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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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September 24, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Firing Attempted

Arkansas Baptist

September 24, 1987

Calling A Pastor

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Nashville, Tennessee



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ABN photo / Millie Gill

Calling A Pastor 10

Calling a pastor is one of the most delicate and determinative things to come before a church. Here's some helpful advice.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

New Life For Saragosa

SARAGOSA, Texas (BP)—The Labor Day weekend became a weekend labor of love for more than 700 volunteers who helped the tornado-ravaged western Texas town of Saragosa experience physical and spiritual rebirth.

In an around-the-clock effort Sept. 5-7, the volunteers—mostly Southern Baptists from Texas and surrounding states—joined in a "Labor Day Workathon" to rebuild the Hispanic Catholic community of 350 people that was leveled by a tornado May 22.

By sundown Sept. 7, Baptists, Mennonites and other volunteers had repaired 30 homes, built two new houses and brought 19 other new homes to within 80 percent of completion.

As a result of personal visits and the impact made by volunteer builders, 29 people at Saragosa made professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Two people who joined in the building effort also made commitments to Christ. Two home Bible studies also were established in the town, which had no Baptist church prior to the tornado.

"The challenge for the future is the 37 homes that remain to be built in Saragosa," said John LaNoue, on-site coordinator for

Texas Baptist Men. "It would be wonderful if individual churches or groups of churches in an association would link up with individual families here to rebuild the remaining houses."

One Saragosan who made a personal commitment to Christ as a result of Baptist response to the tornado was Ernest Bordayo. He was in the pasture behind his house, trying to corral a mare when the storm hit. Lightning struck the horse a few feet from him, and he was rushed to the Pecos, Texas, hospital where doctors feared for his life for several hours.

"What has happened to me and what these men are doing, building my house, makes me think about Jesus," Bordayo said. "I want to try my best to serve Jesus myself. I want to be a better servant for Jesus and get my family close to his church."

Bonnie Gay of Shreveport, La., who worked extensively with the children of Saragosa as a summer missionary, returned for Labor Day weekend with 16 young people from the Baptist Student Union at Northeast Louisiana University and four high school youth from Bastrop, La.

Alongside 22 youth from Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, they conducted a Sunday afternoon day camp that attracted 43 children ages 2 to 14.

GOOD NEWS!

We Can't Sin Alone

Zephaniah 2:1-7

Sin has its effects. No one sins only to himself. The consequences of sin take their toll on the lives of many—even innocent ones—when God's judgment is handed down. Unless one repent and seeks the Lord, the "day of the Lord's anger" will bring destruction, devastation, and desolation. The prophet warns the enemies of God's people: failing their repentance, they will be driven from their cities and land. The remnant of God's people will lie down in houses they did not build and pasture their flocks on new fields (see Dt. 6:10-11).

There is an interrelatedness between our sin and its effects on the lives of others which can have both positive and negative aspects. For instance, Paul said to the Philippian jailer, "Thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Ac. 16:31). Often when a person becomes a Christian, he influences others in his family, associates at work, and neighbors for the cause of Christ. On the other hand, the consequences of one person's sin will affect others and often influence them to do wrong. It is true that no person is an island.

We Can't Do Better

Zephaniah 3:9-14

This optimistic passage is typical of the hope that characterized many of the prophets. The dream was for turning to God on the part of his people. It was often coupled with the promise of a Messiah, one specially sent from God. Notice the specifics of this yearning.

Let us be of one accord (v.9).—How wonderful to be united in single devotion to God and his purpose.

Let us be cleansed of our sin (v.11).—Note the relationship to cleansing and God's holy mountain. This should be part of the purpose of the church, to lead people to cleansing and forgiveness.

Let us be truthful (v.13).—Being right with God, there is no need to lie to God, others, or ourselves.

Let us rejoice (v.14).—A turning to God always leads to rejoicing. There is evidence today of a renewed emphasis on celebration and rejoicing in our churches

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Avoiding Idolatry

J. EVERETT SNEED

At first thought, most of us would feel that there is absolutely no danger of our succumbing to idolatry. After all, there are very few in the Bible Belt who bow their knees to a statue or "graven image." When we examine idolatry, however, we discover that it is representing the creator by something created. Under this definition, anything that stands between us and God becomes an idol.

Specifically in the second commandment God said, "Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Ex. 20:4). Some have called this the "classic three-tier Hebrew cosmology" in which the Hebrews thought of the universe as the heavens, the earth, and the waters beneath the earth. But no matter how an individual interprets it, God is emphatically stating that nothing is to take his place in an individual's life. God is God, and he is to have total supremacy in the life of every individual. Denigrating God to a secondary position is idolatrous. We are never to mistake God's reaction to idolatry. It is totally wrong.

We, as Christians, need to constantly evaluate anything that we place at the apex of our value system. It may be a home, a car, our family, or any other of many material possessions. If we have rendered to it that which is exclusively belongs to God, we have taken to idolatry. But the question arises, "If we are active in support of our church, both with time and money, what is the problem? Isn't this such a small and natural sin that it is of little importance?" Idolatry, however, is dangerous and may affect an individual's spiritual life in several ways.

First, idolatry makes things more important than the person. God revealed himself in the person of his son Jesus. We share a friendship relationship in which we know him and love him and respond to him. But the idolator makes a mistake in substituting things for a personal relationship with God through Christ. Inevitably an individual may put good things in God's place. This automatically turns good into bad. Even a ministry can replace the Lord in importance.

Idolatry also can place man's imagination above God's revelation. As one examines the gods which have been made by



various cultures, one discovers strange mixtures of human and animal life. For example, Egyptian gods have the figure of a human being but the head of a crocodile, or an ox, or a lion. When man imagined the fierceness of God, he could not think of anything more fierce than the anger of a crocodile or a lion.

Someone has suggested that the metal images of ancient men were the consequence of his mental images. What happens to us today if we follow this pattern? Our imaginations begin to distort truth and we turn to our own fancies. Our imaginations lead us to turn away from truth.

Our imaginations also lead us to limit God's transcendence. Any proper understanding of God will lead man to understand that God is high, holy, and transcendent. God is omniscient, omnipo-

tent, and transcends all of man's efforts.

The idolator thinks, "The thing I have created contains God. This is the thing for which I will live. This is the thing to which I will give my total self." What has happened is that the creation of man becomes his creator.

Idolatry places man in control of his own contrived God. If man is able to create his God, he himself becomes a god. He is like the self-made man who worships his creator—himself.

When an individual fashions his own god, he makes his god to suit the world around him. When the children of Israel truly worshipped Jehovah as God, they stood out. They were different from the heathen polytheists, that surrounded them. But when they copied their heathen neighbors, they became so confused that they even called Jehovah "Baal." When we make our own gods, we destroy our distinctiveness as God's people.

The most important question is, "How can we avoid making those things which are at the apex of our value system our God?" First, our struggle is to not get caught up in our culture so that we lose sight of the nature of God.

In order for God to have proper place in an individual's life, he must continually allow God to speak to him through his Word. The Scriptures continually point man to the nature, transcendence, and holiness of God. It is only through continual study and meditation on God's Word that an individual can resist allowing the thing he has created to become his creator.

As an individual makes Jesus Christ truly the Lord of his life, he can escape idolatry.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 37

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Letters to the Editor

Puzzled

I read with interest Sherry Thrasher's "God Will Bless America, If..." article in the Sept. 3, 1987, Arkansas Baptist. I confess to being puzzled by her comment, "We are a blessed nation, but look at what's happened to prayer in the public schools... we must fight back..." I hope to goodness Mrs. Thrasher is not one of those people who believes and promotes the erroneous concept that the United States Supreme Court has banned prayer, God, and the Bible from our public schools. The Court simply ruled that government powers could not be used to cram a particular religious view down anyone's throat: that the public school children cannot be made by government to pray a particular prayer, made to read a particular religious book (Bible, Koran, Talmud, etc.), nor be forced to participate in any religious ceremony.

The Supreme Court ruled the traditional school sponsored prayers (Christian) and Bible readings were a violation of a principle we Baptists have been fighting for in this country since the beginning: separation of church and state. Mrs. Thrasher, being a Baptist, surely embraces this old Baptist doctrine. It disturbs me that many Baptists have unquestioningly united forces with some of the more charismatic television preachers in their assault on this dear Baptist principle. I only wish more Baptists and their pastors would conduct reviews of the important historical heritage Baptists have in this nation. I am convinced modern Baptists need to make a rededication to these principles and not surrender them to those modern hostile forces who seek government powers to be used to promote a certain orthodox (theirs) religion upon the rest of us.—Harold Coogan, Mena

PAC Should Exercise Restraint

If the first meeting of the SBC's restructured Public Affairs Committee is any indication, we messengers may have erred last June in authorizing them to act as a separate entity.

