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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

11-19-1987

November 19, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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A SOLUCAO!

Arkansas Baptist

November 19, 1987

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Caring
and
Sharing

Hand
in
Hand

ARKANSAS BAPTIST
FAMILY & CHILD-CARE
SERVICES

In This Issue

Cover



ABN photo / Milne Gill

Caring and sharing go hand in hand when it comes to helping children who hurt.

Feature

'A Solucao'..... 8-9

Editor's Page..... 3

Speak Up

One Layman's Opinion.... 4

Letters to the Editor..... 4

Woman's Viewpoint..... 4

Local & State

'We Are The World'..... 5

Headquarters Moved..... 5

Arkansas All Over..... 6-7

Helpline

To Amar With Love..... 10

ABSC Updates..... 10-13

Next Month in Arkansas... 13

Nation

Porter Routh Dies..... 14

Georgia 'Moderates'..... 14

Lessons For Living... 15

World

Uganda Future..... 16

Leaders Arrested..... 16

IT'S UPLIFTING

Church Plows New Ground

MATOSINHOS, Portugal (BP)—The First Baptist Church of Matosinhos, Portugal, has purchased facilities for a mission without any outside financial help, believed a first in the 80-year history of Baptist work in the country.

The church opened a mission in Santo Tirso in February. Nineteen people attended the initial meeting.

In 1963, with the help of a \$20,000 grant from Southern Baptists, the mother church obtained a three-story building. Its members handled most of the remodeling. The church has grown from about 30 members to 130 in the last 24 years.

Then this year the Matosinhos church spent \$31,000 to purchase a meeting place for its Santo Tirso mission. The mission, now with about 30 members, was constituted as a church in early October.

Small Church Gives Big

Immanuel Baptist Church of Vimy Ridge may not be typical, but it is certainly a good example in mission giving.

The congregation's goal for their Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions was \$750. When all the gifts were in, the actual offering was \$815.

Another unusual feature about Immanuel's State Missions Offering is that it was the largest of the three special offerings of the past year. Pastor Ronald Mimms thinks this may not reflect a feeling of one offering being more important than another but may be a more accurate indication of increased church growth and heightened concern for missions.

Immanuel averages 65 in Sunday School attendance and about 70 in morning worship. The church gave 25 percent of its offerings the past year to missions.

GOOD NEWS!

Preaching Prerequisites

2 Timothy 4:1-5

What are the qualities in a person that uniquely suit him for the high calling of preaching the gospel? There are some prerequisites for the preacher in order for his preaching to be effective.

The preacher should be a person who can see.—In John's Gospel we read about a man who was born blind. "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man" (Jn. 9:1). Others saw the man, too; but they criticized his morals. "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Jn. 9:2). Still others saw him and accepted his illness as a consequence of sin, but Jesus saw the man.

He who would be a healer of the highest order must be one who sees an angel in the granite and digs it out chip by chip. He must never cease to believe, to hope, to anticipate God's power to work and change the seemingly unalterable.

The preacher should be a person who can hear.—Jesus had as much to say about effective hearing as he did effective speaking. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mt. 11:15, RSV). Most people do not know how to listen, to be emotionally present to people.

Jesus often took time to hear the needs of others. On one occasion, he was traveling to the house of Jairus to care for his

daughter who was lying at the point of death. But an ill woman touched him, and he stopped the entourage to heal her. Jesus heard her heart cry even though her voice was silent. And, like our Lord, if we are to be effective ministers, we must be able to hear well—to take time to really listen.

The preacher should be a person who can feel.—The great illusion of leadership is to think that a person can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there. Many ministers stand in pulpits almost as removed from the aching, despairing, disillusioned people in the pew as the king who would never leave the splendor of his castle to see where his people live and work and suffer.

God showed us the way. Jesus humbled himself and "took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Ph. 2:7). He identified with us so that he could feel the pinch of our shoes. I am impressed by the words: "Jesus wept." Jesus saw, Jesus heard, and Jesus felt the deep needs of others.

Paul echoed God's challenge when he said, "For yourself, keep your mind sane and balanced, meeting whatever suffering this may involve. Go on steadily preaching the gospel and carry out to the full the commission that God gave you" (2 Ti. 4:5, Phillips). So let it be!

Adapted from "Proclaim," July-Sept. 1980. Copyright 1980 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For subscription information, write to Material Services Dept., 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Children Who Hurt

J. EVERETT SNEED

The three and a half year old boy inquired, "Can I color?" Later David Perry, who supervises the Sherwood Receiving Home, learned that the boy was inquiring, "Can I color on the wall of my room?" The houseparents, of course, had responded in the negative.

Later Perry held the little boy in his lap and talked with him about the negative response. The little boy said, "...but nobody hurt me." Yes, he had colored on the wall and, yes, he had gotten into trouble. But nobody had beaten him for it. No one had even thrown him against the wall or slapped him in the face. Bobby had expressed relief that no matter what he did, he still received love, protection, and care. This is the ministry of Family and Child Care.

For 93 years, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services has been meeting the needs of children and their families. At first, Arkansas Baptists provided an orphan's home. Today, the agency provides a much wider ministry, maintaining Christian services to children and their families. The purpose is to help hurting children in the name of Christ.

Family and Child Care Services still maintains a home for children at Monticello. Johnny G. Biggs, executive director of the agency, observes that the needs of children are more complex today than they were in the past. Divorce, abuse, and neglect are but a few of the events which impact on some of the children to whom the ministry is given.

One goal of the agency is to develop children into responsible adults. During the past year, Family and Child Care provided total care and direction for 98 children at Monticello. These young people come from a variety of complex needs. Many of them have experienced anger as an outgrowth of parental rejection, abuse, and absence of love. Besides the basics of food, shelter, and clothing, the children are provided with religious education, recreational activities, counseling, tutoring services, church, school, and community involvement. The most important ingredient, however, is love.

The Christian message of God's love continues to make the Family and Child Care ministry distinctive. Eight of the young people living at the home accepted Christ as their Savior and united with local



churches in the area. Seventeen children in one of the other resident programs also committed their lives to the Lord.

Sponsors made it possible for a number of the children to attend Siloam Springs. Five Baptist Student Union summer missionaries worked at Monticello and the emergency receiving homes. These college-age young people also were able to assist in communicating God's love and in ministering to the needs of young people at Monticello and in the emergency receiving homes.

Berry Cottage was dedicated July 22, 1986. This new cottage is designed so that brothers and sisters may be placed together in the same cottage. This is the first time that this arrangement has been possible at Monticello. The Family and Child Care staff believes that this will reinforce and

strengthen family relationships. Executive Director Biggs said, "We are exceedingly grateful to Mrs. J. E. Berry of El Dorado for making this new and excellent facility available to us."

Currently, emergency receiving homes are located in Camden, Little Rock, Sherwood, Judsonia and Paragould. There were 334 children cared for in these shelters during the past year. These children needed emergency care due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The homes in Paragould and Judsonia provide apartments to house battered mothers and their children. These apartments served 23 mothers during this past year.

Ten young people were cared for in one of Family and Child Care's approved foster homes. Biggs said, "It was gratifying to see Baptist families join with our agency in responding to these needs. Six boys received care by living in the group home for boys in Jonesboro. Since 1970, a group of men from First Church, Jonesboro, have sponsored this group ministry."

Direct gifts to the Family and Child Care ministry were received from 1,040 of the 1,266 churches. These direct gifts amounted to \$412,432.00. Direct gifts from churches plus Cooperative Program funds provide 56 percent of the total expenditures made by Family and Child Care in 1986. The Cooperative Program continues to be a strong, consistent family base for all that Family and Child Care does.

