), and he had fears within (personal). The outline literally jumps off the page. In his work for God, the greatest Christian who ever lived was: (1) physically prostrate—he was exhausted, (2) people pressured—he was involved in human need, (3) personally panicked—he feared his own inadequacies. Too bad Paul didn't have the counsel of some of our current "easy living" disciples. He would have spared himself much anxiety! Perhaps he hadn't heard of walking in the Spirit?

Many of us are guilty of exhaustion in the work because of flesh effort (doing the wrong thing the wrong way) or being workaholics (doing the right thing the wrong way). Both of these are sin. Each of us must examine and test our hearts! Our work should be prayerfully begun, rooted in Scripture, and vigorously engaged in as we await more light and the increasing power of the Spirit. Endurance is the unfolding process that fills "me" with more of "him" as I refuse to be disobedient to God!

In these days, when multitudes of voices are promoting "easy churchmanship," we must return to the words of the Master. At a recent staff meeting in my church one of our men asked the hard question, "Are we doing too much in the way of organization? Are we expecting too much of our people? Some seem stretched and overworked!"

Our discussion concluded with an impactful revelation. The question:

"Should we reduce our program of work in order to ease the pressure on our workers?" The answer: No! The real issue is not to reduce the labor but to increase the laborers! This is always what our Master has taught. "Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into the harvest, because the laborers are few" (Lk. 10:2).

True church growth doesn't aim at increasing numbers, but increasing laborers! Those who accept positions of responsibility in church, say that of a Sunday School teacher, become laborers. They expose themselves to pressure and risk which reveals their human weaknesses. The process of endurance has started! If they don't quit, really care and work hard it drives them deeper into Jesus. Again, Paul's experience in 2 Corinthians 1:8-9.

It is a sure maxim of life. Obedience to God plus time equals endurance. This is my favorite definition of *hupomemo*.

I have a good friend in ministry who is a collector of pithy sayings. He has some tremendously humorous, but sometimes sad insights from over the years. A favorite of mine comes under the title of "which being interpreted means." It would be hilarious if it wasn't so uncomfortable. It goes like this. The laborer had decided to resign (quit) his position of leadership. He piously intones, "My work is finished here." Which being interpreted means, "My work is exposed here!" We must remember that endurance is a great weapon against shallowness.

Endurance means fortifying ourselves to "will" obedience to God regardless of how we feel. Our feelings and the grip they hold on us should be noted, but emotions must be ignored if they interfere with obedience. To despair, cry or want to scream is simply a part of proving we can endure! Our Savior was overwhelmed with sorrow and in great agony in the garden, but refused to cave in to his emotions (Mt. 26:37-39).

Here again Paul's great 2 Corinthians letter gives further strength. I discovered Chapter 4 in the first great

night time of my soul in 1951! I had never been so low as a Christian. I had known the Lord only 18 months and didn't know 2 Corinthians 4 existed until a friend discerned my distress and pointed it out. The word's were like fire to my bones. Like water to one dying of thirst!

"We never give up... we preach not ourselves but Christ... we are pressured but never knocked out... we are led into death situations for Jesus' sake so that (by enduring) his life may be revealed in our mortal bodies... we never give up... my body is growing old but my spirit is recharged daily... these light momentary pressures are worth the eternal glory that outweighs them." Our souls should soak on these words regularly! What a picture of endurance!

*Some may love us less  
for our endurance,  
but our Lord promises  
to love us more.  
Endurance means we  
keep on 'being spent'  
for Christ regardless  
of people's response.*

The great Dr. R.G. Lee's motto for ministry was 2 Corinthians 12:15, "I will gladly spend and be spent, for your souls. Even if I love you more, will you love me less?" Some may love us less for our endurance, but our Lord promises to love us more. Endurance means we keep on "being spent" for Christ regardless of people's response.

It takes years for some of our pastoral illusions to be destroyed. We all eventually discover we have more confidence in ourselves than is warranted. In seminary, I knew I would pray so hard, work so fervently and love so deeply that I would get along with all my church members! What untested cockiness. Didn't Paul say in 2 Timothy 4:14 that Alexander, the metal worker, did him much harm? How could someone oppose the great Paul? Perhaps Paul lacked those personal relationship skills that most of us

like to think we possess! No! The lesson is clear. If Paul had his Alexanders then I'll have mine! Maturity learns to endure them!

Endurance has reduced my philosophy of spiritual leadership to a five-fold vision. I sense my own personal call in this; no more or no less! Exalt the Son... preach the Word... take your blows... go forward on your knees... and wait on God! This is probably my own sweetest lesson from endurance!

The Lord Jesus taught us that "he that is servant is greatest!" (Mt. 23:11). Endurance explains that. The greatness he has in view is not our reputation before men, but our effective power with God! A true servant endures servanthood. A true pastor is not "in charge" of his church, he is a slave to it! Enduring this relationship teaches us what was in our Master's mind and heart. The great souls of earth disdain the praise of the puny (men) and seek only influence with the Mighty (Jehovah)!

Endurance teaches that the primary issue in leadership is not what's wrong, but our attitude and response to what's wrong. Spiritual combat... the hits, the wounds, the pressures, the joys, the insights, the tension... is necessary to produce seasoned and aggressive veteran disciples.

General George Patton, probably America's greatest combat general, put it well. "A man does not deserve to lead unless he has heard the whine of bullets." Which being interpreted means, "being shot at is a must to demonstrate triumphant endurance."

Let me conclude my thoughts with one more look at our precious Savior. He is our ultimate model of triumphant endurance. Hebrews 12:1-2 captures the essence beautifully. Only those who "fix their eyes on him" have strength to endure as a conqueror. He "endured" the cross. We must endure the race marked out for us and drink the specific "cup of battle" that has been assigned to each of us (Jn. 18:11).

"Finally, brothers"... as I take the enduring Paul's wondrous words in 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5... "May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance (*bupomeno*) of Christ!"

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## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**Nelson Wilhelm** will begin serving Nov. 1 as director of missions for Concord Association. Wilhelm, who was called to that position Sept. 23, has served for 23 years as pastor of First Church in Waldron. During his tenure in Waldron, he has led the congregation in establishing two missions, Southside in Waldron, and Boles, both now churches; and in three building programs. He has made foreign mission trips to Nicaragua and Nigeria. Wilhelm also has pastored churches at Owensville and in Lingleville, Texas. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Elaine, have two adult children, John, and Julie.

**Dave Jackson** has joined the staff of Concord Church at Van Buren as minister of music and youth, coming there from Pickles Gap Church at Conway.

**Dwayne Monk** has joined the staff of Fairdale Church in Hot Springs, going there from Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs.

**Joe Campbell** is serving as pastor of Oakridge Chapel, Austin.

**Alton Crawley**, chairman of the department of mathematics and computer science at Ouachita Baptist University, has been selected as winner of a 1990-91 Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award.

**Karl Meyer** is serving as part-time music and youth director for First Church in Hoxie.

**Jeff Main** has joined the staff of First Church in Imboden as minister to youth.

**Don Ward** was ordained to the ministry Sept. 22 by Mount Olive Church in Crossett where he serves as minister of music and youth.

**David Callison** of Jonesboro has joined the staff of Runyan First Church in North Little Rock as youth director. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University. Callison and his wife, Dee, have two children, Zachary, and Sadie.

**Warner Coppinger** has joined the staff of Harmony Church in El Dorado as associate pastor, coming there from First Church, Dallas, Texas, where he has been serving in the pastoral care ministry. He is a



Wilhelm

Jackson

graduate of the University of Tennessee, Dallas Theological Seminary, and is pursuing his master's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, the former Linda Reeves, have two children.

**Mark Cottrell** has accepted the call to join the staff of Harmony Church in El Dorado as youth director. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute and served for two years as a missionary to Paris, France.

**Rod Mays** has resigned as part-time minister of music at Hope Calvary Church.

**Mark Fawcett** has joined the staff of Dumas First Church as minister of youth and music.

**Ray Branscum** resigned Sept. 19 as pastor of Antioch Church, Beebe.

**Clay Vire** recently observed five years of service as minister of music at First Church in Searcy.

**Henry Hornbuckle** resigned Sept. 29 as pastor of First Church in Nimmons.

**Barry Morgan** has resigned as pastor of Second Church in Cabot to serve as pastor of Pine Tree Church, Colo.

**Jesse Taylor** has resigned as director of missions for Rocky Bayou Association to serve as pastor of Old Austin Church.

**Danny Brewer** is serving as interim pastor of East Side Church in Osceola. He previously has served as pastor of Brinkley Chapel near Lepanto.

