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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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October 29, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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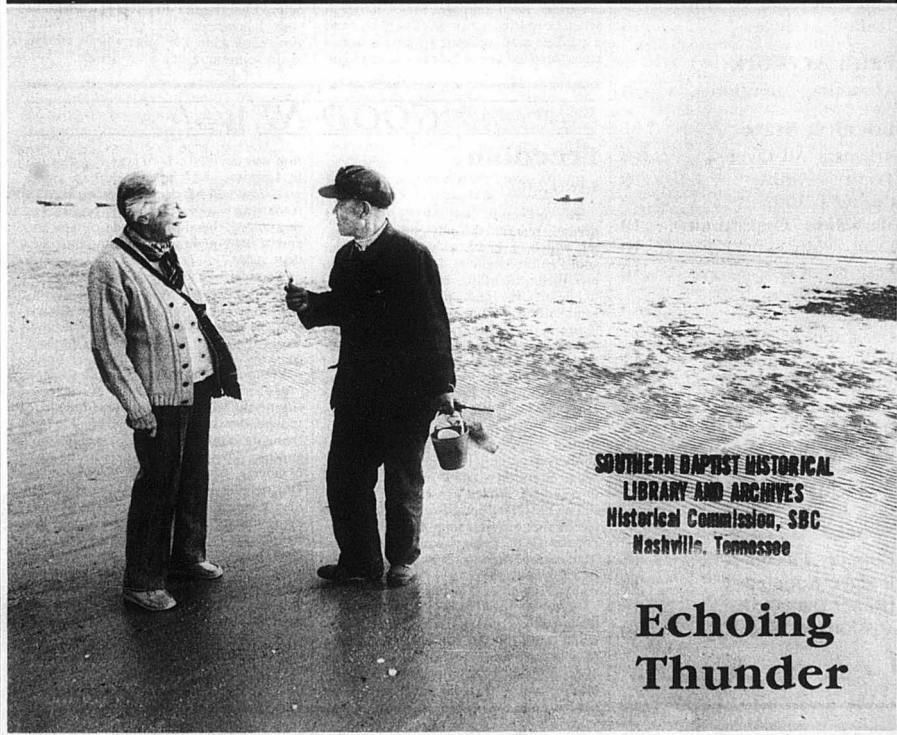


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Attracting Attention

Arkansas Baptist

October 29, 1987



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**Echoing
Thunder**

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(FMB) photo / Joanna Pinneo

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Seminary Student Saves Policeman

by Scott Collins
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Michael Connell got an unusual opportunity to put his theology into practice after leaving class at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Connell rescued a Fort Worth policeman who was struggling with an armed robber in an alley outside a liquor store.

A police spokesman said Connell may be recommended for a citation from the city. Connell was driving home to Streetman, Texas, from Southwestern when he noticed officer R.W. Reed's car parked behind the liquor store. Connell said he saw the door open and Reed on the ground struggling with a man.

Connell heard the officer yell for help and ran to his aid.

Officer Reed said the incident began when he spotted a man wearing gloves and a bandana mask walking toward the liquor store. Reed got out of his car, spotted a gun

in the man's back pocket and yelled for the man to stop. When the suspect ran away, Reed pursued him.

The officer finally caught the man and they began to fight.

During the struggle, Reed managed to take the suspect's gun and throw it under the police car. But as the two men wrestled on the ground, the would-be robber grabbed Reed's gun from the holster. When the suspect pointed the gun at Reed's face, the officer blocked the trigger with his finger.

That's when Connell ran to the aid of the policeman.

"I just ran in to help," Connell said. "I didn't think about it."

Connell held the man's legs while Reed handcuffed the suspect. According to Reed, the suspect was on drugs—"wiped out to the top"—which made him out of control.

Reed said none of the other 50 people watching the fight responded to his call for help. "That doesn't give you much faith in your fellowman," he said. "But when you've got a guy like Mike who is willing to do something, it's a lot better."

GOOD NEWS!

Freedom

1 Peter 2:16

The universal year for freedom is a divinely planted, innately imbedded longing which never ceases to pulsate in our souls. In the beginning God breathed into man the breath of life, and he became a living soul, free and unshackled by any semblance of bondage. Then came the tempter, the enslaver; and yielding, man was taken captive to his own sinful choices. He has ever after longed and languished to be free.

For thousands of years persons have cherished freedom and risked their lives to be free. Freedom has inspired songs, sermons, poems, and prayers. It has sent soldiers to battlefields and to death. It has set persons on strange new journeys in quest of this prized possession.

The universally implanted desire to be free is that out of which America emerged, and it is the point to which God speaks: "Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God" (1 P. 2:16, RSV).

"Live as free men."—This divinely declared expediency has been confirmed many times over by American statesmen. John Adams, writing to his wife on July 3, 1776, afforded profound insight concerning freedom: "Yesterday the greatest ques-

tion was decided which ever was debated in America; and a greater perhaps never was, now will be, decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states."

We must live as free men. "But live as servants of God."—In this strikingly contemporary text, there's another admonition. As servants of God, we are to use our liberties for development of skills, for the achievement of noble aspirations, and to the glory of our Creator.

Abraham Lincoln asked: What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling seacoast, our army, and our navy. Our reliance is in the love of liberty, which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands everywhere. Destroy this spirit, and we have planted the seeds of despotism at our own doors."

Here is a convincing, documented, broadly believed truth: Freedom, national and personal, has its roots in the individual's relationship with God.

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Stopping Abortions

J. EVERETT SNEED

The holocaust of abortion must be stopped. Christians have a responsibility to join hands in putting an end to the estimated 1.2 million abortions performed each year in the United States. In May of this year, the 70th Texas legislature passed a law restricting late term abortions performed in the state. The Texas law will cut off 20-25 percent of all abortions. It is our desire to see such legislation passed in Arkansas.

At this point, we have enlisted the assistance of Representative John Ward, who assures us that he will work with us to pass similar legislation in Arkansas. Ward is an attorney and a deacon at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. Ward, like many other committed Christians, abhors the waste of life that is taking place through abortions.

Some of the features of the Texas legislation include a ban on post viable abortions. Simply stated, this means that when the fetus can survive on its own, an abortion cannot take place.

Second, a doctor performing a late term abortion could have his license suspended or revoked by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Obviously, a physician would be very cautious about practicing abortion where he was jeopardizing his right to practice medicine.

One of the weaknesses of the Texas law is the fact that it requires no parental consent for a minor to receive an abortion. It is our intent that the proposal in Arkansas would require parental consent. It is a strange law indeed which would require parental consent for a minor to have an appendectomy and no parental consent for a minor to receive an abortion. We believe that requiring parental consent for a minor to receive an abortion would put an end to many more abortions.

While the Texas abortion law does not do all that we could wish, it certainly is a step in the right direction and will stop many abortions. We believe that, as Arkansas Baptists join hands, this legislation can and will be passed in Arkansas.

Until relatively recent years, all human life, born and unborn, was considered sacred and protected by the Judeo-Christian ethic. It was only in the heathen world that human life was taken lightly. Both the Old and the New Testament give us some insight into the thinking of the pagan world. The Egyptian pharaoh gave



command that all male Jewish children should be killed at birth (see Ex. 1:16ff). The purpose of these murders was to maintain the superiority of the Egyptian government, as the children of Israel were multiplying rapidly.

In the New Testament era, Herod the Great had all the children two years of age and under killed in a desperate attempt to protect his position as king of the region. Herod even had several of his 10 wives killed, and at least three of his sons. Obviously, Herod had no regard for human life or for the Judeo-Christian ethic. Later it was said by the emperor of Rome, "I'd rather be Herod's pig than his son."

