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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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PAC: 'Sever Ties'

Arkansas Baptist

October 22, 1987



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Nashville, Tennessee

**Alive
and
Vibrant**

In This Issue

Cover Story



Florida Baptist Witness photo

'Alive and Vibrant' 5

At 77, Carmen Dickey finds volunteer mission service keeps her "alive and vibrant for the Lord."

Editor's Page 3

Speak Up

Letters to the Editor 4

Today's Issues 4

Local & State

Helping People 6

OBU Library Dedicated 6

Helpline

Getting Involved 7

Miracles Could Happen 8

ABSC Updates 8-10

Next Month in Arkansas 10

Nation

Disputes Rejected 11

CP Sets Record 11

Penn-South Jersey Leader 11

Newton Returns 11

PAC: 'Dissolve Ties' 12

D.C. Office Opens 13

Purchase Approved 13

Lessons For Living 14

World

Doors Closing Daily 15

Cuba Reassigned 16

BWA Women's Exec 16

IT'S UPLIFTING

4,201 Decisions

NASHVILLE (BP)—A total of 4,201 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ were made through Southern Baptist Centrifuge camps and church recreation conferences during the summer.

At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 4,073, or about 16 percent of participants made public decisions. These included 623 professions of faith in Christ, 2,681 rededications, 304 church-related vocational decisions and 466 other decisions. More than 26,000 young people attended Centrifuge camps this year.

Centrifuge, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department, was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist

Conference Centers; Mobile (Ala.) College; North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C.; and Union University, Jackson, Tenn. Two traveling staffs conducted Centrifuge camps on the East and West Coasts. Camps also were conducted in Korea and Hawaii.

Also at Centrifuge, a missions offering of \$63,581 was contributed by youth and their sponsors and will go to five mission points across the United States.

At church recreation conference, also sponsored by the SSB church recreation department, a total of 128 decisions were made among the 1,481 young people who attended the sessions held at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. Twenty-nine youth made professions of faith, 87 rededicated their lives to Christ, and 12 made church vocational decisions.

GOOD NEWS!

Old Fashioned Revival

Zechariah

How can church leaders help God's people to experience revival?

The prophet Zechariah sought to move the people toward a closer relationship with God by reminding them of two truths:

First, they should not disappoint God as their fathers had done. After all, look at the results of their fathers' disobedience. The destruction and captivity of God's chosen nation was a dramatic warning not to continually disobey Jehovah (7:4-14).

The second motivation employed by Zechariah was more positive in nature. He spoke of the blessings of God to those who were faithful to him (8:6-8). People usually respond more quickly and consistently when led in a positive manner.

Note the elements present in a great revival.

A vision of God's mercy (1:12-16). The prophet suggested that the two elements needed to receive this vision are intercession (vv. 12-13) and instruction (vv. 14-16). It is in two-way prayer that we appropriate mercy. We talk to God and listen to his instructions.

We are better at talking with the Lord than listening to his instructions (v. 14). Often, if the Lord gets his message to us, he has to hit a moving target. Activity often takes the place of meditation in the exercise of our faith.

A vision of God's presence (2:10-13). The prophet spelled out the benefits of God's

presence among his people. When God is in our midst, we become mission minded. We want others to know him. This results in the extension of his kingdom (v. 11).

A second benefit of God's presence will be the establishment of his people (v. 11). With God among us, we move from being wavering to being steadfast. In the struggles of the journey, churches may forget their mission. When the Lord walks in our midst, that all changes.

The last of three benefits resulting from God's presence in the midst of his people is the exaltation of his being (v. 13). To be near him is to be aware of his greatness. Surely a genuine revival will result in a sense of wonder of God.

A vision of God's purpose (4:1-7). The prophet also mentioned a third factor needed to experience revival: organizing the worship of God. The prophet urged the people to rebuild the Temple as a means of reviving and strengthening their relationship to God. With all its faults, the church of God as an organization with regularly scheduled activities is an important part of God's will.

Christians often encounter obstacles. In our own strength, opponents often seem larger than Goliath. But with the power of God behind our plans and activities, there is no force strong enough to deter our efforts, and even great mountains are seen as plains (v. 7). We can say with the apostle Paul, "We are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Ro. 8:37).

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.

Stop the Lottery!

J. EVERETT SNEED

Currently, there is an effort to legalize the lottery in Arkansas. We believe that the overwhelming majority of Arkansans are firmly opposed to our state being directly involved in the gambling business. We believe the best way, at present, to show our opposition to gambling is to refuse to sign the petitions which will be circulated in the not too distant future.

Efforts to soften the moral conscience of Arkansans on lottery gambling have been underway for some time. For example, a network television program entitled "Lottery!" attempted to soften the conscience of individuals by showing how easy it was to become extremely wealthy by having the right lottery ticket.

More recently radio station KSSN has been running a give away show entitled "The Arkansas Lottery." Actually, the program is not really a lottery since the tickets are not purchased but are given away. The prizes which are given away are quite expensive. This raises a question, "Who is paying for these expensive prizes?" Could it be one of the companies that sells lottery software and hardware? We don't know, but this assumption seems to be a logical one.

The argument that the proponents of the lottery will use to attempt to get signatures so the issue can be placed on the ballot is, "Let's get the people to decide whether they want it." One could just as well argue, "Let's give the people a chance to decide if they want prostitution, murder, and larceny legalized."

As bad as paramutal betting on horses and dog races is, the lottery is worse, first, because it places the state directly in the gambling business. Thus, the same state regulatory commission which is supposed to regulate the gambling industry becomes the public relations and promotion agency which will be making every effort to get people to participate.

Second, the lottery is probably the worst form of legalized gambling because it is regressive. Arnold Wexler, vice-president of the national Council on Compulsive Gamblers, says investigations prove that the poor people, who can least afford the loss, are the primary purchasers of lottery tickets. The reason is obvious. The inexpensive and easily accessible tickets promise instant wealth.

Like other forms of gambling, the lottery



attracts criminal activity. This occurs in various ways. For example, illegal numbers operators will enter our state to compete with the state run lottery. They promise better odds, tax free winnings, and they even extend credit.

The promoters of the state lottery present it as a "cure all" for the tax problems of our state. This simply has not been the case where the lottery has been enacted. Sam Rosen, economist with the University of New Hampshire, observes that the expenses of operating a lottery are huge. The average state pays 30 cents to obtain one dollar in lottery revenues. This compares with two cents to gain one dollar in traditional tax revenue.

The lottery has been so unprofitable in our neighbor state, Missouri, that they are

attempting to join a multi-state lottery. It is believed by many that this effort is totally illegal. The courts will decide in the not too distant future. But the lottery has not brought the promised revenue and ease of taxation.

In Maine the people were told that the state lottery would bring \$10 million per year. The greatest yield it has ever produced was \$2.6 million for the 12 months ending June 3, 1976. The revenue from the lottery dropped steadily from 1979, when it netted only \$896,000. When officials disbanded it, they saved \$150,000 in operating expenses.

Robert Walker, chairman of Arkansas for Legalized Lottery, claims a lottery could raise \$100 million a year. He bases this "very conservative" estimate on the assumption that every person in the state will spend \$50 each year on lottery tickets. He has not reckoned on more than 300,000 Arkansas Baptists if he thinks every person in the state will play the lottery every week.