Family and Child Care Executive Director Biggs expresses gratitude for the Cooperative Program support received each month. He said, "Yet, the Thanksgiving Offering from Arkansas Baptist churches is vital to our meeting the ever-growing needs of hurting children."

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

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

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DANIEL R. GRANT

One Layman's Opinion



Christmas Left Out

It may seem to be early for talking or writing about Christmas, but there are

those who would argue it is already getting a little late for Christmas shopping and Christmas cards. My Betty Jo has already mailed our Christmas greetings to friends overseas—in part to make certain they receive them on time, and in part to use surface mail and save the airmail postage.

Sometime ago I received in the mail a beautiful catalog advertising a large variety of Christmas cards. The photographs, artwork, paper quality, use of color, and engraving, were all of the highest possible quality. So were the prices.

After turning through the pages of the catalog I had the distinct impression that something was missing. I looked a second time at the entire variety of Christmas cards, and confirmed my suspicion that Christmas had been left out of the Christmas cards! To put it more bluntly, the birth of Christ and even the word, "Christmas" were totally ignored in every single card.

I am well aware that we can be a little heavy-handed occasionally in trying to emblazon our Christian message and symbols in bold print on every conceivable form of communication. Yet Christmas is such a remarkable Christian celebration, calling attention to the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that one has to be saddened by a commercial greeting card catalog that goes no further than "Seasons Greetings," or "Happy Holidays."

I am certainly not suggesting that every card must have the manger scene on it. I just think there is cause for alarm when a major greeting card company would leave the explicit Christian message completely out of its catalog for Christmas cards. If a segment of American business has decided for me that my Christmas cards must be "laundered" to make certain they are not offensive to non-Christians, it is something we all need to know. It would be even more tragic if the Christmas-less Christmas cards reflect of what the overwhelming majority of customers really prefer.

I doubt if the Apostle Paul would have looked with favor on his Christian greetings being edited out of his letters.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Letters to the Editor

Proud of Mission Effort

Never have I been prouder of being an Arkansas Baptist than I am right now. Our recent "Mission to Manaus" on Oct. 21-Nov. 1 was an experience of a lifetime for all of us who traveled to Brazil. I predict we will be seeing true revival breaking out in all of those Arkansas churches that participated.

I am particularly proud of our executive director, Dr. Don Moore. His mixture of professionalism and personal concern for each team member was a blessing. When two of our number got sick on the return flight to Miami, Don was there to help. When we arrived in Miami unsure of our departure times, Don worked with a few others all night long to insure that each person had a flight home the next day.

Likewise, we Arkansas should be proud of Glendon and Marjorie Grober, whose untiring efforts the last three years helped make the "AMAR Connection" such a suc-

cess. We are truly blessed that God has led them back into our state.

We are also thankful for Richard Walker, a retired missionary from Brazil, who now serves as pastor of a church in Benton. He was a tremendous asset to our group and helped make the trip the blessing that it was.

None of us will ever know how much good has been done during these last three years. Only time and eternity will reveal that. However, I do believe that all Arkansans who went or gave financially can rest assured that it was well worth it.

May God help us to visit in our communities with the same fervor we had in Brazil, for there are lost people here even as there are there. To be the glory!—
Tom Smith, Bentonville

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must be signed by one person, though the name may be withheld on request. Mailing address and phone number of the writer should be included. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. Letters must be marked "for publication." Only original letters will be considered.

Woman's Viewpoint

Who Knows You?

NORMA KIRKPATRICK

When our oldest daughter was a little girl, she often began her prayers by saying, "Dear God, this is me, Alica." She wanted to be very certain God knew exactly who she was before she began a conversation with him.

Often in our lives we make a great effort to let others know who we are but sometimes feel no one truly knows us. Perhaps we are shy. Maybe like Moses we "are not eloquent . . ." and are "slow of speech and of a slow tongue." The person we know ourselves to be in our heart can be trapped by social fences and feel unable to reach across and grasp another's hand in trust.

At this Thanksgiving season, I am especially glad



that God knows me as I truly am, that he looks upon the heart and sees my desire to be like him, though my outward person does not always mirror that desire.

It's true that the person closest to us may not know exactly who we are or, for that matter, who we might like to be. But our Creator God knows us intimately, even when words fail us. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities . . ." as he "maketh intercession for us with groanings

which cannot be uttered" (Ro. 8:26).

And we are secure in being known. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Ti. 2:19a).

That little daughter of ours is now a seminary student and has long since learned that God knows exactly who she is, for he has called her by name. Thanksgiving and "thanksgiving" flow forth from God's children because he "knoweth them." If no one else in the whole world knows who you are, the heavenly Father does.

Norma Kirkpatrick is the wife of Jerry Kirkpatrick, pastor of First Church, Heber Springs. She is the mother of three grown children.

Photo / George Sims



'We Are The World'—More than 125 students exclaimed "We are the World," reflecting the theme of the 1987 International Student Conference, sponsored jointly by Arkansas' Baptist Student Unions, Missions Department and Woman's Missionary Union. The gathering at Camp Paron brought together students from 23 nations to fellowship, explore relationships and hear Christian speakers. James Browning of the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department and Len Sebested, a lecturer from Fort Worth, were featured on this year's conference program. The conference is an effort to reach out to more than 1,500 international students currently studying in Arkansas' colleges and universities with a friendly welcome and a gospel witness.

ABSC Moves; Movies Dropped

In response to concerns expressed about in-room pornographic movies available at the headquarters hotel for the Nov. 16-18 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, convention leaders have shifted their accommodations to another Fort Smith motel, the Sheraton, according to ABSC Associate Executive Director Jimmie Sheffield.

In addition, Holiday Inn Civic Center General Manager Phillip Burgess said the hotel has removed the Comsat equipment which brought the movies into the rooms.

Burgess said the hotel had been trying to terminate its contract for the satellite conferencing service since February and had decided to risk litigation by removing the equipment. "Comsat will probably take us to court on it, but that's okay," he said. "We would rather do what is right."

Correction

The Oct. 29 *Arkansas Baptist* mistakenly attributed 1986-87 increases in enrollment and attendance which belonged to Fianna Hills Mission of Fort Smith to the chapel's sponsor, East Side Church.

JOY EXPLO '87



Jerry Johnston

Arkansas Youth Evangelism Conference



Harbor

December 28-29, 1987

Hot Springs Convention Center

Main speakers: Jerry Johnston, Jay Strack, Jerry Pipes
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Also featuring:

- All-State Baptist Youth Band
- All-State Baptist Youth Choir
- selected church music groups and much, much more!



Jerry Pipes



Jay Strack

Conference begins with registration at 12 noon, Monday, Dec. 28, and concludes at 12 noon, Tuesday, Dec. 29.

Sponsored by Evangelism Dept., ABSC

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Carroll Gibson announced his resignation as director of missions for Greene County Association at the recent association annual meeting. His resignation will become effective April 30, 1988, following more than 17 years service. Gibson and his wife, Betty, plan to do volunteer mission work.



Kurt Marine has joined the staff of Cabin Creek Church at Lamar as part-time youth director.

Price Neal is serving as pastor of Barling First Church, going there from Parks Church.

Jack Kwok completed 20 years of service in the pastoral ministry in October. Kwok, pastor of Indianhead Lake Church in Sherwood, has served churches in Arkansas and Tennessee. He has been nominated as a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and recently was elected first vice-moderator for North Pulaski Association. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Park College of Parkville, Mo., and Mid-America Seminary. He is married to the former Kay McClure. They have two children, J.P. and Ricky.