During the inter-biblical period, it was common practice for Greeks to carry their newborn daughters away from the house and leave them to die. Again, this illustrates

that, apart from the Judeo-Christian ethic, human life has been of little value. It appears that many individuals in our own society have embraced the heathen ethic which places little or no value on human life.

It is absolutely essential that we support legislation which will assist in ending the tragedy that is currently taking place in our society. Legislation similar to that passed in Texas will successfully end a high percentage of the abortions that are taking place in our own state. The legislation has been researched, and it is certain that it is constitutional.

The question arises, "What can we do to stop abortions?" First, let's work to pass the kind of legislation that was passed in Texas. We believe the majority of our legislators will support this legislation but, to assure passage, we as Christians should let them know where we stand.

In addition to passing legislation which will stop many of the abortions, we need to develop crisis pregnancy centers and adoption programs. It also is imperative that the sacredness of human sexuality be taught to our young people. It is imperative that our young people be taught the importance of pre-marital chastity. With the worldly emphasis on sexual promiscuity, this will require an all-out effort by our churches.

It is only as we work together that we can stop the onslaught of abortions taking place in our country today. As we emphasize the sacredness of human sexuality and the horror of abortion, this insult against Christian ethics can be stopped. As we join our energies together, we can make a measurable impact in stopping this tragedy.

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SPEAK UP

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

How can I tell it all? There are so many good things taking place with our churches and ministries it is frustrating to not be able to share all of them with you. Praise the Lord with us over these few things I can mention.



(1) Our Sunday School leadership from over the state "blew the top off" with a historic record attendance at this year's convention of more than 1,700. Geyer Springs Church was a gracious host. Our state Sunday School leaders made good preparation. Best of all, you pastors, staff, and Sunday School leaders knew you would find help and so you came. God bless you and your efforts as you seek to reach more people and to do more with the ones you reach.

(2) Special projects churches are those

we try to help who may have not baptized anyone over the past year or two. Eight students from ASU, HSU, OBU, and SBC worked with some of these churches this summer and saw 35 people accept Christ as their Savior. Our BSU and Evangelism Departments worked together to bring these fine students together with associations and churches where they worked.

(3) The Steering Committee which will lead us in preparation for the 1989 Foreign Mission Board commissioning service had its first meeting recently. While it is 18 months away, we know that some of you plan your revivals two or three years ahead. Please, please, set aside the date of April 11, 1989, so you and your church can share in this historic event! Please schedule your spring revival around that day.

(4) After a dreadful report for August receipts toward the Cooperative Program, it is quite a relief to learn we have exceeded our budget for September. With our best efforts for the remainder of the year, we might be able to reach our budget.

(5) Pray mightily for the Manaus Crusade, Oct. 21-Nov. 1.

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

A SMILE OR TWO

A special delivery letter was first sent in the United States on Oct. 1, 1885. Based on my recent experience, that document should arrive by next week.

—Ed Scott

You know it's time to diet when you see that pot at the end of the rainbow and it's yours.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you have to catch up.

Senior Adults!



Don't Miss The

Senior Adult Rallies

Featuring

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First Church, Springdale
- Tuesday, Nov. 10
First Church, Mt. Home
- Wednesday, Nov. 11
First Church, Jonesboro
- Thursday, Nov. 12
Park Hill Church, North Little Rock
- Friday, Nov. 13
Second Church, Hot Springs

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

No Preregistration
No Registration Fee

Don't Miss It!

Sponsored by the
ABSC Church Training Department

Today's Issues

Pornography and Filthy Habits

BOB PARKER



The word "filthiness" found in the King James version of James 1:21A is translated "filthy habits" in the *Good News For Modern Man*. Involvement with pornography can easily lead to filthy habits. Such has absolutely no place in the life of a Christian. Instead, "...Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Ph. 4:8).

The human brain has been referred to as the world's finest computer. Anything, good or bad, programmed into it re-

mains. Years ago, during the days of fifth Sunday temperance lessons, Sunday School teachers warned: "Don't forget! Whatever goes into your mind becomes a part of you. Be careful what you see, read and hear!"

In our day, it's likely more people, young and old alike, are becoming addicted to pornography than to any other problem. As in chemical or drug addiction, tolerance is built up. The ultimate in pornography are such as

"snuff movies" which show the actual killing and mutilation of human beings, particularly women and children.

Approximately 25 percent of teen suicides are related to pornography. Many adult suicides are likewise related. This problem was addressed in the recent Attorney General's Report on pornography and in findings at the F.B.I. academy in Quantico, Va.

Opportunities to see, view or hear pornography must be avoided, however provided, in magazines, novels, movies, videos, or live "performances" These words from Paul's letter to the Philippians are also fitting: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Ph. 2:5).

Bob Parker is director of the Christian Life Council.

STEREOTYPES FADING

Attracting Attention

by Charles Willis
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—The stereotype of tracts as something to distribute on a street corner is fading as Southern Baptists and other Christians are thoughtfully and creatively providing brief Christian messages in unusual settings.

Bob Stout, for instance, set out to reach avid deer hunters with the gospel message last fall. As a Southern Baptist area missionary in Illinois, Stout took some 10,000 tracts to Golconda, Ill., for the annual deer hunting festival.

He arranged for a booth in the large tent set up for concerts, pageants and worship services. He displayed literature produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and offered tracts to people leaving the evening events.

Stout said he and volunteer workers purposely left tracts that had been dropped on the ground for a crew of prisoners to retrieve each morning. "We watched the prisoners picking up litter and saw some of them look at the tracts and quietly slip them into their pockets," he recalled.

In New Port Richey, Fla., Merl Faupel uses a tract titled "When We are Bereaved" as an insert in the memorials book he presents to families who patronize his funeral home. A member of First Baptist Church of New Port Richey, Faupel serves families who represent a variety of faiths, but said for five years he has shared a message of Christian hope when he feels the situation is appropriate.

Wilma Rankin, mission action director for the Galveston (Texas) Baptist Association coordinates a project that provides food to people seeking free medical treatment at John Sealy Hospital. People who visit the clinic dare not give up their places in line, she said, even for lunch. So churches in the association sign up to provide sack lunches on specified days.

Betty Summers, Woman's Missionary Union director at First Baptist Church of Texas City, said her church contributes at least 100 lunches once a month, enclosing the tract "I'd Like You to Meet My Friend."

Denton Bassett, a Southern Baptist chaplain with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said there is no way to know how many people find meaning in the caring message they find placed alongside a sandwich, but he insisted, "We have to believe they do."

In Crane, Mo., population 1,185, some 13,000 people crowd the town each year for the annual Broiler Festival, an event that goes back to a time when poultry was a big business there.

Frank Arnall, pastor of First Baptist Church, said having a rack of the full-color Choice Creations Tracts available at the church's booth caused some people to ask, "How much are those?" A look of surprise almost always is the response when church members say, "They're free for the taking," he reported.

Oral surgeon Bruce Robert Trefz of Gastonia, N.C., has been providing tracts to his patients for more than five years. A member of Gastonia's Parkwood Baptist Church, Trefz offers a ready testimony in person, but uses tracts "when they are particularly appropriate to initiate discussions to help meet needs."

Southern Baptist-produced tracts are being used by Christians of other denominations as well.