A lottery in a rural and sparsely populated state like Arkansas is not going to produce that kind of revenue per person when it has failed to live up to its promises in far more populous and worldly states. And even if, somehow, a state-sponsored lottery in Arkansas should produce that amount of money, it would be no windfall for the state treasury. With an appropriation of \$5.2 billion required for 1988, \$100 million is a paltry sum, less than 2 percent.

We have a moral, social and economic responsibility for opposing a state lottery. Let's stop this evil before it starts. Let's keep it off of the ballot.

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Letters to the Editor

Open Dialogue

I give thanks for the willingness of Carolyn Weatherford and Harold C. Bennett to meet and dialogue with Pope John Paul II during his trip to America. This cordial and hospitable attitude is reminiscent of the apostle Paul's "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Such an attitude brings our denominations into dialogue as we (Baptists) exhibit a more ecumenical spirit.

Although some will perhaps view this meeting with Pope John Paul as a threat to our free church tradition, I see it as a positive step toward communicating openly and personally with the Catholic Church as we both seek to establish the kingdom of God on earth. I am deeply saddened and disappointed that our convention president chose not to speak with this fellow Christian, especially one who has such an impact and influence upon the Christian church.

Though we differ with our Catholic friends on what we perceive to be very significant theological issues, let the dialogue between our leaders serve as a reminder that Southern Baptists do not hold a monopoly on the gospel nor on God. We would do well to remain faithful to our heritage and, at the same time, extend to Pope John Paul and to the Catholic Church our hand of Christian fellowship. Let us offer our gratitude unto God that, in the midst of a society where religious hustlers glamorize and distort the Christian message, the leaders of two denominations who are sincerely committed to Christian ministry welcome and dialogue with each other as co-laborers together with God. *Gloria Patri.*

Welcome, Pope John Paul II. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.—**Howell Easterling, Monroe, La.**

Outraged

As a Christian I feel outraged and fighting mad that I can no longer watch the 10 o'clock news, on a non-subscription channel, without unexpectedly exposing myself and family to some of the most salacious, pornographic trash ever perpetrated under the guise of "entertainment."

Specifically, NBC's program, "St. Elsewhere," aired locally on Channel 4, Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 9:00-10:00 p.m. Were there really only 18 people watching this program who found it "objec-

tionable," as reported by the executive vice-president? Hopefully, this was because so few Christians were watching the program. I only tuned it in a little early to watch the news, so perhaps only 18 Christians actually saw the debacle I saw.

For all the rest of you, let me report first hand what I witnessed. Presumably, one of the actors was engaged in some kind of a verbal disagreement with his superior and in order to make his point, he dropped his pants, turned his naked bottom to the camera and told his superior to "kiss my _____." Can you imagine the impact this sort of dialogue and perverted solution will have on our children?

It is past time to stand up and be counted. If you really want to do something that will impact, call or write the following: Tom Bonner, Executive Vice-President, Channel 4, 201 W. Third, Little Rock, AR 72201; 376-2481.

The other place to which I was referred was: NBC TV - Audience Research Department, Room 1411, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

The gentleman's name that I talked with was John O'Leary. The phone number in New York, if anyone wants to pursue this, is 212-664-2333.—**Norma Jean Thompkins, North Little Rock**

Courageous

I wish to commend Joe Atchison for the courage he displayed in seeking the removal of N. Larry Baker from his post as executive director of the Christian Life Commission. Although the effort was unsuccessful, it should demonstrate the resolve of Southern Baptists to make their commission responsive to their convictions.

Brethren, in this day we need men of God who have the intestinal fortitude to say "thus saith the Lord". We need such courageous and biblically-minded people in our agencies, our state offices, our state news magazines, and in the Christian Life Commission. The SBC is far behind in speaking clearly on the issues facing our society. We ought to be on the "cutting edge" of Christianity in America. Our people demand it! May God hasten the process of making our boards, agencies, and commissions responsive to the biblical views of the Southern Baptist majority.—**Michael A. Gray, Berryville**

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. 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.

Today's Issues

'Kill It or Keep It'

BOB PARKER

A friend heard recently that those words—"Kill it or keep it"—are sometimes thoughtlessly used in determining whether or not to abort an unborn child. Such an attitude is both immoral and disgusting.

Is it not also immoral and disgusting for children not to be properly cared for after birth? All over the world, including our own country, children are starving physically and emotionally.

Shall infants and children at home and abroad be allowed to be injured or killed by being allowed to



starve? Shall not we as individuals, churches and as a nation continue to keep them, not kill them?

In the latest *Light* magazine (Aug.-Sept. 87) published by the Christian Life Commission, John Cheyne, director of the Foreign Mission Board's Human Needs Department, and Robert Parham, associate director of the

Christian Life Commission, encourages continued and stronger participation in helping to alleviate hunger.

The recent conference on abortion in Nashville addressed the tragedy of abortions in our nation plus the continuing support needed for both children and mothers.

Jesus taught in the parable of the Good Samaritan that our neighbor is anyone in need. In his spirit, it is imperative that we be as zealous and concerned to keep people alive as we are to see that they are given the right to be born.

Bob Parker is director of the Christian Life Council.

VOLUNTEER MISSION SERVICE

'Alive and Vibrant for the Lord'

by Don Hepburn

Baptist Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)—By the time the morning sunlight sweeps across Daytona Beach, 77-year-old Carmen Dickey already has been up for more than an hour preparing for another day as a volunteer missionary.

She has prayed, read her Bible, showered, dressed and entered the kitchen of the weather-worn 100-year-old house. She begins the first of her daily duties—preparing breakfast for six college students—by stirring up a batch of homemade biscuits.

Thirteen years ago Dickey read a Royal Service magazine article which challenged her, "You too can go."

"I decided, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God was calling me to do this," she recalled. "I argued with him a little. I did not want to give up a lot of things. But I haven't given up anything to do this."

This summer the retiree from Warner-Robbins, Ga., completed her 10th mission assignment, serving as a houseparent for six summer missionaries in the resort community of Daytona Beach.

"She is mother, pastor, adviser, drill sergeant, everything we need," explained Kevin Grimes of Centre, Ala., who was one of Dickey's charges during the 10 weeks. "She has been a lot of different people to us," said the college senior, but more importantly, "she always can tell what we need to hear."

As a volunteer houseparent, "You have to have the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the love of Jesus in your heart, and a love for young people," said the widow with silver-gray hair.

Besides keeping an eye on the four men and two women, Dickey was responsible for preparing three daily meals, buying the weekly groceries and supervising the students' housekeeping chores.

In her spare time, she worked with the summer workers in some of their mission activities and served as interim pianist and organist for South Peninsula Baptist Church.

This was not her first service as a houseparent. Among the three prior houseparent assignments, she cared for 27 student missionaries at Lake Placid, N.Y., for three years—before, during and after the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps, Dickey has received appointments lasting from six weeks to more than a year. These have included organizing a youth and music program for an Anchorage, Alaska, mission church; serving as an education and youth director for a Vancouver, Wash., mission; and starting a resort ministry at the Grand Canyon.

When asked how she qualified to do so many varied tasks, Dickey said with a chuckle, "I studied all those 10 zillion leadership courses that Woman's Missionary Union has." She added she is certified as a church training and church music special worker, which complements her 35 years' experience as a public school music teacher.

Dickey is candid to admit, however, that in many of her mission assignments, "we learned by trial and error."

Having worked with churches and ministries in pioneer areas of Baptist work, Dickey has come to regard those churches as being "more spiritual" than many of the

churches she has found in the Bible Belt.