I refer to the committee's 7-5 vote approving a resolution backing Judge Robert Bork's nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Southern Baptists should take strong exception to this action. It ignores our long-held tradition of neutrality in candidacies for public office. It polarizes our convention at a time our leaders should work to

bring us together. It violates the spirit of the Peace Committee report. It deals with personalities rather than principles, with individuals rather than issues. It makes the committee guilty of offending a basic principle we elect them to safeguard—the separation of church and state.

The qualifications of Judge Bork are not the issue. It is the appropriateness of the committee's endorsement that I question. For the committee to address specific issues related to this nomination—issues such as respect for life, judicial restraint, and interpretation of original intent—would be in order. But to endorse a candidate, whether to elect or appointive office, is not.

Committee members have justified their

action by pointing to other denominational groups which have opposed Judge Bork's nomination. But other religious groups have a polity greatly different from ours. Other denominations do a lot of things I do not feel are right for Southern Baptists to do.

I urge our Public Affairs Committee to exercise restraint in matters with such partisan political overtones. I also encourage Southern Baptists to voice concern over this unwise action. The committee must come to understand that in Southern Baptist terminology the initials "PAC" mean Public Affairs Committee, not Political Action Committee. There is a difference—or at least there ought to be.—Tim Reddin, Hot Springs Village

Woman's Viewpoint

Hold On To Your Faith!

SHERRY THRASHER

After a night of restlessness, this morning I awoke with a quiet peace—a peace which "feels like" God is giving me a hug, and he will make all things right. His answers may not be the answers which I expect him to give, or that which I want to hear, but nevertheless they will be perfect and right for me. I found this peace last evening during my Bible study, but was too tired to grasp its meaning until I awoke this morning. I would like to share with you what I read.

Jesus is preparing his disciples for the events which are about to happen leading up to the cross. He states "...when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come" (Jn. 16:13). "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but



I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you, . . . Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you (Jn. 16:22, 23). "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33).

Two years ago, on July 5, 1985, my father underwent lung cancer surgery. The report was not good and today, as I write this article, the cancer has spread and he has been told by his physicians that he may have life, as we know it, only through the summer.

Dad has had a tremendous struggle. Every day he fights a personal battle

with this disease just to be able to perform normal, everyday functions that we take for granted. As I have watched him struggle, my heart aches to help in whatever way possible to lighten his load. Sometimes I succeed in transferring my strength to him; other times he becomes frustrated and cries out, "Let me do it myself."

Jesus knew there would be many times when the struggle would be too hard for us to handle alone. My dad and I both have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and we know his words are true. We know he "has overcome" the world, and someday, when this worldly struggle is finished, we will find the peace and good cheer he has waiting for those who trust him.

Sherry Thrasher is president of the ABCS Ministers' Wives Association. Her husband, Alan, pastors First Church, Booneville.

Southern Accent



Another Fish Story

In 1964, a pastor and a layman were fishing in one of the beautiful lakes of north Arkansas. In 1987, Arkansas Baptist institutions started receiving income from a substantial estate handled by the Arkansas Baptist Foundation and they will continue to receive that income as long as the world stands.

The two events would not appear to be connected but they are, in fact, vitally related. The minister was Roy Hilton, who was serving at the time as pastor of First Church, Harrison. The layman was Earl Pippen, a member of First Church, Harrison, and a businessman who operated a wholesale grocery firm.

As Bro. Hilton and Mr. Pippen fished that day, they also conducted some important Kingdom business. Mr. Pippen shared with his pastor that the Lord had been good to him financially and he wanted his resources to count for the Lord's work when he went on to be with the Lord.

Bro. Hilton told him that one of the best ways he knew to achieve that objective was to confer with the Arkansas Baptist Foundation and arrange for his estate to provide annual income for Arkansas Baptist ministries.

Mr. Pippen followed up on that suggestion before he died in 1972. He provided income for two relatives for as long as they lived and specified that, upon their passing, the annual income from the estate would go to specified Baptist institutions. Through the years, the income from Mr. Pippen's estate helped to care for his loved ones as long as they lived. In April 1987, the income from his estate began supporting the designated Arkansas Baptist ministries and will continue to do that for the rest of human history.

I don't know how this story affects you, but it gives me ideas. I like very much the idea of being able to continue contributing to Kingdom work every year—even 10, 50, 100 or 10,000 years—after I have gone on to be with the Lord. I am determined to make arrangements to do just that. I'll just feel better as I go to meet him knowing that such arrangements have been made. Won't you?

D. Jack Nicholas is president of Southern Baptist College.

Small Church Emphasis

Supports For The Bi-Vocational Pastor

DALE HOLLOWAY

"The bi-vocational and small church pastor carries a heavy responsibility. The bi-vocational church pastor has the responsibility of his secular job as well as his church. In the case of the full-time small church pastor, he usually is the only paid staff member. Ideally there are several areas that can give positive support to individuals who serve in these kind of situations.

The first area of support is in the call itself. If a pastor is to be successful he must know that he is called of God. Without the certainty that God has called him into ministry, difficulties and pressures are likely to become unbearable.

Second, every pastor needs the support of his family. This, perhaps, is even more essential for the small church or bi-vocational pastor. In each instance the work load is heavy. It is necessary for a wife to be understanding and realize that her husband is not apt to be at home as much as the pastor of a multi-staff church. Often he will be visiting in the hospital in the evenings where a multi-staff pastor will have had opportunity to do the visitation in the afternoon. He also will be working late into the night on sermons. A multi-staff church pastor will have had opportunity to do his study during the daytime. The wife of a bi-vocational or small church pastor must understand and be supportive in order to avoid intolerable tensions. Additionally, there needs to be as much understanding as possible by the children. The most rewarding situation is where the entire family feels that they share in the church ministry.

A third support needed is within the church itself. Here, there must be a division of ministry so that the total work of the church is done. This means lay involvement, perhaps, to a larger extent than you would find in a multi-staff church. (Shared Ministry was discussed in an earlier article.)

An additional necessary support is the association. It is particularly essential for the bi-vocational pastor that meetings be planned at a time when he can attend. It is essential that the associational staff determine when bi-vocational pastors can best attend associational workshops, planning meetings and training sessions.

It also is necessary to determine the needs of the bi-vocational pastor which should be met in such training meetings. Both the time schedule and the needs of the bi-vocational minister are different from those of the full-time pastor.

The state convention also can be a support system by recognizing the importance of the bi-vocational or small church pastor. First, the state convention should recognize the fact that there are no big and little churches. Any New Testament congregation which is in God's will is big regardless of the attendance. Every pastor is important and valuable to God if he is where God wants him to serve.

State conventions also can emphasize the importance of the small church and bi-vocational pastor by including them on boards and committees, although this is often a problem because of the difficulty of a pastor in being away from a second job. But these men have a great deal to contribute and should be used.

Finally, support can be gained by remembering that bi-vocational pastors have a noble heritage. The apostle Paul, for example, was skilled in a second occupation—tent making. He was pleased that he was never a burden to anyone. He said, "Neither did we eat any man's bread for naught, but wrought with labor and prevailed night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you" (2 Th. 3:8).

The bi-vocational pastor is often able to use his secular occupation to make contacts for the Lord. The pastor's second vocation may bring him in contact with numbers of people who, through his life and verbal witness, he can influence to become Christians.

If it were not for the small church and bi-vocational pastors, Southern Baptists would have been much less effective in reaching people for the Lord. While some denominations chose to go only to county seat towns or metropolitan areas, Southern Baptists have chosen to go anywhere there were people. Because of the commitment of small church and bi-vocational pastors, God has blessed Southern Baptists in a unique way.

Dale Holloway is a national consultant on bi-vocational ministries for the SBC Home Mission Board. He was a bi-vocational pastor for 33 years.

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Dorris of North Little Rock recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in San Francisco, Cal., with their daughter, Julia Qudeen, and family. Ordained to the ministry by Dermott Church, he is a retired Army chaplain with 28 years of service. Dorris also served 17 years as pastor of Pike Avenue Church, North Little Rock. He retired from the ABCS Missions Department in 1979 after 11 years of service. The Dorrises are members of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock where they serve as teachers and are active in senior adult activities. They have two granddaughters.

Frank E. Morgan of North Little Rock died Sept. 5 at age 59. He was a trustee, deacon and organist for Central Church in North Little Rock. A doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, he was an Army veteran; a graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, where he continued to serve as a clinical instructor; a member of numerous medical societies; and a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board. Survivors are his wife, Margaret Ann Barnes Morgan; a son, John Mark Morgan of North Little Rock; a brother, Jack Morgan Jr. of North Little Rock; a sister, Jean Fowler of Little Rock; and a grandchild.

Ken Hilton is serving as pastor of Antioch Church near Flippin. He also has pastored churches at Henderson and Tomahawk.

Tom Cox of Mountainburg will begin his seventh annual crusade to India Jan. 2, 1988. His 30-member team will minister in medical and dental clinics and conduct evangelistic crusades. The team will work both in Kerala and Bangalore. Cox is a member of First Church, Van Buren.

Johnny Green has joined the staff of Wynne Church as staff evangelist.