Chimer Durham, a Methodist, and his brother Bill, a Presbyterian, are the owners of Durham's Restaurant in Wytheville, Va. Both felt they should be "doing something as a witness," Chimer Durham said. After mentioning their interest to Wesley Huff, pastor of Wytheville Baptist Church, the

Durham brothers soon were introduced to the Sunday School Board's Choice Creations Tracts.

"People take the tracts by the handful," he added. "We want them to take whatever seems to suit their interest or concern."

Photographer Dave Bosse of Valdosta, Ga., began giving tracts to soon-to-be brides in 1981 because he "had done a number of weddings and, in some cases, a year later they had broken up." Bosse began including an appropriate tract along with wedding planning materials.

Last year, nearly 7 million tracts of more than 100 titles produced by the board's church media library department were shipped to individuals, churches and other groups. An additional eight titles produced by the board's church training department sold more than one-half million copies in 1985-86.

"Increasing numbers of persons are making inquiries about tracts in specific subject areas," said Mancil Ezell, director of the board's church media library department. "We are observing a definite trend toward giving tracts matched to individual circumstances, taking resources outside the walls of the church to meet needs where people work and live."

(BP) photo / Jim Veneman



Bob Stout (right) uses tracts to witness.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People



Thielen



Reynolds



Yelton

Martin Thielen will begin serving Nov. 1 as pastor of First Church, Fordyce, going there from West Helena Church. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. While attending OBU, he served on Arkansas church staffs in England and Sheridan. He has served as pastor of Wyandotte Church, Wyandotte, Ind., and Augusta First Church. Thielen is a member of Arkansas Baptist State Convention BSU Advisory Committee and has served on the ABCS resolutions committee. He and his wife, Paula, have two children, Jonathan and Laura.

Danny Reynolds has joined the staff of Calvary Church, West Memphis, as minister of music. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary. A native of Springfield, Mo., he has served churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Missouri. Reynolds is married to the former Kathleen Noble of Springfield. They have two children, Phillip and Renee.

Derrick Yelton has joined the staff of Calvary Church, West Memphis, as youth pastor. A native of West Columbia, S.C., he has served churches in South Carolina and Tennessee and has worked with the Home Mission Board in Minnesota. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary. He is married to the former Joy Price of Lexington, S.C.

Steven Davis of Smackover is one of 24 children whose drawings are reproduced on posters and literature for the Southern Baptist 1988 Home Mission Study for children in grades one through three. *Funny, It Doesn't Look Like a Church*. His drawing of a church is inscribed, "We didn't come to talk. We come to learn." He is a third grader in the Royal Ambassadors program at First Church, Smackover.

Keith Wesson is serving as pastor of Siloh Church at Hamburg. He and his wife, Phyllis, have two daughters.

Roy Cain is serving as interim pastor of Calvary Church, Huntsville.

Doyle and Marie Lumpkin of Little Rock left Sept. 24 for six months service as Mission Service Corps volunteers at Havasu City, Ariz. He will serve as interim pastor of Desert Hills Mission, and they will be responsible for services and religious activities at a park for campers.

John Whitaker of Vandervoort died Oct. 6 at his home. He had pastored for 49 years, serving churches in Oklahoma, California, and Arkansas, having served as pastor of the Vandervoort Church for three years. Survivors include his wife, Lorene Whitaker of Vandervoort; two sons, Donald Whitaker of Sacramento, Calif., and Jerry Whitaker of Hatfield; three daughters, Betty Gregory and Janell Martin, both of Sacramento, Calif., and Lois Human of Monterey, Calif.; two brothers; six sisters; 17 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Billy Wiggins has resigned as pastor of Success Church to serve as pastor of Iona Church near Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Harvey Webb has resigned as pastor of Jacksonville First Church, effective Oct. 26 to serve as pastor of First Church, Canton, Miss.

Mark Williams was honored Oct. 18 by Claud Road Church in Pine Bluff with an appreciation day, recognizing his service as youth director. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

William Gullick began serving Oct. 18 as pastor of First Church, Corning, coming there from Rossville, Tenn. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Mid-America Seminary. Gullick has pastored churches in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee. His wife, Diane, is a registered nurse.

Ruth Fulbright was recently honored by First Church, Batesville, for her 13 years of service as librarian. She has resigned as librarian to move to Plano, Texas, where her daughter lives.

Jo Anna Cox of North Little Rock has been named the recipient of the 1987 T.L. Holcomb Scholarship by Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, where she served

this summer as a first-year staffer in the first-aid station and helped to coordinate the conference center Red Cross blood drive. Cox is a senior majoring in sociology at Henderson State University.

Jim Agee has joined the staff of Life Line Church in Little Rock as minister of education and minister to youth and children.

James Sanders is serving as pastor of Pine Grove Church at Sweet Home.

Cecil Webb is serving as pastor of Plainview Church in Little Rock, where he has been serving as interim pastor.

R.C. Otey Sr. of North Little Rock died Oct. 12 at age 101. He was a retired cabinet-maker and Southern Baptist minister, having pastored churches at North Little Rock, Little Rock, and Atkins. Survivors are a son and daughter, R.C. Otey Jr. and Frances Sharp, both of Little Rock; a sister; a grandchild; and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Getsemane Church, North Little Rock, where he was a member.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Don Gephardt (above left), a layman from North Little Rock Park Hill Church, took 35 English-language New Testaments donated by the ABCS Missions Department when he traveled to Brazil to participate in the *Manus Crusade* Oct. 21-Nov. 1. **Floyd Tidsworth Jr.**, ABCS church extension director, presented the *New Testaments*.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Weldon of Osceola were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 5 with a reception at East Side Church, Osceola, where she is a charter member and serves as church reporter. Hosting the event were their three daughters, Mrs. Lyman Shoemaker of Springdale, Mrs. Cletus Tacker Jr. of Lepanto, and Mrs. Mike Wilson of Osceola.

Bob Hall has joined the staff of Crystal Valley Church in North Little Rock as minister of music. He has served in both Pulaski County and North Pulaski Associations, including Levy, Amboy, and First Churches in North Little Rock, and South Highland in Little Rock.

Stewart Bedillion of Sand Springs, Okla., has been called to serve as pastor of Concord Church in Little Red River Association.

Ron Bradley is serving as pastor of Pines Church at Pearson.

Ernest Ashcraft began serving Sept. 27 as pastor of Belleville Church.

Ken Bunch began serving Oct. 4 as pastor of First Church, Greenbrier. A native of North Little Rock, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former

Susan Beshares, also a graduate of those institutions. They have one child, Rachel Elisabeth, one.

Rick Seaton is serving as pastor of Elmira Church in Lawson, Mo. He has served on the staff of Sang Avenue Church in Fayetteville and as interim pastor of Brush Creek Church, Springdale.

Danny Joe Burroughs has joined the staff of England First Church as youth director. A native of Biscoe, he is a graduate of Southern Baptist College.

David Manner has resigned as minister of music and youth at First Church, Berryville, to join the staff of Pleasantview Church in Derby, Kan., effective Nov. 8.

Briefly

Cabot First Church recently had a 14-member mission team return from Manaus, Brazil, where they were involved in assisting the Union Church with a construction project, Vacation Bible School, visitation, Sunday School classes, worship services, and a revival. Their work resulted in 40 professions of faith. Team members were Pastor Del Medlin, Steve Dewbre,

Mike Ballard, Calvin Euler, James Lon Spence, Maycel Zaner, Russell and Ada Murdoch, Tom and Delaine Kelsey, Doyné and Betty Plummer, and Paul and Oleta Kinder.