ABN photo / J. Everett Seod



**Nettleton Church, Jonesboro**, dedicated a new worship center Oct. 6. The new facility is an octagonal building, constructed with laminated beams. It will accommodate 1,000 worshippers with 700 seated in the main auditorium, 75 in the choir, and 250 in the spill over area. The facility has a choir rehearsal room and four restrooms. The worship center itself was constructed at a cost of \$750,000; with other exterior improvements the total cost was \$912,000. In addition, \$30,000 worth of furnishings and equipment was given. The major speaker for both the dedicatory services was Gray Allison, president of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Under Stan Ballard, who became pastor June 1, 1987, Sunday School attendance has grown from approximately 240 to 440.

**Scott Sasser** has joined the staff of First Church in Hope as minister of youth.

**Bill Hatfield** is serving as pastor of First Church in Dierks.

**George Lynch** is serving as pastor of Mount Moriah Church, Murfreesboro.

**Frank Casillas** is serving as pastor of Old Walnut Ridge Church at Walnut Ridge.

**Jeff Junyor** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Ravenden.

**Marion Cornett** has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Walnut Ridge.

**Earl Humble** is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Hoxie.

**Jeff Main** has joined the staff of First Church in Imboden as minister of music and youth.

**Lavelle Barfield** has joined the staff of Immanuel Church in Little Rock as director of the children's division.

**Christopher Hicks** is serving as pastor of Crossroads Church, Portia.

**James Nowlin** is serving as pastor of Faith Church, Forrest City. He and his wife,

Carolyn, have two children, James, and Michael.

**Dennis L. Reynolds**, pastor of Hartman Church, was ordained to the ministry at the church Sept. 1. Participating in the service were George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Robbie Jackson, Burnett King, Ira Upton, Troy Sharp, Duell Evans, and Sam Howell.

**Glenda Jenkins** has joined the staff of First Church in Glenwood as children and youth coordinator.

**Mike Arrington**, vice president for academic affairs and professor of history at Ouachita Baptist University, has been chosen to serve as a consultant-evaluator for the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools with headquarters in Chicago.

**Roy McLeod** has resigned as pastor of Reynolds Memorial Church in Little Rock to take early retirement. He may be contacted at 12109 Stagecoach Road, Lot 267, Little Rock, AR 72209; telephone 455-5387.

**Billy Carpenter** has resigned as pastor of Bakers Creek Church, Russellville.

**Scott Miller**, pastor of Plainview Church, was ordained to the ministry in a special service at the church Sept. 29. **Larry Pillow**, pastor of Second Church in Conway, preached the ordination message.

**Charles Holcomb** has resigned as interim pastor of Hurricane Lake Church.

**Carl Overton** is serving as interim pastor of Balboa Mission, sponsored by Calverton Road Church, Hot Springs Village.

**Charles Anthony Morgan** has joined the staff of First Church in Blytheville as minister of youth. A native of Jefferson City, Tenn., he is a 1991 graduate of Carson Newman College in Jefferson City. He served as a 1991 staff member at Centrifuge and has served on church staffs in both Clinton and Englewood, Tenn.

**Randy Altom** is serving as pastor of Harris Chapel, Pangburn.

**Don Cooper** will join the staff of Pulaski Association Nov. 1 as director of religious education and Christian ministry. He will come to the association from South Highland Church in Little Rock where he has served for eight years as part-time associate pastor. He also has been serving as fraternal coordinator for Woodmen of the World.

**Jim Walker** has resigned as pastor of First Church, Peach Orchard.

**Tommy E. Jones** of Fayetteville died Oct. 4 at age 56 after a lengthy illness. His funeral services were held Oct. 7 at First Church in Fayetteville where he served as a teacher and deacon. Jones, who retired Sept. 25 as district manager for the Social Security Administration, also was active in many community organizations, as well as serving on the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries board of directors. Survivors include his wife, Billie Jane Taylor Jones; two sons and daughters-in-law, David W. and Kim Jones of Little Rock, and Bruce L. and Laura Jones of Fayetteville; his mother, Gussie Jones of Tyler, Texas; a brother; two sisters; and a grandson, Matthew Jones of Fayetteville. Memorials may be made to Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, First Church, Fayetteville, building fund, or the United Way Foundation, Inc.

**Glen Poole** is serving as interim pastor of Tichnor Church.

**S.D. Hacker** of Harrison is serving as pastor of New Hope Church at Yellville.



*Valley Church, Searcy, held a noteburning Oct. 13. The church had several notes as a result of construction made necessary by rapid church growth. The final \$98,000 note payment, making the church debt free, was not due until June 2001. The church has facilities for 175 in educational space, and seating capacity for 225 in the worship center. The congregation was able to pay off the note early in large part because of a gift from the R.V. and Viola Boone Estate. The Boones were charter members of the congregation. The major speaker for the service was Bill Burnett, former pastor of Valley Church and former director of missions for Calvary Association. Pastor Bert Thomas sees a bright future for the church. Pictured (left to right) burning the note are: Monty Belts, chairman of deacons; David Watkins, chairman of finance committee; Wayne Brock, chairman of property chairman; and Bert Thomas, pastor.*

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

**Victor Koone** has resigned his pastorate of five years from Immanuel Church in Clinton.

**Sam Wakefield** of Harrison has joined the staff of First Church in Ozark as minister of music.

**Ken Cole**, a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, is serving as pastor of Joiner Church. He and his wife, Robin, have a daughter, Rebecca.

**Mike Sypult** has resigned as minister of music and youth at Trinity Church in Blytheville to join the staff of Charity Southern Church in Rogers.

**Mike Welch** has resigned as pastor of Nodena Memorial Church.

**Gary Underwood**, minister of media at Beech Street First Church in Texarkana, began duties as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission at the commission's recent fall meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. Underwood was elected to a four-year term on the RTVC board at the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga.

## Briefly

**Gravel Ridge First Church** held a revival Sept. 15-18 that resulted in 98 professions of faith and 104 other decisions. Jaimie Mayorga was evangelist and Michael Caywood directed music. Danny Veteto is pastor.

**Harmony Church** at El Dorado held a revival Sept. 8-11 that resulted in 77 professions of faith and 20 other decisions. William Blackburn of Fort Smith was evangelist and James Nash directed music. Sam Whitlow is pastor.

**Kensett First Church** recently renovated the sanctuary with new pews, pulpit, choir chairs, grand piano, hymnals, and carpet.

**West Church** in Batesville opened a library/media center Sept. 29 for which Sue Gordon is serving as director. Assisting with this new ministry are Gaye Yates, Barbara Chestham, Becky Jeffery, Ellen Shaver, Vicki Hoag, and Wendy Hoag.

**Freeman Heights Church** in Berryville ordained David Bennett and Michael Masters to the deacon ministry Sept. 29.

**Batesville First Church** ordained Kenny Smith and Ray Applegat to the deacon ministry Sept. 29.

**Wynne Church** ordained Archie Mason and Darrell Smith to the deacon ministry Oct. 13. Wes George was ordained to the ministry Oct. 20 with John Maddox, a former pastor, preaching the ordination message. Mark Tolbert is pastor.

**Oak Grove Church** at Pocahtonas has purchased a bus for outreach ministries.

**Russellville Second Church** recently ordained Mark Gailey and Scott Willis to the deacon ministry.

**New Providence Church** at Slaytonville ordained Raymond Murphy and Bollen Stewart to the deacon ministry Sept. 22.

**Evening Shade First Church** women organized a Baptist Women's Group Sept. 18 that will meet the third Wednesday morning of each month.

**Antioch Church**, 12 miles west of Hot Springs on Highway 227, will celebrate its centennial Nov. 9-10. Events on Saturday, Nov. 9 will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. Sunday activities begin at 9:45 p.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Bill Harris is pastor.

**East Side Church** in Osceola was in revival Oct. 6-9 with Alvin McGill of Blytheville as evangelist and Mike Welch as music director.

**Siloam Springs First Church** ordained Larry Hall and John Allison to the deacon ministry Sept. 29.

## Stevens completes Arkansas term

Neal Stevens has completed his two year assignment as a Field Assistant, Church Starter in Manufactured Home Communities. Neal, an appointed home missionary was funded by a special grant from the Home Mission Board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He served through the Church Extension Section of the Missions Department.



*The Stevens*

Neal and Glenda were appointed by the Home Mission Board in 1990. Prior to this Neal served as a special contract worker in mobile home communities with the Pulaski Baptist Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. In the past seven years he has assisted churches and associations in the beginning of 29 manufactured home ministries. Neal pastored the first mission in Arkansas inside a manufactured home community to constitute into a church.