She noted pioneer churches are "totally dependent upon the Lord for their power." And she has participated in "their struggle and desire to reach lost people."

"The thing that burdens my heart is the fact that there are so many lost people (non-Christians) out there, and we seem to forget it," she said.

Although a great-grandmother five times over, Dickey stressed she needs to be involved as a volunteer missionary because it "keeps me alive and keeps me vibrant for the Lord."

"I view it as a privilege and an obligation to our denomination and also to our Lord," she explained.

As a lay volunteer, Dickey has had to underwrite her own travel expenses to and from her mission assignments, as well as care for incidental expenses.

"As far as finances are concerned, I'm not loaded with money," she said. Her small Social Security income serves as the basis for her strict budget.

"A lot of times I don't know where the money is coming from," she admitted. As she prepares for each mission assignment, "I just say, 'God, you told me to go, and I'm expecting you to provide the money.' He never has failed me yet. The money has come."

Money need not be an obstacle to the person who wants to be a short-term mission volunteer, she continued. "There are a lot of people I believe would sincerely love to do this type of work, but they are not financially able to do it." Many of these, she added, "haven't learned to turn it over to God."

"If they would be committed and let go and let God have his way and go out, Baptists could win the world for the Lord Jesus Christ," she insisted.

Until her next assignment, Dickey will maintain a schedule of speaking engagements in churches and at world missions conferences, just as she has done during the past 13 years.

In addition to sharing how God called her, Dickey will tell "how important it is for people my age with experience and knowledge" to participate in volunteer missions.

Carmen Dickey isn't ready to call it quits yet, she said. The need to spread the gospel remains "as long as there is one sinner left in this world."

Florida Baptist Witness photo



Missionary and great-grandmother Carmen Dickey.

Helping People

Clinic Deals With Drug And Alcohol Problems

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Randy Walker is helping develop an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program which places "major emphasis on Christian values." While working on his doctor's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, Walker was contacted by Dr. Kerry Vance, a DeQueen physician who is director of the "Freedom Forever" drug abuse and treatment program.

Walker, who is a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and a drug and alcohol counselor, was completing his residence for a doctor of education degree with major in psychology and counseling. Walker was employed by the Arlington Drug and Family Counseling Center which was an out-patient counseling center in which about 50 to 75 percent of Walker's clients were involved with alcohol or other drugs. Walker observes, "Either the individual that I was counseling or a family member was involved with alcohol or drug abuse."

As a result Walker specialized in the area of alcohol and drug abuse treatment. The DeQueen Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center has a 10-bed treatment unit. Two rooms are designated for detoxification which meets Arkansas' state standards. There are eight additional rooms which are for use by an individual during a 30 day program. The facility also has its own dining room, day room and two offices.

For an individual who is addicted to alcohol or other drugs to be able to return to society and function normally, a number of elements are required. Walker said, "First they must admit that they have a problem. They also must deal with the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs. Alcoholism is a whole person type of disease." The center seeks to address all four aspects of the disease in the 30 day program. Each patient must realize that the 30 day program is only the beginning of a lifetime recovery. An addict must take each day at a time.

During the 30 day program, the patients are given psychological testing and family education, and a chaplain works with each patient two hours each week. The chaplain for the program is Victor Gore, pastor of the First Church, DeQueen.

The program uses the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is one distinction in that the "higher power" of A.A. is "God of Judeo-Christianity."

When an individual enters the program, the medical staff immediately makes a physical and a counseling assessment. The

individual also is advised of his personal rights. Where detoxification is necessary, an individual may be confined to a detoxification room up to seven days. A day's activities, after detoxification, include group counseling, individual counseling and family counseling. In addition home work assignments are made which are designed to help the individual do introspection and learn how to cope with problems.

After the 30 day program is complete, there is a continuing care of an additional 16 weeks. The purpose of the continuing care is to assist the individual to deal with problems which may develop between family members and others. Often such problems may develop up to two or three years. Walker, who plans to graduate with his doctor's degree in 1989, assists the individual in coping with problems which develop after he leaves the center.

In addition to directing the counseling for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment

Center, Walker desires to reach out to pastors to help them with counseling problems. Walker, who grew up in a pastor's home, realizes that it is difficult for pastors to know how to handle alcoholics and other drug abusers. Walker is available to conduct clinics on alcohol and other drug abuse for associations, regional meetings or state wide meetings. Thursday, Feb. 4, 1988, a drug and alcohol abuse conference will be held at the DeQueen hospital, which is free to pastors and church staff members. There will be a small charge to all others.

Walker observes that there is considerable debate over whether alcoholism is a disease, a sin or a moral problem. He said, "We believe that it is all of these."

As a disease, alcoholism is the third leading cause of death in our nation. There are 12 to 15 million alcoholics at the present time. Walker said, "We want to help our churches and pastors to be able to deal with this growing problem more effectively. Our ministry is designed to help people. That's what Christianity is all about."



OBU Library Dedicated

Ouachita Baptist University dedicated the \$2 million Riley-Hickingbotham Library in a ceremony Oct. 8 on the Arkadelphia campus.

The 47,305-square-foot facility increases the amount of individual and group study space and seminar rooms and provides special sections for historical documents.

An electronic linkage to be completed

soon will give OBU students and faculty access to information stored in 6,800 other libraries around the world.

The Riley-Hickingbotham Library contains 122,000 volumes and more than 350,000 micro-prints and non-book materials. The facility is named for the late Emma Kate Riley, a major Ouachita benefactor and longtime member of the OBU board of trustees, and Frank Hickingbotham of Little Rock, president and chairman of the board of TCBY, Inc., whose \$500,000 challenge gift initiated the project.

SENIOR ADULTS

'How Can We Get Involved?'

"I'm retired. My income isn't great, but it meets my needs. Our kids are grown and away from home, and my wife and I have time on our hands that we've never had before. We'd be willing to volunteer our services, if someone could use us. How can we get involved in missions?"

It's an increasingly common question. The pool of retirees is growing, and their health and financial conditions are better than ever. And when a committed older Christian suddenly discovers the freedom and flexibility of retirement, the desire to use it to serve others rises naturally to the surface.

Southern Baptists offer a wide range of opportunities for older adults to volunteer their services in missions and ministry. In addition to the informal ministry opportunities illustrated photographically on this page, a variety of programs at the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards give senior adults the chance to channel their energies and experience into the work of the Kingdom.

Overseas—The Foreign Mission Board needs volunteers willing to work in temporary roles alongside career missionaries. Persons with anywhere from one week to two years to give can find opportunities to have their skills matched with requests sent by career missionaries around the world.

Overseas volunteers provide their own expenses for travel and living on the mission field. The contribution they make is measured in decisions for Christ, buildings

constructed, wells dug, inoculation programs completed. Less measurable, but no less real, are spiritual growth of the volunteers, increased mission awareness in their home churches, and friendships formed overseas.

In the U.S.—Laypersons willing to volunteer their services will play a crucial role in bringing America to Christ. Central cities, resort areas, language groups, and new congregations need the strength and experience senior adult volunteers have to offer.

Opportunities for service include evangelism, visitation, Bible study leaders, mechanics, construction, teachers, day care workers, office workers, resort mission leaders, and Vacation Bible School workers. With so many needs before us, virtually every person will have a skill which can be used. Of course, the greatest qualification is a willing heart.

Senior adult volunteers can serve from one week to two years. Volunteers serve without pay, provide their own transportation to and from the field of service, and furnish their room and board when it can-

not be provided on the field. Most requests for volunteers are for the summer months.