John Savage of Arkadelphia, **Steve Sullivan** of Little Rock, **Hartley Wootton** of Hot Springs, **Roger Amon** of Cave Springs, and **Harold Thomas** are recipients of academic scholarships to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wilma Catherine Cobb Boutwell of Brinkley died Sept. 8 at age 75. She was a member of First Church, Brinkley. Sur-

vivors are two sons, Jerry Boutwell of Senatobia, Miss., and Dale Boutwell of Las Vegas, Nev.; a sister, Bess Brock of Mobile, Ala.; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William Black of Bearden is serving as pastor of New Hope Church at Dardanelle.

John Slivey of Everton began serving Sept. 6 as pastor of Rover Church.

Edward Edmonson is serving as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church in Little Rock.

John E. Miller was recognized Sept. 10 by the Arkansas Governor's Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Rep. Miller, a member of Melbourne First Church, was the first recipient of a legislative award established in his honor by the Arkansas General Assembly for his many years of service to persons with disabilities. The award will be presented every two years to the legislator giving the most support to persons with disabilities.

Preston Sellers of Texarkana died Sept. 14. His funeral services were held Sept. 16 at Beech Street First Church in Texarkana where he was a member. He was a former pastor of First Church, Tampa, Fla. Survivors are his wife, Christine; a son, Robert Sellers, a furloughing missionary from Indonesia; a daughter, Joanne Caldwell of Texarkana; and five grandchildren.

Mickey Rapier was ordained to the preaching ministry Aug. 30 by University Church, Fayetteville, where he serves as collegiate minister.

Bill Keltner has resigned as minister of music at Woodlawn Church in Little Rock.

Scott Neathery will begin serving Oct. 11 as pastor of Calvary Church, Hope. A native of Sherman, Texas, he will move there from Wake Village, Texas, where he has been serving as associate pastor of First Church. He and his wife, Linda Gail, have two children, Michael Scott, four, and Megan Nicole, 11 months.

Briefly

Union Valley Church at Beebe gave special recognition to two members as it observed Founder's Day Sept. 6. Lillie Ruth Hill was recognized for 28 years of service as church treasurer, while Roberta Hill was

recognized for 50 years of continuous membership. They were presented plaques by Pastor Thomas Miller. J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist News Magazine*, was guest speaker. The church history was presented by C.R. Oakley.

El Dorado Second Church ordained Mike DeVault and Charles Watkins to the deacon ministry Sept. 13. Pastor Bruce Murphy was moderator.

Crossett Second Church observed homecoming Sept. 13. Clyde Jones, the church's first pastor, was speaker.

Central Church in Magnolia will begin a second morning worship service Oct. 11 as a result of membership growth. Phil Hardin will be responsible for the music programs. Rich Kincl is pastor.

First Penn Memorial Church in Eureka Springs is developing an "Inreach" program that is designed to minister to the needs of the church family who are not active or are not able to attend, according to Pastor Vernon Payne.

Dumas First Church has planned a prayer seminar for 5 p.m. Sept. 27 to launch its new intercessory prayer room program. Pastor Carter Tucker and his wife, Pauline, will be seminar leaders.

East Side Church in Fort Smith Spiritual Life Retreat is planned for Oct. 9-10. T.W. Hunt will be leader.

Immanuel Church in Little Rock held a service Sept. 13 to ordain Mike Coulson, George Fleming, Gene Holman, Ross Holiman, Gary Johnson, Dan Kirkpatrick, Ronnie McKnight, James Parnell, Steve Roberson, and Frank Snell to the deacon ministry. Pastor Brian L. Harbour both moderated the service and gave the charge to the deacons.

Palestine Church will celebrate homecoming Oct. 25. Robert Tucker, director of missions for Tri-County Association, will be speaker.

Temple Church at Searcy has voted to launch a mission in Bradford Oct. 4 with Earl Croxton of Bradford serving as pastor. The sponsoring church and mission are both located in Calvary Association, which also is supporting the new work.

Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock ordained Johnny Bird, Jim Burns, and George Woolf to the deacon ministry Sept. 13. Pastor Don Moseley served as moderator.

HMB Appoints Arkansans

Emmett and Ginny Powers, formerly of Arkansas, have been named language missionaries to serve in Denver, Colo., by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Powers, 36, an Arkansas native, has been pastor of Pine Terrace Church, Milton, Fla., since 1982. A former missionary for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Powers served in Argentina from 1979-81. Powers also served as pastor of several Arkansas churches, including Mt. Moriah Baptist, Murfreesboro; Antoine Baptist, Antoine; and Cord Baptist, Cord.

In Denver, Powers will serve as a multi-ethnic catalytic missionary, an activator in the initiation of new work and leadership training in ethnic church growth.

Powers is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and El Instituto de Lengua Espanol, San Jose, Costa Rica.

Ginny Powers, appointed for church and family work by the board, is also a former



Foreign Mission Board missionary to Argentina. Mrs. Powers is currently a private art instructor and potter. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, and El Instituto de Lengua Espanol.

The Powers have a son, Justin, 9, and a daughter, Rachel, 5.

Rules Reminder

Dillard Miller, chairman of the ABSO Credentials Committee, reminds Arkansas Baptists preparing for their annual meeting Nov. 17-18 in Fort Smith that challenges to the seating of any church's messengers must be presented in writing 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Appendix 1 to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention provides such challenges must be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee. It also provides that the Credentials Committee will meet prior to the convention and report their findings to the convention's opening session.

No Oct. 1 Issue

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* will not be published the week of Oct. 1, one of four such weeks each year. Accordingly, Sunday School lesson commentaries for both Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 have been published in this issue's "Lessons for Living."

Hughes Pastor Celebrates 15th

Carroll Evans, pastor of First Church, Hughes, observed his 15th year of service to that congregation Aug. 30.

The church gave a love offering to express its appreciation for Hughes, who is a native of Blytheville and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Evans has served as pastor of churches at Lonoke, Grannis, Wilson, McCrory, and Manila. He has been a member of the ABSO Executive Board and served as moderator of the Woodruff County, Calvary, Ashley County, and Arkansas Valley Associations.

He is married to the former Lucile Belcher. They have two children, John David Evans and Kathleen Evans Cupples, and two grandchildren, Damon and Mary Kathleen Cupples.



August Cooperative Program Report

Received \$884,367.69
Budget \$1,028,489.58
Under \$141,871.89

Year-to-date
Under \$261,389.52

Same time last year
Under \$360,354.88

At the present level of Cooperative Program gifts, we are projecting receipts for 1987 to equal 97.6 percent of budget requirements. We are praying that we shall exceed this projection. In fact, we really believe we can and will reach our budget this year. We believe this because we believe in our churches. Thanks for your faithfulness in giving—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

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Program Highlights

- two conferences for General Officers
- introduction to L.I.F.E.
- Overview of "Ingathering"
- 1988 Baptist Doctrine Study
- Encourager Plan
- Age-group Conferences
- Media Library Conference
- Church Secretary Conference

Sessions: 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 1:50-4:10 p.m., 7-9 p.m.

Luncheon to be served by host church by advance reservation.

Sponsored by the Church Training Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Inspirational Speaker



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

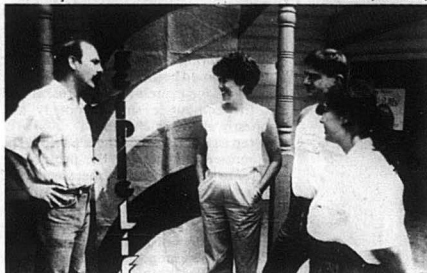
Pray for Manaus!



Arkansas and Brazilian Baptists are nearing the climax of their three-year partnership evangelism project. The largest stadium in Manaus, Amazonas, a 70,000-seat arena, has been secured for an Oct. 22-24 crusade featuring Nilson A. Fanini (pictured above). More than 180 Arkansans already have purchased their tickets and are planning to participate in the crusade, which will be accompanied by the distribution of 200,000 New Testaments, 50 revivals in churches and missions, and innumerable one-on-one witnessing encounters. Pray that thousands of the 1 million people of Manaus will come to know Jesus as Savior during the Oct. 22 - Nov. 1 project.

Focus on Discipleship

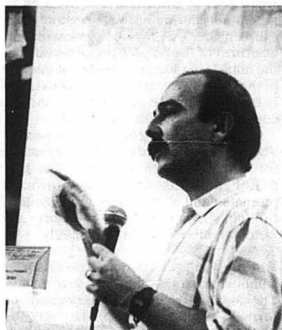
Photos by Bob Holley



Curt Bradford meets leaders and youth.



Missionary Ed Pinkston shares his work.



Bradford interprets DiscipleLife.

Youth discipleship was the focus of Arkansas Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs Sept. 12. The 7,400 persons registered represented a marked increase over last year's 6,000 registration.

Curt Bradford of Nashville, Tenn., explained to Arkansas youth leaders how to implement the DiscipleLife youth

discipleship materials. Other program personalities included illusionist Lou Leventhal and musicians Weston and Davis. Twenty-five Arkansas youth groups—choirs, puppet teams, and clown troupes—performed during the day.