Neal and his wife Glenda left Arkansas on Oct. 15 to serve in the same position with the Indiana Baptist State Convention.

SBC Brotherhood commission photo



**RA leader honored**—Ozzie Berrybill (left), a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock who is actively involved in both state and associational promotion of Royal Ambassador work, recently was recognized by the RA International Council. He was one of 12 persons and one of four taxpayers receiving a Royal Ambassador Legion of Leaders Award of Merit. The presentation was made by James Smith (right), SBC Brotherhood director.

## Arkansans receive scholarships

Eight students with Arkansas ties recently received academic scholarships from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., for the 1991-92 school year. They include the following:

Steven W. Dailey, a master of divinity student, received the Mae Hammer Home Mission Scholarship. He considers Arkadelphia his hometown.

Melissa A. Fox, a student in the master of church music degree program received the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Scholarship. She is a native of Fayetteville.

Bob Johnson, a master of divinity student, was awarded the Ray B. Zimmerman Scholarship. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia.

Jim Lay, a master of divinity student, received the Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Harlan Scholarship. He considers Camden his hometown.

Carol Lopez, a master of church music student, was awarded the Lora Lee Kieser Music Memorial Scholarship. She is a former resident of Little Rock.

A. Scott Patton, a master of divinity student, received the Howard Cameron Memorial Scholarship. He considers Benton his hometown.

James D. Turner, a master of divinity student, received the Betty Seats Memorial

Scholarship. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

Beth Wolfe, a master of religious education student, received the Homer and Augusta Jones Scholarship. She is a native of Rogers and is a furloughing foreign missionary to New Zealand.

## Ministers' Wives meeting update

Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference has revised its Nov. 18 meeting costs from \$7 to \$8.

The registration fees are due by Nov. 11 (Monday) and must be made payable to Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Mail to: Bobbi DeBusk, 3508 S. Apple, Pine Bluff, AR 71603.

## Children's Home collecting receipts

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children is collecting Harvest Foods receipts for the "Apples for Students" campaign. The program began on Sept. 30 and will conclude on March 27, 1992. All register tapes collected from the first week of the program, Sept. 30-Oct. 6, are worth double their

total amount and should be bundled separately, marked "Double Value."

This year in addition to computer equipment, selections can be made from athletic equipment, audio/visual equipment, musical instruments and encyclopedias.


Receipts, with totals highlighted, can be sent to Arkansas Baptist Home for Children, c/o Kim Bussell, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655.

## Baptist Men's Golf Tournament

The second annual Arkansas Baptist Men's Golf Tournament was held at Rebsamen Golf Course on Sept. 26 with 225 men participating. Church groups from as far away as Fort Smith, Mountain Home, Jonesboro, Fayetteville and Texarkana were involved.

The Washington-Madison Association team won first place with a score of 14 under par. Highlands Church of Little Rock took second with 13 under.

Four teams tied for third with 12 under: Barcelona Road Church, Hot Springs Village; Central Church, North Little Rock; Immanuel Church, Little Rock; and Park Place Church, Hot Springs. Plans for next year will include a morning and an afternoon flight to accommodate the increasing number of participants.



**Fall Campers on Mission Rally**

Arkansas Campers on Mission conducted their fall meeting at Maumelle Park in West Little Rock Sept. 5-8. There were 70 people registered. The meeting was highlighted by Ed Simpson, pastor of Sheridan First Church and Army Reserve chaplain, who reported on his ministry during the Gulf war. Other speakers included Jimmy Barrentine, Harry Black, Frank Gantz, and Pete Petty. Reports were made by district of mission projects and future projects. The group also voted to invite the National Campers on Mission rally to meet in Arkansas in 1995.

*New COM officers (Standing, left to right): Lendal Jackson, COM volunteer coordinator, Powhatan; Betty Ross, social coordinator, Grady; Joe Ross, vice president, Grady; (sitting) Dorothy Jackson, secretary/treasurer, Powhatan; Clayburn Bratton, president, Fort Smith.*

Brotherhood Commission photo / Mike Gray



Jeff Howard of Little Rock prepares to distribute Russian-language New Testaments in Red Square, Moscow.

by Karen Benson  
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

Arkansas Southern Baptists are returning to their churches and communities with life-changing impressions and experiences from a Bible distribution and ministry project in the Soviet Union.

They bring with them challenges, as well, after having witnessed what most describe as "miraculous" occurrences in that vast nation.

The nine were part of a team of 59 Southern Baptist volunteers who paid their own way to the Soviet Union in response to appeals from Soviet Christians to help share the gospel message and help, distribute Russian language New Testaments.

Four of the nine were members of the first Baptist Young Women Enterprisers Abroad team, comprised of women ages 18-34 who had spent more than 50 hours in training and preparation for this project. BYW Enterprisers Abroad is sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. They are: Sheri Burnett of Little Rock, Karon Fields of Jonesboro, and Ellen McMillan and Susan Yates, both of Fort Smith.

The other Arkansans on the trip are: Jeff and Dorothy Howard of Mabelvale, Fred Murphy of El Dorado, and Louis and Jean Reed, also of El Dorado.

The Arkansas team members participated in a variety of ministries in Moscow, in

# Moscow Project

## Arkansans distribute Bibles in Russia

Yalta (in the Crimean region of the Ukrainian Republic), and in Bishkek (in the Kirghizia Republic, which was just renamed Kyrgystan).

Murphy preached in Red Square, distributed Bibles and tracts throughout Moscow, led a prayer in Yalta, attended a Moscow church service, distributed tracts and Bibles in Yalta, distributed free pens, candy and books, and offered counsel.

"The church in the U.S.S.R. is much further along in its development than I expected," Murphy reflected. "The people have experienced such a spiritual void for 70-plus years, that they are extremely receptive. That void will not remain unfulfilled. The question is, 'Who will fill it?' The receptivity of the people is probably at its apex. The time is now. 'Who will respond?'"

Too, Murphy observed a need for Christian worker training. "Will we be in the

right place at the proper time?" he wondered. While evangelization must be in the foreground of efforts in the Soviet Union, "mastering" or "discipling" the converts must also be a priority, he observed.

But perhaps one of the most basic needs, he reflected, is the need for American Christians to master the language "wherein they may communicate the truth," he said.

The Howards' skills in puppetry for children came in handy during several stops along the way, including a Moscow orphanage and boarding school. Also in Moscow, they participated in street evangelization, distributed Bibles and tracts at a medical labor unit, and ministered in a psychiatric hospital for the elderly.

In Yalta, the couple distributed Bibles along the boardwalk running along the Black Sea, sang in an outdoor evening service held on the boardwalk, distributed

## Hunger for the Word

The hunger for the Word of God was illustrated by the rapidity with which the Bibles were taken by the people of the Soviet Union. Dorothy Howard observed that 160 Bibles (two boxes) were distributed in less than two minutes.

A second illustration of the desire on the part of the people in Moscow to have a personal relationship with Christ was illustrated through the 300 "Salvation Bracelets" distributed by the Howards. The bracelet used various colored beads to illustrate the plan of salvation. The black bead represented sin, the red bead represented the blood of Christ, the white bead represented heaven, and the green bead represented Christian growth.

One of the team members who spoke Russian translated the explanation of the "Salvation Bracelet" into Russian. Dorothy Howard was holding the Russian explanation up as she distributed the bracelets. An older Russian man took the explanation and read it aloud on several occasions. Finally, the man wrote down the explanation for his own personal use.

The bracelets were intended for children and young people. But, they were quickly taken by the adults. Dorothy Howard said, "They were fascinated by the bracelets and we believe that these bracelets were a good witness to a number of people."

### Other notable events:

■ Before the eight days were up, more than 20,000 New Testaments had been distributed personally by the group, with another 50,000 earmarked for church members to distribute throughout Moscow, the Crimea and Kyrgystan (formerly known as Kirghizia).

■ A gospel music concert and preaching by Billy Kim (known as the "Billy Graham" of South Korea) in the Kremlin's Palace of Congress where the USSR Parliament meets. At the conclusion of the program, more than half of the attendees raised their hands indicating they had prayed to receive Christ.

■ Soviet soldiers helping to unload boxes of 6,500 Russian language New Testaments inside the Kremlin walls to be distributed to Soviet concert-goers that night.

Bibles on the streets of Yalta and in several "settlements" or housing areas in the greater Yalta region, and taught young children the fingerplay entitled "This is the church."