James Criswell is serving as pastor of Caudle Avenue Church in Springdale. He also has served as pastor of Berry Street, Springdale, and Spring Valley Churches.

Joe Bagwell is serving as pastor of Alzheimer First Church. He and his wife, Jill, and their daughter, Gwen, moved there from Arkoma, Okla., where he was serving as pastor of First Church. Bagwell is a former coach at Pine Bluff High School.

Jean Pilcher of Little Rock has been named as chairman of the design/organization committee for the new *Baptist Hymnal*. She serves as minister of music at Little Rock First Church and is director for the Arkansas Singing Women.

Brian Harbour observed two years of service as pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Nov. 10.

Bill H. Lewis completed three years of service Nov. 17 as director of missions for Harmony Association.

Briefly

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock has planned a Fall Family Festival Nov. 22-25, according to Pastor Ross Woodbury. J. Clark Hensley of Jackson, Miss., family ministry consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak on family needs of today with special emphasis on single and senior adults, the divorced person, and the one-parent family.

Harrison First Church ordained Wes Hudson to the deacon ministry Oct. 25. Pastor Curtis L. Mathis was moderator.

Prairie Grove First Church observed "Friend Day" Oct. 25. Pastor Brad Sheffield reported the attendance of 329 was the highest ever recorded in the church's 116 years of service.

Ozark First Church ordained Bill Nelson to the deacon ministry Oct. 4. Those participating in the service were Randy Vest, clerk; Pastor John Matthews; George W. Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association; and Ken Roy, minister of music.

Little Rock First Church has launched a ministry for mentally handicapped children and adults, starting with a Sunday morning class, according to director Helen Vanlandingham.

Sonora Church at Springdale held a Celebration and Praise Service Oct. 11 as they broke ground for a new 3,000 square foot worship center, estimated to cost \$70,000. Pastor John Smedley reported will be the congregation's second building program. Burton Miley of Springdale and Harold Gately, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association, were speakers.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Ozark First Church dedicated a new 12,200 square foot education and activities building Sunday, Nov. 8. The \$400,000 facility houses 14 classrooms, a small conference room, a game room, commercial kitchen, and office space, all centered around an 82 by 44 foot gymnasium floor. The building is intended to provide additional space for education, fellowship and dining, and recreation. ABSC Executive Director Don Moore delivered the dedicatory address. John Matthews is pastor, and John Selvaig is minister of activities.

Jobs Exchange

Judsonia First Church held a service Oct. 25 to commission Ronnie and Joyce Miller for work with the Foreign Mission Board. They will assist missionaries Charles and Nancy Browning in remodeling several buildings in the Southern Baptist Mission compound in Amman, Jordan. Pastor Ray Meador led the service.

North Pulaski Association in its recent annual meeting elected Bill Brown of Bayou Meto Church, moderator; Jack Kwok of Indianhead Lake First Church, first vice-moderator; and Jerry Hogan of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock, second vice-moderator.

Harmony Association elected as 1987-88 officers Eddie Harrison, Jr., moderator; Edgar Bryan, moderator-elect; Allan McKinley, vice-moderator; Carter Tucker, treasurer; and Mary Allen, clerk.

Watson Chapel Church at Pine Bluff closed its 1987 church year by reporting a net gain in enrollment of 197; an average attendance increase of 21 per week; 68 baptisms; and 116 new members.

Rosedale Church in Little Rock recently launched an organized visitation program as the result of a PACT program, according to Pastor Aaron Carter. He also reported the

program had led to two new Sunday School classes, increased associational gifts, and increased Church Training attendance.

South Highland Church in Little Rock has launched two new ministries, according to Pastor Mark Tolbert. A Mother's Day Out program is being conducted on Tuesdays and Fridays, and a mission Bible study is being taught at Fire Station 15 each Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Mount Olive Church in North Crossett Acteens held a recognition program for Joy Walsh Nov. 4. Dixie Talbert, Ashley County Acteens director and a member of North Crossett First Church, was speaker.

Buckner Association held its annual meeting Oct. 13 at Mansfield. Elected as 1987-88 officers were Charles Scantling of Rock Creek Church, moderator, and Donald Elmer of Long Ridge Church, vice-moderator.

Evening Shade Church held a dinner Oct. 25 in recognition of the second anniversary of service of Pastor James Jones.

Douglasville Church in Little Rock will have Mrs. Fred Spann, a missionary to north Brazil, as speaker in the morning worship service Nov. 29.

Position available—Excellent opportunity for an individual to be self-employed as a partner in a professional association. Qualifications: degree in accounting, marketing, business, or related field and able to invest a small amount of capital. This business meets the needs of small businesses and individuals in central Arkansas. Send resume to: Garvin Abernathy Jr., 1700 N. Bryant St., Suite 13, Little Rock, AR 72207. 11/26

Position needed—Unemployed husband and father seeking employment. Four years rebuild experience in alternators and starters. Would consider training in a different skill. Contact: Robert Gentry, 2023 N. McKinley, Little Rock, AR 72207; phone 501-666-7756 11/26

Nurse's aide—Nurse's aide with therapy experience wants live-in job five days a week with elderly or handicapped person. Good references. Reasonable charges. House chores included. Christine Cox, 405 Rice St., Brinkley, AR 72021; phone 501-734-2575. 11/26

Work wanted—Will babysit in my home and clean houses. Also need four people to work for me. Contact Donna Kelley, RH 1, Box 234-1, Judsonia, AR 72081; phone 501-729-5724. 11/26

Employment needed—Mature material/product control manager needs employment in the Searcy or Little Rock area. 14 years experience. Business management degree. Wife and three children. Sammy Rutherford, 268-4267 or 268-5845. 12/3

Position sought—Mature family man with experience in people management seeks position. Degree, varied work experience. Honest and dependable. P.O. Box 5495, North Little Rock, AR 72119. 12/3

Notices of employment sought or available will be posted for three consecutive weeks without charge for members of Arkansas Baptist churches. Church staff positions will not be included. Send name, address, telephone number, and statement of qualifications, experience, and type of employment sought or available to "Jobs Exchange," Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Placement of a notice in the Jobs Exchange does not constitute an endorsement by the ABN.

A SMILE OR TWO

A man who had reached 100 was asked why centenarians are considered wise sages.

He replied, "Because no one's alive to tell how dumb we were in our younger days."

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Photos / Glendon Grober



A SOLUCAO: Manaus Hears About Jesus

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

MANAUS, Brazil — Nearly 200 Arkansas Baptists joined hands with their Baptist brothers and sisters in Manaus, Brazil, and for the space of a few days, Bold Mission Thrust became a reality.

The project—a citywide crusade and 47 revivals in area churches and missions—brought 199 Arkansans to Manaus, a city of 1 million people deep in the heart of Equatorial Brazil. It marked the culmination of a three-year partnership effort between Arkansas Baptists and three Brazilian Baptist conventions. The partnership mission was dubbed "AMAR," the Portuguese word for "love."

Preparation for the Oct. 22-Nov. 1 event began early in the month, as the first of 90 TV spots began to proclaim, "Jesus Is The Solution." A major rally and worker training in personal evangelism and counseling paved the way for the official launch of the crusade, which took seriously the challenge of Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust: to give every person the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Oct. 12, Brazilian Baptists' National Day of Evangelism, was chosen to launch the evangelistic effort. An estimated 1,200 Brazilian Baptist leaders and workers packed First Baptist Church to overflowing. The crowd spilled over into the street.