Des Arc First Church commissioned Herndon Barnes for work in Brazil Oct. 21-Nov. 1.

Rocky Bayou Association recently had a mission team return from a 10-day trip to Itaituba, Brazil, where they were involved in preaching, door-to-door witnessing, and dental work. Team members were Alan Winberry, Russell Perkins, John Brink, Gary Barker, Jesse Taylor, and Mark Weaver. Taylor is director of missions and other team members were from Immanuel Church, Salem.

Nettleton Church at Jonesboro began having two morning worship services Oct. 4. The church recently closed a revival that resulted in 11 baptisms, two additions by statement, one by letter, and 30 rededications. Johnny Green was evangelist, and Charlie Winters directed music.

East Side Church in Fort Smith closed its 1986-1987 church year with a 53 percent increase in enrollment, a 63 percent increase in Sunday School attendance, a 39 percent increase in worship attendance, and 52 additions. The church recently had 30 youth and seven adults involved in mission work in Corpus Christi, Texas, that resulted in 35 professions of faith.

Shepherd Hill Church in Pine Bluff has experienced growth in Sunday School and Church Training as a result of a concentrated outreach effort. The church added 12 new classes to begin the new church year. A Church Training worship was held Sept. 28 as a preparation effort with Bob Holley, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Training director, serving as workshop leader.

Kensett First Church has launched a new bus ministry.



ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

Charles Christie, pastor of Pangburn First Church, presented former Pangburn pastor Amos Greer and his wife a church history and commemorative cup during 75th anniversary activities at Pangburn Oct. 11. The "Diamond Jubilee" celebration, which ran during the entire month of October, climaxed with an Oct. 25-30 revival led by J. Harold Smith.

Springdale First Church conducted a one-day revival Oct. 4 that resulted in 101 professions of faith and a total of 227 decisions, according to Pastor Ronnie Floyd. Freddie Gage was evangelist.

Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith conducted a one-day revival Sept. 27 with Freddie Gage as evangelist. Pastor James Bryant reported the revival, in an eight-day period, resulted in 55 professions of faith, 13 baptisms, 37 additions by letter, and 52 re-commitments. In addition, he reported the revival led to a renewal among members for soul winning with 100 involved in visitation the following week.

LOCAL & STATE

Fordyce First Church recognized Carrie Hodges Oct. 4 for 70 years of service, most of which have been spent teaching the TEL Sunday School class.

Bentonville First Church ordained Ed Knox, Hugh McMillan, Morris Millan, Bill Rudkin to the deacon ministry Oct. 18. O.J. Pierson was ordained to the ministry to serve the church as minister of music and minister to senior adults.

Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village ordained Frank McElfresh and Maynard Smith to the deacon ministry Sept. 27.

Calvary Church at Ward will celebrate 10 years of service Nov. 22 when all former members, present members, and friends will be special guests. Activities, to begin at 9:45 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m., will include preaching, singing, testimonies, and a potluck luncheon.

North Crossett First Church observed homecoming Oct. 25 when Eugene Howie, pastor of Hermitage First Church, was guest speaker.

Union Avenue Church at Wynne recently recognized Lillian Foster, a charter member, for 30 years of service as a Sunday School teacher.

Claud Road Church at White Hall held a fall festival Oct. 24. Activities included hobby booths, games, live entertainment, and a chili supper.

Siloam Springs First Church observed Rosemary Steele Appreciation Day Oct. 11, recognizing her service as church secretary.

Fort Smith First Church's educational and office addition recently was recognized by the Sunday School Board's church architecture department at a national workshop for architects.

Texarkana Trinity Church will observe its 50th anniversary Nov. 18-22 with a Wednesday evening praise service, a volleyball tournament, and an all-day program Sunday that will include a morning program featuring former staff members and musical artists, a noon luncheon, and an evening service at which Pastor Wallace Edgar will be speaker.

Pleasant Valley Church at Heber Springs has started a new Sunday School class for young adults.

Fair Park Church at Russellville ordained its pastor, Rick Balentine, to the preaching ministry Oct. 4.

Hot Springs First Church has voted to establish the John and Jewel Abernathy Mission Service Awards and the William L. and Gertrude Hall Missions Scholarship. The mission service awards program honors the Abernathy's, church members, who served for 43 years as foreign missionaries. It will consist of an annual November missions weekend; honoring a foreign, home, and volunteer missionary annually; and having these honorees present for the missions weekend. The scholarship honors the Hall's who were longtime members and bequeathed to the church 440 acres of

timberland which provides the church with an annual income. The church has set aside \$15,000 from these funds as a permanent trust to endow at least a \$1,000 scholarship annually for a student committed to mission service.

Oak Grove Church at Van Buren observed "Pastor and Family Appreciation Day" Oct. 25, honoring Carrel Norman, who will observe his second anniversary as pastor Nov. 3.

Indianhead Lake Church in Sherwood was in revival Oct. 4-7. Howard B. Bickers Jr., a professor and vice-president of academic affairs at Mid-America Seminary, was evangelist. Pastor Jack Kwok directed music.

Runyan First Church in North Little Rock dedicated a family life center Oct. 25 during the morning worship hour. A noon luncheon and afternoon open house followed.

Combs Church celebrated payment of its indebtedness with a recent noteburning service led by Pastor Walter Jesser. Others participating were Ray Donahou, Leota Keck, Sam Lackey, Janice Totty, and Ray Tripp. A church fellowship honoring Jesser followed.

Pulaski Association in its 72nd annual session adopted a record \$202,000 1988 budget; received a new black congregation, Greater Grace Church; re-elected Billy White, moderator, Bradley Rogge, vice-moderator, David Masterton, clerk, and Dale Ward, treasurer; and honored Antonia Tribble, outgoing WMU director, for six years of service.

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Trinity Association Celebrates 50 years

by Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Trinity Association in Blytheville celebrated 50 years of service in its 1987 annual sessions held Oct. 12 at First Church, Marked Tree, and Oct. 13 at First Church, Tyronza.

The association was organized as the result of Harrisburg, Tyronza, Lepanto, Marked Tree, Lebanon, Weiner, and Fisher Churches requesting letters of dismissal from Mount Zion Association in 1937. A called meeting of messengers from these

churches for the purpose of organizing the new association was held on Nov. 2, 1937, at First Church, Marked Tree. W.E. Woodson was called as the association's first missionary in February 1938. Since that time, 10 other missionaries have served the association, including Jimmie Garner, who received special recognition at the 1987 sessions for completion of 20 years of service.

Fifty-two men have been licensed and 32 ordained to the preaching ministry since the association's organization.

ABN photos / Millie Gill

Garner Observes 20th Anniversary

While Trinity Association celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 17-18, Director of Missions Jimmie Garner was marking his own milestone: 20 years of service.

Garner, a graduate of Southern Baptist College and Arkansas State University, pastored Valley View Church, Harrisburg, First Church, Fisher, and Calvary Church, Paragould, prior to coming to Trinity Association in 1967.



Garner

Under his leadership, the association has increased mission expenditures from \$42,127 to \$193,806 and purchased a new missionary's home. Four churches have been organized, and two reorganized. Total church receipts have increased from \$292,074 to \$1,333,160. In addition, every congregation is now giving to associational missions, and Trinity Association has led the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in record "M" Night attendances for 18 of 20 years. Three churches in Trinity Association support mission work in Indiana and Idaho.

Garner was selected by Ouachita Baptist University as 1979 Missionary of the Year. He has served three terms on the ABSC Executive Board.