Youth Day is hosted each year by the ABSC Church Training Department.

An Invitation To...

Senior Adults

Attend One of the

Senior Adult Rallies

Inspiration • Fellowship • Special Features
Plus Leadership Conference



Program Leaders



Horace Kerr
Nashville, Tenn.



Maurice Hurley
North Little Rock

Locations

- ◇ Springdale.....Monday, Nov. 9
First Baptist Church
 - ◇ Mountain Home.....Tuesday, Nov. 10
First Baptist Church
 - ◇ Jonesboro.....Wednesday, Nov. 11
First Baptist Church
 - ◇ North Little Rock.....Thursday, Nov. 13
Park Hill Baptist Church
 - ◇ Hot Springs.....Friday, Nov. 13
Second Baptist Church
- All Sessions 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A senior adult ministry
of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention

For additional information, contact
ABSC Church Training Dept.
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

Benefit Tournament

Monticello First Church is sponsoring a benefit volleyball tournament on behalf of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children.

The double-elimination tournament will be held Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. in several Monticello gymnasiums. Proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Children's Home.

Entry forms and a \$40 entry fee for each team must be submitted by Oct. 17. For more information about rules and team guidelines, contact Tom McCone, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 367-5358.



Pulpit committees have a solemn responsibility before God and man.

Calling A Pastor

Suggestions for churches seeking pastors

by Tommy L. Bridges
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Sooner or later, every Baptist church will have a pulpit committee. It is one of the most important committees in the life of the church, for it deals with one of the most delicate and determinative things to come before the church—calling a pastor.

Prayer, the leadership of the Holy Spirit, good committee procedures, and some basic know—how can spell success for the pulpit committee, the church, and the prospective new pastor. This article is written to provide help and suggestions for churches seeking pastors.

Step 1: The church selects a pulpit committee. The church should choose its committee wisely—a committee large enough to be representative but small enough to function efficiently (five to nine members).

The committee should be made up of faithful Christians and thoughtful church members who can lay aside personal prejudice or interests. Each should be competent, responsible, and representative of the best interests of the church.

Step 2: Organizing for work. As soon as possible following its election, the committee should convene and elect officers. It is important at the organizational meeting for the committee to agree on the time and the place for holding regular meetings.

Step 3: Understanding the committee's limits and operations. The following are areas that the committee needs to have agreement on concerning any pro-

spective minister: personal qualifications, spiritual qualifications, qualifications as a preacher, qualifications as a pastor, administrative ability, and relationship to community at large. There also should be an understanding of what the church expects of its minister.

The committee should know what the church provides for its minister. There should be clear understanding regarding compensation, benefits, convention expenses, vacation, etc.

Step 4: Considering recommendations and gathering information. The director of missions, pastors and other leaders are excellent sources of recommendations. The committee should not forget to receive recommendations from members of its own congregation. All recommendations should be received in writing.

As soon as the committee becomes vitally interested in one or more persons, it is helpful to make a thorough investigation. The best guide would appear to be to seek out individuals who safely let their record speak for them.

Step 5. Approaching the prospective minister. When the committee is in agreement that one minister is more satisfactory to the committee than any other, it is now time to approach that person. This contact usually comes in the form of the committee members visiting the prospective pastor's church to hear him preach and to observe his present church. The entire committee, therefore, should attend a service in his church. It is important to go

quietly and attract as little attention as possible.

A personal interview with the prospective minister should be held and discussion conducted along the lines already established in the organization phase of the committee. During the meeting, the minister himself should be given opportunity to ask questions and express his concerns, as well as the committee sharing openly and honestly about its church.

Step 6: Recommending a pastor. The committee arranges for the prospective pastor to visit the church, meet leaders of the church, engage in fellowship opportunities and preach. At this time, serious attention is given and frank discussion is held in matters of mutual concern.

After the sermon, the minister is to be formally presented to the church and the committee makes a recommendation, in writing, to be presented and voted on by the church during business session and a call is made. By previous agreement, the chairman of the pulpit committee informs the minister as soon as possible of the vote of the church. The minister responds usually by accepting the call formally, and the committee reports to the church.

Step 7: Preparing for the new pastor. The pulpit committee leads the preparation for a warm church welcome. The new pastor and his family are formally presented and all members and friends of the church are invited to meet and welcome the pastor and his family.

Tommy Bridges, associate professor of administration at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is an Arkansan and former director of special mission ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Quality
VAN Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches, (501) 268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson, owner

Urgent need for relief house-parents to work part-time. Prefer mature Christian couple with no children living at home. Salary, benefits, supervision provided. For details, call 376-4791, ext. 5167 or write Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

You Can Count On Them

by Don Moore
ABSC Executive Director

The man who cares for you and your children through the years is fondly remembered as your family physician. The pet who has been a faithful companion you feed and groom as a valuable friend. The car you've driven so long with such good service you carefully maintain. The friend who has been with you at almost every crisis in your life you honor and acknowledge as a priceless asset. You have been able to count on these.

You've something else you can count on. Faithful, helping, serving and befriending missions of people, the Cooperative Program has been a dependable and valuable instrument. At some point in your church's life this ministry deserves some of the recognition and appreciation shown to pets, cars, friends and other helpers. We often recognize, care for and honor lesser things and ignore the weightier things. Why should you not observe Cooperative Program Month?

Those who know, appreciate the special way God has given us to do mission work. It is clearly outlined in the New Testament. It is tremendously effective today. The people who support the work deserve to know what their contributions accomplish. The program deserves communicating and maintaining.

The Cooperative Program is a faithful friend. Why don't you do right by your friend and observe Cooperative Program Month? At least plan a special day with special messages, film, or presentations that would show your appreciation and respect for the means God has used to develop the greatest missionary force in history.

A "Missions Advance" speaker might be available to help you in your celebration.

Senior adults love great meetings! That's why the Sunday School division, Church Training department and Family Ministry department of the Southern Baptist Convention are working together for the annual Senior Adult Chautauqua! Bob Holley of the ABSC Church Training Department, can help you with information. Pastors and leaders of senior adults are certainly welcome and urged to participate. The dates are Oct. 12-16. The place is Ridgecrest, N.C. With Arkansas' large element of retirees, we ought to flood the place with our people. Call Bob Holley



(376-4791) if you need more assistance in making your plans.

Urgent request! On Oct. 27, 1987, at the Immanuel Church, Little Rock, two vital matters will be presented that hold great promise for helping our churches. Do you have a strategy for recovering and reclaiming inactive church members? There is one. It could become yours. Do we have responsibility for the inactive? Of course we do!

Learn about Ingathering! It is a proven ministry for reclaiming the inactive church members. Learn about LIFE (Lay Institute For Equipping)!

Perhaps I am in a better position than ever to see how far short we have fallen in these areas. I beg you to devote some time to learning of new and better ways to meet some crucial needs.

Hunger—a need, an opportunity

Our missionaries in Africa, in particular, have been giving thrilling testimonies about how hunger relief has provided our greatest opening for sharing the gospel. There is a link between the credibility of the message and the messenger. When a messenger proves his love by giving life saving help, his message is much more readily received. Jesus said, feed those who can't do anything for you in return. We are doing that. It is working. Even hard Muslim areas are beginning to soften toward the gospel because of the compassion and help given by Christian people. If the missionaries go and share it, we ought to provide. Perhaps you have funds that could be taken from your treasury for Hunger Relief on Oct. 11. Perhaps you could receive an offering. We may not be able to meet all of the needs. But if we all help, we can meet many of them. Observe World Hunger Day.

Three vital mission notes

(1) The Manaus Crusade, Oct. 21-Nov. 1, will wrap-up our official three year partnership. We urge everyone who reads this to be faithful in prayer. Arkansas' Music Men, who will be going to Brazil, will have their final rehearsal on Oct. 15.

(2) Two WMU Women's Retreats, Oct. 22-23, 23-24. Camp Paron is the place. The Friday night-Saturday retreat is especially for working women. You can receive a lot of information and inspiration here, particularly concerning the Centennial emphasis.

(3) A GA Missions Spectacular is being prepared for girls, grades 1-6, Oct. 17 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. You can't do better than lead young Christians

to become knowledgeable and committed to missions.

Small Church Sunday School

Churches with less than 150 enrolled in Sunday School should try to get their leadership to the "Better Bible Teaching In The Small Sunday School" workshop. Only two remain. They will be held simultaneously at Cedar Glade Camp, Imboden, and at Bakers Creek Church, Russellville, Oct. 2-3.

Some prayer needs

While most of you would not be expected to be involved in these activities, they do deserve and need your prayers.

Oct. 2-4 is the annual BSU Convention. Students from 27+ campuses in Arkansas will be gathering on the campus of the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Some great leaders have been enlisted. They and the students must be touched by the Spirit of God if his will is accomplished. Pray!