It was a prophetic beginning. The following day, Oct. 13, the Brazilians began the enormous task of leaving a copy of the New Testament at the door of every home in Manaus. When their partners from

Arkansas arrived nine days later, they joined in, and 200,000 New Testaments blanketed the city.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the Brazilians mounted a parade which criss-crossed the city and drew attention in every neighborhood to the approaching crusade, which was to be held in the city's 70,000-seat soccer stadium. On Monday and Tuesday, young people plastered the city with promotional posters.

The city was primed for the crusade, thanks to the efforts of SBC missionaries Luther Williams and Ken Loucks, who led in the planning. Glendon Grober, Arkansas' Amar project coordinator, himself a

them, saying, "My New Testament hasn't come yet."

"I've never seen anything like it," remarked Grober. "The TV spots and other promotions had really been effective. People were expecting to receive the New Testaments. When they found out we had a Bible for them, their doors opened wide."

"The open doors indicated people knew what was going on," Grober commented. "The response was unbelievable. People were very willing to talk. They were unusually ready to receive the gospel."

The first night of the crusade was promising. Less than five days before, a prominent Brazilian national TV personality

**A SOLUCAO É
JESUS CRISTO**
22A 24-10-87 — NO EST. VIVALDO LIMA ÀS 20:00HS

veteran missionary to Brazil, went to worship with one of the city's Baptist congregations on Sunday before the crusade. He arrived to find the building vacant. The whole congregation had decided to spend their morning worship hour distributing New Testaments in the neighborhood.

As Grober waited for the church members to return, he noticed a line was forming in the street outside the building. People were bringing slips of paper with their names and addresses printed on

had drawn 10,000 people to the stadium. The Brazilian media estimated the crusade's first night attendance doubled that figure. And attendance grew each night. On Friday night, reporters estimated as many as 30,000 people heard the gospel proclaimed by Brazilian evangelist Nilson Faniel. Saturday night, the estimate reached 40,000.

As thousands thronged the stadium each night, thousands more tuned in to the radio broadcasts which carried the service across

the city. And thousands more witnessed the barrage of coverage provided by the news media.

The response to Fanini's sermons and to the music provided by Arkansas' Music Men overwhelmed the counselors standing by at invitation time. The stadium design—intended to keep zealous soccer fans off the field—also made it impossible to bring all the persons making professions of faith down into a counseling area. Instead, hundreds of people lined the rails at the front of the stands to indicate their decision to follow Christ, and counselors worked feverishly to reach as many of them as possible. An estimated 4,000 people made professions of faith during the crusade.

But the final night of the crusade Oct. 24 was hardly the end of the matter. Ahead still lay revival meetings in 47 churches and missions across the city. Paired up with Brazilian Baptist interpreters, the Arkansans spread out, visiting door to door and helping in the evening revival services. Another 3,699 persons gave their lives to Christ. One congregation, with which SBC missionary Lynn Olmstead works, recorded 503 professions.

Among the persons making professions of faith during the church-based revivals was one of Manau's wealthiest citizens. He had heard the crusade theme, "Jesus Is The Solution," and came to a revival service at First Baptist Church, saying to himself, "Maybe they have the solution to my problem." His amazement knew no bounds when the speaker, Billy Kite of Crossett, rose to preach and directly addressed the very problem for which he was seeking an answer. He walked the aisle to profess Christ at the invitation.

Everywhere the Baptists went, people responded. "Witnessing that week was as easy as falling off a log," said Grober. "People were ready to receive Christ. If ever there was evidence that prayer makes a difference, it was this time.

"It was thrilling to see the eagerness of the Brazilians and Arkansans in sharing the gospel. One team member knocked on my hotel room door just after midnight one night. When I opened it, I found him standing there in his bathrobe. 'I need a New Testament,' he said. 'I'm witnessing to a man in my room.'

"The crusade and revivals pulled all the Brazilian churches together," Grober continued. "Virtually everyone was involved, and the cooperation was tremendous. One Baptist leader told us he thought the project had advanced Baptist work in Manau by 10 years.

"Of course, there's no way to measure whether everybody in Manau actually heard the gospel or not, but if this wasn't Bold Mission Thrust, it's the nearest thing to it I've ever seen."

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Laity Abroad Workshop

December 4, 1987
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock

A workshop designed to provide interested Arkansas Baptists with information about:

- (1) Ministry opportunities for lay persons living abroad,
- (2) Employment opportunities overseas including countries where a traditional missionary presence is not possible,
- (3) Southern Baptist students in study and ministry overseas,
- (4) Ministry opportunities for Southern Baptist business people traveling overseas.

Contact the ABCS Brotherhood office for more information.

Laity Abroad Luncheon

December 5, 1987
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn West
I-430 & I-630, Little Rock

Business people who travel abroad and persons who are scheduled to move overseas in 1988 are invited to be the guests of the Foreign Mission Board Laity Abroad Unit and the ABCS Brotherhood Department.

Please contact the Brotherhood office if you would like to attend. Reservation required.

ABCS Brotherhood Department
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203
501-376-4791

State Evangelism Conference

January 25-26, 1988
Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock



Joel Gregory



Mildred McWhorter



Damon Shook

"The Year of the Laity"

Sessions: Monday, 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Evangelism Department, ABCS

To Amar With Love

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

To AMAR with love! Some of you may not remember that AMAR is a Portuguese word for love. It also represents the two regions that have been linked together the past three years in mission projects: the Amazon region and the state of Arkansas. With the first two letters of each area, they combine to form the word AMAR by which we have identified the partnership. This thrilling partnership will have been concluded with the appearance of Rev. Thome Tavares Filho at our state convention Nov. 17-18.



As with all of God's work, there is no way to calculate the value of the work done during the past three years. Though we will try to give a recap on the Manaus Crusade, at this point I cannot tell you the total number of churches and missions started, buildings built, patients cared for, pastors and other leaders trained during the three years. I can't tell you exactly how many churches and individuals in Arkansas have been involved. Perhaps we will have this information soon. You will be thrilled with the results, I'm sure.

Now, for the Manaus Crusade report, I will be more specific. Church members, pastors, staff and directors of missions came from 58 churches from over the state to form our team of 199 Arkansas Baptist missionaries. Our assignment called for Oct. 21-Nov. 1 dates. Long before those dates, Southern Baptist missionaries and Brazilian leadership, under Glendon Grober's guidance, organized large numbers of people in the area for the myriad of jobs that have to be done for such an effort. Media promotion was effectively carried out. Scripture distribution involved 200,000 Portuguese New Testaments. A choir had to be assembled and trained. Buses had to be secured. Counselors had to be trained. These are only a few of the more obvious tasks ably done by our missionaries and Brazilian friends before we arrived.

The soccer stadium was rented and three nights of services were held with Nilson Fanini preaching. The attendance for the three nights was like 16,000, 30,000, and 40,000. Conversions could not all be counseled because there were not enough Baptists in the area to provide an adequate corps of counselors. The people came forward indicating their desire to receive

Christ by the thousands. No less than 4,000 made such a decision.

Following the crusade, we were assigned to the local churches for services the next three days. On Wednesday we went to other churches or areas where we hope to start churches for three to four days of services. The afternoons were spent in personal evangelism from house to house as well as Scripture and tract distribution. In these 40 areas we saw 3,699 pray to receive Christ. During the scripture distribution and rallies leading up to the Crusade 1,800 people had prayed to receive Christ. Informal witnessing as we had contact resulted in 56 people inviting Christ into their hearts. The best we can determine 9,555 people have been saved as a result of the Manaus effort. May God be duly honored and praised! May our families, friends and churches who made all of this possible be appropriately blessed. May that gracious band of courageous witnesses who braved indescribable heat, humidity, buses and the Portuguese barrier be filled with all joy in knowing "their labors" have been blessed of God. Let us all pray for the believers of Manaus and the follow-up work that needs to be done there.