For more information—Persons interested in finding out how God can use them in volunteer service may contact the following offices for more information about the various programs available.

Foreign Mission Board
Volunteers In Missions
Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230

Home Mission Board
Volunteers In Missions
1350 Spring St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

Missions Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Brotherhood Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

Seniors in Ministry

(Top left) *Mary Gurney Ray of Little Rock Second Church has begun her fifth year as a volunteer at Arkansas Children's Hospital. She can be found there every Thursday morning, rocking the infants.*

(Top right) *Retirees at North Little Rock Baring Cross Church rehearse their ukulele band for a nursing home performance. Other volunteer work they pursue includes church construction.*

(Bottom left) *Osie D. Miller, a leader in Vimy Ridge Immanuel Church, assists the Pulaski County Crisis Closet ministry each Monday morning. On Thursdays, she volunteers at Veterans Hospital. Fridays find her at Arkansas Children's Hospital.*

(Bottom right) *Harry Daniels, a retired railroad employee, is one member of the hearty crew of retirees who prepare the Wednesday evening meal at North Little Rock's Baring Cross Church.*



ABN photos
by
Millie Gill



Miracles Could Happen

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

November may be the best month of the year! It is true that is when deer season opens, the leaves fall, and I have a birthday. But, trust me now. I'm talking on a little higher level than all that, OK? With the Lord's blessing on all of us this month, some real miracles could happen. Let me share some of the action that could be attended with dramatic and eternal effect.



The AMAR Partnership will conclude. When you receive this the Manaus Crusades will be passed. With the central crusade and the 50 to follow, we could reach to more than 200,000 people. We hope to see from 5,000 to 10,000 people saved. We will return to conclude the partnership at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention with the President of the Amazonas Convention preaching. That will be a high hour.

D.L. Lowrie and Keith Parks will be used of God to touch our hearts at the state convention. Dr. Lowrie is one of the convention favorites for Bible studies. He preaches regularly at Ridgecrest and Glorietta, as well as at many state conventions. Keith Parks carries and communicates a burden for our world like few men in this generation. Under his leadership foreign missions is experiencing unprecedented growth. I can hardly wait for these special times in our annual convention.

"Church Arkansas" will be launched at the convention. A new day may be dawning in Arkansas. We have stayed at about the same number of churches, baptisms, and Sunday School enrollment for many years. Population has shifted but continues to grow. This is our big, bold effort to do something more about reaching our state. The number of churches and associations catching a vision about "Churching Arkansas" is exciting.

Strengthening missions is the theme of the convention. Further highlights of the convention will be the celebration of 100 years with our Woman's Missionary Union. "Missions Advance 87-89" will be highlighted by an exciting report and challenge. Great music and messages from a veteran missionary and other preachers will undergird the state convention.

These noble spiritual challenges and opportunities should call a record number of

Arkansas Baptists to Fort Smith for this historic meeting.

"Preach The Word"—This biblical injunction is the theme for the Pastor's Conference this year. You've never had a greater concentration of effort and practical helps made available to you than in this conference. The man who preaches will cherish the ministry of his preacher brethren as he is helped in his preparation, sermon outlines, application, illustration, and ministry of the Word to human hearts. The Pastor's Conference will provide personal as well as professional help. **Urgent Note:** The convention sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, and will conclude by noon on Wednesday. This way, everyone can stay through the final session and not have to miss prayer meeting services in their home church. Due to this schedule the Pastor's Conference begins early this year. It begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 16. Please be present from start to finish.

Missions opportunity—Nov. 15-18 is the suggested time for churches to study about an area of foreign mission opportunity. The study is about our work in Korea. Korea has the longest continuous record of spiritual awakening of any area of our work. This study should be arranged to include the entire church family. With the cooperation and creativity of the pastor and WMU leadership, a way should be found for the entire church to be impacted by the study. Such a study always results in a need and desire to pray.

Week of Prayer will be held Nov. 29-Dec. 6. Those who know, pray. Those who know and pray, give. These special occasions are not the responsibility of an unusual few in our churches. Foreign missions is everyone's responsibility. At least one fourth of our churches are not being led in any such missionary emphasis.

Our Arkansas goal of \$2,240,000 will easily be met if every church will inform their people and give them an opportunity to give through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. If you need help, call on your pastor, director of missions, or your associational or state WMU and Brotherhood leaders to help you. If you will, you can do more than you think you can.

Senior adult rallies—Need a place to go? Need to enhance your ministry to senior adults? Need a new vision, a new spark to your senior adult ministry? We have five rallies scheduled over the state that may answer these questions. Other issues of the Newsmagazine have carried the dates, times and places. I just wanted to touch base one more time to make cer-

tain you did not miss the one near you. They happen Nov. 9 and 10. You can't wait long to finalize your plans. Call Bob Holley at 376-4791 if you need more information.

Another mission must—When will men shoulder more of the missions load in our churches? When boys grow up with the proper leadership, encouragement and models. For this reason, Nov. 1-7 has been set aside as National RA Week. Should you start RA's during this week? Perhaps. Should you recognize the boys and their leadership if you already have RA's? For certain! Should you begin another age-group organization? Probably! You can do something, can't you, that will involve your boys and young men in positive missionary education? Good!

Registration of messengers—Those being elected as messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will need to have messenger cards completed and signed by the church clerk or moderator to present when registering. Your associational office should have an adequate supply of cards. The Credentials Committee will be greatly assisted in their task if this simple matter is cared for ahead of time.

Ministers' wives meeting—Monday of the Convention, Nov. 16, a great time of fellowship has been planned for all pastors' and staff wives in the fellowship hall of First Church, Fort Smith. The meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. and will conclude by 4 p.m. Miss Arkansas 1986-87 will sing, and Mrs. Emily Herrod will speak. Real encouragement will be found in this fellowship.

Woman's Missionary Union Top Priority

What would happen in your church if there was a record attendance at the churchwide foreign mission book studies, every member diligently prayed for the needs requested by our foreign missionaries during the Week of Prayer and every member sacrificially gave to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? God only knows what could happen to a church that sincerely placed foreign missions in a top priority position.

The 1987 churchwide foreign mission study will draw your church closer to Southern Baptist efforts in South Korea as members learn about the country and needs of our missionaries. Preparing for and conducting this study is the responsibility of WMU, Brotherhood, and the church staff. The churchwide foreign mission study is designed as a two and a half hour study. Hopefully the date and time of your churchwide study has already been

scheduled. Enlist study leaders for all age groups. The age-level books, teaching guides, and promotional package are available through the Baptist bookstore.

Advance promotion is the key to having a successful study. Announce the study in all Sunday School departments. Plan a series of midweek dinner menus from around the world to heighten awareness of the world we live in. Design posters for church bulletin boards. Make sure information is placed in church bulletins and newsletters for four weeks prior to the study. Ask the church media library director to display mission study books two weeks before the study.

The week of the churchwide study, have WMU and Brotherhood members visit Sunday School classes to invite people to the study. Have a covered-dish supper of Korean foods for your midweek meal. Make Wednesday a special day of prayer for Korea. Your church can have an outstanding foreign mission study if preparations are made now.