Jeff Howard prayed during a worship service on Red Square, just about 30 yards from Lenin's Tomb. "With an interpreter, I praised the Lord for the Soviet Union and for her ministry to us as Americans," Howard reflected.

"I praised the Lord for the opportunity for Americans to come to the U.S.S.R. and share the gospel publicly. I also praised the Lord for the reception we have received while in the U.S.S.R. I asked the Lord for continued 'glasnost' and the protection of the Lord upon his children in this burdened nation," he said.

"It is always a blessing to me to give special thanks to the Lord, but more so in the U.S.S.R.," Howard said. "Magnified by the exact location, at the front door of the government responsible for oppressing and suppressing many millions of people for more than 70 years, I couldn't help but say 'Thank you, Jesus!'"

Echoed Dorothy Howard, "This trip is the best thing that has ever happened to me. It has opened my eyes to the wonder and strength of our Lord. There have been so many doors that have appeared to be closing, and yet, with prayer, our paths have not been closed, and Satan has once again been defeated. May the Lord be magnified by these occurrences!"

The Reeds, too, were part of the team who handed out Bibles in Red Square and

along other streets of Moscow. Louis Reed gave a testimony in Red Square, which was translated by a Soviet travel agency guide. They, too, participated in the Yalta Bible distribution effort.

"One of the most significant things that happened to me was being hugged by men and women and being thanked for giving them a Bible," Louis Reed recalled. "One young man with a 2- or 3-year-old son thanked me on behalf of the Russian people for giving them Bibles and for coming to their country."

Being "mobbed" by hundreds of children as they handed out Christian bookmarks and being hugged and kissed by elderly women in a psychiatric hospital are impressions that won't leave Jean Reed.

They both are returning with a challenge to Arkansas Baptists to "do more in the way of carrying out the Great Commission," Louis Reed said. Agreed his wife, "We do so little with what we have, and they do so much out of their poverty."

Yates agreed. "The challenge I'll bring to my church and to our mission church, which I attend, will be first of all to encourage boldness and an urgency to share Christ's love with others. Next, I must express the urgent need for more Bibles. And finally, I must share the urgent need for laborers to go into the field which is ripe for harvest," she said.

"I see before me the faces of the Soviet people and the crowds with their hands raised empty and being filled literally with God's word of love and hope. Then, see-

ing the Bibles being drawn down to their hearts, and watching them kissing it. We simply must never let this vision fade, so that our lives will continue to share this urgency with the needs that God may be calling them to fill."

Observing the baptism of 16 Russians in Kirghizia and partaking in the Lord's Supper with them, distributing Bibles in Red Square, and ministering to the orphans in a Moscow orphanage were three of the highlights of the trip for Fields.

Her challenge to her church and fellow Arkansas Baptists is to "witness to fellow Americans where we do not have a language barrier," she said. "After trying to communicate in the Russian language and feeling frustrated, I plan to do a better job witnessing with my English-speaking friends."

The yearning to read and learn more about Christ struck McMillan as one of the most significant impressions of her trip. "I had two cleaning ladies come to my door, offering to buy the Bibles they saw in my room," she recalled. "I can't help but return to my church with the challenge to go, to give, and to support the work in the U.S.S.R."

The most touching experience for Burnett was one in Red Square. "I stood beside an elderly lady whose face showed the hardships of her life," she recalled. "We were in Red Square, and one of the BYW Enterprises was singing 'Jesus Loves Me.' Tears were streaming down the lady's face. I could see the joy, as well as the pain in her eyes.

"We were supposed to wait until we had finished our service before we handed out the Bibles. Yet, I felt she had waited long enough. It was unbelievable! God gave me the privilege of handing this woman his word. Her face beamed, and she hugged the Bible, then she hugged and kissed me for what seemed like two minutes.

"We had a common bond in Christ Jesus, and we both knew it. Even great cultural and language barriers cannot separate the bond that exists between those of us who are children of God."

Her challenge to Arkansas Baptists sums up the challenges of the other eight Arkansans on the trip, as well:

"Now that the Soviet Union is on the brink of total religious freedom, we need to get down on our knees and start praying for the Soviets," Burnett said.

"The Republic of Uzbekistan has already closed its doors to traditional missionary service. There is an urgency to spread the Word of God in the Soviet Union now. . . . God has opened the door, and we need to run through it!"



Arkansans participating in the Moscow project were (left to right) Jeff Howard, Dorothy Howard, Fred Bruce Murphy, Susan Yates, Jean Reed, Lewis Reed, and Ellen McMillan. Not pictured are Karen Field and Sbrivley Barnett.

## Urbana celebrates 75th anniversary

First Church of Urbana, organized Sept. 17, 1916, observed its 75th anniversary Sept. 15.

The celebration began with the morning worship service with James Nash, a former member, leading the music and his wife, Kathryn, serving as accompanist. Those who had served in the church's music ministry were recognized. Tommy Robertson, director of missions for Liberty Association, brought the message.

Lunch was served in the fellowship hall, followed by an afternoon memorial service.

Special music was presented by members of the church, or those who were associated through former church memberships. Mrs. Claude Bumpus, a former pastor's wife and retired missionary, recognized those who had been members of the church and had served as missionaries.

George Fletcher, a former pastor, 1960-62, recognized those who had served as deacons. A. Dale Floyd, current pastor, recognized those who had served as pastors. Floyd Taylor, a former pastor with the longest tenure in the history of the church, 1966-79, presented historical highlights.

The afternoon service concluded with "Memorial Moments," during which several gave a testimony to the special place the church had in their lives.

A fellowship hour concluded activities.

## A spiritual adventure

A record attendance of 490 was on the campus of Williams Baptist College for the fourth annual Junior High Jamboree on Aug. 8-10. Forty churches and 23 associations from all corners of the state were represented at this "Spiritual Adventure" (the theme for 1991). Eleven professions of faith and 30 rededications were made public during this three-day event.

Junior High Jamboree is for members and leaders of Baptist junior high youth groups. Any student who has completed the sixth grade through the 9th grade is eligible to participate.

There were a variety of activities offered at Junior High Jamboree morning jubilation; spiritual adventure workshops led by Paul and Russ, full-time youth evangelists from Arlington, Texas; evening gatherings led by Gordon Walker; evening wrap-ups (with just your youth group); and crazy

olympics.

Three hundred sixty-five first-time attendees were involved in the spiritual adventure workshop "Quest for the Crown of Righteousness." Here they discovered the basics of Christianity and spiritual warfare—daily Bible reading and prayer and the importance of Scripture memorization. One hundred twenty-five returning students participated in the workshop. "Quest for the Apostate," that dealt with restoring youth members who have fallen out of the youth group and family relationships, and become prey for false doctrines. Both adventure groups emphasized making a commitment to lead someone to the Lord.

## New OBU faculty and staff

Four new full-time and six adjunct teachers have joined the faculty at Ouachita Baptist University for the 1991-92 academic year, and five new employees have been added to the administrative staff.

The full-time faculty members are: Dr. Terry Carter, assistant professor of religion; Allison Malone, instructor in library science and circulation/reference librarian; Sharon Morgan, instructor in health, physical education and recreation and women's basketball coach; and Jeanna Westmoreland, instructor in education.

Carter holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Howard Payne University in Texas, and a doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Malone is a graduate of Henderson State University and holds a master of library science degree from Texas Woman's University.

Moran is a graduate of the University of Arkansas-Monticello and hold a master's degree from the UA-Fayetteville.

Westmoreland is an OBU graduate and holds a master's degree from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

New adjunct teachers at Ouachita are: Clarence Allison, missionary-in-residence and part-time teacher in the department of religion; Lynn Davis, instructor in political science; Cooney Flora, instructor in English; Irene Trofimova, visiting instructor in languages; Jian Yong, instructor in Chinese; and Doris Wright, instructor in speech.

The five new employees include Blake McKinney of North Little Rock, who has joined the admissions office staff as a counselor for new students from the central Arkansas area. He is a 1991 OBU graduate.

Mark Neece has been named as assistant director of the Baptist Student Union. A native of Royal, he is a 1989 OBU graduate.

Dr. Deborah Root has been employed as director of development, publications and also holds the academic rank of assistant professor of communications. In addition to receiving both her bachelor's and master's degrees from OBU, Root was granted her doctor of education degree from Oklahoma State University in 1991.

Dr. Jeff Root is the school's new director of public relations and also holds faculty rank as an assistant professor of communications. He is an OBU graduate, holds a master's degree from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, and was conferred the doctor of education degree from Oklahoma State University in 1991.