In addition, he has served twice as president of the advisory board of George W. Jackson Mental Health Center in Jonesboro and was co-chairman for the Ouachita-Southern Campaign. Garner has twice been president of the Southern Baptist College Alumni Association.

Garner and his wife, Evelyn, are the parents of two children, Rebekah Lee Self of Austin, Texas, and James Matthew Garner of Fort Smith.



(Above) Jerry Miller, outgoing moderator and pastor of East Side Church, Trumann, preached Tuesday afternoon during Trinity Association's 50th anniversary meeting.

(Left) Mrs. Curry Coker, a member of Pleasant Grove Church, recalled for messengers the 1937 annual meeting of Mt. Zion Association, in which seven churches requested letters of dismissal to form a new association, a meeting she attended.

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Shocking World Fact

Afghanistan, called the "Crossroads of Central Asia" is virtually unevangelized. There are several unreachd peoples: 5.5 million Pushtuns; 2.7 million Tajiks; 530,000 Uzbeks; and 270,000 Hazaras.

Marvelous Opportunity

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Pray long and hard before you turn down an opportunity to travel overseas and share your witness.

That's the advice Tom and Marie Turner give after spending 10 months in the People's Republic of China.

Turner, academic vice-president at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, taught physics and helped launch a research program in solid state physics at Zhengzhou University in Henan Province, China. His wife, Marie, taught seven classes in conversational English.

During their stay, they had ample opportunities to respond to questions posed by inquisitive students about their faith in Jesus Christ.

"The students were full of questions," recalls Turner, who is in his sixth year of service at OBU. "They kept asking, 'Do you go to church?', 'Do you read the Bible?' They found it hard to accept when we told them what a difference it makes in our lives."

The Turners took advantage of the Chinese govern-

ment's new interest in modernization which has opened doors for U.S. citizens to share their professional expertise with their counterparts in China. During their leave of absence from Ouachita, their salaries were paid by their Chinese hosts.

Although the People's Republic has proclaimed "freedom of religion" for its people, the Chinese are very sensitive about "outside interference," Turner explains. Consequently, they were careful to ensure that any Christian witness they offered was in direct response to a question from one of their students or colleagues.

All the same, they found the experience changed their outlook on the world and deepened their commitment to the Lord.

The Chinese congregation with which the Turners worshipped during their stay impressed them, Turner recalls. The building was always jammed with people, many of whom brought their own stools and sat in the aisles, while others hung in

at the windows and stood in the courtyard. Even after worship services lasting two and a half hours, the congregation still would be reluctant to leave.

In general, the Turners found the Chinese in fact to be very open and gracious toward them. When their hosts discovered the Turners planned to ride bicycles for transportation—joining the vast throngs of two-wheeled traffic which clog the streets—they were alarmed and tried to talk them out of it. And when the time came for the Turners to leave for home, their new

friends "just kept bringing gifts."

Living in the more austere conditions of China, the Turners realized how much material wealth people have in the U.S. and how much they worry about those material possessions. Waiting for a larger apartment to open up, the Turners lived for almost three months in a one-room dwelling. "We got along fine," Turner said. "We realized there's more to life than that."

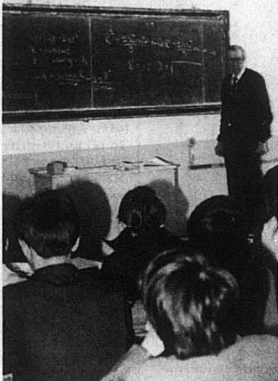
"Although we had lived abroad, this time it was drastically different," Turner continued. "Our lives are not the same, having seen the

world that is out there. We learned something about giving ourselves away, about being prayed for and protected."

Turner recalls a quote he once saw in Barclay's comments on Timothy: "Life will never be dull again, once you have thrown the windows open wide and seen the mighty world outside and whispered to yourself this wondrous thing, 'I'm wanted for the business of the King.'"

As a result of the Turners' visit, another OBU faculty member, Humanities Program Director Tom Greer and his wife, Angie, are now teaching at Zhengzhou University, and their son, Kent, is studying there. Turner also has announced a summer study program for OBU students at Zhengzhou.

"Although we had some difficult times, our overall experience was very good," Turner said. "Anyone who has an opportunity to go overseas and share with others should do a lot of praying before turning it down. It's a marvelous opportunity!"



Tom Turner in Zhengzhou physics class.

Piano Rally

ARKADELPHIA—The Arkansas State Music Teachers' Association is sponsoring a piano rally Saturday, Nov. 7, on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. The rally will begin at 9 a.m. in the Mabee Fine Arts Center.

Students involved in this year's rally will have the opportunity to view a handbell demonstration by Mrs. Carole Ann Cook and a video on the art of the pianist as performer and accompanist. They will also be able to participate in theory games of varying difficulty.

In addition, students will be critiqued by a panel of judges from OBU. There are three levels for students to perform in: beginning, intermediate, and advanced.

For more information, please contact the School of Music, at 246-4531, ext. 129.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care and counseling skills will be the focus of a Nov. 19-21 workshop sponsored by University Hospital and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

The Pastoral Care Institute will feature William Oglesby Jr., author and lecturer. Oglesby, an Arkansas native, is professor emeritus of pastoral counseling at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

For registration information, contact Chaplain Bill Carr, Department of Pastoral Care, University Hospital, 4301 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205; telephone 661-5410.

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Crowders Plan Appeal

ATLANTA (BP)—A federal lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the plaintiffs say.

The suit was filed Dec. 5, 1985, by four messengers to the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, who maintained their rights had been violated by parliamentary procedures concerning the election of the SBC's 1986 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, which names trustees to all of the national agencies of the convention.

On May 5, 1986, Judge Robert Hall of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia ruled against Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, of Birmingham, Ala., H.

Allen McCartney of Vero Beach, Fla., and Henry Cooper of Windsor, Mo., saying the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prevents the intrusion of secular courts into internal church matters.

The Crowders, McCartney and Cooper appealed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. The three-judge panel handed down a ruling Sept. 28, saying the "First Amendment bars civil court resolution of this controversy."

Crowder told Baptist Press:

"We are extremely disappointed in the decision. We have considered our options and we feel like for the good of the convention and the integrity of its bylaws it must be appealed to the Supreme Court.

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<i>James and Linda Rice</i>	Kampala, Uganda

If you think of questions pertaining to foreign missions while watching the teleconference, be sure to phone them in.

Pray . . .



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Saturday, Nov. 21, 1987
Noon-1:30 p.m. (CST)
ACTS or BTN Networks

For more information, write to: WMU, SBC, Communications Group, P.O. Box C-10, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

We have instructed our attorneys to proceed forthwith."

Jane Vehko, an associate with the Atlanta law firm of Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore, said the plaintiffs have an option to file an appeal with the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, but "that is not the one we intend to pursue."

James P. Guenther, who has represented the SBC, said: "Both the district court and the court of appeals have affirmed us in our belief that the courts have no jurisdiction over this dispute. It is disappointing to hear that the plaintiffs will persist even further."

Reynolds Resigns Indiana Post

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Following 20 years of service with the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, Lew Reynolds, director of church growth and ministries division and co-advisor in the absence of an executive director, has resigned.

Reynolds resigned immediately as co-advisor, effective on the date of his letter of resignation, Sept. 11, and from other responsibilities at the end of the year.

This was the third resignation by a key state staff employee this year. Executive Director-Treasurer R.V. Haygood and Missions Director Glenn Ray resigned in March.

