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October 8, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Report From Nashville

Arkansas Baptist

October 8, 1987



On The Home Front

Cover Story



(BP) photo / Jim Veneman

On The Home Front 6

Home Bible study groups using the Outreach Bible Study material are proving to be an effective way to reach the otherwise unreachable.

Editor's Page 3

Speak Up

- Letters to the Editor 4
- Today's Issues 4
- You'll Be Glad To Know . . . 5
- Food & Fellowship 5

Local & State

- Arkansas All Over 7-9
- Black Oak Noteburning . . . 8
- Tupelo Appreciation Day . . 8
- 'Just Say No' 9
- SBC Enrollment 9
- Women's Conference 9

Nation

- Abortion Rule Tightened . . 10
- CLC Officers Elected 10
- Correction 10
- New Vice-Presidents 11
- Nashville Report 12-13

Lessons For Living . . . 14

World

- Venezuela Flood Relief . . . 15
- Gearing Up for Seoul 16

IT'S UPLIFTING

Biker Completes 'Spirit Trek'

by Mary E. Speidel
William Jewell College

ANAHEIM, Calif. (BP)—Disneyland literally rolled out the red carpet for multiple sclerosis victim Ed Chasteen, a Baptist college professor from Liberty, Mo., as he ended his 5,000-mile cycling trip across America Aug. 17 in Anaheim, Calif.

Chasteen, professor of sociology at William Jewell College, a Baptist school near Kansas City, Mo., spent the summer biking from Disney World near Orlando, Fla., to Disneyland, by way of Seattle. He was raising funds for the MS Society and the Human Family Reunion, a program bringing people from all races and religions together for fellowship.

On the morning of Aug. 27, the professor pedaled down a red carpet in front of Disneyland's train station, where a crowd of well-wishers waved American flags. During a celebration complete with a Disneyland band and cartoon characters, Mickey Mouse presented Chasteen a Mickey Mouse trophy honoring him for the feat.

Also participating in the Magic Kingdom welcome were Chasteen's wife, Bobbie, and Liberty, Mo., bikers Bob and Jean Watts. Watts built Chasteen's bike, named "The Spirit of Kansas City."

The Disneyland event ended a 5,126-mile bike ride for Chasteen, who was told six years ago he would never be active again. On May 18 in Orlando, Chasteen, 51, began his trek with no money and no idea where he would sleep each night.

Along the way, he depended on the generosity of others for his food and lodging needs. "I discovered it really is true. There is good in all people," says Chasteen, who slept in churches, rescue missions, private homes, police stations and on the front porch of a house where no one was home.

When possible, Chasteen spoke at Baptist churches and stayed in homes of Baptist families he met along his route. The professor is an active layman at Second Baptist Church in Liberty.

And even though he didn't worry about dangers, Chasteen admits there were times when he felt the trip would never end, "especially when I was going across Wyoming and Montana, riding against the wind," he recalls. "But I thought about all the people who were counting on me to do this and all the people who believed I was going to make it. They helped me keep going."

Pledges for both his causes are still coming in, so Chasteen doesn't know yet how much money his trip generated. He also will write a book about his experience.

GOOD NEWS!

Send Relief to the Hungry

by Robert Parham
Christian Life Commission

When the Christians in Antioch received word about a hunger crisis in Judea, they "determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul" (Ac. 11:29-30).

The disciples in Antioch took three steps to help the hungry. First, they recognized the need. They surely had a firsthand knowledge about hunger. No one had to convince these believers about the reality of hunger.

Second, they decided to act based upon what they had. They made a careful and calculated decision. They did not let the limited resources keep them from responding.

Third, they acted through a channel already in existence, the church. Barnabas and Saul delivered the hunger aid. The elders distributed it.

This is a biblical model which we may copy. In fact, our Southern Baptist approach to hunger ministry closely resembles this New Testament pattern. We are all aware that hunger plagues at least one-quarter of the world's population. Many of these people live in foreign countries but some live in our own country. Spiritual sensitivity, knowledge of the Bible and awareness of world events keep us informed.

Like the Christians in Antioch, we need to move beyond good intention to action. Our actions must be realistic. We need action based upon our financial, professional, and political resources. We cannot feed all the hungry people, but we can do far more than we have.

Also like the believers in Antioch, we have channels through which to act—our Home and Foreign Mission Board. Remember: 100 percent of hunger gifts goes to meet hunger needs. Our hunger ministry is unique. We need to support it.

Today, Southern Baptist disciples need to determine to send relief for the hungry around the world.

Our Only Authority

J. EVERETT SNEED

Baptists are agreed that the Bible is our only source of authority for faith and practice. The question arises, "Why are other sources of authority unacceptable?" The answer lies in the fact that the Bible is "God breathed." Our Scripture, therefore, as originally given by God to his servants, contained no errors.

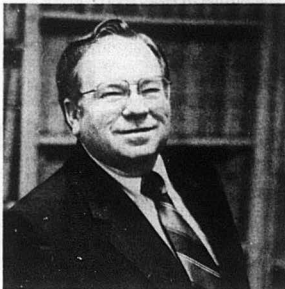
We do not have any original autographs or manuscripts that were written by the servants of God. But there are two miracles that surround the translations of the Scriptures that we do have. First, there is the miracle of God's inspiration, or overshadowing, of his servants so that the message that was written was in keeping with God's will.

The second miracle is that God has preserved his word for us so that it is totally dependable in the translations that we have today. The noted lexicographers Westcott and Hart said that there "is not a single major doctrine that hinges on a textual variance." Simply stated, this means that when an individual picks up his translation of the Word of God, he can believe it and accept it because it is accurate.

There are numbers of theories of inspiration. Two contemporary statements by Baptists state our position very clearly. First, the Baptist Faith and Message says, "The Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to men. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian unity, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinion should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

A second statement which describes our view of the Bible was given by the six Southern Baptist seminary presidents at Georgia. It says, in part, "We believe that the Bible is fully inspired; it is 'God breathed,' utterly unique. No other book or collection of books can justify that claim. The 66 books of the Bible are not errant in any area of reality. We hold to their infallible power and binding authority."

There are at least eight reasons why we believe the Bible to be inerrant, accurate,



and trustworthy. First, since God has revealed himself to man, it is reasonable to assume that he has revealed himself in an accurate and truthful manner. To challenge the validity of Scripture is to challenge the trustworthiness of God.

Second, Jesus gave testimony to the validity of the Old Testament Scriptures. We have record in the New Testament of Christ quoting from almost every Old Testament book. It is unthinkable to believe Christ would have quoted from something that was not accurate and reliable.