Stephanie Smith has been employed as an admissions counselor for northeast Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The Ohio native is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



*Temple Church at Benton recently held a noteburning service to celebrate its building debt retirement.*

*William H. Cook, vice president of development at Ouachita Baptist University and the church's interim pastor, led the service. Participants in the service included (left to right) deacons Cepbas Moore Jr., Teddy Wilson, and Keith Mitchell.*

# Moderates hold forum

by J. Everett Sneed  
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The Arkansas Fellowship of Concerned Baptists, with 80 in attendance, met Saturday, Sept. 21 from 12:30 to 3 p.m., in the Sheffield Auditorium of Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock.

The major speaker for the meeting was James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Discussion conferences were led by Hal Bass, a member of First Church, Arkadelphia; Kathy Findley, a member of Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock; and Billy White, pastor of Second Church, Little Rock.

Dunn said, "Baptists are bound together by a common experience of grace and a common commitment to the Holy Spirit under the authority of the Scriptures. E.Y. Mullins, president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., shaped Baptist thought more than any other individual in this century."

Dunn based his message on the six axioms set forth by Mullins in 1908. These are (1) God is free to all; (2) A person comes individually and freely to God on his or her own initiative; (3) all believers have equal access to God and have equal privilege in the church; (4) the goal in society is a free church in a free state; (5) ethically a person cannot be held responsible unless his choices are made freely; and (6) Christians owe all men to love one another and to do unto them as they would that they would do unto us.

Dunn said Baptists are dissenters in respect to established churches. Since all men are to be free and are to make their choice, Baptists believe in absolute separation of church and state. Baptists dissent against those who would use any form of government money or force to propagate religion.

An experience of grace excludes several

concepts set forth by other religious groups. He said, "An experience of grace and not a creed colors all that we do. A creed would be an objective, intelligent kind of religion. Our experience is not based on a church which would be an organizational or institutional kind of religion. Baptists also do not hold to an every man for himself kind of religion which would be an individualistic or charismatic kind of religion. Historically Baptists are bound together by a common experience of grace and a common commitment to the Holy Spirit and to the authority of the Scriptures."

Dr. White dealt with "The Priesthood of the Believer." White said, "For me the priesthood of the believer is not every man for himself, but I am a free and responsible individual before and under God."

White said that the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer is intertwined with a large number of doctrines throughout the Scripture. He observed that it was involved in the doctrine of creation, the doctrine of inspiration and revelation, the doctrine of incarnation, the doctrine of salvation, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the doctrine of the church, and the doctrine of government.

After White had laid a foundation for the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer, he served as a facilitator allowing others in the discussion group to participate.

Bass dealt with "Separation of Church and State" in his discussion group and Findley dealt with the "Role of Women in Baptist Life" in her group.

Mickey Anders, pastor of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, said the purpose of the group was fellowship and support for one another and for Baptist employees. "Our organization has specifically decided not to be a political organization which runs a candidate for the state convention or the Southern Baptist Convention."

## WBC hits 22-year record enrollment

The fall on-campus enrollment at Williams Baptist College near Walnut Ridge hit a 22-year high as figures reached 604, according to Jerol Swaim, WBC executive vice-president and academic dean.

The record enrollment is a seven percent increase compared to last year's fall on-campus enrollment of 561.

Swaim credited the increase to two major factors. "The introduction of baccalaureate degrees in business, elementary

education, psychology and religion has increased the number of returning students to the campus," Swaim said. "But our most substantial increase was in first-time freshmen, which is a direct result of an aggressive admissions department and a continued commitment to expanded scholarship programs."

Williams experienced a 25 percent increase in the number of first-time students enrolled this semester compared to last fall's percentage.

## Looking Ahead

### October

26 Volunteer/Part Time Leader Retreat, *Cave Springs Lakeview Church (M)*

28-29 Minister/Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (M)*

### November

1-2 Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat, *Camp Paron (Bbd)*

3-9 RA Week (Bbd)

9 Mission Friends Super Saturday, *Little Rock Calvary Church (WNU)*

11-13 State Building Tour (Ad)

19-20 Arkansas Baptist State Convention, *Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church*

### December

2 Tax Seminars, *Hot Springs Second Church (SA)*

3 Tax Seminars, *Williams Baptist College (SA)*

4 Tax Seminars, *Fayetteville First Church (SA)*

12-13 Evangelism Workshop, *Camp Paron (Ev)*

14 CSI Fellowship Luncheon, *Radisson Hotel, Little Rock (Bbd)*

30-31 Joy Exalt Youth Evangelism Conference, *Hot Springs Convention Auditorium (Ev)*

### January

11 RA Counselor Fellowship, *Little Rock Immanuel Church (Bbd)*

13-14 Minister/Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat, *Fort Smith East Side Church (DT)*

13-14 Minister/Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat, *Jonesboro Walnut Street Church (DT)*

18-17 Minister/Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat, *Hot Springs First Church (DT)*

16-17 Minister/Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat, *Mountain Home First Church (DT)*

#### Abbreviations:

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



## Crow Mountain organizes

The Crow Mountain Chapel, Russellville, was constituted into a church Sept. 22. Pastor Al Sparkman observed that the congregation had experienced dramatic growth. Sparkman became pastor Sept. 23, 1990 with 15 individuals attending Sunday School. One year later there were 86 in Sunday School. The congregation also has grown from 0 membership to 70.

The need for a church in the Crow Mountain area was observed by Arkansas River Valley Association Director of Missions Jeff Cheatham and the associational missions committee. Within a few months Second Church, Russellville, under the leadership of Pastor David McLemore, saw an opportunity for expanding the mission involvement of Second Church. The Crow Mountain Chapel was sponsored by Second Church.



ABIN photo / J. Everett Sneed

Signing the charter are (left to right) Pastor Al Sparkman, Donna Alexander, Fbea Hamilton, and Wayne Wilkerson.

The morning service was held at Second Church. In this service, Second Church officially approved the church status for the Crow Mountain congregation and lettered out 67 individuals as charter members. At the close of the morning service, three other individuals joined the new congregation, bringing the total charter membership to 70. Second Church also committed

ownership of all equipment and 9.5 acres of land when final payment is made in January 1992 to the newly constituted Crow Mountain Church.

The newly constituted church convened in its own facilities on Crow Mountain Road on Sunday evening, Sept. 22. The congregation adopted a constitution and by-laws, approved 1991-92 committees, and issued a formal call to Pastor Al Sparkman.

Pastor Sparkman sees a strong future for the newly organized congregation. He said, "There are six new housing developments in the immediate area of our church. Our people are excited and want to see our congregation grow. We are grateful to God for the opportunity that our church has and for the love that has been shown to us by Pastor David McLemore and the people of Second Church."

**OCTOBER IS  
COOPERATIVE  
PROGRAM  
MONTH**



## Guatemala Update

### Sylvan Hills Church, NLR

Christy Jones, Lela Gaither, and Suzanne Stevens, members of the Sylvan Hills First Church Puppet Troupe, North Little Rock, recently returned from a 10-day mission trip to Guatemala where they led puppetry clinics. Those attending designed over 100 puppets with materials provided by the team and were taught to produce skits for use in their language in their own churches. Lela Gaither is director of the church's puppet ministry.

### El Dorado First Church

John H. McAlister and John G. Ragsdale, both members of El Dorado First Church, recently drove a vehicle to Guatemala City. This vehicle, which had been requested by missionaries in the San Marcos area, was equipped to serve as an ambulance in that area. The Chevrolet Suburban is four-wheel drive and contains a stretcher and medical supply storage.

Traveling with them were Bill and Carol Brunner from Fayetteville First



Puppeteers Christy Jones, Lela Gaither and Suzanne Stevens leave for Guatemala.

Church. The Brunners delivered a van donated by Little Rock Calvary Church.

Also traveling with them in another van were George and Helen Hardeman, Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and two of

their children. The Hardemans were returning from furlough.

The three groups met in Brownsville, Texas, and traveled together to Quetzaltenango and then on to Guatemala City.

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## HMB elects new VP

### Adopts budget, accepts Pacific island work

by Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Election of a new vice president, adoption of the 1992 budget and acceptance of Baptist mission work on three Pacific Ocean islands topped the agenda of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board trustees' fall meeting.

Trustees unanimously elected Gary Jones, director of the HMB human resources division, as vice president for services. The Missouri native will succeed Margrette Stevenson who is retiring in November after a 16-year career with the Home Mission Board.

As vice president of the services section, Jones, 40, will oversee the business, communication and human resources divisions.