The week of Nov. 29 through Dec. 6 has been designated as the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. This year's theme, "Pray, That All May Hear," is a challenge to all of us. Encourage your church members to pray diligently and give sacrificially so your church offering goal will be surpassed. The National Missions Prayer Plan will also be launched during this week. It will be an avenue for enlisting Southern Baptists to pray so that all people in the world will have an opportunity to hear the gospel. Prayer guides, offering envelopes, and National Missions Prayer Commitment Cards are to be ordered from the state WMU office by the WMU director or pastor, if no WMU. Pray... That All May Hear.—Angela Lowe, Acteens director

Christian Life Council Ingathering For World Hunger

The 1987 Arkansas Ingathering for World Hunger will be held at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds on Saturday, Nov. 21, 1987.

Sponsored by the Interfaith Hunger Task Force, the 1987 Ingathering is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the statewide gathering.

The festivities for persons coming from all parts of the state are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hall of Industry at the fairgrounds. Groups and individuals from churches all over Arkansas will be bringing health and school kits, blankets, and livestock for distribution to the hungry

throughout the state and the world.

Booths will be set up to show Christian involvement by the hunger sponsoring religious groups. The agencies directly involved in serving hungry people also will have booths to tell about their work.

Music of various kinds will be presented from the center stage from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. At noon an ecumenical worship service will be held to close the celebration.

Being one of our state's larger denominations, Arkansas Baptists have done well in reporting work done and gifts made regarding domestic and world hunger on this special day. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (Ja. 1:27).—Robert A. Parker, director

Church Training LIFE For Your Church



Smith



Williams

LIFE (Lay Institute for Equipping), offers another excellent approach to help church members grow and become competent in discipleship, leadership and ministry. MasterLife, the first LIFE course, is a six-month, in-depth discipleship process for developing members and leaders. Other LIFE courses are 13-week courses offering specialized training such as MasterBuilder, Parenting by Grace, PrayerLife, Master-Design and DecisionTime.

Luell Smith and Steve Williams, consultants in the Church Training Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead conferences designed especially for pastors, staff members, Church Training Directors and other general officers, at the Church Training Convention on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock. These conferences will introduce LIFE and the LIFE courses. They will also present an overview of Ingathering, a strategy for reclaiming inactive church members, Baptist Doctrine Study for 1988, and the En-

courager Plan for use with new converts and transfer members.

A General Officer conference is planned especially for those from smaller churches (under 700 members), under the direction of Luell Smith. Steve Williams will lead the conference for those from larger churches (over 700 members).

Other conferences at the convention will offer training for leaders of preschoolers, children, youth and adults, plus conferences for church secretaries and media library workers. The sessions are to begin at 10 a.m., 1:50 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Perry F. Webb, Jr., pastor of First Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will be the inspirational speaker. A special "Missions Advance" presentation will be made at the afternoon session.

Don't miss this opportunity for the best of training for your leaders. It will help put LIFE in your church.—Robert Holley, director

Missions New Work Glossary

New work field: a community that needs a new congregation.

Mother church or sponsor: The church that starts and develops a new congregation or ministry.

Field cultivation: Preparation by surveys, community events, visitation, ministry, Bible school, backyard Bible clubs, revivals, etc., of a field or group to start a new church.

Mission fellowship: A group of people who meet for Bible study (or preaching), prayer and fellowship to form the core group to start a mission congregation.

Church type mission: A congregation that has regular meetings separate from the sponsor for at least Bible study and worship.

Ministry mission: A group of people who meet regularly for a ministry extended to them by and beyond a sponsor.

Constitution service: The service in which a mission votes to become an autonomous church.

Church missions development council: The old church missions committee.

Mission launch: The service in which a new congregation starts meeting for Sunday school and worship—"goes public."

Church planting: The process of starting and developing new congregations.—Floyd Tidsworth, church extension director

Missions Advance 87-89

You Can Get Involved

Though "Missions Advance 87-89" is directed primarily to churches, you can get personally involved by becoming a "Prayer Partner." We need 2,000 people to make a commitment to pray for "Missions Advance 87-89."

"Missions Advance 87-89" has the following two-fold purpose:

(1) To challenge churches to adopt a plan of advance in Cooperative Program support.

(2) To interpret the crisis we are facing in Cooperative Program support.

The goal of increased support to the Cooperative Program will enable our convention to have a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program receipts between state and Southern Baptist Convention missions causes. The ultimate goal is to enable our convention to achieve its Bold Mission Thrust goals.

Can you see the need for prayer support? If so, sign the form below and mail to: "Missions Advance 87-89" "Prayer Partners"

P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

You will receive some "Missions Advance 87-89" information that will enable you to pray more effectively and intelligently.—Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

Prayer Partner Commitment



Yes, I want to make a commitment to pray for "Missions Advance 87-89" on a regular basis.

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Next month in Arkansas: November

Nov. 1-7, National RA Week (Bhd)
Nov. 9-12, Area Senior Adult Rallies (CT)
Nov. 15-18, Foreign Mission Study

(WMU)
Nov. 29 - Dec. 6, Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (WMU)

December

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

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

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 (Bhd)

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 (S/A)

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

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

February

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

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

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

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

Feb. 15, Area CT Leader Training Conference, Little Rock (CT)

Feb. 16, Area CT Leader Training Conference, Fort Smith (CT)

Feb. 18, Area CT Leader Training Conference, El Dorado (CT)

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

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)

Abbreviations: Bhd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; SS - Sunday School; S/A - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

One Jurist Short

Court Rejects Disputes

by Stan Hasty

Baptist Joint Commission On Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—On a day most notable for the absence of one of its nine members, the U.S. Supreme Court opened the 1987-88 term by turning aside seven separate appeals in religious disputes. None of 22 new cases accepted for review involves a religious question.

While Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist paid public tribute from the bench to retired Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., the chances that Circuit Judge Robert H. Bork would succeed Powell dimmed as an apparent majority of U.S. senators lined up to vote against him.

The prospect of Senate rejection of President Reagan's nominee left open the likelihood the court must conduct much of the business of the new term with a

vacancy that could leave the justices divided 4-4, in several key disputes.

Among more than 1,000 cases disposed of on its first day, the court:

—Let stand a lower federal court decision that the New York State Labor Relations Board did not exceed its authority by intervening in a dispute between a parochial school and its lay teachers. (86-2058, Christ the King Regional High School v. Culvert)

—Declined to review a decision by the Connecticut Supreme Court upholding the authority of the state human rights office to investigate alleged religious discrimination in Catholic parochial schools, despite the schools' contention such proceedings improperly exceeded agents of the state in church affairs. (87-126, Archdiocesan School Office v. Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities)

—Upheld rulings of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and a federal district court that the late L. Ron Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology, was in fact that church's "managing agent" despite his 1966 resignation as executive director of the controversial sect. The district court also threw out a Scientology lawsuit against the federal government after Hubbard refused to give a deposition in an FBI investigation designed to discover if he was the church's head. (86-1733, Founding Church of Scientology of Washington, D.C. v. Director, FBI)

—Refused to review a Texas court's ruling that awarded a Presbyterian congregation's property to a congregational minority that remained loyal to the denomination, instead of deeding the property to a majority that voted to leave the denomination. The dispute is one of many around the country involving congregations that have left the recently reunited Presbyterian Church for the new, more conservative Presbyterian Church in America. (86 1911, Casa Linda Presbyterian Church in America v. Grace Union Presbytery)

—Let stand an Ohio Supreme Court finding that legally competent patients in state mental health hospitals may not be forced against their religious beliefs to submit to medical treatment, even though the treatment is arguably life-extending. The free exercise clause of the First Amendment protects the right of such patients to refuse the treatments, the Ohio panel ruled. (86-1853, Ohio Department of Mental Health v. Milton)

—Refused a Michigan automobile dealer's appeal of a lower court decision that the state has the power to forbid auto sales on Sundays in the interest of the

public's health, safety and welfare. A law prohibiting Sunday auto sales does not violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, the lower panel held. (86-1920, McDonald Pontiac-Cadillac-GMC v. Prosecuting Attorney for County of Saginaw)

—Also let stand a decision of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals that a group of doctors and patients who sued an anti-abortion organization they claimed threatened, harassed, intimidated and assaulted them does not constitute a class of victims and therefore is not entitled to relief under the federal Civil Rights Act. (87-50, Roe v. Abortion Abolition Society)

CP Tops \$130 Million Mark

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists contributed a record \$130,345,184 to their Cooperative Program budget during the 1986-87 fiscal year, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee.