Again, our Lord sealed the validity of the New Testament as he commissioned his apostles as teachers and gave them the promise of the supernatural aid of the Holy Spirit in their teaching. The promise given to the apostles is similar to the promise that was given to the writers of the Old Testa-

ment. Jesus said to the apostles, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (Jn. 14:26).

The apostles claimed to have received the promise of the Holy Spirit and, under his influence, to speak with divine authority, putting their writings on the level of the Old Testament Scriptures. For example the apostle Paul said, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Co. 2:10).

The apostolic writers of the New Testament, unlike the heathen sages and the poets, gave attestation of their inspiration by the miracles they performed. The New Testament clearly declares to us that the apostles performed miracles. This served as their credentials that they were inspired of God.

Finally, the unity of the Scriptures, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, and the archaeological discoveries that have been made all give further attestation to the absolute trustworthiness of the Scriptures. Anyone who has been involved in extensive writing is aware how difficult it is to maintain unity and agreement in one's writing. The Scriptures were written over a period of 1,300 years or more by 30 or more authors and yet contains a unity or oneness which declares that God through the Holy Spirit is the author of our Bible.

Fortunately, today we can read the word of God and place complete trust in it. Our need is to believe God's Word and to make it a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (See Ps. 119:105).

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Letters to the Editor

Use Better Judgment

In reply to Mr. Robert L. Maddox, Silver Spring, Md. (*Arkansas Baptist* Sept. 17, 1987), I could not disagree with him more vehemently. However, that is not the point I wish to make in this letter.

From the time our forefathers framed the Constitution of the United States, Baptists have been in the forefront advocating separation of church and state. We do not need anyone to even suggest that our Christian brethren are not capable of discerning what and who is right. Certainly it is not proper for a person to use a Baptist state newsmagazine to further his political views. I am surprised and disappointed that our *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* would even publish such a letter. Seems to me that they should use better judgment in the materials they print.

As citizens and as Christians, we elect people to office and charge them with proper exercise of good government. It seems to me that this procedure is in progress at the present time by the Senate Select Committee. Be that as it may, we are certainly out of step and focus when we attempt to use a Baptist state paper to further our political views and any Baptist paper errs when it becomes involved in politics.—**John S. Burton, Rogers**

(Editor's note: The "Letters to the Editor" feature in the *Arkansas Baptist* is open to the opinions of all our readers. Letters which meet our guidelines are published, regardless of the popularity of the writer's views. The first letter in the ongoing discussion regarding Judge Bork's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court was, in fact, a letter encouraging support for Bork.)

Consider Philosophies

Philosophically, I believe that present appointment of a member of the U.S. Supreme Court is more significant and more important than the election of the next president of the United States. Most of us fail to realize just how much the future of this country and the world depend upon the decisions made by this powerful court. The appointment to this position is not just another political action; The decisions handed down by these judges significantly affect the moral climate of this nation. We must realize that political/judicial decisions make a great impact on the moral thinking of every individual.

Millions of dollars are being spent by powerful organizations who oppose the

confirmation of Judge Robert Bork to the court. I urge every Southern Baptist to consider the philosophies of those opponents, pray about this important matter, and let your congressmen and women know your convictions immediately.—**Mrs. Louis Goodman Jr., Caledonia, Miss.**

Pray for God's Will

Regarding the confirmation of Judge Bork To the U. S. Supreme Court, it is always interesting to see who lines up for and who lines up against the confirmation of someone like Mr. Bork. On the one side are those who favor abortion, gay rights, and the E.R.A. On the other side are the moralists who oppose the above. In the ideological struggle between pro-life and pro-choice forces, let us not forget that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. While Judge Bork's statements about *Roe vs. Wade* in the past cheer the hearts of those of us who feel that abortion is our greatest national sin, his past criticism of that decision doesn't imply, nor should we infer,

that he will vote to overturn that judicial blight on America's legal and ethical history. Remember 1976, when we all went crazy over Jimmy Carter because he was Baptist and born-again? He became one of the most liberal presidents since Roosevelt, much to the disappointment of many of us who blindly assumed he represented our conservative political views simply because he is a born-again Baptist. With Judge Bork, it seems to me that only God knows what Bork would do if appointed. Perhaps instead of praying for Judge Bork's appointment, we should pray for God's wise will to be done. God may have an even more conservative jurist who could help turn America back legally to her moral and spiritual roots of conviction. The pro-choice forces might think long and hard about that possibility before blocking finally Judge Bork's confirmation. Whoever President Reagan's next nominee might be if Bork is rejected, it will be easier to gain confirmation, because the present cry of "wolf, wolf" will have even less credibility to thinking people the second time around.—**James W. Bryant, Fort Smith**

Today's Issues

Servant Shortage

BOB PARKER

While considering the present day growing shortage of nurses and other "servant" professions and callings, remember that some have dared and some still dare to follow the example of Moses, who forsook the "riches of Egypt" in order to do God's will for his life.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, General Robert E. Lee chose to become president of a small bankrupt college (now Washington and Lee University), rather than sell his famous name to some commercial enterprise. Shortly before Lee's death, a young mother asked him to hold her infant son. She then asked for a word of advice. "Mother, teach this child to deny himself" was



his answer. Lee's favorite Bible verse, according to one biographer, was the words of Jesus which demand self denial and daily cross bearing, or service, from his disciples (Mt. 16:24, Mk. 8:34, Lk. 9:23).

Many years later, Toyohiko Kagawa was another who chose a life of self denial and service. The son of a wealthy railway magnate, after conversion he chose to spend many years ministering to the poverty stricken people of Kobe, Japan. In later years,

Kagawa set a goal for himself of winning one million people to Christ.

Currently, Southern Baptist missionary surgeon Rebecca Naylor, daughter of a former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, chooses to minister to the poor of India instead of reaping the financial rewards of medical practice at home.

Be faithful in praying for young people as they make vocational choices. Pray also for your own willingness to pay the monetary price needed that those such as nurses at home and missionaries overseas may serve without anxiety in meeting basic human needs.

Bob Parker is director of the ABCS Christian Life Council.

Food & Fellowship

Kitchen Crafts

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



Your offering last year helped to purchase 10 new mission sites. It assisted with the starting of 20 new mission churches. Four associations were given emergency financial assistance from that offering. A new Hispanic mission church, with pastor, was begun. The two men you fund to work with migrants at Hope and Hermitage led in ministries that saw 299 professions. The offering helped fund those works. It partially funded a part-time chaplain at the Cass Job Corps Center. This ministry resulted in 150 professions of faith. The offering helped fund 21 student summer missionaries that served in Arkansas.

I can't tell you how many requests for building aid grants and church pastoral aid were granted and how many were turned down. There are usually 40 to 50 pastors per year whose churches require some salary assistance. Almost that many are turned down from lack of funds.