Oct. 30-Nov. 1 is our International Student Conference at Camp Paron. The WMU, BSU and State Missions Department sponsor this unusual missions event. We anticipate having students from 30 different countries present. Most of them will have no Christian background. Our leaders will face a great challenge in presenting Christ in such a way that God may bring them to salvation. These need our prayers.

Pray for the annual meetings of our associations. They will hold their sessions the middle weeks of October. Both the churches and the state convention look to the association in so many ways. I hope every associational meeting will be well attended and that a spirit of hope and revival will prevail. Our prayers are with you.

Brotherhood Meetings Prove Encouraging

Associational Brotherhood meetings during August were most encouraging. Nearly 150 men and boys were at Bull Shoals. Over 170 men met at Rye Hill near Fort Smith for the Concord associational fish fry.

Construction

There was warm response to helping with construction projects in the associations, state and on home mission fields in Michigan and Indiana.

Russell Miller of Mountain Home has agreed to accept the initial coordination of construction teams. The Brotherhood office will send all information about men who are willing to help in construction to

Russell. We will need one-day volunteers and others who can give three days or more to projects.

Several new construction requests have come from our state. Several could be handled on a Saturday or two. Please let us know if you or a group of your men could help.

Prison ministry

The Jail Ministry Day set for Sept. 25 was also well received. State Missions and Brotherhood are working with a committee of those who are effectively carrying out jail and prison ministries. This group will offer a strategy for Arkansas Baptist Men to be in every jail and prison in Arkansas on Sunday, Sept. 25.—Glendon Grober, director

Church Training It's a Fact!

It isn't unusual for a person, when they have just heard some unusual or exciting news, to ask, "Is that a fact?" It is our nature to look for the facts. Let me share some facts that were revealed at a recent meeting of state Church Training leaders.



Recent research shows that churches with Church Training programs have a higher percentage of Sunday School membership, a greater baptism rate and give more dollars to convention causes than churches without Church Training. Here are the facts:

(1) A church with a membership of 300-499 enrolls about 71 percent of its members in Sunday School if it has a Church Training program. A church of the same size without a Church Training program has only 57.5 percent of its members enrolled in Sunday School. The Church with Church Training will enroll 23.5 percent more of its resident members in Sunday School. It's a fact!

(2) A church of 300-499 members will have an annual average of 2.7 baptisms per 100 resident members if it has a Church Training program. The church without a Church Training program will have 2.1 baptisms per 100 members. In other words, a church of that size with a Church Training program had a 29 percent higher annual baptism rate per 100 than those without. It's a fact.

(3) A church of 300-499 members without a Church Training program gives 8.9 percent of its undesignated receipts to

the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. Those churches with a Church Training program gave 10.1 percent to the Cooperative Program, which is a 13.5 percent higher rate than those without Church Training.

The research project studied eight size categories of churches ranging from under 100 members to more than 2,000, and in every category, churches with a Church Training program came out ahead in Sunday School enrollment, baptisms and Cooperative Program giving.

Dr. Roy Edgemon, director of the Church Training Department for the Sunday School Board says, "When a church has a strong Church Training program, other programs grow and flourish. Through Church Training, people are trained in discipleship, Baptist heritage and polity and church leadership roles. Church Training is foundational support for all other programs."

It's a fact! The above statistics were compiled by the SBC Research and Statistics Department from the 1986 Uniform Church Letter. An effective Church Training program can make a difference; it is making a difference in churches where discipleship training is a priority, where there is adequate, trained leadership, and where good planning is being done.

The Church Training Convention, to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Immanuel Church in Little Rock, will help you develop the kind of training program that will make a difference in your church.

It's a fact! Don't miss it.—Robert Holley, director

Women's Missionary Union Baptist Women Retreats

Celebrate—to observe with ceremonies of respect, festivity, or rejoicing. Missions—the activity of God's people to show and tell his love to a lost and dying world. If those two definitions are put together, the spirit of the 1987 Baptist Women Retreats is captured. Our theme will be "Celebrate Missions!"

Oct. 22-23, 23-24 are special days at Camp Paron. Women interested in celebrating missions are invited to attend the Baptist Women Retreats. The second retreat is a repeat of the first.

Leading the celebration will be missionaries Bettye Spann (Brazil) and Patty Lane (Texas). Mary Ida Tidsworth, Katsy McAlister, Rhonda Stege, Betty Rice, Angela Lowe and Pat Glascock will add to the celebration in state missions, Bible study, music and storytelling related to Arkansas WMU history. Joyce Mitchell, WMU, SBC

will highlight the role of national WMU in the development of Southern Baptist missions in the past 100 years.

AMAR prayer times, testimonies and other surprises also will contribute to the celebration. A special birthday party for national and state WMU will help women catch the spirit of our centennial. The first eight churches to claim a booth will have the opportunity to show off their history at the party.

Registration deadline is Oct. 15. More information can be obtained by writing Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. You won't want to miss the celebration of what God has done and is doing in our world to show and tell his love!—Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director

Family Ministry Rallies Offer Inspiration

Baptist senior adults in Arkansas and their leaders will experience fellowship, inspiration and leadership training at five

Area Senior Adult Rallies the week of Nov. 9-13. Horace Kerr, director of senior adult ministry at the Sunday School Board in Nashville will speak at each of the five locations. He will also lead a two-hour leadership conference for pastors, staff members, senior



Kerr

adult coordinators and others who have responsibility for senior adult ministry in their churches, both professional and volunteer. Kerr is author of *Ministry to Senior Adults in Your Church and Coming of Age*.

In each location, the rallies will begin at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 3:30 p.m. The locations are as follows:

- Nov. 9 Springdale, First
- Nov. 10 Mountain Home, First
- Nov. 11 Jonesboro, First
- Nov. 12 North Little Rock, Park Hill
- Nov. 13 Hot Springs, Second

Dr. Maurice Hurley will be the inspirational speaker at the morning and afternoon sessions at each of the rallies. Dr. Hurley is retired from the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University. He is in frequent demand as a supply pastor and conference leader. He and his wife live in North Little Rock, where they are active

members of the Park Hill Church.

The program in each location will feature a variety of presentations of interest to senior adults including music, testimonies and a visual presentation on senior adult ministry in Arkansas. Make your plans now to be part of this exciting opportunity for senior adults.—**Bob Holley, director**

Woman's Missionary Union GA Missions Spectacular

Meet missionaries and hear first-hand about Southern Baptist mission work. Sing songs, play games and have fun. Learn how GAS began as part of Woman's Missionary Union. Celebrate WMU's 100th birthday. Buy a GA T-shirt and more! Where? The GA Missions Spectacular on Saturday, Oct. 17, 1987 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

The GA Missions Spectacular is for girls in grades 1-6, GA leaders, and interested adults. The program begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m. Participants bring their lunches, drinks, and something to sit on during the day. There is a non-refundable registration. GA leaders will receive registration information. For additional information, contact the state WMU office.

The GA Missions Spectacular will feature Missions Past, Present, and Future: the Charles Hamptons, South Africa; the Fred Spanns, Brazil; Mrs. Stephen Smith, Portugal; Mrs. Ed Pinkston, Ivory Coast; Mrs. Graydon Hardister, Jordan; and Mrs. Hugh Redmon, Venezuela. Make plans now to attend!—**Pat Glascock, GA/Mission Friends director**

Missions

Mission Resources

The Church Missions Committee is now referred to as the Church Missions Development Council. The council needs three printed items that can be secured from the Baptist Book Store. They are *Church Missions Development*, *Church Missions Development Council Workbook*, and the *Church/Community Needs Survey Guide*.

Several associations are providing a seminar for Church Missions Committee/Church Missions Development Program workers. If no training is available, a church may contact Floyd Tidsworth Jr., P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone

376-4791.

Tent: A small tent is available for mission revivals or to be used in starting a mission.

New Work Consultants: Certified experienced consultants are available to sponsoring churches. These consultants must meet the Level I certification requirements before assisting a church in starting a new mission. Fifteen consultants are now serving in Arkansas.

Mission Materials: Printed materials can be mailed to a church on how to prepare to start a mission. Other guidelines show the process of starting and developing a new congregation.

Free Literature: One quarter's literature is free to a beginning mission. Also, the new group can receive certain free Church Training materials, 25 new Baptist hymnals, and up to 50 cartons of offering envelopes.

The Macedonian Mission Plan: This plan involves three churches with one mission for three years. If your church wants to sponsor a new mission but needs a mission partner, help may be available.

Other: Limited funds are available to assist new congregations and churches that can demonstrate financial needs with site purchase, small loans, emergency funds, pastoral aid, and mobile chapels.

For more information about the above resources, contact your DOM or Floyd Tidsworth Jr. (see address above).—**Floyd Tidsworth, church extension director**

Media Library For New Workers

Anne Long will lead a conference for new and inexperienced church media library workers at the annual State Church Training Convention on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

How to Administer

and Promote a

Church Media Li-

brary will be the

basic resource for

the conference. The

conference is designed

for new and inex-

perienced workers. It

also will provide help

for leaders from

churches interested in

starting a media

library. The morning and

afternoon sessions

are a continuing

conference with the

evening session a shorter

version for leaders

who cannot attend the

daytime conference.