None of this could happen except as we work together. From the missionaries of the 1880's to the present, we have built on their labors. Our Arkansas convention, associations, Foreign Mission Board, and Brazilian Convention worked together to help you and your churches to make it happen! It's a great way to do great things.

Liaity Abroad—As you may or may not know, we are using much more than the career missionary approach to getting the gospel out to the world. The Foreign Mission Board wants to work with students, military, business leaders and others who might spend time abroad to strengthen mission efforts overseas.

December 4, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., a workshop will be held at Park Hill Church, for those who may be able to help with missions abroad. A luncheon will be held Dec. 5 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn West in Little Rock, I-430 and I-630. James Cecil of the Foreign Mission Board will be leading these. The luncheon will be hosted by the FMB at their expense, but reservations will be required. Call Debbie Davenport at 376-4791 for reservations.

On-Site Building Consultations—Many of our churches have need of professional counsel for their building needs. We will have a consultant from the Church Architecture Department with us Dec. 14-18. He will be coming from Nashville and will be brought to your church by Ed Hinkson of our Sunday School Department at no ex-

pense to you or your church. They will have to establish a route to make the most churches in the time available. Therefore, appointments will have to be made. Please call Ed Hinkson at 376-4791 to make arrangements. We want to help! We can help! We assist some 70-80 churches a year with such consultations.

Evangelism Workshop—If we ever harness the laity to do personal evangelism consistently, we will see hundreds of thousands come to Christ. Our churches will be awakened and our land turned back to God. The "Year of the Laity" ought to be our best opportunity for that to happen. Directors of missions, moderators, directors of evangelism, and evangelism consultants from our associations must not miss this opportunity provided Dec. 10-11 at Camp Paron. You can learn how to make it happen. Come, praying for God to move on our own hearts as leaders so that we may lead our churches to equip their laity.

Youth—Don't let the holidays get drabby and dull! Bridge the gap from Christmas to New Years to the best high of the holidays. Come to Hot Springs for the Joy Explo '87 Youth Evangelism Conference, Dec. 28-29. An all-state band and choir have come together to provide great music. Besides, Harbor and Phil and Russ will be back. Add the two most effective youth evangelists in the country as speakers, and you have the ingredients for a fantastic event. Who are the evangelists? Jerry Johnston and Jay Strack.

You know what happens when Christian young people get together. The fun and fellowship will be great. The inspiration and instruction will be interesting and helpful. You will learn how to make a difference in your life, your school, your home and in your relationships.

Family Ministry State Single Adult Conference

"Growing Together—Singles and Churches" will be the theme of the annual State Single Adult Conference to be held in Little Rock at the Parkway Place Baptist Church, Feb. 26-27, 1988.

Jay Johnstone, single adult minister for the Germantown Baptist Church, Germantown, Tenn., will be a featured leader at the conference. Jay served several years as state single adult leader in Florida before com-



Church Training Baptist Doctrine Study '88

"The Doctrine of the Priesthood of Believers" is the annual Baptist Doctrine Study theme for 1988. Dr. William H. Stephens will lead the annual Doctrine Study Preview in conjunction with the State Evangelism Conference on Monday, Jan. 25, 1988. Dr. Stephens is the curriculum design and planning coordinator of the Church Training Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board and former editor of *The Biblical Illustrator*.



Stephens
Pastors and others who will be teaching the book, *The Doctrine of the Priesthood of Believers*, will find this preview especially helpful. The preview study will be offered immediately following the Monday afternoon session of the Evangelism Conference meeting at the Geyer Springs Church in Little Rock. A meal will be served by the host church following the study.

Pastors and others who will be teaching the book, *The Doctrine of the Priesthood of Believers*, will find this preview especially helpful. The preview study will be offered immediately following the Monday afternoon session of the Evangelism Conference meeting at the Geyer Springs Church in Little Rock. A meal will be served by the host church following the study.

Registration is required for the conference. The registration fee is \$8 and covers the cost of the meal and a copy of the book. A teaching workbook is also available that provides teaching resources, masters for overhead cels, worksheet masters, poster ideas, discussion cards and a bibliography. The workbook is available through the Baptist Book Store (\$4.75) and will be available for purchase at the Evangelism Conference.

For reservations or information, contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—Robert Holley, director

Cooperative Program New Materials Available

Some new Cooperative Program materials are available from the state office. The 1988 Arkansas Baptist State Convention budget will be available in poster and bulletin insert form. The posters and inserts show how the Cooperative Program monies are divided between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes. These materials are free. Just call or write to: Jimmie Sheffield, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR

72203; 501-376-4791.

In addition, two annual pieces from the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission are available. These are: "At Work Around the World" and "Missionary Moments." If you would like copies, please write to the above address.

December is the last month of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention fiscal year. Through September, our churches have given 97.9 percent of budget requirements through the Cooperative Program. Our goal of \$12,341,875 is well within reach. All 1987 Cooperative Program gifts must be in the state office by Jan. 7, 1988, to be included in the 1987 figures.

Have you signed up to be a "Prayer Partner" for "Missions Advance 87-89"? Has your church had a "Missions Advance 87-89" speaker? If you need more information, write to the above address. Through October, over 200 churches have signed up to participate in this emphasis. Don't miss the blessings, personally and collectively, for your church. Call or write today!—Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

Brotherhood Call For Volunteers

Jordan is calling. I had just poised my pen to begin to write this column when the phone rang. On the line was our Foreign Mission Board. "Could Arkansas Baptists help with some construction needs in the ancient biblical land of Jordan?"

I did not know how to respond. The answer depends on some of you who are reading this column. One Arkansas couple has already responded. The Ronald Millers of Judsonia will go in mid-November and serve at least a month working closely with missionaries Mary and Charles Browning.

Where—The location is some 50 miles from Amman, Jordan.

What—The specific need is renovation of existing building and remodeling and repairs of missionary homes. The work project involves plumbing, wiring, painting and carpentry work.

When—The date is between Nov. 1, 1987, and the end of May 1988. It is not necessary that teams go. An individual can choose the time frame that best suits him. During usually slower winter months, husbands and wives may go together. Volunteers can serve for two weeks or more at their discretion.

Conditions/costs—Volunteers will fly to Jordan. The approximate air fare from New York is around \$800. Housing will be fur-

nished at no cost to Arkansas volunteers. Meals are estimated at \$10 per day. The weather can be cold at this time of year, at times 30 degrees.

Further details—If you would like more information, write Dewey Merritt, associate director for Africa, Europe, and the Near East, Volunteers in Missions Department, 3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230. You may choose to call him at 1-800-423-5976.

If you are interested in using your construction gift in a biblical land, please contact Glendon Grober, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501) 376-4791.—Glendon Grober, director

Church Music Church Music Seminars 1988

Are you a church musician? Do you know one? All ministers of music, church pianists and church organists need to know about a seminar just for them in Nashville next year.

The dates are Feb. 29-March 4, 1988, and the seminars will be held in the comfortable facilities of the Church Program Training Center at the Baptist Sunday School Board in downtown Nashville, Tenn. The Ministers of Music Seminar and the Keyboard Seminar have coordinated schedules, beginning with a banquet at 6 p.m. Monday and ending at noon on Friday. The cost is \$60, which includes instruction, all materials, and the banquet. A list of downtown motels and hotels will be sent to each person upon registration.