That offering made it possible for us to lease/purchase two portable chapel units that allowed two new mission churches to begin in mobile home parks.

That offering also has made it possible for a seminary student to spend a year as a chaplain intern at the Rehabilitation Center and St. Joseph Hospital in Hot Springs. This hearty soul ministers from a wheelchair because of extensive paralysis caused from a diving accident.

The five permanent institutional chaplains that carry on such missions of mercy and hope in Jesus' name could not be there without this offering.

Aren't you glad you gave to this offering? Are you sure you did? Around 400 of our churches didn't give their people a chance to give to this offering. You may not have given after all. Of course, you'd like to. These things I've mentioned "get to" the heart of the born again. We want to see these things sustained and even expanded, don't we?

Oh, I better tell you. It's the Dixie Jackson State Mission Offering. Ask your pastor and deacons to give you an opportunity to give this year.

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

VIRGINIA KIRK & JANE PURTLE



This is a good time of the year for crafts: the shorter, cooler days keep us inside the house and holiday celebrations call for festive homes and handmade gifts.

The columns for this month and next focus on crafts that are fun for all ages. This month we are giving detailed direction for two crafts and next month we will discuss "We Care Baskets," an idea for sharing the crafts that a family or church groups make with shut-ins or other friends in the community.

The kitchen crafts we are suggesting don't take a lot of skill—just some time, imagination, and experimentation. Children love them, and they are good for family or church group activities. The resource book we used is *Dough Creations* by Pat Gardner and Kay Gleason. There are many helpful books available in libraries.

Bread sculptures

Make up any good yeast dough (our favorite recipe follows) or buy frozen dough. Allow to rise. Punch down and knead until the dough is smooth and elastic. Shape the dough into holiday shapes—candy cane, Christmas tree, Santa's head, braids, etc. Build up sculptures by using small balls and ropes of dough. Cut surfaces with a knife for interesting effects. Experiment! Do not make sculptures too thick or thin.

Place on greased cookie sheets and allow to rise about 30-40 minutes (perhaps less). Brush with a beaten egg. Cook at 375 degrees. After sculptures begin to brown slightly, brush again carefully, being sure that all surfaces are glazed with egg. Brush a third time if desired. Cook until well-browned and shiny. Time will vary depending on size of sculptures. Do not overbake.

These sculptures are beautiful to look at and quite tasty. This recipe can be doubled.

Dough for sculptures

Dissolve 1 package yeast and 1 teaspoon sugar in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of warm water. Allow to set for five minutes.

Heat $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup margarine, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, and 1 teaspoon salt until margarine is melted. Cool. Beat 1 egg and add the two mixtures. Beat in 3 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour to make a soft dough. Place on floured board and knead for 5 minutes, adding more flour to make a dough that is easy to work with. Allow to rise until double. Use as directed above.

Baker's clay ornaments

Mix together 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of water (more if needed). Knead clay until it is smooth and workable.

Color clay as desired for ornaments such as Christmas tree, snowman, candy cane, bell, gingerbread man, miniature gifts, stars, angel, figures for nativity scene, etc. To color clay, use poster paints or food coloring and work it in with hands or a spoon. If you wish, leave clay plain and paint after baking.

Shape the ornaments with fingers or use cookie cutters or a knife. Experiment with three dimensional effects by shaping ropes and balls and using a knife or toothpick to make interesting designs. Make a hole in top of each ornament with a toothpick. Shaping by hand and creating different effects is more creative and satisfying, especially for children.

Cover cookie sheet with foil and place ornaments on it.

Bake at 300 degrees until hard, about 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours for most ornaments. Watch carefully and do not overbake as ornaments lose color when baked too long. Allow to cool. Paint or touch up colors with poster or acrylic paints. Allow to dry. Spray well—at least two coats—with clear acrylic coating, shellac or enamel.

Next month: "We Care Baskets": one way to share your kitchen crafts.

Virginia Kirk, professor emerita at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

(BP) photo / Jim Veneman



Four persons made professions of faith in Sharon Smith's home.

On The Home Front

Outreach Bible Study, Evangelism Go Together

by Frank Wm. White
Baptist Sunday School Board

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)—Jesse Herron accepted Christ in a friend's home on a Monday night.

Curiosity first brought Herron to the Bible study eight weeks earlier. The comfortable surroundings along with an understandable presentation of the gospel made it possible for Herron to learn about Christ.

"I don't think I would have just walked into a church," Herron said.

But in his friend's home, the soft-spoken auto mechanic slowly nodded his head when Sharon Smith ended the session by asking Herron if he wanted the life they had talked about.

As Smith led Herron in a prayer to ask Jesus to forgive him of his sins and "enter his life," his wife and other friends in the room struggled to control their tears.

A few weeks earlier, his wife had prayed the same prayer. Herron was the last of the four participants in the outreach Bible study group to repeat the prayer and become a Christian.

Smith, minister of education at Lakeview Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Fla., and John Boone, pastor, believe the outreach Bible study materials are going to be crucial in pumping new life into their church.

The materials, called "An Invitation to Bible Study," have been available since October. The plan was designed by the Sunday school department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to reach non-

Christians outside the church using more familiar language, said Mavis Allen, Sunday school program and design coordinator.

That approach convinced Boone that outreach Bible study was more than just another Bible study plan. He admits he was skeptical when Smith first brought in the materials.

When Smith asked Boone to teach the session one night when she was out of town, he briefly scanned the material to see what he needed to do. "I stopped and read it all. This is the best material we've got going," he said.

Now Boone and his wife, Sherrill, are considering starting an outreach Bible study group for high school students out of a concern for their high school daughter's friends.

Boone said the two groups Smith has led produced far more evangelistic results than the church's Wednesday night visitation program.

He points out the materials are not complex and can be taught by church members as well as staff members.

A teacher's edition provides discussion suggestions and resource materials. A student edition provides materials for the participants. A separate youth edition is available. Both follow a study of the Gospel of Luke.

Outreach Bible study can be used on campuses, in apartment complexes, homes, community centers or any location non-Christians would be most comfortable.

Already, outreach Bible study has been

used successfully by churches for evangelistic outreach or to help establish new work.

Church planters David and Betsy Draper used outreach Bible study as one of the first ways to get people interested in new work they are starting in the Beacon Hill area and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus in Boston.

A new mission in Surry, Maine, was begun with an outreach Bible study conducted in the town fire hall in October 1985.

While the materials are easy to use, getting a Bible study project started may not always be easy, Smith cautioned.

Once it is established, people will not necessarily attend with only one invitation. It may take several invitations and careful cultivation to encourage non-Christian people to attend a Bible study, she explained.