Anne Long is projects coordinator for the Sunday School Board's Church Media Library Department. She is an experienced conference leader and will be leading



Long

her first conference in Arkansas.

Leaders who already have the book, *How to Administer and Promote a Church Media Library*, should bring their books to the conference. All books in the development series will be available for purchase at the Baptist Book Store display.

Training opportunities for experienced workers will be available Jan. 18-19 and 21, 1988, in area conferences at Fayetteville, Mountain Home, and Little Rock. The Sunday School Board also will hold a Regional Clinic April 29-30, 1988, at DeGray State Park Lodge.

Remember, the October conference provides special help for the new and inexperienced media library worker.—**Gerald Jackson, associate**

Annuity

10 Reasons For The Expanded Plan

(1) The church has a biblical responsibility to provide for those who serve.

(2) By adopting the Expanded Plan, the church sets a church retirement policy.

(3) Based on percentage contributions, the plan is easy to administer.

(4) The Expanded Plan provides protection for the church, and participants, through the protection section.

(5) The church has the flexibility to cover whomever it chooses in the Expanded Plan.

(6) Accounts in the Expanded Church Annuity Plan are managed at no extra cost to the church.

(7) Participants in the Expanded Plan will receive more retirement benefits. The state convention will contribute to the individual's retirement account when certain conditions are met.

(8) Your church can trust the Annuity Board. They have managed pension funds since 1918.

(9) Free retirement planning information is available to participants and churches.

(10) Four funds allow investment flexibility. Plan funds are managed with an investment philosophy consistent with Christian principles and earn competitive interest.

Your church should adopt the Expanded Church Annuity Plan by voting in a business meeting, signing the Cooperative Agreement and returning it to the state annuity office. Call your state Annuity representative for information or assistance.—**James A. Walker, Annuity representative**

HELPLINE

Missions Advance 87-89

You Can Be A Prayer Partner

"Missions Advance 87-89" needs your prayer support. The purposes of "Missions Advance" require prayer support. The goal is to share the message of "Missions Advance" with every Arkansas church. The "Missions Advance" message relates to the support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

Missions support is directly related to Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is an attempt to see that every person in the world will have an opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ by the year 2000. Now, I ask you: Don't you think that kind of effort needs prayer support?

The good news is that you can be a Prayer Partner in this effort. Write to the address listed below for more information on how you can get involved.

Prayer Partners for
"Missions Advance 87-89"
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

You also can help by challenging others to get involved. We are looking for 2,000 Prayer Partners. Don't delay. Write now or call 376-4791.

October will be a good time to highlight "Missions Advance 87-89" in your church because October is Cooperative Program Month. Materials and suggestions are available from your state office to promote this month of special emphasis. Write to the same address listed above.

One of the activities you might consider as part of Cooperative Program Month is the scheduling of a "Missions Advance" speaker. Approximately 100 people have been trained to visit churches to share the message of "Missions Advance." These speakers will come to your church at no cost. All they need is an invitation.

Write to the same address listed above if you want help in securing a "Missions Advance 87-89" speaker or more information. Reaching people around the world for Christ cannot take second place to anything we are doing as churches and as a convention. "Missions Advance 87-89" acknowledges this priority and will give you and your church a challenge to get involved at a deeper level of commitment.—**Jimmie Sheffield**, associate executive director



Next Month in Arkansas: October

Oct. 2-3, Better Bible Teaching in the Small Sunday School, Cedar Glades Camp, Imboden; Russellville Bakers Creek Church (SS)
Oct. 2-4, Baptist Student Convention, Student Union, University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Stu)
Oct. 3, All-State Youth Choir Auditions, Berryville First Church, Jonesboro Central Church, Monticello Second Church, Hope First Church, Booneville First Church, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (M)
Oct. 5-8, National CWT Seminar, Harrison First Church (Ev)
Oct. 10, All-State Youth Choir Auditions, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)

Oct. 11, World Hunger Day (CLC)
Oct. 12-17, Senior Adult Chautauqua, Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Convention Center (CT)
Oct. 15, AMAR Music Men Rehearsal, Baptist Building, Little Rock (M)
Oct. 17, GA Missions Spectacular, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (WMU)
Oct. 21 - Nov. 1, Music Men Mission Trip, Manaus, Brazil (M)
Oct. 22-23, 23-24, Baptist Women Retreats, Camp Paron (WMU)
Oct. 27, Church Training Convention, Little Rock Immanuel Church
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, International Student Conference, Camp Paron (Stu)

November

Nov. 1-7, National RA Week (Bbd)
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. 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. 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. 27, Tax Seminar, Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (S/A)

Abbreviations: Bbd - 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

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THEREFORE...

Are you committed to carrying out the Great Commission in the cities of our land? Are New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles modern counterparts of Jerusalem, Samaria and Judea? How can you respond to the Great Commission and the overwhelming need to win our cities?

You may not be able to drop your responsibilities, sell your belongings and go to a mission field. But you can give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering while home missionaries serve on your behalf in all 50 states and in every major city in the United States.

Many of you have already responded to the critical need in our cities by giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The Home Mission Board thanks you for your gifts that allow home missionaries to be your hands, your hearts, your response to the Great Commission.

The Home Mission Board thanks all Baptist churches in Arkansas, especially those who gave the highest per capita offerings in 1986:

First Baptist Church, El Dorado	\$41.60
First Baptist Church, Sparkman	11.22
Lake Ouachita Baptist Church, Mt. Ida	11.05

Bella Vista Baptist Church, Bella Vista	10.50
Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado	10.29
Unity Baptist Church, Arkadelphia	10.13
Wesson Baptist Church, Junction City	10.00
Havana Baptist Church, Havana	9.90
First Baptist Church, Stuttgart	9.32
Forrest Park Baptist Church, Pine Bluff	9.20

The Home Mission Board also thanks these Baptist churches who gave the highest dollar amounts in the state in 1986:

First Baptist Church, El Dorado	\$40,389
Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock	20,348
Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock	17,812
Immanuel Baptist Church, El Dorado	10,807
Geyer Springs First Baptist, Little Rock	10,348
Baring Cross Baptist Church, Little Rock	9,531
Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith	9,430
First Baptist Church, Little Rock	8,621
First Baptist Church, Springdale	7,910
Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock	7,668

(Figures from state convention offices and from Uniform Church Letters.)

THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING FOR HOME MISSIONS:
Making the Great Commission a Bold Commitment to Our Cities

HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC, 1550 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601/A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering



Housing Request Form Released

The form on the opposite page must be used by all those wishing to make hotel reservations through the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-16, 1988, in San Antonio, Texas. If you do not wish to use the housing bureau, you may contact any hotel **not** listed on the form. Use one form for **each** room requested.

Part I—Accurately fill in the requested information. The confirmation will be mailed to the person whose name appears in Part I. This person must be one of the persons who will be occupying the room.

Part II—From the accompanying list, select six hotels/motels of your choice and place the hotel/motel in the boxes in Part II in the order of your preference. **You must select six hotels.** The hotel codes are listed on the adjacent hotel index.

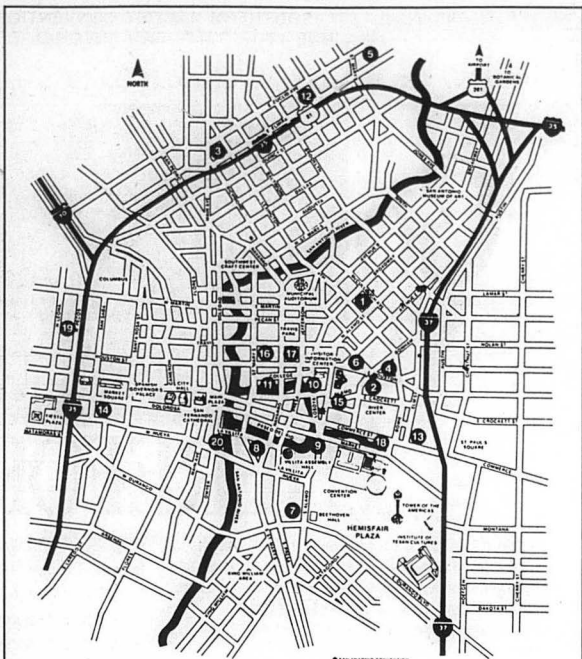
Part III—Fill in all information requested for the room you wish to reserve. If you need more than one room, use a second sheet. Photo copies of the form may be used.

When the forms are received by the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau, they will be held until Oct. 14, to be sure that all housing requests postmarked Oct. 1 have had time to arrive. The forms will then be opened by postmark date. **The time of day the forms are mailed is not important.**

In the past, all hotels listed by the Housing Bureau have filled from individuals' forms postmarked Oct. 1 and 2. **Mail this form Oct. 1.** Housing requests postmarked prior to Oct. 1 will be processed after those postmarked Oct. 1 and 2.