The Ministers of Music Seminar will cover relationships and personal growth, worship and congregational music, and music reading sessions. The seminar leaders are Dr. Bruce Leafblad from Southwestern Seminary at Ft. Worth, Texas; Dr. Steven Carreker from First Church, Boone, N.C.; and Genovox Music, BSSB.

Pianists and organists from every size church in the convention will have personal needs met in classes divided by personal interests, skill levels, church membership and study topics. Dr. Gerald Altman from New Orleans Seminary will lead the seminar for pianists, and Dr. Joyce Jones from Baylor University will lead the seminar for organists. Everyone will have opportunity to hear both clinicians.

This sounds like an exciting week of opportunity for Arkansas church musicians. Registration forms are available in our office at the Baptist Building (376-4791). I'm going! How about you?—Peggy Pearson, associate/office manager

ing to Germantown. He is an experienced and able leader for single adults and single adult leaders.

The annual conference provides single adults and single adult leaders from every area of Arkansas an opportunity for fellowship, inspiration, personal growth, and training. A variety of conferences will provide single adults growth opportunities at the point of personal interest and need. Leader training conferences will be provided for single adult leaders in the church education and ministry programs.

The conference begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, 1988, with morning and early afternoon sessions Saturday, Feb. 27. There will be a small registration fee for the conference.

Parkway Place Church is in west Little Rock, two blocks north of Markham about two miles west of I-430. Motels and restaurants near Markham and Shackleford are convenient to the church.

Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; 501-376-4791 for additional information.—Gerald Jackson, associate

Church Training MasterLife Workshop



Fray



Holley

A second MasterLife Workshop has been added to the 1988 calendar for Arkansas. We will conduct a MasterLife Workshop on the Ouachita campus the week of Jan. 4-8, 1988. This is the week of the "J" term at Ouachita, allowing students and others to receive two hours credit for the workshop. The workshop will begin on Monday evening and conclude by noon on Friday.

Dr. Marion "Bud" Fray, chairman of the Department of Religion at Ouachita, and Dr. Charles Sharp, executive director of the Colorado Baptist State Convention, will serve as co-leaders of the workshop. The registration fee for the workshop is \$82.50, which covers all materials for the workshop. The fee for accompanying a

spouse or for a Ouachita student is \$72.50. Those desiring credit at Ouachita, Boyce or Seminary Extension will be required to pay an additional fee.

Rooms and meals will be available on campus at a nominal cost. Reservations should be made by Dec. 21. For additional information, contact Robert Holley, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; 376-4791 or Dr. Marion "Bud" Fray, Ouachita Baptist University.—Robert Holley, director

Annuity/Stewardship Tax Laws Affect Church Budgets

The 1986 tax reform made it possible for ministers and churches to revoke their Social Security waivers. A church that opted not to pay social security on its employees may reverse their decision by completing Form 941 and paying all back Social Security taxes.

Ministers who opted out may revoke that decision. When 1987 taxes are paid, ministers may file Form 2031 and pay the self-employment tax. Amended returns may be filed for 1986.

The self-employment rates for Social Security increase to 13.02 percent in 1988.

The standard mileage allowance for 1987 will increase from 21 cents to 22½ cents per mile on the first 15,000 miles and 11 cents a mile for all mileage above 15,000. Churches may reimburse its ministers for actual mileage based on regular reports.

Harold Richardson, treasurer of the Annuity Board, is set to lead a tax seminar for church staff members and committees at the Geyer Springs First Church on Jan. 27, 1988.—James A. Walker, director

Christian Life Council Be Better Informed

Visual aids have been used the past several years at awareness conferences in local churches and at camps and assemblies to better inform both youth and adults about critical social issues confronting society.

Colorful and durably constructed stand up displays are among those used. These were obtained from a health education company in Waco, Texas. Pastors and youth ministers should encourage procurement of these which deal with current issues as AIDS, Alcoholism, Cocaine, Drug/Abuse,

Marijuana, Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco. These can be obtained for \$40 each—not inexpensive but extremely valuable as a visual aid.

As a youth, I recall spending time looking at and studying pictorial posters on the health classroom wall in Morrilton Junior High School. Lectures, movies, videos and printed materials are helpful, but a poster or display which can be looked at and studied from time to time would be even more helpful.

If you are interested in pursuing the possibility of obtaining materials write to: Health Ed Co. Inc., P.O. Box 21207, Waco, TX 76702; or call 1-800-433-2677 for a free catalogue.—Robert A. Parker, director

Media Library Media Library Area Conferences

Three Area Church Media Library Conferences will be held in Arkansas the week of Jan. 18-21, 1988. Conferences are scheduled Monday at Fayetteville First Church, Tuesday at Mountain Home First Church, and Thursday at North Little Rock's Central Baptist Church.

Two workshops will be offered at each location: "How to Administer and Promote a Church Media Library" and "How to Process Media" Each day's conference begins at 9:30 a.m. and adjourns at 4:30 p.m. and provides Church Study Course credit for the participants.

Jack Lewis, church media library consultant at the Sunday School Board, will lead the administration workshop and Imogene DeLap, church media library director at First Church, Fayetteville, will lead the processing conference. Each is an experienced media library conference leader. Mr. Lewis has led other workshops in Arkansas as a Sunday School Board consultant. Mrs. DeLap has led conferences for the Board and served as assistant director of the Media Center at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Participants will need to have their personal copy of the basic text for the workshop they attend. The Baptist Book Store will provide a display of basic media library resources at each conference.—Gerald Jackson, associate



Jackson

Career Assessment

Career Assessment is a personal and professional growth experience designed specifically for pastors and church staff members. Spouses are also invited and encouraged to participate, when possible. Dr. Fred McGehee, a career guidance specialist in the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board, will lead a Career Assessment in Arkansas on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3-4 at the Baptist Building in Little Rock. The conference will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday and conclude at 3 p.m. Friday.



McGehee

Fred McGehee describes Career Assessment as "a serious pause in your busy life as a minister to update your life purposes and ministry directions." Since career assessments began in 1976, hundreds of ministers and their mates have participated in this experience. Without fanfare all have been offered acceptance, security, and freedom to work on a variety of ministry concerns.

Career Assessment addresses such areas as: (1) clarifying calling into ministry, (2) recognizing limitations in ministry, (3) developing a personal support network, (4) identifying recurring patterns/problems in ministry, (5) managing transitions in ministry, and (6) relating to people redemptively and productively.

Career Assessment can be especially helpful for persons who have lost a sense of purpose, are considering a call to a new place of ministry, are at a career crisis point, are facing retirement, or persons who aren't experiencing fulfillment in their lives and ministries.

The registration fee for the conference is \$35 per person, which includes materials. There is no additional cost when a spouse attends. Special room rates are available on request for those desiring lodging.