The SSB Sunday school department hopes the sessions will be started to reach the non-Christians. The goal for this year is 4,000 outreach Bible study groups using "An Invitation to Bible Study." By 1990, the goal increases to 10,000 outreach Bible studies sponsored by Southern Baptist Sunday schools.

"We're trying to find new ways to reach outside the church walls and reach the un-saved where they are," said Harry Piland, director of the Sunday school department.

Psychology For Christian Life

4

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Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Dennis W. Swanberg will begin service Oct. 11 as pastor of Second Church in Hot Springs, coming there from First Church in Saginaw, Texas. A native of Austin, Texas, he is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Swanberg has served on the staffs of churches in Waco and Fort Worth and, in addition to the Saginaw church, he has pastored First Church in Rogers, Texas. He and his wife, Lauree, have two sons, Chad Dennis, five, and Dustin Wayne, two.

David Allbritton of Pine Bluff is the recipient of a Rice-Judson Scholarship given annually by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on the basis of outstanding leadership. Allbritton is a 1987 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He is the son of Mrs. and Mrs. W.P. Allbritton.

Jerry Muckensturm has joined the staff of Central Church in Jonesboro as minister of university students and singles. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary. Muckensturm and his wife, Pam, have two daughters, Kelly, nine, and Katie Rae, three.

Karen Henderson has resigned as minister of youth at First Church, Arkadelphia, to accept a similar position at First Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Doug Guinn of Posey Hollow near Mena is serving as pastor of Black Springs Church.

O.J. Sharp of Mountain Pine is serving as pastor of Refuge Church at Story.

Herman Kapherr is serving as interim pastor of Glenwood Church.

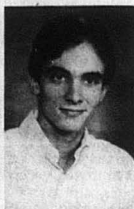
Glen Pool has joined the staff of West Memphis Second Church as minister of music and youth. A native of DeWitt, he is married to the former Sharon Hall of Wynne.

Faye Downs was recognized Sept. 20 by Sylvan Hills Church in North Little Rock for her 10 years of service as director of the church's Mother's Day Out program.

Dorma Jean Snow recently retired as director of the kindergarten nursery school at Little Rock Second Church. She was



Swanberg



Allbritton

recognized Sept. 20 by the church for her 27 years of service.

Jeannette E. Hunt of Bluffton died Sept. 15 at age 16 as the result of a head-on collision near Plainview. She was a junior at Plainview-Rover High School and was a member of Bluffton Church, where her father serves as pastor. Her funeral services were held Sept. 17 at First Church, Plainview. Survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Hunt; two brothers, Monte Hunt of Bigelow, and Martin Hunt of Plainview; two sisters, Jacquelyn Vaughn of Plainview, and Jean James of Gravelly; two grandmothers, Inez Riley of Rover, and Leona Hunt of Plainview; and a step-grandfather, Audie Riley of Rover.

Jim Russell has resigned as pastor of Memorial Church in Blytheville, where he has served since 1981.

Bob Massey will begin service Oct. 25 as pastor of Monte Ne Church in Rogers, going there from Fitzgerald Church in Wynne. He attended both Memphis State University and Mid-America Seminary. Massey and his wife, Cynthia, have a daughter, Mary Beth, three.

James M. Evans has resigned as pastor of Friendship Church in Clinton, and has retired after serving as director of missions for Faulkner Association and as pastor of churches in Conway, Little Rock, and Clinton. He is residing at Route 1, Box 374-1, Clinton, AR 72031; telephone 501-745-4582.

Billy G. Milam has resigned as pastor of Kibler Church at Van Buren following more than 10 years service.

John W. Horne will begin serving Oct. 11 as pastor of South Side Church in Fort Smith. A native of South Carolina, he is a

graduate of Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served on the staff of Life Line Church in Little Rock. Horne and his wife, Myra Lynette, have two children, Meredith Adrienne, 10, and Caleb Justin, six.

Don Brazil and **Tim Strebeck** have joined the staff of Hickory Street Church, Texarkana. Brazil is serving as music director, and Strebeck is serving as youth director.

John McAlexander has resigned as pastor of Shiloh Memorial Church, Texarkana, to serve as pastor of a Louisiana church.

W.C. and Lajuan Brown have joined the staff of Sylvester Church, Fouke. He is serving as music director, and she is serving as pianist.

David Holder of Monticello recently participated in the third annual Royal Ambassador Writer's Conference at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. He is one of the 19 people selected to write 1989 Royal Ambassador curriculum.

George R. Wilson Sr. of Lake Jackson, Texas, died Sept. 24 at age 87. Wilson, a long-time Southern Baptist pastor, had pastored churches in Arkansas and Arizona from 1932-1943, at which time he volunteered for duty as an Army chaplain. In addition, he also had served as pastor of Texas churches and as the first director of the Arizona Baptist Children's Home. Survivors include his wife, Blodwen Wilson; two sons, George R. Wilson Jr. of Hong Kong, and Clifford B. Wilson of Lake Jackson; two daughters, Blodwen Henry of Dallas, Texas, and Sara Davis of Bedford, Texas; two sisters; 16 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Ron Clark, who serves as chaplain for Cass Job Corps Center, spoke on the work of the center and the responsibilities of a chaplain as a part of the State Missions emphasis at New Prospect National Church in Russellville; Lamar Church; First Church, Paris; and the Baptist Student Union at the University of the Ozarks at Clarksville.

John T. Midkiff of Walnut Ridge died Sept. 28 at age 61 in St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro following a lengthy illness. He was a member of First Church, Walnut Ridge, and had retired as professor of social science at Southern Baptist College. Midkiff had pastored several

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas churches, including Hopewell Church at Corning for 14 years. Survivors are his wife, Charlena Edmondson Midkiff; five sons, Paul Midkiff of Little Rock, David Midkiff of Portia, Maj. Stephen Midkiff with the U.S. Army in Honolulu, Hawaii, Phillip Midkiff of Hoxie, and Daniel Midkiff of Cumberland, Ky.; one sister, Mary Ann Sulfridge of Jonesboro; one brother, Kemp Midkiff of Wynne; and 11 grandchildren. Memorials may be made to either Southern Baptist College or First Church, Walnut Ridge.

Briefly

Clarendon First Church will observe family reunion day Oct. 18 with services that begin at 10 a.m. Members, former members, and former pastors will be special guests. C. Michael Anders, pastor of First Church, Sherwood, and a former pastor, will be guest speaker. A noon meal will be served.

Temple Church at Searcy members participating in the AMAR Crusade this month are Sue Ann Williams, Ena Elmore, and Jim Wiley.

Harmony Association began a 30-minute telecast "Baptists in Harmony" Oct. 4 on the Pine Bluff ACTS affiliate. The program, to be aired weekly, will spotlight a different associational church as Bill H. Lewis, director of missions, does an interview with the pastor and special music is provided by the church. Pastors also will bring brief messages.

Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock will conduct its annual Brooks Hays Lecture Series Oct. 23-25 with Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, as featured speaker.

Ironton Church in Little Rock ordained Eugene Allison to the deacon ministry Sept. 20. Pastor Bob Shaddox preached the ordination message.

Pickles Gap Church at Conway youth are involved in a weekly puppet ministry at a local convalescent center.

Mount Vernon Church ordained Vassar Blair to the deacon ministry Aug. 30. Bill Kreis, director of missions for Faulkner Association, preached the ordination message.

Plainview Church in Little Rock will observe homecoming Oct. 11. Activities will include a noon potluck meal and an afternoon musical program. Cecil Webb is pastor.

Union Avenue Church in Wynne conducted a fall revival Sept. 13-18 that resulted in 17 professions of faith and three additions by letter. Danny Veteto, pastor of First Church, Gravel Ridge, was evangelist. Woody Sanders directed music. Shelby Bittle is pastor.

Gentry First Church recently announced plans to build a new 10,525 square foot auditorium that will initially seat 750 in the main area and will eventually seat over 900 when the balcony area is completed. The building will include stained glass windows lighted from the inside; an enclosed lobby and narthex, and a 60-foot bell tower

located outside the main entrance. The present auditorium, built in 1946, will be renovated into a two-story educational building for children, youth, and adult Sunday School classes. Joe Finrock is pastor.

Salem Church near Stephens as an attendance promotion observed "Rooftop Sunday" Sept. 20 when Pastor Fred Dumas delivered the morning message from the room of the church building. Special music was provided by the Youth Power Choir.

Mount Hebron Church near Searcy dedicated a \$23,000 debt-free expansion to its church Oct. 4. The building houses classrooms and a fellowship hall. Jim Wiley was speaker, according to Pastor Harold Hansell.

Mountain Home First Church, in a service Sept. 27, commissioned Boyd and Bonnie Maragason for their two-year assignment as Mission Service Corps volunteers in Las Vegas, Nev.

Pangburn First Church has planned a month-long 75th anniversary celebration. The "Diamond Jubilee" celebration begins Oct. 4 with the target day of celebration and fellowship scheduled for Oct. 24, beginning at 3:30 p.m. with special music, fellowship, and a 5 p.m. meal. Guest speakers throughout the month will include former pastors Sidney Holcomb and Amos Greer; J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*; and Clarence Shell, Arkansas Baptist State Convention director of evangelism. Pastor Charles Christie reports that a fall revival beginning on Oct. 25 and led by J. Harold Smith will climax anniversary events.



Black Oak Church recently celebrated payment of a \$65,000 parsonage indebtedness with a noteburning service that featured Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association. Participating were (left to right) Doris Dunkerson, treasurer; John Banks, a trustee; Pastor Maurice Hitt; L.E. Sanders, associate pastor; and Fred Finch, a building committee member.



First Church, Tupelo, recently recognized Myrtle Webb with an appreciation day which included a reception attended by Pastor Ronnie Toon and former pastors Lehman Webb, Joe Burnett, and James Johnson. Webb, who celebrated her 90th birthday Sept. 5, teaches a women's Sunday School class, serves as church clerk, and is an active member of Woman's Missionary Union.

Hot Springs Second Church held a reception Sept. 27 for Malcolm McDow in recognition of his more than nine months of service as interim pastor.

El Dorado First Church recently held a revival that resulted in 50 professions of faith and 70 rededications, according to Pastor Mark Coppenger. Kelly Green served as evangelist with Mike and Faye Speck serving as musicians.

Siloam Springs First Church ordained Tommy Leavelle and Richard McVay to the deacon ministry Sept. 27 with Pastor Homer Shirley serving as moderator.

Heber Springs First Church ordained Larry Crabtree, Keith Fox, and Bill Johnston to the deacon ministry Oct. 4 with Pastor Jerry A. Kirkpatrick serving as moderator.

North Park Chapel in Van Buren congregation worshipped Oct. 4 in their new building, which will be dedicated Nov. 18, according to Pastor Murl Walker. Services have been held in a business establishment since the chapel was launched Nov. 16, 1986, as a mission of First Church, Van Buren.

'Just Say No'

Adults and young people interested in combatting the pernicious effects of alcohol and drugs in their communities will want to attend a "Just Say No" seminar

Saturday, Oct. 31, at Fort Smith First Church.

The seminar will offer training in philosophy, organization techniques, and teaching skills necessary for starting "Just Say No" Clubs. Admission is free, and free literature—including a 221-page adult leader's book—will be distributed at the meeting.

The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. Reservations must be received by Oct. 13. Contact Susan Hutchinson, 1108 Adelaide, Fort Smith, AR 72901; 501-785-3373.

SBC Enrollment Up Slightly

Total enrollment for the fall semester at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge has shown an increase of 3 percent over 1986, according to Jerol Swaim, SBC vice-president for academic affairs.

Fall enrollment at the Walnut Ridge campus and three extension centers totaled 516, compared to 501 in 1986. Enrollment on the main campus, however, showed a decrease of 6.8 percent over 1986, as the enrollment dropped from 483 in 1986 to 450 this year.

"The drop does pose some concern,"

conceded Swaim, "but this must be interpreted in light of the fact that last fall's campus enrollment was the highest in 12 years. Swaim further noted that cuts in federal financial aid are affecting the ability of many students to attend private colleges.

Women's Conference

Jeanne Wright of Little Rock's First Church will be the keynote speaker when the "Women's Christian Conference" convenes Nov. 13-14 at Wynne Church.

Conference topics will include "Enjoying Teenagers," "Husband/Wife Relationships," "Moral Issues," and "Living With An Unsaved Mate." Other conference leaders will come from Jonesboro Central Church, Forrest City First Church, and Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn.

The conference session Friday, Nov. 13, will run from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, the conference will convene at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with a 1 p.m. address by Mrs. Wright.

The \$15 registration fee covers conference material, workshops, and Saturday lunch. Registration should be sent to Mrs. Tommy Owens, Rt. 1, Box 213, Wynne, AR 72396. For more information, contact Claire Nix, 501-238-7208 or 238-3271.

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CLC Tightens Abortion Rule

NASHVILLE (BP)—Abortion is justifiable only "when the developing child represents a clear and present danger to the physical life of the mother," Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission members declared during their annual meeting Sept. 16.

The abortion statement, part of a broader recommendation regarding sanctity of human life, was one of several measures commissioners approved in a move to regulate staff activities and programs of the ethics agency.