Before moving to the Home Mission Board, Jones was pastor of four Missouri churches, and he served on the faculty of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He has been on the HMB staff since 1984 when he became director of counseling services.

Jones is a graduate of Crowder College in Neosho, Mo., and Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo. He received his master's and doctorate of divinity degrees from Midwestern Seminary and a master's of science in administration degree from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

Trustees also adopted a 1992 budget of \$84,752,501, up 5.2 percent from this year's budget of \$80,575,074.

In addition, trustees voted to accept the work in Guam, other Mariana Islands and Micronesia effective Jan. 1, 1992. The churches, which currently relate to the Foreign Mission Board, will become part of the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

Wesley and Guineville Brizendine, foreign missionaries and student workers in Guam, will continue their work until they retire in 1996 or until they are reassigned by the Foreign Mission Board.

Foreign missionaries Bin and Pattie Fleming will continue to work with the church until they retire. He is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Guam.

In a related matter, trustees voted to transfer property the HMB owns in Panama to the Panama Baptist Convention. Baptist work in Panama originally related to the Home Mission Board, but has been under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board since 1975.

In other business, trustees approved a reorganization plan for the church loans division staff and a lower interest rate of 9.25 percent.

HMB President Larry L. Lewis announced plans to expand the board's toll-free PrayerLine. He noted people who participate in the Watchman on the Wall National Prayer Alert suggested by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman can use the toll-free number, 1-800-554-PRAY, to gather daily prayer requests about home missions.

In other personnel matters, trustees approved resolutions in recognition of three retiring HMB staff members. In addition to Stevenson, they include Van Nichols, controller since 1976, and James F. Eaves, director of the evangelism church growth department since 1990.

Trustees also elected Ron Barker associate director of the associational evangelism department. The Tennessee native has served the HMB since 1986 in the personal evangelism department.

## HMB seeks 'preferred lender' status

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board adopted new objectives for its church loans division in an effort to become "the preferred lender of all Southern Baptist churches" rather than "the lender of last resort."

HMB directors also voted to restructure the staff organization of the church loans division in order to expand services to all Southern Baptist churches, including those in the 14 states where most SBC

churches are located.

Although the objectives were changed to aggressively seek to make loans to qualified churches, the No. 1 priority will always be to provide loans to new and smaller churches, said Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

"We will never make loans to big churches at the expense of helping new and smaller churches get loans for new buildings and sites," Lewis told HMB directors.

**Travel**—to the Holy Land. March 2, 10 days. Best time of the year, best price anywhere. \$1,595/Houston. (Reserve soon! Limited number of seats at this price.) Experienced pastor/leader. Information: Contact Dr. Ronald Ford, 5200 Fairway, North Little Rock, AR 72116 or call 1-771-1125. 1024

**Wanted**—Children/youth/activities director. First Southern Baptist Church, Box 130, Golden, MO 65658, Attention Bill Dudley. 1177

**Seeking**—Youth/music director. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 567, Paris, AR 72855. Phone 963-3260. 125

**Needed**—Part-time/bi-vocational youth director. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 5025 Lynch Dr., N. Little Rock, AR 72117. 1024

**Wanted**—Part-time youth director. Send resume to Marshall Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 726, Jacksonville, AR 72076. 1177

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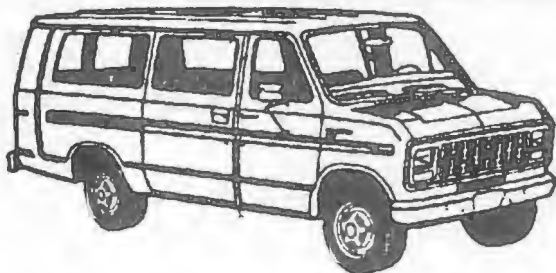
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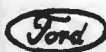


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## Across the Country

### Cooperative Program ends 1990-91 behind last year

NASHVILLE—Cooperative Program gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee during the 1990-91 fiscal year surpassed the basic operating budget for the year but fell slightly below a year ago.

The SBC Cooperative Program receipts for 1990-91 totaled \$140,200,394 compared to 1989-90 of \$140,710,282 or \$509,887 less than a year ago. The September gifts received by the Executive Committee were \$10,800,923 compared to September 1990 of \$11,863,345 or more than \$1 million less than a year ago. The 1990-91 monthly basic budget requirement was \$11,444,377.

### WMU and Brotherhood announce joint publishing venture

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union leaders announced Oct. 1 plans to cooperatively publish materials to be used in youth coed missions groups. The name of the imprimatur will be World Changers Resources.

World Changers Resources is the first joint publishing venture by the two missions organizations. The first production will be Express Mission, a quarterly missions resource kit for use by youth leaders, which will be premiered during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1992 and will be available to churches beginning October 1992.

### Demand exceeds expectations, causes delay for literature

NASHVILLE—Literature orders of twice the projected increase and a higher than expected demand for promotional copies have required a last minute reprinting of some Sunday school literature products published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and delayed shipment to some churches. Inventories of about 30 titles are low, and about 19 of those titles are being reprinted.

### Medical plan rate increase lowest since 1987

DALLAS—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board will boost rates 4.9 percent on Jan. 1, 1992, in the church and seminary comprehensive medical plans. This is the lowest increase since 1987, according to Joel Mathis, president of the insurance division of the Annuity Board.

Mathis said there probably will be another increase July 1, 1992, due to the six-month rating requirements of The Prudential Insurance Company of America. Mathis suggested churches plan for a total increase of 11 percent for medical insurance in 1992.

### Public relations begins modest effort

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Church of Scientology has spent millions. The American Medical Association has just begun a \$1.75 million image campaign.

But for Southern Baptists, a new public relations campaign will have a much more modest beginning. In fact, the budget year of 1990-91 the new SBC Public Relations Office had \$5,000 for its net program budget. But in 1991-92 a public relations campaign will benefit from \$110,000 increase.

Now a separate office from Baptist Press, the public relations office is directed by former Indiana executive director Mark Coppenger who came as a vice president in January.

But some Southern Baptists are suspicious of public relations campaigns,

especially if they are at the expense of missions. At the Atlanta annual meeting in June one messenger rose to urge the money in the budget for public relations be shifted to missions. His motion failed.

Coppenger shares the man's sentiment, but sees public relations as a missions tool.

"I've just come from a new work state. I'm driven by the question 'If I were a Southern Baptist in a pioneer area, what sort of things would I need?' It's not a matter of public relations versus missions. It's public relations as missions," said Coppenger.

In May, the office published a new color version of "Meet Southern Baptists," and since has sold 35,000 thousand copies.

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**Convention Uniform***Pastoral service*

by Bob Parsley, First Church, Dardanelle

Basic passage: Acts 20:17-38

Focal passage: Acts 20:17-38

**Central truth:** This address by Paul is a glimpse into the warm family relationship between Ephesian pastors and their mentor.

This farewell message from Paul to the leaders of the church in Ephesus is a wonderful example of pastoral service. The speech is divided into five sections (vv. 18-21, 22-27, 28-31, 32, and 33-35) and is concluded with an account of affection and prayer (v. 36-38). It is a sad commentary on our time that many churches cannot say farewell to their pastoral leadership in a similar manner.

Pastors and church staff members would do well to imitate Paul's example when beginning a ministry in a new location. Paul was confident from the first day (v. 18) that he had served them humbly and held back nothing in preaching Christ among them. There is no substitute for a good beginning in a place of ministry.

In the second section of his pastoral talk, Paul was frank with his fellow ministers. His journey to Jerusalem would be dangerous.

Paul was careful to warn these pastors who were left to guide the church in Ephesus of the internal and external perils they faced in the future. In this section of his speech, the great apostle urged them to remember his three year long ministry there as they continued in pastoral work.

Paul's blessing comprised the fourth portion of the farewell talk. He knew he was leaving them in God's hands and challenged them to remain in the word. By following these directions, the Ephesian pastors would grow in Christ. The same advice applies today for us.

For his final point, Paul stressed the importance of giving in the ministry. Pastoral leaders are to be examples in giving. No God-called minister should use his position for material profit. A few pastors appear more interested in taking than giving in our time.

Local churches deserve the best from the pastors God sends to them. Paul's address is aimed directly at all who would serve churches in any pastoral aspect today. Vocational ministry demands a complete commitment from all who would answer a call.

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**Life and Work***The God of history*

by Bob Berry, First Church, Benton

Basic passage: Deuteronomy 4:33-40

Focal passage: Deuteronomy 4:33-40

**Central truth:** Historical events are used by God to make himself known.

Many students moan and groan about history classes. "History is boring," they say. Even Bible history is of little interest to most believers. Yet, one of the most important facts that a Christian should grasp is that our faith is grounded on verifiable historical events. God acts in history.