All housing forms are processed by the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau. If you have a special problem, or if you have need for further information, contact HOUSING INFORMATION, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203; telephone (615) 244-2355.

The Hyatt Regency San Antonio will serve as the headquarters hotel. The WMU will be headquartered at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel. The Pastor's Conference, Woman's Missionary Union, and convention sessions will be held at the San Antonio Convention Center.



HOTEL LIST

Map Number	Hotel/Motel	Code Letters	Rates	
			Single	Double
1.	Alamo TraveLodge	TRA	\$36.00	\$44.00
2.	The Crockett Hotel	CRO	75.00	85.00
3.	Downtown Roweday Inn	RWI	42.00	44.00
4.	Downtowner Motel	DWN	44.00	48.00
5.	Elmira Motor Inn	ELM	24.00	26.00
6.	The Emily Morgan Hotel	TEM	65.00	75.00
7.	Four Seasons San Antonio	FSE	80.00	90.00
8.	Granada Inn by the River	GRI	34.00	44.00
9.	Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel	HPR	90.00	100.00
10.	Hyatt Regency San Antonio	HYR	82.00	93.00
11.	La Mansion del Rio Hotel	LMR	68.00	75.00
12.	La Paloma Inn	QIM	47.00	52.00
13.	La Quinta-Convention Center	LQC	61.00	61.00
14.	La Quinta-Market Square	LQM	61.00	61.00
15.	Menger Hotel	MEN	63.00	72.00
16.	Radisson Gunter Hotel	GUN	75.00	75.00
17.	St. Anthony Inter-Continental	SAI	75.00	85.00
18.	San Antonio Marriott	SAM	88.00	93.00
19.	Texian Inn-Market Square	TXD	42.00	45.00
20.	Travelodge on the River	TRR	60.00	68.00

TROUBLED?

Wanda Stephens, M.D.
Christian Psychiatrist
501-225-9750

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
JUNE 14-16, 1988—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

MAIL TO:

HOUSING
SAN ANTONIO CONVENTION
& VISITORS BUREAU
P.O. BOX 2277
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78298

OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM

• PLEASE READ CAREFULLY •

- PLEASE **PRINT** OR **TYPE** ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.
- SHOULD MORE THAN ONE** (1) ROOM BE NEEDED, PLEASE USE A SECOND FORM.
- ALL** CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

**PART I
INSTRUCTIONS:**

Accurately fill in the requested information. The confirmation will be mailed to the person whose name appears in Part I. This person must be one of the persons who will be occupying the room.

If necessary, photocopies of this form may be used to make additional reservations.

<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (FIRST NAME)	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (LAST)	
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (STREET ADDRESS OR P. O. BOX NUMBER)		
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (CITY)	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (STATE)	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (ZIP — U.S.A.)
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (Area Code)	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> (PHONE NUMBER)	

Only forms postmarked
October 1 or October 2
will be processed.

**PART II
INSTRUCTIONS:**

From the accompanying list, select six hotels/motels of your choice and place the hotel codes in the boxes in Part II in the order of your preference. You must select six hotels. The hotel codes may be found on page 2 of this form.

FIRST CHOICE
(HOTEL CODE)

SECOND CHOICE
(HOTEL CODE)

THIRD CHOICE
(HOTEL CODE)

FOURTH CHOICE
(HOTEL CODE)

FIFTH CHOICE
(HOTEL CODE)

SIXTH CHOICE
(HOTEL CODE)

**PART III
INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. PRINT OR TYPE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING THE ROOM, INCLUDING THIS INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN PART I.
2. SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED WITH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.
3. PRINT OR TYPE LAST NAME FIRST.

GUEST NAME/S (PRINT LAST NAME FIRST)	P + 1 — Parlor & one bedroom	P + 2 — Parlor & two bedrooms
1. _____	CHECK ONE <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Triple <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Quad <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> P + 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Dbl/Dbl <input type="checkbox"/> P + 2	ARR. DATE _____ DEP. DATE _____ ARR. TIME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM (Check one) NOTE: Reservation will be held only until 6 p.m. unless special arrangements are made directly with hotel. The hotel may request a deposit.
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date mailed. Confirmations will come directly from your hotel. **DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS.** Changes in reservations should be made by directly contacting the confirming hotel.

NOTE: PLEASE RECHECK ALL ITEMS FOR CORRECT INFORMATION
DO NOT MAIL FORMS POSTMARKED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1987

Firing Attempt Fails, 15-15

New CLC chairman gives Baker 'another year'

NASHVILLE (BP)—An attempt by "conservatives" to dismiss N. Larry Baker as executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission failed by a 15-15 vote Sept. 15.

Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton County Association from Rogers, Ark., presented the motion to dismiss Baker immediately. The measure also would have empowered the newly elected commission chairman to appoint a search committee and name an interim director.

The call for Baker's dismissal echoed charges brought against him when commissioners voted 16-13 to hire him Jan. 15—displeasure with his positions on abortion, capital punishment and women in ministry, as well as displeasure with the composition of the search committee that recommended him.

During the January meeting, Baker cited four cases where he believes abortion "may be allowed as an exception"—threat to the life of the mother, rape, incest and "perhaps in the case where traumatic and severe deformity to the fetus is involved."

He also expressed his beliefs that "God calls women to serve him in ministry as he calls men to serve him in ministry" and "capital punishment runs counter to the Christian ethic and the Christian gospel."

Several commissioners affirmed Baker and the progress the commission has made under his leadership, but they said he should be terminated because of the views he expressed in January.

Baker is doing "meritorious work," but the effort is marred by the "inconsistency between his expressed beliefs and his action," said Rudolph Yakym, a stockbroker from South Bend, Ind., who later was elected CLC secretary. "His (Baker's) stated

positions are not what I would seek in a man... to continue to lead us."

"I love Dr. Baker as a man. We have shared personal burdens, but those burdens are not the issue," said Fred Lackey, pastor of First Church of Athens, Ala., and the new CLC chairman. "I cannot support Dr. Baker on abortion, capital punishment and women in the pastorate. I do disagree with the (selection) process, that the committee did not include a single conservative."

Charles Wade, pastor of First Church of Arlington, Texas, and immediate past chairman of the commission, pointed out another issue concerned "conservatives" unwillingness to concede on the exceptions to abortion: "Your stubbornness in that position has condemned millions of babies yet unborn to die. If you fire him (Baker), you may think you have pleased 52-53-54-55 percent of Southern Baptists. But there are 45-46-47-48 percent of us who want to work on abortion, who are polarized if you are so rigid you will not let us help you."

Wade asked: "Do you really want to end 98 percent of the abortions in America, or do you want to win a political point and let millions of babies die?"

Three trustees who said they had voted against Baker in January told commissioners they would vote to support Baker in the effort to dismiss him.

One of the three, Coy Privette, CLC vice chairman and executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina in Raleigh, said: "I voted against Larry Baker, but I was wrong. I have asked the Lord to forgive me." He looked at Baker and added, "Now I am going to vote for you."

Prior to the vote on his dismissal, Baker

told commissioners the past six months had been eventful, turbulent and productive. "The piece of work of which I am proudest during the past months is the commission's initiative on abortion," he said. "We have focused our moral agenda on the issue of abortion on a scope never seen before in the Southern Baptist Convention."

"One of the commissioners told me recently, 'We've done more on abortion in the past few months than the Southern Baptist Convention has done in 40 years.'"

Baker outlined new or expanded CLC program initiatives, including those related to abortion, AIDS, citizenship, pornography, world hunger and gambling, as well as expanded efforts in production, marketing and distribution of ethics resources.

Atchison, who had made the motion to dismiss Baker, later acknowledged he was disappointed with the outcome but said he would accept the vote and work with Baker: "I think there's a good spirit on our board, and we have been able to accomplish some things we had on our conservative agenda. . . . We did give the staff some guidelines they never had before and thus accomplished what we would have had with a man with those conservative concerns."

Asked if Baker's tenure would be challenged next year, Atchison, new CLC chairman, said: "I have no idea; it's not in my mind at all. Probably that question will have to be answered in what we see this year. We've given him another year to give the leadership we feel Southern Baptists need in this place."

(Contributing to this article were Dan Martin and Marv Knox of the Baptist Press central office, Tim Fields of the Christian Life Commission and Greg Warner of the Florida Baptist Witness, representing the Southern Baptist Press Association.)

Baker Urges United Action

by Tim Fields

SBC Christian Life Commission

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists who are concerned about abortion need to "move beyond words to action. . . and beyond polarization to a united assault on the forces of death," N. Larry Baker told participants at a national conference on abortion.

"Let the world hear us declare that we are outraged by the flippant and casual way

in which this society judged the act of abortion and by the unrelenting encouragement that it gives to the practice of abortion. Let the world trumpet our belief that human life from conception is sacred and must be protected and nurtured in all its aspects," declared Baker, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Baker offered several suggestions for action:

"First, Southern Baptists can move beyond words to actions. There are many ways to act," he said. "An editor writes

an editorial: A pastor preaches a sermon. A church opens a crisis pregnancy center. A family takes a woman with a crisis pregnancy into its home."