They also withdrew two pamphlets on the role of women and set guidelines for materials that will replace them; adopted a statement on AIDS; restructured the CLC budget to give greater priority to anti-abortion efforts; created a guideline giving commissioners greater editorial input on pamphlet series; asked for a study of the procedure of conducting business by telephone, including the election of staff members; and suggested a study of the feasibility of twice-yearly, rather than annual, meetings.

All the measures to regulate administrative procedure were passed the day following a motion to dismiss N. Larry Baker as executive director failed by a 15-15 vote. Most of the regulatory moves were approved by about a three-to-two margin.

The sanctity of human life statement—which addresses both abortion and euthanasia—declares, "Human life, from fertilization until natural death, is sacred and should be protected, not destroyed." It decries abortion, infanticide and "active" euthanasia.

The statement calls on staff: to give anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia concerns highest priority in budget and personnel assignments for at least the next two years, to assist the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in developing alternatives to abortion for women facing a problem pregnancy, to oppose infanticide and euthanasia and to refrain from releasing any materials produced by the commission that are not consistent with the policy statement.

The motion on the role of women withdrew "Issues and Answers: Changing Roles of Women" and "Critical Issues: Women in Church and Society" from circulation. It also called for CLC staff to produce new materials on women's roles by Sept. 1988. The new materials are to reflect the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention resolution titled "Ordination and the Role of Women in Ministry."

That SBC resolution interprets Scripture as excluding women from pastoral leader-

ship and says "God's delegated order of authority" includes "Christ as the head of man and man as the head of woman." It states: "Women are not in public worship to assume a role of authority over men lest confusion reign in the local church" and "to preserve a submission required because the man was first in creation and the woman was first in the Edenic Fall."

Focusing on AIDS—acquired immune deficiency syndrome—commissioners adopted a statement that commended the staff "for their efforts to date in this regard" and urged increased energy in the development of materials on AIDS.

"We call upon the CLC staff to produce literature which sounds a clear call to sexual purity, not simply from health concerns, but because of biblical, ethical principles," their AIDS statement says.

In an unprecedented move, the CLC promotion committee asked for and received permission to review and respond to "future printed materials in pamphlet series" prior to their publication.

Officers Elected

NASHVILLE (BP)—"Conservatives" swept the election of the new officers of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, turning down nominations of three persons who supported CLC Executive Director N. Larry Baker.

Elected were Fred Lackey, pastor of First Church of Athens, Ala., chairman; Joe Atchison, director of missions in Rogers, Ark., vice chairman, and Rudolph Yakym Jr., a stockbroker from South Bend, Ill., secretary.

Correction

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* mistakenly reported in its Sept. 24 issue (p. 18) that Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton County Association, had been elected chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission. The report above clarifies that he had, in fact, been elected vice-chairman. The ABN regrets the error.

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RTVC Names Four Vice-Presidents

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission approved an \$8.78 million operating budget for 1987-88, named four vice-presidents and heard reports of ACTS network growth during their fall meeting Sept. 14-15.

The new budget is based on "experience rather than aspiration," officials said. Jimmy R. Allen, commission president, said, "With the adoption of this budget, we can say to Southern Baptists that the ACTS network is stabilized financially."

The four new vice-presidents are present commission employees. Bob Thornton was named vice-president for production and programming; Ed Malone, for radio; Michael Wright, affiliate relations; and Larry Johnson, engineering and operations.

They will join controller Jerry Stamps; Charles Roden, vice-president of support services; and Richard McCartney, executive vice-president, to form the executive management group for the RTVC.

The commission was told 500,000 subscribers had been added since April. More than 6 million households are now able to receive ACTS programming.

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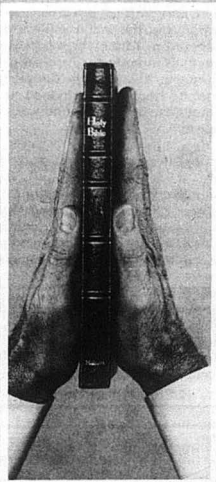
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^aAbraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac the father of Jacob,^d

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Report From Nashville

Peace, Pope, Public Affairs Dominate Meeting

NASHVILLE (BP)—A report from the SBC Peace Committee, discussion about funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and concern about Southern Baptists participating in a meeting between the pope and U.S. religious leaders dominated the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's fall meeting Sept. 21-23.

During the meeting a proposed \$145.6 million goal for the denomination's 1988-89 Cooperative Program unified budget was approved for recommendation to messengers to the SBC annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, next June.

The proposed budget is 4 percent larger than the 1987-88 budget of \$140 million.

The committee also voted to "express gratitude for the tremendous growth in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Cooperative Program and encourage continued strong support of these programs for missions and evangelism."

Report 'Not Creedal'

The Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee "did not draft a creedal statement," nor is it a "watchdog," Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller told members of the SBC Executive Committee

during their September meeting.

He said the committee "expects to maintain the lowest profile possible prior to the annual convention (in San Antonio). We feel the responsibility for our report is now in the hands of the convention which adopted it, through the trustees of its entities. We firmly believe in the trustee process and now that process is to be honored and given its opportunity to function."

All members of the Peace Committee were hesitant about continuance, he said: "We recognize the dangers inherent in such an assignment. To be called a 'watchdog' committee is as repulsive to us as is the idea of one in the minds of those who see us in that role."

Fuller added, "With immediate respect to that segment of the findings section, listing four examples of what we concluded most Southern Baptists believe concerning the Baptist Faith and Message statement on the Bible, it must again be pointed out, we did not draft a creedal statement. We said the four statements on scriptural position were examples of dominant Southern Baptist belief. We did not intend them to become creedal."

Fuller said that although "one section specifically pertains to seminary administrators and faculty members, the general thrust of the recommendation, regarding the building of future staffs, ap-

plies to all agencies and entities."

That recommendation, he pointed out, "put the emphasis upon the building of future staffs and faculties. The committee has repeatedly said, within its deliberations, and openly, we do not believe the solution to our controversy is to be found in the wholesale dismissal of existing staffs and faculties."

"Those who serve, teach and work within the guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message, in our view, are secure and should continue to be. If they do not serve, or have not served, within the guidelines... they should be answerable to the trustees of the entity they serve whether a Peace Committee had ever existed or not," he said.

The Executive Committee also named Perry R. Sanders of Lafayette, La., to replace W. Winfred Moore, and appointed David Maddox, of Fullerton, Calif., to replace William O. Crews.

Funding Study Set

The question of who gets \$448,400 designated for "public affairs" in the 1987-88 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program allocation budget will be studied by a five-person committee appointed during the meeting.

The committee, to be chaired by Scott Humphrey, a real estate broker from Alexandria, Va., will study "the details of the funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the funding of the Public Affairs Committee of the Southern Baptist



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Convention and develop procedures to be recommended for the funding."