God acts to change the lives of individuals and nations. He has used history to make himself known, culminating in the ultimate historical event: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He continues to act in the world today.

The most vivid act of God before Christ was the Exodus. Old Testament historians, poets, and prophets all refer back to this historical fact as proof of God's love for his people. The book of Deuteronomy is the retelling of all that happened to the children of Israel over the 40 years beginning with their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. It is a sermon based on history, with practical applications drawn from the acts of God.

God's acts in history prove he is God (Dt. 4:35-36). He wants there to be no doubt that he is the one and only God. His answered prayers in your life serve the same purpose.

Furthermore, God's acts in history prove his love. The reason for the Exodus was that God desired to love a people who did not deserve that love (Dt. 4:37-38). God's love for mankind motivates him to act on earth in the lives of nations. His love for you motivates him to act in your life. None of us deserve that love, but God's grace and love are infinite.

Finally, God's acts in history promote obedience (Dt. 4:39-40). Temptations from Satan, the world, and our own sin nature all work against doing his will. God's faithfulness confirmed in history is an encouragement to be obedient. The reality of the power of God also is a warning to remain obedient.

God wants the best for his people (Dt. 4:30). History shows that obedience to God in response to his love results in full and meaningful life. Departing from God's ways and scorning his love leads to disaster. Choose God. He is historically reliable.

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**Bible Book***Freedom and responsibility*

by Zane Chesser, First Church, Malvern

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

**Central truth:** Christian liberty must be guided by love for others.

Some of the Corinthian Church members had raised the question whether or not it was right for a Christian to eat food that had been sacrificed to a pagan god (1 Co. 8:1a). This was a daily problem confronting believers living in a Greek city. Most of the meat sold in the markets had been offered in sacrifice to idols. The Christian might also encounter the problem by being a guest for a meal in some homes.

There was a difference of opinion in the church about eating this food. To one group it was no sin. These were the strong-minded members who possessed a knowledge that freed them from such a prejudice. They knew other gods were non-existent and it was foolish to refuse to eat such meat (1 Co. 8:1-16).

The second group had a more difficult time with their consciences. Because of old associations in their pre-conversion lives they couldn't shake guilty feelings about eating the meat (1 Co. 8:7).

Paul's answer is given here and also in 1 Corinthians 10:14-33. He agreed with the more mature members that pagan gods were not living realities. Thus, eating meat sacrificed to such idols could not profane any person. Christian liberty brings freedom from superstition (1 Co. 8:4-6).

Paul, however, did not support the more enlightened Christians in their spirit of superiority toward the weaker brothers. He points out that love, not knowledge, should be the last word in conduct. Knowledge, alone, can appear arrogant and proud (1 Co. 8:1).

In the larger perspective, Paul stresses the responsibility in which Christian liberty must be exercised. A believer must not use his freedom in a way that would hurt the conscience of a weaker believer. Such was a sin against Christ (1 Co. 8:7-12).

Paul's words were not meant only to caution the more enlightened concerning conduct that would offend a fellow believer; they were aimed, too, at strengthening the conscience of the weaker Christians. All Christians have the responsibility under God's nurture to shape their consciences according to truth and not some unjustified fear or feeling.

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Lesson  
Date:  
Nov. 10

# LESSONS FOR LIVING

## Convention Uniform

### *Profile in courage*

by Bob Parsley, First Church, Dardanelle

Basic passage: Acts 21:26-39

Focal passage: Acts 21:26-33, 37-39

Central truth: Paul was not afraid to represent Jesus Christ before a murderous lynch mob at the temple in Jerusalem.

Paul was a remarkable man. Adversity brought out the very best in him. After returning to Jerusalem against the advice of his friends, Paul entered into purification ceremonies. Since he had been away from the temple for so many years he desired to prepare himself for temple worship.

Paul went to great expense to pay for the sacrifices for himself and four of his companions. Each man was to present two lambs, a ram, bread, cakes, meat, and drink offerings according to temple law (Nu. 6:14f).

Paul and his Jewish companions were worshipping in the temple court of the men when troublemakers from Ephesus spotted him. They accused the great apostle of violating the temple by bringing unclean Gentiles with him into the Jewish section. This was a false charge, but it worked the crowd into a frenzy and in a few minutes, a mob gathered around Paul. Warnings were carved into the stones of the temple walls warning Gentiles to keep away or suffer the penalty of death. The crowd demanded to kill Paul for that reason.

The fortress of Antonia was located at the northwest corner of the temple. One thousand Roman soldiers were stationed there and no less than 200 of them responded to the riot over Paul. They literally saved his life by rescuing him from the hands of his accusers. The commander thought at first that Paul was a terrorist from Egypt. He was very surprised to learn Paul was a learned Jewish man and a Roman citizen (22:25).

Paul demonstrated terrific courage in the face of the angry mob. In spite of the turmoil, Paul had the awareness to turn it into a preaching opportunity for presenting the gospel. He gave a personal testimony to the crowd with an emphasis on his salvation experience (22:3-20). Paul displayed remarkable bravery before his enemies. He is a great example to us of faithfulness under fire.

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## Life and Work

### *Losing sight of God*

by Bob Berry, First Church, Benton

Basic passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-12, 16-17

Focal passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-12

Central truth: It is easy to lose sight of God.

One of the saddest passages in the Bible says that Samson "did not know that the Lord had left him" (Jg. 16:20). Samson was in the habit of being far from God. He was not even aware that God was not there until it was too late. He had forgotten what it was like to have a relationship with God.

Anyone can gradually lose track of God. No one wants their relationship with God to falter. Yet, it is easy to subtly become too busy for God, too self-sufficient for God, too rebellious for God, or too successful for God, just like Samson.

How do you drift away from God? You lose touch with God by forgetting who he is. God is the one and only God (Dt. 6:4). He alone has power. He alone satisfies. He alone is worthy of worship and praise. He deserves your best efforts.

You also lose touch with God if you don't work at loving God (Dt. 6:5). That should not be hard to do if you realize who he really is and understand his love for you. Loving God is the motivating factor for developing a relationship with him.

You lose touch with God if you don't share God's Word. This is especially true in the home. Notice how much time is spent with children and how that time is used (Dt. 6:7).

Some parents need to begin developing spiritually mature children with the same enthusiasm they devote to developing athletic, musical, and other skills in their children. Spiritual maturity in children also cannot be taught unless parents meditate on God's Word, live it, and remember it (Dt. 6:8-9).

Finally, you lose touch with God if you become absorbed in loving the world and loving yourself (Dt. 6:10-12). Material prosperity is a great challenge. It is easy to forget God when times are good. Wealth quickly becomes more important than God.

Israel eventually lost touch with God. They kept the externals of religion, but had no personal relationship with God. They lost touch with God in their cluttered worldly lives. Will you lose sight of God? Don't be like Israel. Don't be a Samson.

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## Bible Book

### *Freedom and bondage*

by Zane Chesser, First Church, Malvern

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 9:1-22

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 9:1-9, 14-16, 19-22

Central truth: Limiting our rights for others.

The matter of believers exercising their Christian freedom in a responsible way is continued (1 Co. 9). Paul had urged the more mature Christians to forego personal rights that could offend the spiritually weak (1 Co. 8:9-12). Some of his readers no doubt accused Paul of preaching a high standard to others, but not practicing such ethics in his own life. In response to such contentions, the apostle sets forth a strong testimony of how he had forfeited certain rights for the welfare of others and the advancement of the gospel (1 Co. 9).

Paul asserted that he had not only limited his privileges as a Christian, but also the special rights of an apostle (1 Co. 9:5). As an apostle he could have chosen to marry and have been accompanied by his wife on his missionary journeys. But he declined that liberty out of his concern for his ministry to others (1 Co. 9:5).

Another area in which Paul had waived his rights as an apostle and servant of the Lord was that of financial support from the church. He cited substantial grounds for receiving such benefits, including the words of the Lord Jesus (1 Co. 9:7-9,14). Yet, Paul had deliberately refused the church's support because he had no wishes to "hinder the gospel of Christ" (1 Co. 9:12).

The apostle's motivation for his ministry was not monetary compensation, but rather a divine commission (1 Co. 9:16).

The measure of Paul's abandoned rights for the sake of others and the gospel is seen in two striking phrases. One is, "free from all men... slave to all" (1 Co. 9:19). As a Roman citizen Paul had the status of a free man but elected to become a servant to all that they might be won to Christ.