James Abernathy, director of evangelism and stewardship, was named by the SCBI executive committee to replace Reynolds as co-advisor. David Simpson, director of communications division, has been co-advisor since March 20 and administrative assistant B.J. Watts is interim treasurer.

Some progress has been made to replace the three men, but the positions remain unfilled, according to Abernathy and Simpson.

Classifieds

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11-5

For Sale—1962 GMC 318 Detroit Diesel 40-passenger bus, rest room, rebuilt motor, new clutch, new seat covers and cushions. Runs good. Price is negotiable. Grand Avenue Baptist Church. 501-783-5161. 11/12

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

Virginia Board Backs BJC

by Robert Dillard

The (Virginia) Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Virginia Baptist General Board dealt with two matters concerning the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee during its pre-convention meeting in early October.

The 68-member board unanimously approved a motion opposing the "recent action of the Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee in its public endorsement of a nominee to the Supreme Court."

The board also "received a information" a report from the Baptist General Association of Virginia budget committee which includes a line item in the proposed 1988 budget appropriating \$3,000 for the BJCPA.

The motion regarding the action of the SBC-PAC says: "Our Baptist heritage is to avoid official support of a political candidate or nominee to the judiciary and we affirm that heritage. We further note that no committee can speak for all Baptists because of our belief in the priesthood of the believer and freedom of conscience."

The SBC Public Affairs Committee urged the confirmation of Robert H. Bork as a U.S. Supreme Court justice during its meeting Aug. 20-21 in Nashville.

When Anne P. Rosser, associate pastor of Hampton Baptist Church in Hampton, made the original motion to the general board, some members expressed concerns over the motion's specific mention of Bork's name. Others wondered if Bork were in fact a "candidate for political office" or if the PAC action were a "violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state," as her motion stated.

Amendments to delete Bork's name and to change "candidate" to "nominee" passed easily but members soundly defeated an

effort to refer the motion to the resolutions committee of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, parent body of the general board.

Ted W. Fuson, pastor of Lake Ridge Baptist Church in Woodbridge, then made a substitute motion, which incorporated the earlier amendments and which passed on a voice vote with no opposition.

The PAC's endorsement of President Reagan's nominee to fill a vacancy on the nation's highest court has heightened controversy surrounding the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a coalition of nine Baptist bodies in the U.S. and Canada.

The Southern Baptist Convention participates in the Washington-based BJCPA through its Public Affairs Committee, whose members serve as the Southern Baptist representatives on the BJCPA's board. Traditionally, the PAC has met only in conjunction with the BJCPA and only in recent years has it met separately.

During the PAC's October 6 meeting in Washington, the committee voted 8-4 to suggest the SBC sever ties between the BJCPA and the SBC after a meeting in which the full BJCPA board repeatedly overturned SBC-PAC supported initiatives.

The BJCPA has been under fire from some Southern Baptists during the past few years and has survived at least one effort at the annual meeting to withdraw funding. Many of the critics have charged that some positions taken by the BJCPA are unrepresentative of the denomination.

Called Meeting Set For SSB Trustees

NASHVILLE (BP)—A special meeting of the trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has been called for Thursday, Oct. 22, for the single purpose of approving five consulting editors for a new conservative, multi-volume commentary to be written by inerrantists.

At their August 1987 meeting, trustees reserved the right to approve consulting editors for the project and named Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, as the first of six.

Trustees adopted an amendment from the floor calling for the remainder of the proposed slate of consulting editors to be presented for consideration at their next full board meeting in February 1988 or, if the administration needed to move faster, to call a special session of the full board.

The meeting of the 85-member board will begin with lunch and continue into the afternoon as long as needed to receive and act on recommendations from the administration, according to Lloyd Batson, chairman of the trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church, Pickens, S.C.

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Former Exec Dies

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)—R.Y. Bradford, 80, former Baptist Convention of New Mexico executive director died Oct. 9 in Albuquerque.

Bradford was executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico from October 1967 to December 1974. During his tenure, the title was changed to executive director.

Survivors include his wife, Ila A. Bradford, Albuquerque; two daughters, Willa McCurdy of Albuquerque and Eulyne Fulton of California; one son, John, also of California; two brothers and 11 grandchildren.

Resignation Announced

Southeastern's Lolley Stuns Seminary Community

by Larry E. High and R.G. Puckett
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—In a surprise announcement which stunned the faculty, student body and the community, W. Randall Lolley announced his plans to terminate his presidency at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a post he has held for 13 years.

The 56-year-old native of Alabama told a tearful and stunned student body Oct. 22

that action taken by seminary trustees the preceding week left him no alternative. Trustees removed all power for selecting new faculty members from the faculty and gave it completely to Lolley and trustees.

"I cannot fan into flame a vision which I believe to be contradictory to the dream which formed Southeastern in 1951 and has nourished me as a student and alumnus of the school," Lolley said at the conclusion of his chapel sermon. "I have reached some conclusions that make it necessary to begin discussing with the appropriate persons the termination of my presidency."

He gave no date when the resignation would be effective.

Lolley also revealed he had received a letter from Morris Ashcraft requesting that he be relieved of the role of dean but be permitted to continue on the faculty as professor of theology.

"Lolley has no faculty status nor tenure, but Ashcraft has both. In his letter to Lolley, Ashcraft wrote: 'The recent actions and stated intentions of the majority of our board of trustees indicate to me that I will not be able to implement their guidelines for the instruction unit of the seminary.

Therefore, I hereby request that you plan for me to relinquish my position as dean of the faculty.'

"In these resignations (Lolley and Ashcraft), we suffer two grievous losses," Professor Richard Hester told a crowd of students and friends at a press conference. Hester is president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

"We are deeply saddened but not terribly surprised," Hester read from a prepared statement. "President Lolley and Dean Ashcraft have both made it abundantly clear that they will not implement the policies of political fundamentalism now being enacted by a narrow majority of our board of trustees."

Robert D. Crowley, newly-elected chairman of Southeastern's board of trustees, repeatedly has said trustees have no plans to fire any existing faculty members. However, he did indicate all new faculty members will be inerrantists.

Crowley said he was shocked that the president's resignation was "announced so emphatically to the student body."

"The message that sends is that the decision is non-negotiable," Crowley said in a telephone interview with Todd Ackerman of the *Raleigh News and Observer*. "Our major task now will be to find someone who will be able to assume the leadership Dr. Lolley so effectively provided."

About the search for a new president, Crowley said, "I would be an imbecile if I tried to tell you I didn't have some names going through my mind. I can assure that whoever he is, he will be an inerrantist."

Responding to Lolley's resignation, Trustee Vice-Chairman James R. DeLoach said, "I was absolutely shocked and flabbergasted. When we left the campus, there was a spirit of reconciliation and openness I've always found with Randall Lolley."

Reports that Lolley "could not work with fundamentalist trustees" do not sound like the Lolley he has come to know, DeLoach added. "Something must have happened to make him feel this way," he said.

DeLoach said he is sympathetic with the Southeastern community. "Randall Lolley is a very popular president, a very popular colleague. I would be greatly disappointed if the students and faculty were not disappointed. . . . My spirit grieves with the students. Right now, all they can see is blood and thunder."

He also reiterated the pledge that faculty will not be fired. "Everytime anything has been said about firing, we have tried to squelch that rumor," he said, noting the issue of professors who are inerrantists is "a hiring matter," not a question of dismissing faculty.



PULLING TOGETHER!

The term *Cooperative Program* is a familiar one for most Southern Baptists. But how much do you really understand about its purpose and function?