The question of "public affairs funding" was handed to the Executive Committee in late August when the reconstituted SBC Public Affairs Committee requested written clarification of an action at the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC which restructured and gave new responsibilities to the 18-member PAC, a standing committee which relates to the BJCPA.

The request asked clarification "as to whether or not" the intent of the action which restructured the PAC "was that funds allocated for the Public Affairs Com-

mittee were to be disbursed to that committee for their distribution to the Baptist Joint Committee by vote" of the PAC.

The matter was complicated because the bylaw revision did not address the question of funding, and because the line item in the 1987-88 CP budget simply listed the \$448,400 to go to "public affairs."

In addition to Humphrey, members of the study committee are Tommy Hinson, a pastor from West Memphis, Ark.; C. Ray Fuller, a director of associational missions from Joliet, Ill.; James Baucom, a pastor from Martinsville, Va.; and Ann Smith, a homemaker from Greensboro, N.C.

Papal Visit


A question of ecumenical involvement bracketed the Executive Committee meeting.

During the early moments of the meeting, Executive Committee President/Treasurer Harold C. Bennett reported on his recent visit with Pope John Paul II. And one of the final items of business was a 26-24 vote to put the question of the EC staff's ecumenical involvement before the committee next February.

Bennett was one of 27 non-Catholic U.S. religious leaders who met with the Roman Catholic leader Sept. 11 in Columbia, S.C. Bennett spent about 20 minutes telling EC members about that meeting and explaining his reasons for participation.


"I felt that under God's leadership I should be part of that meeting," Bennett said. He reported telling the pope about Southern Baptists' goals for world evangelization, describing Southern Baptist mission work in 111 countries and insisting that the cause of Christ would be improved if relationships between Catholics and missionaries in those countries were improved.

The maker of the motion to review EC staff participation in ecumenical events said Bennett was trapped in "the pope's PR extravaganza." Kenneth R. Barnett, a pastor from Lakewood, Colo., said Bennett, by virtue of his position, cannot act as a private citizen at such meetings and maintained "all Southern Baptists were affected" by Bennett's participation.



Discipleship Training

Speaker



Perry Webb Jr.
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Baton Rouge, La.

Church Training Convention

Tuesday, October 27, 1987
Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Sessions: 10 a.m., 1:50 p.m., 7 p.m.

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Convention Uniform

He Cannot Fail

by Gene Crawley, First Church, Newport

Basic passage: Genesis 15:1-19:38

Focal passage: Genesis 15:1-4; 16:3-4; 17:15-21

Central truth: God's promises are sure.

God has shown over and over again in his Word that what he promises, he produces. There perhaps is no better illustration of this principle than the story of the birth of Jesus.

God made Abraham a promise. "I will make of thee a great nation (Ge. 12:2)." Yet, he grew older, and there was no heir. Out of desperation, love, and desire to fulfill God's promise, Sarah gave her handmaid, Hagar, to her husband. A son, Ishmael, was born. Ishmael was not the child of promise, but he was a child of destiny. He, who was the child born out of sin (or lack of trust in the promise of God), is even at war today with the child of promise (Isaac).

In God's time, he gave Abraham and Sarah a son. A year before, Sarah had laughed in the face of God when she heard that at 89 she would conceive and bear a son. One year later, she laughed for joy when she knew for sure that "with God nothing shall be impossible" (Lu. 1:37).

There are many promises of God in his Word that as of yet are unfulfilled. However, even though these promises are delayed, it does not mean they are not sure.

For centuries, Israel looked for the promised Messiah of God. Every time a son was born, it was wondered if this child would be God's redeemer. Finally, after centuries had passed, the religious establishment quit looking, or at least quit looking for one like Jesus. When he came, they were not ready.

Many today have stopped looking for the return of our Lord. Yet he said, "If I go... I will come again" (Jn. 14:3). The question of Christ's return is not if, but when.

What promise from God's Word are you claiming today? Don't give up. God's promises are sure. Don't give in, for this is sin. Don't give out, with the finish line in sight. Faith in a God who cannot fail is the key to a life of blessing and joy.

We must ever keep in mind that God works on his timetable, not ours. Because blessings are delayed, does not mean that they will not happen. Whenever you would despair, remember Isaac and patiently wait on God.

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Life and Work

Oneness in the Church

by Ronnie W. Floyd, First Church, Springdale

Basic passage: Galatians 2-3

Focal passage: Galatians 2:8-9, 11-14; 3:26-28

Central truth: Oneness in the church comes only through Jesus Christ as his Word is followed.

Is it really possible for our Lord's church to be one? Is it a spiritual fantasy to believe that real oneness can exist in your church? Since the Word of God is true, we must believe that God can supernaturally unite and knit together the hearts of believers. What must we understand to see oneness occur in the church of Jesus Christ?

First, oneness in the church is accomplished only in and through the person of Jesus Christ (3:26-28). When we enter into our relationship with Jesus, we become one in him. At that very moment, we are baptized by his Spirit and placed into the body of Christ (1 Co. 12:13). Therefore, when we enter into oneness with Jesus Christ, we also enter into oneness with all of his children, which is the church.

Second, oneness in the church never excludes anyone (2:8-9). Each person's ministry and gift is different in the body of Christ, so that God can use us to reach all kinds of people. Oneness in the church can not take place when there are cliques in the church. Oneness in the church cannot take place when there is a distinction made between persons based on their position in the community or their material wealth. Our Lord included everyone at the cross, and it is at the cross that we come into oneness with him.

Third, oneness in the church demands discipline (2:11-14). What would have happened to the cause of Christ had not Paul confronted Peter? The same thing that happens today when sin is overlooked in the church. The church ceases to give life. The church ceases to fulfill the Great Commission because energies are spent on needless disputes. The church will never see the power of God until the church disciplines those who create fellowship disharmony and injure oneness in the church.

Oneness in the church will only occur to the degree that we believe the Bible is the absolute and inerrant Word of the living God. God's Word gives us the ways to keep the fellowship one.

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Bible Book

The Crown of Creation

by Larry Pillow, Second Church, Conway

Basic passage: Genesis 2:7-25

Focal passage: Genesis 2:7-9, 16-25

Central truth: To show the uniqueness of man's creation as told in Genesis.

In the beginning were two dragons named Apsu and Tiamat. Their offspring became deities. A fight broke out, and Tiamat died. Hingu, chief assistant to Tiamat, used his own body to create man.

Compare that Babylonian account of the creation of man with the simple, straightforward and believable account of the creation of man as given in Genesis. No explanation of the origin of man answers all of our questions. There is a lot we will never know. But the biblical account is by far the best and most complete.