The new Cooperative Program total surpassed the previous year's receipts by almost \$5.9 million, Bennett said. That represents a gain of 4.92 percent, compared to the current U.S. inflation rate of 4.3 percent. The overall Cooperative Program goal was \$136 million.

Penn-South Jersey Elects Williams

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP)—Wallace A.C. Williams was unanimously elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey during a called meeting of the convention's executive board Sept. 19. He will assume the position Nov. 1.

Williams is pastor of the Madison (N.J.) Baptist Church and will be the fourth executive since the formation of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey convention in 1970.

Newton Returns To HMB

ATLANTA (BP)—James R. Newton, director of communications for Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism, will return to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as news director Nov. 1.

Newton, who was HMB news director from 1980 to June 1987, will become director of the newly formed news and information department. He also will be chief of the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.



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PAC Recommends

'Dissolve BJC Ties'

by Marv Knox & Greg Warner
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's representatives to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs have recommended the SBC "dissolve its institutional and financial ties" with the Washington-based church-state agency.

The SBC Public Affairs Committee voted 8-4 to suggest the SBC sever ties with the Baptist Joint Committee, comprised of nine Baptist bodies. The vote, taken Oct. 6 following the BJC's annual meeting, also asked for \$485,200 to fund and staff the Public Affairs Committee "as the agency of the Southern Baptist Convention to deal with First Amendment and religious liberty issues beginning Oct. 1, 1988, or at the earliest possible date. . . ."

The Public Affairs Committee met before and after the BJC meeting in Washington Oct. 5-6. The motion to dissolve ties mirrored a motion made in the preliminary meeting of the PAC Oct. 4.

Classifieds

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. 1112

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.

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That motion would have asked the SBC Executive Committee to "immediately withdraw funding" of the BJC if it failed to provide certain financial information, professional staff correspondence and access to staff for evaluation interviews. The Public Affairs Committee instead passed a substitute motion that included the original requests but did not specify withdrawal of funding.

When the BJC convened the following day, it set in motion its own staff evaluation process, granted the Public Affairs Committee only part of the information it requested and denied unilateral PAC access to the staff for evaluation.

The BJC voted 24-7, with only members of Southern Baptists' delegation dissenting, to request the BJC executive committee evaluate the staff on behalf of all nine member denominations and report back to the full BJC in October 1988.

Immediately following that vote, Southern Baptist Norris Sydnor of Mitchellville, Md., asked the BJC to grant the Public Affairs Committee's request for eight items: a breakdown of the 1986-87 budget and the proposed 1987-88 budget; staff salaries and benefits for the past five years; a list of the staff's organizational memberships paid by BJC funds; itemized expense accounts for the past five years; a copy of the BJC constitution and bylaws; a roster of BJC committees; copies of correspondence to and from the staff for the last three years; and approval of Public Affairs Committee interviews with the staff Oct. 7 and 8.

The BJC granted access to five of the items but contested and subsequently voted to deny the Public Affairs Committee's right to expense accounts, correspondence and independent staff evaluation.

The BJC also overturned or modified other moves by the Public Affairs Committee or some of its members:

— It passed a resolution proposed by Southern Baptist Les Csorba III of Alexandria, Va., that encourages presidential nomination and Senate confirmation of U.S. Supreme Court justices "who adhere to the traditional principle of church-state separation and the cherished right of religious freedom" and encourages Baptists to write senators in support of such nominees.

However, the BJC deleted eight paragraphs of the resolution that cited specific illustrations of what the "traditional principle" means.

— It approved a resolution offered by Albert Lee Smith of Birmingham, Ala., that demands that People for the American Way,

a secular First Amendment organization, withdraw its videotape, "Life and Liberty for All Who Believe" because it "includes portions highly critical of many Christian leaders."

However, it struck 10 other paragraphs from the resolution, including the statement, "We believe it is in the best interest of all nine Baptist denominations that the (BJC) cease and desist from any further association with People for the American Way because its record and objectives are thoroughly foreign to the objectives or our nine Christian groups." Several members noted that, although BJC Executive Director James Dunn at one time was an individual PAW member, the BJC never has been associated with the organization.

— It declined to reprimand Dunn for writing a "clarification" letter to senators following an August resolution by the Public Affairs Committee in which it endorsed Robert H. Bork as a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Dunn noted some people in Washington had been misinterpreting that endorsement to mean the entire SBC had endorsed Bork and said his letter clarified that misinterpretation. Public Affairs Committee members contended Dunn's letter counteracted and misinterpreted their action.

— It refused to rescind but did refer to committee and pull from active circulation a 1980 resolution, "On the Dangers of Civil Religion." It also referred to committee Csorba's request to delete all references to the "Religious Right" in the resolution.

When the Public Affairs Committee reconvened following the BJC meeting, they voted to recommend dissolving SBC ties with the BJC. The motion was made by Albert Lee Smith, who also offered the funding withdrawal motion prior to the BJC meeting.

Public Affairs Committee members defeated a motion offered by Lloyd Elder of Nashville, Tenn., which would have declined action on another SBC motion calling for continued examination of the BJC staff, and it would have noted the Public Affairs Committee is working "to successfully preserve 'jointness' with the other Baptist bodies and yet ensure responsiveness to our own Southern Baptist Convention."

Public Affairs Committee Chairman Sam Currin of Raleigh, N.C., told Baptist Press: "I don't think this would have come to a head at this meeting had they (the BJC) not refused the Public Affairs Committee's right to look at financial records and documents and interview the staff. It really comes down to a matter of trusteeship and accountability. The Southern Baptist trustees do not believe they can represent the SBC . . . when in fact they do not have the power to do so."

CLC Opens Office In D.C.

by **Tim Fields**
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has opened an office in Washington in an effort to expand its involvement in and witness to the nation's capital, according to N. Larry Baker, executive director of the moral concerns agency.

The office, located in the Railway Labor Building near the Capitol and Senate office buildings, will be manned on a part-time basis by current staff of the commission who will commute from home offices in Nashville.

Commissioners of the agency voted unanimously in their 1986 annual meeting to open the Washington office as soon as funds were available.

Although the commission did not receive additional funding which it requested from the convention for the 1987-88 budget year, reallocation of funds in the 1987-88 operating budget made staffing of the office on a part-time basis possible.

The commission has asked the convention for a permanent allocation of \$150,000 beginning with the 1988-89 budget year to fund a full-time Washington-based staff for the office.

Establishment of a CLC office in the nation's capital also was supported by a special fact-finding committee of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee which reviewed the convention's participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The special committee encouraged trustees of the CLC "to continue the consideration of opening a Washington office to deal with appropriate moral and social concerns within its program statement."