The last two years it has been necessary to close registration for this conference because of the requests. Make your reservation early if you plan to participate. To register for Career Assessment or to request additional information and materials, write or call Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—**Robert Holley, director**

Next month in Arkansas: December

Dec. 4, Laity Abroad Workshop, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bbd)

Dec. 5, Laity Abroad Luncheon, Holiday Inn West, Little Rock (Bbd)

Dec. 10-11, Evangelism Workshop, Camp Paron (Ev)

Dec. 14-18, Church Building Tour (SS)

Dec. 28-29, Joy Explo Youth Evangelism Conference, Hot Springs Convention Center (Ev)

Dec. 28-29, All-State Youth Band and Choir, Hot Springs Convention Center (M)

January

Jan. 4-8, MasterLife Workshop, Ouachita Baptist University (CT)

Jan. 10, Witness Commitment Day (Ev)

Jan. 11, Area Growth Spiral Workshops, Texarkana Beech Street Church, Marianna First Church (SS)

Jan. 12, Area Growth Spiral Workshops, Camden First Church, Dumas First Church (SS)

Jan. 18, Area Media Library Conference, Fayetteville (CT)

Jan. 19, Area Media Library Conference, Mountain Home (CT)

Jan. 21, Area Media Library Conference, Little Rock (CT)

Jan. 23, RA Counselor Fellowship, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bbd)

Jan. 25, Baptist Doctrine Study Preview, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (CT)

Jan. 25-26, State Evangelism Conference, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (Ev)

Jan. 27, Tax Seminar, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (SA)

Jan. 29-30, Lay Renewal Workshop (Bbd)

Jan. 31, Baptist Men's Day (Bbd)

February

Feb. 1, State Vacation Bible School Clinic, North Little Rock Central Church (SS)

Feb. 5-6, Mission Arkansas Rally, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Mn)

Feb. 6, Disaster Relief Meeting, Little Rock (Bbd)

Feb. 11-12, Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Leadership Training, Camp Paron (Ev)

Feb. 18-19, ASSIST Training, North Little Rock First Church (SS)

Feb. 21-24, Home Mission Study (WMU)

Feb. 24-26, Director of Missions Retreat, Lake DeGray (Mn)

Feb. 25, Small Sunday School Leadership Updates, Desha First Church, Clinton Friendship Church, Mt. Ida Lake Ouachita Church, Pine Bluff Claud Road Church, Conway Cadron Ridge Church (SS)

Feb. 26-27, State Single Adult Conference (CT)

Feb. 26-27, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Workshop, Camp Paron (M)

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- Couples desiring to serve 2 or 3 years as a mission project will be considered
- **Current needs:** ☆ a middle-aged lady to work with teenage girls
 - ☆ a couple for grade school and junior high boys and girls
 - ☆ a couple to work with junior high girls

Porter Routh Dies

NASHVILLE (BP)—Longtime Southern Baptist Convention executive Porter W. Routh died Nov. 7 in Nashville following a brief illness. He was 76.

Routh was executive secretary (now president) and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee from 1951 until his retirement in August of 1979. During that span he also was treasurer of the convention.

Routh was the son of the late E.C. and Mary Wroe Routh. His father was editor of two Baptist state newspapers: *Texas Baptist Standard* and *Oklahoma's Baptist Messenger*. He followed directly in his father's footsteps in 1942, when he took the helm of the *Messenger* for three years.

Following his retirement, he was an adjunct professor at Southern, Southeastern and Midwestern Baptist theological seminaries. He also was interim executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in 1980.

He was an honors graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University. He received honorary doctorates from his alma mater, as well as from Wake Forest University and Georgetown College. He did graduate study at the University of Missouri, George Peabody College (now a part of Vanderbilt University) and Southern Seminary.

He wrote five books and contributed to numerous Southern Baptist periodicals. He traveled extensively, visiting about 60 countries and numerous Southern Baptist mission fields.

He is succeeded by his wife of 51 years, the former Ruth Elizabeth Purtle; five children: Charles Routh, Betsy Green, Dorothy Leppert, Susan Routh and Lelia Cothen; and three sisters: Lucille Burnett, Elizabeth Pool and Lelia Arnette; and seven grandchildren.

The family requests that memorials be made to the American Bible Society.

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Georgia 'Moderates'

by Jim Newton
Baptist Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP)—Georgia Baptists defeated attempts to investigate charges against Mercer University, denied a customary second term to incumbent President Clark Hutchinson and asked *Christian Index* Editor Jack Harwell to reconsider plans to retire early at age 55.

"Moderates" controlled almost every major vote in the Georgia Baptist Convention's annual meeting, which attracted a record 4,863 messengers to Savannah.

Messengers approved a motion expressing their "profound gratitude and appreciation" for Harwell's 21 years as editor of the *Christian Index*, the convention's weekly newspaper, and "respectfully requested" that he reconsider plans to retire early.

The motion, made by T.L. McSwain of Augusta, also asked a review board appointed by the *Christian Index* committee in August of 1986 be "dismissed to preserve editorial freedom and integrity."

Harwell had announced plans in October to retire after the review board threatened to fire him if he wrote one more editorial it considered unacceptable. In Savannah, he told a cheering, standing crowd that in the light of the affirmation he had received, he would accept the invitation to reconsider his retirement, subject to negotiations with the Index board of directors and the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee.

Messengers often clapped, shouted and boomed in expressing their opinions throughout the meeting.

Hutchinson, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, narrowly lost a bid for re-election. It was the first time, convention officials said, that a convention presi-

dent eligible for a traditional second term was not re-elected.

By a margin of only 51 votes, Jim Pitts, pastor of First Baptist Church in Valdosta, was elected president of the 1.2 million-member convention. Pitts received 2,109 votes to Hutchinson's 2,058.

"Moderates" also controlled election of three of the four vice presidents. They are J. Truett Gannon, first vice president; Charles Bugg, second vice president; Edna Branch, third vice president; and Bill Harrell, fourth vice president.

Earlier, a motion asking for appointment of a special nine-member committee to study "matters of concern" at Mercer was voted out of order by the convention.

Ben Hatfield, retired pastor of First Church of Alpharetta, Ga., had moved that the convention's budgeted funding to Mercer be continued on the condition that Mercer cooperate with the proposed study committee. That committee would have studied matters of concern and reported back to next year's convention.

Tom Conley, pastor of Northside Drive Church in Atlanta, argued the motion was "out of order" since the convention had two hours earlier adopted the \$29.1 million budget that allocates about \$2 million to Mercer. Conley said the motion addressed "funding that has already been decided by this convention."

Hutchinson, turning to professional Parliamentarian Barry McCarty of Elizabeth City, N.C., ruled Conley's point of order was "not well taken."

When Conley asked messengers to vote on sustaining the president's ruling, Hutchinson's ruling was overturned, thus making Hatfield's motion out of order.

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Convention Uniform

True Prosperity

by Vester Wolber, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Genesis 41:38-44,46-52

Focal passage: Genesis 41:46-54

Central truth: There is a positive relationship between a combination of native ability, adequate training, sensible planning, and diligent work on the one hand, and success on the other. A similar relationship exists in the moral order.

(1) The concept of a guaranteed harvest in this life was worn thin in the last half-century. It all began with the publication of "How to Win Friends and Influence People," which should have borne the subtitle "How to Manipulate People and Benefit Yourself," spilled over into the "Positive Thinking" cult of Christian circles with its "Be Happy Attitude" and "Expect A Miracle Today" trash, and finally came to its ridiculous climax with the huckster evangelists spreading their prosperity gospel.

Sensible Christians experience a mixture of sadness and pleasure in the public exposure of the televangelism scandals—sad that such goings-on are promoted and practiced in the name of Christ, and pleased that some of the cancers are being exposed and removed. Thousands of gullible Christians have been led to believe that if they keep sending their money to support the hucksters, God will make them healthy, wealthy, and successful.

(2) Other factors enter into the equation, and it cannot be said that the diligent use of intelligence and skill will guarantee success. Very intelligent, highly skilled, and industrious persons sometimes reap scanty harvests of material values, and in some cases people who are morally and spiritually upright reap harvests of heartbreak and disaster in this life.