Pulling Together! looks at the mandate of missions and examines the avenue for effective mission action called the Cooperative Program. It traces the historical development of Baptist missions as well as challenges the local church toward involvement in world evangelization.

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Paperback, \$4.95

Robert A. Baker, author of *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People, 1607-1972*, resides in Fort Worth, Texas. **Daniel Vestal** is pastor of First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas.

Jobs Exchange

Position needed—Husband and father of three seeks employment. Experienced: 12 years in sales, 6 years shop foreman for farm and industrial equipment, 11 years in store management. Contact Calvin Prine, P.O. Box 747, Hazen, AR 72064; phone 501-255-4417 10/29

Assistant Superintendent—Job opening for Assistant Superintendent of the Mississippi County Union Rescue Mission, Inc., Blytheville. Qualifications: Be physically able to work, willing to work long hours. Preferred capabilities: Be able to preach, sing, have some knowledge of music. Salary negotiable. Send resume to Dr. Alvin McGill, Mississippi County Union Rescue Mission, Inc., P.O. Box 501, Blytheville, AR 72315. 10/29

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.

At your Baptist Book Store

BROADMAN

Convention Uniform

Families and Careers

by Vester Wolber, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Genesis 20:25-28;
31:1-7,17-21

Focal passage: Genesis 31:1-7

Central truth: Mutual lines of influence stretch between the home and one's career.

(1) A well ordered and happy home life has a positive influence on the pursuit of a person's career. In the case under study this week, one of the primary means that God made use of in preparing Jacob for his great work was the impact of family responsibilities.

The opposite is true, also: strife and tension at home will in most cases be carried by a husband or wife into the workplace and create bad relations there.

This does not have to be the case, however some people are able to do excellent work and build good relations among other workers despite the tensions beyond their control at home. Those who have nobility of character and a strong will can do it.

(2) Strained relations with one's employer, or with other employees are often carried from the workplace into the home. The normal tension and stress built up during the workday can be readily dispelled by a caring husband or wife, and by loving children, but excessively strained relations on the job sometimes are allowed to create serious difficulties in the family.

But a man does not have to carry the strained relations from the workplace into the homeplace. Jacob didn't. When the sons of his employer became jealous of his prosperity and turned the heart of their father against him, Jacob called a family conference and drew up a plan of exit from his work.

(3) When the well-being of the family is at serious risk, one should resign and seek other employment.

(4) Good family ties and good work experiences can be used by the Lord in helping a man or woman to grow toward maturity of character. For whatever it may be worth, the old trickery inherent in Jacob from the beginning was gradually overcome; but the last manifestation of it showed up in his professional life, and not in his home life. We are all under mandate from God to be trustworthy on the job and at home.

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Life and Work

Thank God, I Am Free

by Ronnie W. Floyd, First Church, Springdale

Basic passage: Galatians 5:1-14

Focal passage: Galatians 5:13-14

Central truth: Salvation in Jesus Christ sets us free from bondage and sets us free to service and love.

There is a sound of hope from the apostle's hand when he writes, "For you are called to freedom." Freedom will only be realized to the degree of bondage that we have experienced. When that bondage has been heavy, the excited cry from our hearts should be, "Thank God, I am free." Jesus Christ came to set us free. Why can we thank God that we are free?

First, we have freedom from sin, self, and Satan. When we come in faith to Jesus Christ he sets us free from our sin. We have been saved from the penalty of sin and are being saved from the dominion of sin in our lives. Faith in Jesus Christ also sets me free from my own self. Self is the greatest problem each of us experience, but Christ has set us free from it. Satan also has been defeated by Jesus Christ by his cross and his resurrection. When we come in faith to Christ, we experience the victory over Satan that Christ experienced.

Second, we have freedom to serve the Lord and others. Our release from bondage of sin frees us to serve the Lord and other people. Our attention can now be focused on Christ and other people. A great mark of Christianity is to serve other people. When we are free from our sin, ourselves, and the Devil, we will be interested in helping and serving others as Jesus did.

Third, we have the freedom to love one another. When we are in bondage to sin, we are only interested in loving ourselves. However, once Jesus comes into our lives love becomes the motivation of all we do. In order to love like Christ loves, we must love others willfully, sacrificially, and unconditionally. This is the way that he loved and still loves us today. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to love one another regardless of circumstances, bias or emotions.

Do you have anything to thank God for in life? Is there really anything for the born again Christian to be happy about? Yes! We were once in bondage to our sin and ourselves under the control of the demonic forces of this world. Then Jesus intervened into our lives and set us free.

This lesson is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Bible Book

Judgment in Noah's Day

by Larry Pillow, Second Church, Conway

Basic passage: Genesis 6 and 7

Focal passage: Genesis 6:5-9,13-19;
7:19

Central truth: Judgment always comes after ample warning and an offer of escape.

There is an identifiable cycle all through the Bible related to God's judgment upon sin after the fall. First sin occurs. Man responds to revelation with rebellion. Sin is followed by a warning from God. God is always gracious in confronting man in his sin and offering a way out. Abundant time is given for man to repent. God is longsuffering and patient. "He has not dealt with us according to our sin" (Ps. 103:10a). A way of escape is always offered.

Judgment finally comes when deliverance or salvation is rejected. There is no exception to this cycle. It came at Babel. It came in Egypt. It came upon Israel. Judgment always comes. The wheels of God's justice grind slowly but surely.

The story of Noah illustrates the above cycle. Sin was rampant. Sin permeated and penetrated all of society (Ge. 6:5,11-13). God was rightfully upset and ready to bring judgment.

Before God brought judgment, he gave a warning and offered a way out. He told Noah of his plans and gave him revelation to build an ark so that he and others could escape the inevitable judgment as a consequence of sin.

God apparently allowed Noah to work on the ark for years, all the while preaching righteousness and impending judgment to all who would listen. Man refused to believe, and God finally brought judgment in the form of the flood. He destroyed the earth and all of its inhabitants, save Noah and his family.

The sinfulness of society in America appears to be a lot like the days of Noah. Many are in defiance of the Word. God also is giving us a warning today. We desperately need to hear and heed his Word. The message of man's accountability must be faithfully proclaimed.

Like Noah, we must warn the people of our day of the consequences of sin. We must tell them that Christ is the only "ark" of safety to which we can escape. Some day it will be too late.

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Echoing Thunder

China Still Reflects Lottie Moon's Influence

by **Erich Bridges**
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PENGLAI, China—"Great changes are going on in China," Lottie Moon wrote to Southern Baptists exactly 100 years ago this past summer. "Wonderful progress is being made."

The missionary was excited about her ministry, which wasn't unusual. But she was a tad impatient with the church folks back home, which also wasn't unusual.

"The question comes up: What are Southern Baptists doing to utilize the opportunities now offered?" she challenged. "Here in Shantung, where we ought to have 100 missionaries, we have just eight! How long is this state of affairs to continue? ... How many million more souls are to pass into eternity without having heard the name of Jesus?"

The next year she wrote, "I confidently believe that we should have hundreds, yet thousands of inquirers and converts. I think I know whereof I speak, for I have lived down among the people, and I know they can be won by loving self-sacrifice on the part of missionaries—but we must have the missionaries."

A century has passed since those words pricked the souls of Southern Baptists and helped lay the foundation for the largest Protestant missionary force on earth.

The missionary era in China ended a generation ago. Chinese Christians have both suffered deeply and grown phenomenally in the years since. Today they number in the millions and worship in relative freedom.