The CLC is responsible for all social and moral concerns except separation of church and state and religious liberty issues, which are addressed by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Public Affairs Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The decision to open the Washington office now instead of waiting for funding to support a permanent staff was taken in an effort to enhance the commission's opportunity to speak to a variety of critical moral issues and to motivate and inform Southern Baptists as to how they can address these issues," Baker said.

"Several legislative priorities are clear in the months ahead," he explained. "We will continue to work aggressively for the passage of the Danforth Amendment. We will also give close attention to several pieces of pending legislation related to gambling and matters related to the abor-

tion issue. In addition to a bill restricting 'dial-a-porn,' a major anti-pornography bill may be introduced soon."

"I am in favor of the opening of a Washington office for the Christian Life Commission and have been all along," said Fred Lackey, newly elected chairman of the Christian Life Commission and pastor of First Church of Athens, Ala.

"This office will help the commission more effectively to carry out its program assignment and will put it closer to the pulse of our country and its lawmakers where we can be more effective in addressing and affecting moral issues," he said.

According to Baker, Larry Braidfoot, who has directed the CLC's citizenship program for the past six years, will have primary responsibility for the Washington office and will travel to Washington with increased frequency. Baker also will work out of the office when needed.

Establishment of the Washington office comes on the heels of expanded involvement by the commission in recent months in the nation's capital. Commission staff presented testimony on Capitol Hill twice in recent months, joined itself to testimony offered by another organization in recent weeks, and has supported the Danforth Abortion Neutral Amendment.

The address for the CLC Washington office is: Christian Life Commission, 400 First Street, Northwest, Washington, DC 20001.

Trustees Approve Property Purchase

NASHVILLE (BP)—The trustee executive committee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board approved Sept. 24 the purchase of 2.6 acres adjoining the board's downtown property as the first step toward implementing a master properties plan.

They also authorized expansion of the parking lot on the roof of the operations building to add 115 parking spaces for employees and visitors, with completion expected by December.

A warehouse formerly used as a railroad freight building is located on the CSX Transportation, Inc., property which adjoins the north end of the board's operations building. Purchase of the property Sept. 28 at a cost of \$2 million is being paid for out of fixed asset reserve funds.

The plan approved by the trustees in August includes plans to expand the operations building for improved warehousing and distribution of materials and move the docking area to the north end of the warehouse from its present location on 10th Avenue North, a high traffic area.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Cross Purposes

by Vester Wolber, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Genesis 27:1-45

Focal passage: Genesis 27:1-10,41-45

Central truth: Selfish ambitions and unethical scheming do not fit into God's purposes.

(1) Good intentions cannot compensate for wrong actions. Isaac meant well, but did wrong because he followed tradition and did not find and follow the will of God. Precisely so, a Christian may mistakenly follow traditional patterns of conduct and run counter to the leading of the Lord.

Although our Lord does not set aside his ethical laws and lead us to do something morally wrong, he does at times direct us to break with traditional practices in following his will.

God indicated that the covenant promises were to be passed to Jacob, but Isaac's personal plans were locked in on Esau, and he was not open to receive new directions from the Lord.

(2) Good ends do not justify evil means. A mother's ambition to see her son achieve God's purpose for him does not justify her use of unethical methods to bring it about. If we learn from the case of Isaac that God's long-range purpose cannot be changed by our wrong-headed decisions, we should also learn from the record of Rebekah that God's purpose cannot be expedited by our evil schemes and deceptions.

(3) One moral failure does not destroy forever a person's capacity for being wise and good. A person may find himself or herself in a terribly bad situation because of poor planning, a wrong decision, or some moral let-down; even so, God still has a will for that person, a will that begins where the person is. We are ever at a new starting point to follow God's directives.

Our sins and their consequences, however, are not easily repaid. Every sin that we engage in scales down the long-range purpose of God for us in this life. A blue Martin may recover from a broken wing and fly, but a bird with a broken wing will never soar as high again.

(4) Spirituality and morality are ever linked together. While God ever seeks to steer us away from evil and danger, he does not usually override our free will: he permits us to exercise our freedom, make our mistakes, and endure the consequences.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series, Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

The Changed Life

by Ronnie W. Floyd, First Church, Springdale

Basic passage: Galatians 3:29-4:19

Focal passage: Galatians 3:29-4:11,9

Central truth: A person that encounters the living Christ will be changed.

The Apostle Paul, the author of Galatians, was a perfect example of the changed life. Before he met Christ he hated Christianity. On the Damascus Road he encountered the living Christ. Once he met the Lord Jesus Christ he was never the same. Paul, the one who hated Christianity is now viewed as being one of the greatest Christians who has ever lived on earth. How does one explain this phenomenal transformation? There is only one explanation. His name is Jesus Christ.

First, let's look at a life before meeting the living Christ (4:1-3). A person may be religious, but never changed by God's power. A person prior to meeting Christ will be in bondage to the elemental things of the world. The bondage may be to satisfy self, to possess possessions, or to live in flagrant sin. However, until Christ comes into a person's life they are separated from God and are doomed to an eternal hell.

Second, let's look at a life in Christ (4:4-5). When God saw that man was going to continually fall short of his expectations, at the right time, he sent his one and only Son to this earth. Christ came to provide redemption from our sin. Christ came to take persons who were away from God and make them the children of God. Our lives will only be changed by the living Christ when we place total faith and trust in Christ and him alone for our salvation.

Third, let's look at the life after Christ (4:6-7). When a person has trusted Christ they are changed. Even though once alienated from God, they are now saved from their sin. A life after Christ gives evidence of change by the presence of God into our hearts, the capacity to have an intimate relationship with the Father, being called a son of God, and becoming an heir of God. All of these represent a change from a life before Christ. We must be quick to remember that man does not obtain this other than by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

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Bible Book

Second Generation Sin

by Larry Pillow, Second Church, Conway

Basic passage: Genesis 4

Focal passage: Genesis 4:3-15,25

Central truth: The influence for good or evil is passed on from parents to children.

Children are, to a certain extent, an extension and reflection of their parents. If children succeed, the parents share their success. If children fail, parents feel their failure.

Cain and Abel had the same parents, grew up in the same environment, and yet turned out drastically different. Thus, there is a limit to parental influence or parental responsibility. Need we be reminded that Adam and Eve had the "perfect parent" in ideal circumstances, and yet they failed.

God instructed Adam and Eve. God held them accountable for how they responded. We must conclude that Adam and Eve held them accountable for the way they offered their sacrifices.

Both brought a sacrifice to God. One was acceptable, and the other was not. Apparently, the difference was faith or belief. We are told that Abel's offering was made "by faith" (He. 11:4).

The fact that Cain's offering was a bloodless offering is significant and probably influenced God to reject his offering. Cain refused the revelation God had given him about the kind or manner of offering. Instead he resorted to reason and concluded what he thought was best to offer God. God had no choice but to reject his offering.

Cain is like good religious people of our day who bring their best to God and reject the free offer of salvation made available through Christ.

Cain got upset with God when God held him accountable. God gave him a warning (v. 7). Cain ignored the warning and killed his brother (v. 8).

Again God held Cain accountable for his actions (v. 9a). Cain responded with, "I don't know, and I don't care" ("Am I my brother's keeper?") attitude (v. 9b). God brought judgment against Cain for his sin by making him a permanent vagabond.

Ultimately God intervened again and replaced Abel with Seth and the stage was set for a universal struggle with the righteous and the unrighteous lines.