Most of us prefer the teachings and exemplary lifestyle of the Apostle Paul over that of these sex-driven, drug-ridden perverters of the gospel of Christ; and Paul's only claim to prosperity was that a short while before his head was cut off he could write that he had fought a good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith; and that a reward was waiting for him in the next life.

There are many things terribly wrong in the world and in America, but the earth is still a pretty good place to live, and grow, and do some good.

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Life and Work

A Fellowship That Cares

by Curtis L. Mathis, First Church, Harrison

Basic passage: Philippians 1:3-9; 4:14-18

Focal passage: Philippians 1:3-8

Central truth: Sharing and caring are characteristics of a loving fellowship.

Christ is the believer's source for triumphant living (1 Co. 2:14), and Paul illustrates how we can do so joyfully in his epistle to the Philippians. Joy is the key word, and along with its synonym, rejoicing, it is used in every chapter, totaling 17 times. The key text is Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." Paul shares with us that the believer can experience this God-given joy regardless of the circumstances.

Does happiness depend on what happens to you? An unbeliever will be happy when he finds a \$100 bill, but a believer can experience the joy of the Lord regardless of what happens, because his resources are from above.

Paul's first mention of joy comes from his prayer for the Philippians (Ph. 1:4). Because of their faithfulness in ministering to Paul in all things, his prayers were full of continual thanksgiving.

Paul's joy for these Philippians was well founded. Because of their fellowship of love, they cared enough to give constant support to his ministry from the very first (Ph. 1:5).

Paul realized that God was the true source of his confidence in the Philippians (Ph. 1:6). God's presence and power would enable the Philippians to be and to do all that God had purposed for them.

"Salvation belongeth unto the Lord" (Ps. 3:8), and we might add "from start to finish!" Our faithful God who began it will complete it. Whether we are rebellious, indifferent, or difficult, we can still be confident that he never leaves anything half done. In the economy of God, there are no unfinished business.

Paul calls upon God to witness his deep love for the Philippians (Ph. 1:8). Paul was justified in doing this because he had seen God at work in all of their lives. They revealed "a caring fellowship" in how they ministered to Paul whether he was in prison or sharing the gospel (Ph. 1:7). All believers become laborers together with Christ (1 Co. 3:9) when there is a loving and caring spirit of fellowship.

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Bible Book

God's Promise Affirmed

by Don Miller, First Church, Trumann

Basic passage: Genesis 15-17

Focal passage: Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-3,15; 17:10,18-20

Central truth: God uses flawed vessels to fulfill his plans.

When one mentions Abram (Abraham), one envisions a man of strong faith and confidence in God. Yet this lesson shows us that Abram too had his times of doubt and questioning.

Ten to 15 years had passed since God had promised to make Abram a mighty nation. During these years, Abram increased in might and influence. Yet he still owned no land and, even more important, remained childless. He saw little evidence that God would fulfill his promise. Chapter 15 opens with God pronouncing a blessing upon a rather despondent Abram. If Abram had lived today, his response might well have been, "Big deal," or "So what?"

Notice that God does not sharply rebuke Abram. Why did God select this particular time to pronounce this blessing and affirm his promise to Abram? Could it be because of the fact that Abram was at a very low point in his attitude and spiritual condition and was needing that word of encouragement? Often God provides those times of renewed hope "just in time." Here Abram's despair had him looking down. God lifted his eyes to the heavens and showed him the stars.

When God spoke, Abram believed and was brought into a right relationship with God. Real faith proceeds from God's self-revelation and results in a reckoning of righteousness.

But even those who trust God can get impatient. Sarai (Sarah) and Abram together came up with a plan to "assist" God. Yet even when one gets ahead of God, he still doesn't give up. God still chose Abram and initiated circumcision as an indication of the relationship between them. Abram's and Sarai's plan did not take the place of God's plan nor did it thwart God's plan.

God used Abram in spite of his doubting and presumptuous errors. God came to and encouraged Abram when he needed it the most. We can trust God to use us as well. It's true that we have flaws and stray from God's plans. But he can still make us a blessing as we abide in our relationship with him.

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WORLD

Missionaries Plan Future In Uganda

by Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries are planning for the future in Uganda, despite increasing lawlessness and an AIDS epidemic that appears worse every day.

The 24 missionaries assigned to the eastern African nation have committed themselves to two \$200,000-plus projects — one to supply Bibles for AIDS outreach seminars, the other to build housing units for mission personnel working in Kampala, the capital city. In addition, as every Baptist church reports growth, missionaries have begun a project to build a center for theological education in the city of Jinja.

At the same time, officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board are watching with concern as news periodicals filters out about tension between Kenya and Uganda. In the past, missionaries assigned to Uganda have needed to cross for a time into Kenya when fighting near their homes has become too close for comfort. Relations between the two countries must be favorable so the border will remain open.

Incidents of near anarchy and lawlessness have made it difficult to work inside Uganda. When missionaries travel, they meet roadblocks and security checks. One Southern Baptist missionary came home with his family on a leave of absence after he watched a local mob kill two people accused of robbery. Another family took an early furlough after their lives were threatened during a robbery.

In September, mission administrator John Faulkner, at the direction of Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, spent time with each of the missionaries in Uganda, stressing the board will support any decision they made about their future as it relates to Uganda.

"I went to tell them Southern Baptists supported them in their willingness to stay and witness and work in these conditions, but also to say we support them if they choose to leave," said Faulkner, who directs missionary work in Eastern and Southern Africa.

"We don't encourage them to leave," he added. Baptists in Uganda have thanked the missionaries for staying, knowing that some of their own people have left. Faulkner laments that some Southern Baptists urge missionaries not to go to such a country as Uganda.

"But if we had taken that approach we would have been out of Uganda many of the last eight or 10 years. People say to mis-

sionaries, 'You shouldn't be living there; that's too dangerous.' That's like when Peter told the Lord he shouldn't go to Jerusalem. But missionaries get their direction from the Lord, not from Southern Baptists or from the Foreign Mission Board. We just support them as they carry out their commitment to the call."

Malaysian Baptist Leaders Arrested

By Michael D. Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (BP)—Five Malaysian Baptist leaders were among 93 people arrested Oct. 29 in Kuala Lumpur as the government took drastic steps to defuse racial and religious tensions between ethnic Chinese and ethnic Malays.

Tensions have heightened in the nation of 16 million people in recent weeks as racial incidents apparently sparked demonstrations. Malays comprise about 55 percent of the population, Chinese claim 37 percent and Indians make up most of the rest.

There are approximately 7,000 Baptists in 67 churches in Malaysia. Nearly 95 percent of those are ethnic Chinese; the rest are Indians.

Three of the Baptists arrested are affiliated with the Malaysia Baptist Convention, which is associated with Southern Baptist missionaries. One of these was James Lai, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Petaling Jaya. Lai's church is one of the largest Baptist churches in Malaysia. He also is chairman of the Theological Education Commission for Malaysian Baptists.

A young woman, Tan Bee Hwa, also was arrested. Tan had been mentioned as a candidate for appointment as a home missionary but had not yet been appointed. She apparently was arrested for starting a new church group in her home. Jac Weller, chairman of Southern Baptist missionaries in Malaysia, did not know the name of the third convention-affiliated Baptist who was arrested.

These three are ethnic Chinese, according to Weller. They all were arrested at their homes in Kuala Lumpur.

The other two Baptists arrested were not affiliated with the convention. Weller said a Malaysian newspaper identified one as Pastor Poh, pastor of a Reform Baptist Church. The other apparently was a member of that church.

Besides the Baptists, others arrested in recent weeks included political opposition leaders, leaders of different racial groups, academics, environmentalists, consumer and social activists, and other Christian leaders.

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