Myths such as the one above are too ludicrous to be taken seriously. The evolutionist also has problems: missing links in fossil remains and mathematical impossibilities of mutations accounting for the changes in species and the origin of matter, to name a few.

Man is either the product of time and chance through evolution or the product of divine creation. Since evolution is not a viable option, then we must look elsewhere. We need not look further than Genesis. Genesis may not tell us all we would like to know about man's creation, but it tells us all we need to know.

God created man and gave him a beautiful home. God then created a beautiful helper for man. Man also was given meaning in life when he was told to rule over the creation. Adam carried out that responsibility by becoming the first and best biologist and botanist. This is a good illustration of how man is both superior to and different from the rest of God's creation.

Out of all of God's creation, man is unique. Only man is said to be created in the image of God. Of course this refers to the spiritual image of God. Only man is made morally accountable for his actions. We were given freedom with boundaries.

Since God created us, we can relate to him. We can be thankful for our unique place in his creation and joyfully submit ourselves to him. We don't have to wonder where we came from, why we're here, or where we're going. The Bible, and only the Bible, answers these questions.

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Help For Flood Victims

by Eric Miller
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MARACAY, Venezuela (BP)—Southern Baptists are hoping to provide gas stoves, food, clothing and medicine to victims of a Sept. 6 Venezuela flood that may have killed 200 people and left 20,000 homeless.

Southern Baptist missionary Ben Kirby and other missionaries are working with Venezuela officials to get clearance to provide relief following one of the worst natural disasters in the country's history. Two months' worth of rain fell in six hours, causing mountain mud slides that uprooted trees and set boulders in motion.

Maracay, a city of 500,000, was one of the hardest hit. Many people were at a nearby resort beach when heavy rains hit mountains located between the beach and Maracay, Kirby said. A 10-foot-deep tide of mud swept hundreds of cars off a mountain road.

"A lot of cars were thrown down into big holes," Kirby said. "They're not sure how many people are down in these cars. Some of the people — they may not ever be able

to get them out because they're buried in mud and under trees. It does look pretty bad." At least 250 people were missing and 1,000 injured, media reports said.

A Venezuelan Baptist pastor told Kirby that several members of his church had lost everything. The flooding and mudslides happened suddenly and survivors "just got away with their lives and the clothes on their back," Kirby said. No deaths have been reported among Baptist church members so far, he added.

Kirby and Southern Baptist missionaries Stan Parris and Ron Adams and a Venezuelan Baptist pastor waited 13 hours to meet with a state legislator and a disaster relief representative appointed by President Jaime Lusinchi.

The representative told the men the biggest need was for portable gas stoves. Temporary shelters are set up for the homeless, but there are no stoves for cooking.

"Venezuela normally takes care of its own disaster situations without too much outside help," said Bryan Brasington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for Spanish South America.

For a long time, Venezuela has had more money per capita than any other country in South America, he added.

Nevertheless, if the missionaries receive government approval to provide stoves, food, clothing and medicine, that will be a good Christian witness because most of the victims "have nothing whatsoever now," Brasington said.

"We were waiting there 13 hours, and it was tiring, and those people could see that we were concerned," Kirby said.

The Baptist mission in Venezuela has \$7,000 in human needs ministries and hunger relief funds to use for flood relief, Kirby said. Several Tennessee churches have offered financial support. Tennessee churches have been involved in partnership evangelism with Venezuela.

Kirby noted that mountainsides are scarred where large sections have fallen away, and "houses were just filled with mud or just not there." About 12 miles of a main road is gone.

In the first two days following the flood, about 32 bodies were dug out of mud and rubble in a suburb along the Limon River, and 30 bodies were flown out of the mountains. About 200 cars and several buses were buried or trapped by mud slides.

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WORLD

Ready for 'Seoul' Winning

Missionaries Gear Up For 1988 Summer Olympics

by **Erich Bridges**
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—The 1988 Summer Olympics begin next September in Seoul. Marathon runner David Bishop is ready.

Bishop, a Southern Baptist missionary and an avid athlete, won't be competing in the Olympics. But he's leading other missionaries and Korean Baptists in a wide-ranging effort to provide ministries before and during the Games, scheduled Sept. 17-Oct. 2, 1988.

Bishop and his colleagues already are teaching English to staff members of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee. Next year they hope to work with the committee as guides and interpreters during the Olympics. They also hope to operate a Christian hospitality center for foreign visitors near the Olympic athletes' village or the main stadium in Seoul.

About 25 Southern Baptist missionaries have participating in English teaching clinics for Korean Olympic committee staffers, which began early this year. Most of the Koreans have studied English before but are sharpening their conversational skills as they prepare for the 250,000 foreigners expected during the Games.

"It's sort of a lifestyle witness opportunity with the people who are planning to put on the Olympics, some people who are very influential in the country," said Bishop, a 37-year-old native of Greenville, S.C. "We've gained a trust level with them. I really believe they're going to call on us more and more for help as we get closer to the Olympics."

Park Seh Jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, is an active Baptist layman and deacon.

In July the missionaries' "students" staged an English drama before about 2,500 Olympic workers and officials. "We coached them in the English pronunciations and so forth," Bishop said.

The drama was written to simulate situations they will encounter during the Olym-

pics, like airport welcoming committees and checking in at the athletes' village. President Park of the organizing committee and other ranking officials were there and seemed impressed, Bishop reported. They gave the Korea Baptist Mission a letter of appreciation for their efforts.

Koreans view the Olympics as a historic opportunity to show the international community that South Korea has emerged as a world-class nation. They've spent several billion dollars preparing for the

Games. Officials, politicians and most citizens seem determined to make the event a spectacular success, despite the current political turmoil and North Korea's continuing threats and demands for co-host status.

"The student demonstrators, the political parties, labor—they all recognize that the Olympics have to be held here," Bishop said. "Nobody wants to hurt that possibility."

They're also determined to make visitors feel at home. Everyone from taxi drivers to

executives is studying English and other languages to make it easier for foreigners in Seoul. As in any Olympics—and especially on the volatile peninsula—security is the first priority. But close behind is communication.

"They fear that Korea is going to be known as the place where communication was difficult," Bishop explained. "So they're working very hard, and the International Olympic Committee is pushing very hard, to have good language services. This is an area we are finding we can help with."

Korean Baptist churches and associations also are participating in sports-related ministries and evangelistic rallies. The rallies feature Korean Christian athletes, including gold medalists from last year's Asian Games. They demonstrate their skills, hold sports clinics or exhibitions and give their Christian testimonies.

"The emphasis is that it's exciting to be an athlete, . . . but it's not as exciting as the relationship with Christ," Bishop said.



David Bishop

MK birthday prayer calendar: October

Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas

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