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Doors Closing Daily

By Susan Todd
Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—If trends continue at the present rate, by the year 2000, foreign governments will deny missionaries the opportunity to witness to 83 percent of the world's lost.

Already, doors are closing daily because of political and religious influences. Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders believe it to be more important than ever to witness in every possible place.

In 1900, most all countries were open to Southern Baptist missionaries. But today, more than 60 countries out of 250 are closed to them. Projections for the year 2000 indicate that 100 countries out of those 250 will deny visas to Southern Baptist missionaries.

Anticipating that change, Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said, "We can't depend on being bigger and better to evangelize the world. We've got to be more creative."

One of the first areas in which foreign mission leaders have become more creative is in ways of sending missionaries. The opportunities for the traditional career missionary to enter new countries are becoming more limited. So, along with sending missionaries into receptive countries, the Foreign Mission Board is exploring new ways to get into closing countries.

This new missionary-sending approach is different from old approaches because it focuses on professional skills rather than traditional Christian vocational skills. These persons are entering countries to work in such positions as teachers, technologists and health-care workers—and they are classified as such, not as missionaries.

As these Christians become established in their professional fields, they are able to live out a Christian witness before their co-workers and others with whom they come in contact.

Foreign Mission Board leaders believe that in the future, because of the bridges which will have been built, Southern Bap-

tists may have a better opportunity to enter countries that are now closed.

Still another way of getting a Christian witness into restricted-access countries involves Christians from foreign countries. In June 1985, the Foreign Mission Board convened 43 persons from 21 countries to focus on world evangelization. They were encouraged to partner with the Foreign Mission Board in world evangelization. For some of those 21 countries it was a plea to continue existing partnerships.

Many countries are responding. From 17 foreign conventions and unions, 250 Baptists have gone as foreign missionaries. Brazil, with more than 100 missionaries in about 20 countries, is leading the way.

Carrying out creative plans of sharing the gospel with more than 2.4 billion people is costly, however. And it becomes increasingly so.

Today, it costs about \$23,000 a year to support a foreign missionary. Calculated at an increase of an estimated 5 percent inflation rate per year, Projections indicate it will cost \$37,950 to support a missionary by the year 2000.

This rising cost makes meeting this year's \$75 million Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal crucial. It was lowered in April 1987 from \$81 million because the 1986 goal fell more than \$5 million short of the 1986 \$75 million goal.

Because the Foreign Mission Board allocates every penny of each year's goal, even the \$75 million will not be enough to meet the needs. The difference of \$6 million will mean that needs will go unmet on foreign mission fields. Some creative approaches to sharing the gospel will have to be delayed.

But those delays could be avoided if individuals would re-examine their priorities, Parks said. "The average church spends 92 percent of its budget locally," he said. "It's contrary to the Bible and to Christ's teachings."

"Once we give to our churches, we seem to believe that sanctifies the money. We add luxuries to our facilities. We need to re-

(FMB) photo / Joanna Pinneo



These Indian Hindus in Calcutta are praying the only way they know. The vast majority of India's 785 million people have never heard anyone speak the name of Jesus.

examine. We have allowed our culture to dominate our gospel rather than our gospel to dominate our culture.

"There's a world out there and it is going to hell while we spend our money on ourselves. Apparently Southern Baptists haven't decided they are willing to pay the price of Bold Mission Thrust."

Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to do their part to share the gospel with everyone in the world by the year 2000, is a costly plan. But as costly and important as money and strategy are to the plan, the call to prayer is even more so.

"Prayer is our most crucial strategy, the only strategy in some cases," said Parks. The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Nov. 29 through Dec. 6, provides a one-time opportunity for Southern Baptists to join together in their prayer efforts.

But mission board leaders say it will take more. "Every great missionary movement (in history) was preceded by a concert of prayer," said Parks. "If we're going to reach this world, that is what it is going to take."

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WORLD

FMB Takes Over Cuban Work

by Leisa Hammett-Goad
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—In its October meeting, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors voted to transfer responsibility for relationships between the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist Convention of Western Cuba to the Foreign Mission Board.

Both Foreign and Home Mission Board administration have agreed the transfer will benefit the work of Cuban Southern Baptists. The FMB directors will vote on the transfer in their Oct. 14 board meeting.

Baptist work in Cuba began in the late 1890s when Alberto J. Diaz, a soldier during the 10-year war in Eastern Cuba, jumped ship during an ambush. He was picked up by a ship and sailed to America where he was given a Bible and became a Christian.

He returned to Cuba and, with the help of home missionary W.F. Wood, established the first Cuban Baptist church.

Before becoming the first superintendent of Cuban missions, Wood worked with Cuban refugees in Florida. He convinced the Southern Baptist Convention that they must take the gospel message to Cuba. The SBC decided that the Home Mission Board would initiate the work.

Moses McCall and then Herbert Caudill succeeded Wood as missions superintendent. During McCall's stint, the Cuban Convention was formed in 1905.

Caudill, who died at age 84 a week before the October board action to transfer Cuba, served there 40 years. In 1965, Caudill and his missionary son-in-law David Fite were imprisoned and accused of illegal currency exchange and other charges.

After 20 months in prison, Caudill was released for health problems, was treated and remained in Cuba until Fite was released in 1969.

Historians credit Wood, McCall and Caudill for establishing a strong lay leadership who continued Baptist work after Southern Baptist missionaries left Cuba in 1969.

Cuban Southern Baptists said Oscar Romo, HMB language missions director, have continued to grow in numbers despite massive immigration from Cuba. Throughout history, Cuban Southern Baptist work has flourished despite such obstacles, including the Spanish American War (1895-1898)—when all pastors were expelled—and the Castro revolution.

Since Southern Baptist missionaries left Cuba, the HMB continued to work with the Cuban convention by supplying building

materials, literature and training and by maintaining relationships through the Baptist World Alliance.

With the transfer, the FMB can better supply literature for the Cuban convention, because of its international focus, said Romo.

Don Kammerdiener, FMB vice president for the Americas, noted the FMB also can offer Cubans training by Baptists outside the United States. One such event already is planned.

The transfer, he added, will allow Cuban Baptists to obtain training at FMB overseas seminaries. "It is more logical that study be done in Latin America, because it is not possible to do so in the U.S. due to political factors between the two countries," said Kammerdiener.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to relate to Cuba on a formal basis," said Kammerdiener, adding, "we are highly appreciative of the excellent work the Home Mission Board has done, especially in maintaining Baptist contacts in Cuba."

A gradual transfer has been taking place since 1959. The October action to transfer will be effective Dec. 31, 1988.

BWA Women Name New Exec

WASHINGTON (BP)—Elizabeth (Beth) Hayworth-MacClaren of McLean, Va., has been named executive director of the Baptist World Alliance women's department.

MacClaren, 63, has been minister of outreach and adult education at McLean Baptist Church since 1979. She will assume her new post Nov. 2, the date for this year's observance of Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

Her selection was announced by BWA women's department President Edna Lee de Gutierrez at the eighth assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Oct. 1-2.

MacClaren worked in student ministries in Kentucky and Louisiana where she was associate director for the Baptist student departments in both states.

From 1965 to 1973, she was assistant to the director of information services with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington. She also has worked as a congressional legislative assistant and as a local church director of Christian education in Washington.

MacClaren is widowed. She was educated at Bryce Commercial College and Mars Hill College, both in North Carolina, and is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and took additional studies at Louisiana State University and George Washington University.

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