The other statement that lifts up Paul's relinquished privileges is, "I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some" (1 Co. 9:22). What an affirmation on what it means to love people! Paul was not a chameleon taking on the moral and spiritual climate of the crowd around him. Rather, he identified with people where they were for the sake of sharing Jesus Christ with them.

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# FMB defunds seminary

## Expands Soviet ministry, affirm Parks

by Robert O'Brien  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted 35-28 in their October meeting to defund the board's contribution to the 1992 budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The action, based on the trustees' disagreement over the seminary's theological stance, deleted \$365,000 allocated to the seminary. The action also asked trustees receive a legal interpretation at their December meeting of documents from 1978 and 1988 in which the board agreed to fund the seminary through 1992.

The trustees voted in 1978 to contribute to the financially strapped seminary's operating budget through 1992 and begin decreasing support in 1993. They reaffirmed that action in 1988. The board still maintains missionaries at the seminary.

In other action, two trustee committees voted to affirm and help refine and implement a 10-point vision for global evangelization offered by President R. Keith Parks at their August meeting. The trustee chairman's council, in affirming Parks' plan, discarded a motion that would have implemented a long-range transition plan to new presidential leadership.

Trustees also appointed 29 missionaries (bringing the total to 3,898 in 121 countries), reviewed plans to launch a full-scale "Green Alert" expansion of ministries in the former Soviet Union and heard Parks pay tribute to Louis Cobbs, who soon will retire after 27 years' service.

In his report to trustees, Parks said during the 20 years Cobbs headed missionary personnel selection, the board appointed 3,320 career missionaries — 44 percent of the missionaries sent out in the board's history. "No other individual has done as much to shape this excellent personnel program as Louis Cobbs," Parks said.

Unless trustees change their minds in their December meeting, 1992 will be the first year since the board founded the Ruschlikon seminary in 1948 that it will receive no Southern Baptist operating funds. The \$365,000 was transferred to theological education needs in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Trustees voted to defund the seminary even though Parks told them the board's integrity was at stake if they didn't fulfill their 1992 commitment. The seminary plays a key part in Baptist expansion in Europe, he said, and defunding would cripple

it and damage the board's credibility in Europe and around the world. He said that after the 1992 agreement is complete they could take any action they wished.

But trustees, who have disagreed about the seminary's theological stance for years, felt the seminary showed it was continuing in a "liberal" direction by allowing Glenn Hinson, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to teach there for four months on sabbatical leave, according to trustee Ron Wilson of California.

Wilson said trustees perceive Hinson, a church history professor, as having liberal views of Scripture.

"The board doesn't like to disagree with Dr. Parks, but on a difference of opinion we have to vote our conscience," Wilson said.

In 1988 trustees asked European Baptist and seminary leaders to respond to 10 recommendations prior to the board's May 1989 transfer of ownership of the Ruschlikon seminary to the European Baptist Federation. The points included a request that they put a statement of European Baptist beliefs in writing.

European Baptists responded to each of the 10 points, but many trustees have continued to be displeased with a statement of beliefs that was a part of this document. Hinson's teaching assignment does not indicate good faith, Wilson said.

Before the full trustee meeting, Parks and trustee leaders "cleared the air" in a late-night session. The meeting began with a discussion of transition to new presidential leadership and ended with a unanimous vote to affirm a 10-point vision for global evangelization Parks presented to the trustees in August.

In a news conference Oct. 8 Parks and trustee chairman Bill Hancock of Kentucky confirmed rumors the 15-member chairman's council, made up of trustee officers and committee chairmen, had considered a three-and-a-half year transition plan to select Parks' successor by 1995.

During the session Parks reportedly told trustees he could not work effectively in such a long transition. He said he would step aside if he did not have their support and he could not operate until he retires without full authority as president.

The two men said the council discarded a motion for a transition plan, unanimously passed a substitute motion the council affirm Parks' vision, and referred its action to the trustee strategy com-

mittee for implementation. The strategy committee unanimously endorsed the council's action.

"We had a good, healthy, open discussion about relations that will be necessary to accomplish" Parks' 10-point vision, Hancock said.

Added Parks: "We had the sort of session that families sometimes have and cleared the air and expressed some feelings and attitudes. No voices were raised, no anger was expressed and no tables were pounded. As we came to the end of the meeting, I had the feeling of a unanimous action and a warm affirmation."

Since the August meeting, speculation had centered on how trustees would respond not only to Parks' 10-point vision but also his desire to lead in implementing it through its proposed 1995 launch date. Parks turns 65 in October 1992. His predecessor, Baker James Cauhen, served until age 70.

Pressed by reporters at the news conference to clarify Parks' status, Hancock said the actions of the chairman's council and strategy committee "have unofficially assented to Dr. Parks giving leadership at this point in time. If transition or replacement or retirement was a priority, I'm sure someone would have addressed it."

Parks said he did not object to the concept of a transition plan, only its timing. "We should get on with the vision and not stretch out the transition time in a way that would distract us and prevent leadership from functioning," he said.

## FMB receipts leveling

Faced with leveling revenues, FMB trustees agreed Oct. 9 on a projected \$183.66 million budget, an increase of only 0.5 percent.

Slowdown in growth in the world's largest evangelical foreign missions enterprise results from an eight-year decline in the expansion of key revenue sources. This year marks the second time in its history the mission board received less money in the same year from both its biggest source of funds, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (down 1.05 percent), and from the Cooperative Program (down 0.36 percent). The other time was 1932.



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## Prayer to launch 'Alert'

by Marty Croll  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees have designated New Year's Eve 1991 as an international day of prayer for the former Soviet Union to kick off a multifaceted "Green Alert" plan to expand mission work in the region.

The Green Alert project could involve hundreds of Southern Baptist workers, including the assigning of 116 missionaries in 1992 alone to work throughout the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union — the largest Southern Baptist missionary force ever deployed to a single regional effort in one single year. That total is roughly one-third to one-half the average number of missionaries the board appoints annually for its worldwide program.

Trustees also voted Oct. 9 to earmark for the project any revenues received above this year's \$84 million goal for Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon foreign missions offering.

The plan represents the agency's first Green Alert action, designed to respond quickly to changing world events by cutting through normal processes to free money and personnel. The procedures were adopted during the trustees' June meeting.

The prayer day will usher in a year of prayer for the region. In the emphasis, trustees hope to enlist the Baptist World Alliance and evangelist Billy Graham, who has scheduled a crusade in the Soviet region next spring.

While many missionaries would need to be newly appointed, some experienced missionaries should be reassigned from other fields, said Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for Europe, Middle East and North Africa and chairman of the Green Alert task force.

The plan also could involve finding more than 200 shorter-term personnel, roughly

two-thirds of the number assigned during 1990 for all fields. Many of these would be English teachers, while others would provide assistance in student evangelism, theological education and business development.

"We can consider all this possible only if the international call to prayer results in Baptists throughout the world turning their attention and prayers to this part of the world, causing an outpouring of compassion toward the peoples of these lands," Ballenger said.

"It will be necessary for God to move through our people with the result that many will be called and others will determine to support this monumental attempt to share the gospel in lands so long closed to Christian missions."

In addition to any Lottie Moon surplus, the project will require funding outside the \$183.66 million mission board budget trustees approved for 1992, said FMB President R. Keith Parks. The board has access to some funds for unanticipated needs not included in the budget.

The task force, composed of mission workers and administrators, centered its proposal on strengthening Soviet Baptist efforts, providing Christian witness and training in unevangelized areas and offering opportunities for Southern Baptist personnel to work in the region.

"In many of these republics, there are dynamic Baptist unions interested in reaching out to people of their lands, and who have been open to us for assistance and counsel," Ballenger said. "We're proposing we answer these repeated entreaties."

Reports say thousands are coming to know Jesus in the Soviet region. But Soviet Baptists are asking what happens when the foreign evangelists leave. The task force is proposing mission workers center much of their effort on helping equip local Baptists to reach their own people.

## MK Birthday Prayer Calendar: November

*Missionary Kids Attending College in Arkansas*

6	Jeremy Erwin	OBU Box 3499 (Mall-freshman)
16	Ariel Hernandez	UCA Box 4007 (Arkansas-junior)
21	Nelwyn Jordan	1221 Reservior, Little Rock, AR 72207 (Japan-UALR junior)
28	Brian Kirby	OBU Box 3079 (Venezuela-sophomore)
29	Kris Cartwright	OBU Box 4280 (Philippines-sophomore)