Those believers who remember the missionaries of the past appreciate their historic contributions to spreading the gospel in China. But they also rejoice in the fact that their Christianity is now recognized by others as a Chinese faith, not a "foreign religion." They now declare their readiness to shoulder their responsibility for sharing Jesus Christ with their own people.

Lottie Moon would surely rejoice to know how much her beloved Chinese church has grown and matured, despite the hardships of this century and the departure of missionaries.

Though missionaries no longer live and work in today's China, the nation and its churches are welcoming Christians from abroad who come as friends to learn and to contribute to China's national progress.

Eloise Cauthen, widow of longtime foreign missions leader Baker James Cauthen, was invited last year to return to Shantung (Shantung). That's the province where she was born and reared, and where

Lottie Moon devoted her life to the Chinese people. Cauthen's missionary parents knew and worked with Lottie Moon. She returned recently to teach English for a year at Yantai University in Shandong.

Yantai, formerly called Chefoo, is the northeastern coastal city where Lottie Moon and other pioneer missionaries arrived by ship to begin work in north China long ago. Cauthen attended boarding school there as a young girl, and came to love Yantai's tranquil beaches and hills. Today Yantai is one of the fastest growing cities of the densely populated province.

Cauthen enjoyed teaching English and brushing up on her own admittedly "rusty" Chinese. She discovered that most of her students knew Confucius was born in Shandong about 551 B.C., but had no idea the legendary Shandong Revival swept the region with a wave of Christian conversions in the early 1930s. Nor did they know that missionaries like Lottie Moon and Cauthen's parents spent a lifetime preaching Christ in the province.

But Shandong's illustrious Christian heritage still exerts influence across the years. Rural people still call Sunday "worship day," whether or not they attend a church. Christians are respected. Chinese Christian leaders estimate that by 1985, some 250,000 believers worshiped in more than 60 churches and 2,000 home meeting points in the province.

In some parts of Shandong, fascinating traces of Southern Baptist mission history remain. One is a church in the town of Penglai (formerly Tengchow), where Lottie Moon worked for much of her missionary career. Beneath a centuries-old Ming Dynasty arch, the cobblestones leading up to the church are worn smooth with age. They are the same stones Lottie Moon and her contemporaries walked upon.

But what about today's missionaries? Though China is no longer a field for foreign missions, many other countries are wide open. If Lottie Moon were alive today, she would be laboring in one of them, alongside the more than 3,800 Southern Baptist missionaries now at work in 111 countries.

Today's world is far more crowded than Lottie Moon's was. And there are far more people—untold millions more—who have

not heard or understood about Jesus Christ and his saving power.

"There is no way in the world that all the people who have been trained to turn away from religion can find the truth and follow it except through the work of God and the touch of the Holy Spirit on their lives," Cauthen said.

"God is a god of the impossible, a miracle-working God, but he works through the channel of our concern and our prayers and the witness of our lives," she said. "That is what we have got to remember."

Echoing Lottie Moon, Cauthen offers Southern Baptists this advice: "Try to learn from the people... Try to understand where they live and what their needs are... and pray."

And give. That's what the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions is

(FMB photo / Joanna Pinneo) all about. Lottie Moon donations, along with Cooperative Program gifts, provide major funding for supporting missionaries on the field. But they also pay for critically important mission resources and programs.

Here are a few examples of what gifts to the 1987 Lottie

Moon Christmas Offering might buy: —Evangelistic equipment in Burkina Faso: \$3,500. Films shown in an open-air setting draw good crowds in Burkina Faso and are very effective tools for evangelism. With this money, missionaries could buy a new generator and projector for showing Christian films in villages around Reo, a new mission station. After sharing the gospel through film, Baptists also share through preaching and testimonies.

—Missionary housing in Zaire: \$100,000. This amount could be used to build two missionary residences in the eastern part of Zaire where new Southern Baptist mission work is beginning.

—New work in Argentina: \$50,000. Viedma-Carmen de Patagonas has been designated as the future capital of Argentina. This money could be used to purchase properties and begin work in this strategic city.

—Church buildings and loans in Colombia: \$15,000. With a little help, many churches are able to do needed renovation, enlarge present facilities or construct new mission points. These funds, if made available through the Colombia Baptist Convention's Building and Loan Fund, will be repaid and in turn, help other churches and missions.



Eloise Cauthen on the beach at Yantai.

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Hopper Elected Ruschlikon Head

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—John David Hopper, a Southern Baptist missionary in Europe for more than 20 years, has been elected president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The seminary's executive board unanimously nominated Hopper, and the recommendation was approved by the European Baptist Federation Council Oct. 2. The Federation encompasses representatives of Baptist unions, or conventions, in 22 European countries. Hopper's election was approved by the Europe, Middle East and North Africa Committee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 12 and information shared with all trustees Oct. 14.

Hopper, 53, has been a Vienna-based fraternal representative to Eastern European Baptists the past 11 years. After his appointment as a missionary in 1965, the New Orleans native taught practical theology at Ruschlikon for four years and then taught and did research at a Baptist seminary in Yugoslavia for four years.

The seminary, which was founded in 1949, now has 65 students from six continents. Its new Institute of World Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth was launched earlier this year, directed by Earl Martin, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Africa.

Budget Adopted

by **Erich Bridges**
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted a 1988 budget of \$167.8 million to back the work of 3,800 missionaries around the world.

The increase of \$2.6 million over the 1987 budget is one of the smallest in recent years, while the cost of supporting the growing number of missionaries claims a steadily rising share of the total.

"It's obvious that 1988 will be a financial challenge, as we experience an increasing number of missionaries under appointment, decreased strength of the U.S. dollar... and a very modest increase of 1.55 percent in budgeted income," FMB President R. Keith Parks told the trustees in a letter accompanying the budget.

The main reason for the small increase is the decision to freeze the 1987 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at \$75 million. That's the same as last year's Lottie Moon goal, which was missed by more than \$5.5 million. The Woman's Missionary Union, which promotes the annual

church offering for foreign missions, decided not to raise the goal this year after consultation with the Foreign Mission Board.

The Lottie Moon goal for 1987, if reached, will fund almost 45 percent of the total budget. Southern Baptists' regular Cooperative Program giving through local churches will provide \$66 million, more than 39 percent of the total.

Fire Damages Nairobi Home

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—Fire destroyed several rooms of a home where Southern Baptist missionaries Nathan and Vickie Corbitt live the afternoon of Oct. 13.

Neither the Corbitts nor their three children were in the stone house on Nairobi's north side when fire consumed the kitchen, a pantry and two bathrooms. The couple arrived on the scene as Nairobi firemen were bringing the blaze under control.

Corbitt is music consultant and director of communications for the Southern Baptist mission in Kenya. The couple is from North Carolina, he from Ridgecrest and she from Black Mountain. They were appointed as missionaries in 1981.

Clothes and curtains throughout the house sustained smoke damage, and a spokesman said the Corbitts were making arrangements for replacement clothing and kitchen items.

Missionary Notes

Billy and Sandi Montgomery, missionaries to Ghana, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 78, Tamale, Ghana). He is a native Texan. The former Sandra Stone, she was born in Wynne. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1975.

Preston Sellers, father of Rob Sellers, missionary to Indonesia, died Sept. 10 in Texarkana. Missionary Sellers is a native of Florida. His wife is the former Janie Tyler of Keota, Okla. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1975, they may be addressed at 8802 Blossom Lane, Louisville, KY 40222.

Ruth Vanderburg, missionary to Indonesia, has arrived in the States for furlough and retirement (address: 2923 Charter Oak Rd., Little Rock, AR 72207), her hometown. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.