Second, "rescue the abortion issue from captivity to any secular political agenda," he said. "The sanctity of human life is not a conservative political concern; it is a Christian concern."

"God's people can stem the tide of abortions if we refuse to be people of the political right, the political left or the political middle."

Baker also urged Southern

Baptists to move beyond a single focus to a wide range of abortion-related problems, such as sexual morality, family relationships, and personal responsibility. He called on them to "couple opposition to an evil with ministry to hurting persons."

"Abortion is not an issue in the abstract," he reminded. "It always comes packaged in petitions, with names and faces, hopes and fears, pains and problems that are very human and very personal. We must see beyond a point to be argued to a person to be cared for."

Canada Seminary Opens

Building on 149-acre campus continues

COCHRANE, Canada (BP)—Classes started Sept. 1 at the brand-new Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary as construction work on the 149-acre campus continued.

Twenty students began work in the four introductory courses offered this fall: New Testament, Greek, systematic theology and preaching. All but one of the students are Canadians from the western provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where most Canadian Southern Baptist congregations are located.

"You are part of a historic moment for Canadian Southern Baptists," seminary President Clint Ashley told the students as they gathered on the campus, located on rolling hills near Calgary, Alberta. "You come from different walks of life, from various professional backgrounds. But all of you will go from here to share the gospel across Canada and around the world."

Classes are being taught by Southern Baptist representatives Wayne Cook and Mike McGough, who were assigned to the seminary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The seminary is asking the mission board to send four more teachers during the next two years. "After that we hope to be in a position to hire our own professors," said Southern Baptist representative James Teel, director of development and promotion for the seminary.

"We're still so busy with details that one has to be reminded of the historic nature of it," Teel said. "But when one savors the moment, it's impossible to describe the emotion, realizing that it's the culmination not just of three years of hard work by some of us but many years of prayer by Canadian Southern Baptists."

For now, classes are meeting in a service building as construction continues on the main academic building, which still lacks doors, carpeting, trim and exterior brick. Landscaping work also continues.

Since building began, about 250 Canadian and American construction volunteers from churches in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Texas, Florida and Georgia have come to help. Another volunteer crew from North Carolina is due in September, Teel said.

But the seminary needs more money to complete construction. Canadian Southern Baptists contribute to the seminary through their regular church offerings and are in the middle of a \$300,000 "Share the Dream" fund-raising campaign for the school. Churches have given or pledged about \$100,000 so far.

More than \$575,000 for property and construction has come from Southern Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board and individual gifts.

Taylor Leaves RTVC To Teach

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Bob Taylor, senior vice president of programming services, has resigned from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, the third senior official to leave the agency this summer.

Taylor, 53, who left the RTVC July 31 without another job, has since contracted to teach two courses at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in a cooperative effort between the seminary and the commission, similar to an arrangement between the RTVC and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

HMB Elects Livingstone

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors elected Mike Livingstone as book editor and approved 74 people for missionary service during their September meeting.

As book editor, Livingstone will oversee the planning, editing and production of Home Mission Board books, including the annual home mission study series. He will succeed Celeste Pennington, who resigned last spring to become a freelance writer.

Jobs Exchange

Share home—Will share large home with compatible couple. Rec room, music and family rooms, semi-cafe style dining, home atmosphere. Nurse-housekeeper. Write P.O. Box 1063, Mountain Home, AR 72653; phone 501-491-5356. 10/15

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

A SMILE OR TWO

Rev. Billy Graham: "It seems to me we live in an era of so many protests that no one knows quite what to expect next. I sometimes wouldn't be a bit surprised to hear that the meek had organized and announced they have no intention of inheriting the earth."

CP Gifts Head For \$130 Million

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists' convention-wide missions budget should top \$130 million for the first time in 1986-87, according to predictions based on year-to-date receipts.

The Cooperative Program—the unified evangelism, education and ministry budget supported by more than 37,000 Southern Baptist congregations—received \$11,257,538 in August, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

August receipts were up \$1,001,422 over the same period last year, for a gain of 9.76 percent, Bennett said. That brings the year-to-date total to \$120,150,

803 at the end of 11 months of the fiscal year, for an annual gain of 5.51 percent, ahead of the current 3.9 percent U.S. inflation rate.

Computer-generated predictions based on year-to-date figures indicate the current annual Cooperative Program total should reach about \$131 million, said Tim A. Hedquist, vice-president for business and finance of the SBC Executive Committee.

If the predictions hold true, the Cooperative Program will experience an annual increase of 5.5 percent over 1985-86 receipts of slightly more than \$124.2 million, Hedquist said.

A \$131 million 1986-87

Cooperative Program total would surpass the \$126.6 million first phase of the annual budget, providing operating funds for the participating convention entities. It also would provide \$4.4 million of almost \$5.9 million budgeted for capital needs of 12 agencies and institutions.

Unmet would be \$3.7 million for the second phase of the operating budget, which theoretically would be disbursed proportionately between the 19 primary beneficiaries.

A major factor in the Cooperative Program's annual total will be how quickly Baptist state conventions forward their end-of-month CP checks to the Executive Committee.

Baptist Laity Abroad

According to recent estimates by the SBC Foreign Mission Board, more than 130,000 Southern Baptists are living abroad for periods of six months to three years. Less than 5 percent of them are involved in meaningful ministry overseas.

The ABSC Brotherhood Department and the Foreign Mission Board's Laity Abroad program are co-sponsoring two activities this year which will identify and involve Arkansas Baptists who are in this increasing number of persons who travel overseas in connection with a military assignment, business activities, retirement, or in some type of study program. — Glendon Grober, ABSC Brotherhood director.

Laity Abroad Workshop

December 4, 1987

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Park Hill Baptist Church
North Little Rock

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

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

Contact the ABSC Brotherhood office for more information or to make reservations.

Laity Abroad Luncheon

December 5, 1987

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

China: An Open Window

by John T. Hampton

For many years, the People's Republic of China was closed to most of the outside world, especially the West. This closure not only made it impossible to have Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in China, but it also closed the door to most Christian laymen and women.

Now China has opened slightly to Christian laypeople to live in the country and work with the Chinese in education, medicine, and business. We cannot know how long this opportunity will last. We, as Southern Baptists, must immediately place as many Christian laypeople as we can in China to work with the Chinese. The opportunities are there, if we can identify each one and match these opportunities with God-called Christian people who want to go.

God is beginning to open the window—to witness to a billion people on our earth.

As clearly as yesterday, I still see the faces of the Chinese people I met in November—Mr. Chow, manager of a construction company, Mr. Li, a very important architect, and even the two young girls, smiles wide, on the streets of Shanghai. The searching in their eyes cannot be forgotten.

I believe God has called us as a free, Christian people to go, to teach, to work side by side, and to witness through a quiet, personal lifestyle.

Now we must identify the specific opportunities in China and match those with the Christian people God has called to go.

John T. Hampton is a banker from Booneville, Ark. He has been working with the SBC Foreign Mission Board to find more ways to place Christian laymen and women in China. He visited China in November 1986.

Laity Abroad Information Form

Do you know a Southern Baptist who travels overseas with his or her work? Please help us identify this person.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Type employment _____

Information provided by _____

Phone _____ Church _____

☐ Clip this form and mail to: Brotherhood, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Convention Uniform

Defiance Is Always Folly

by Gene Crawley, First Church, Newport

Basic passage: Genesis 11

Focal passage: Genesis 11:1-9

Central truth: No matter how ingenious the plan, failure to do the will of God is always folly.

God's command to man when leaving the ark was that he should replenish the earth (Ge. 9:1). Since this was God's will, then certainly he would provide everything necessary for man to accomplish it.

Even though it was God's objective for man to go forth, it appears man's intention was to stay in the security of one place. In closeness and in great numbers, he seemingly would be invincible against any foe, even if that foe was God.

The people decided to build a tower so high that it could be seen for a great distance in order that they not move far away. It is not believed this tower was built to usurp the throne of God, but it was built in defiance to the expressed will of God. These people treated God's command as though he were an equal, not their Lord.

The people of Babel forced God to have to act in order that his will would be accomplished. He confused the tongues of the people, making it impossible for them to work or live together. Therefore, the people were forced to leave the plain in the land of Shinar and to go forth and replenish the earth.

How does this bit of history apply to us? First, any time we treat the commands of God as though they are optional, we treat God as though he is our peer. We are not God's equals. He is our Father, and he is to be obeyed. We must learn there is nothing he will ask of us that he will not empower us to accomplish.

Secondly, God's command to us today still is to go forth. We are to go and tell the world of the goodness and love of God through Christ. We, however, have built our magnificent towers (churches) and said, "Come and hear." We must do it God's way, or we will be just as disobedient as the tower builders. No matter how ingenious and inviting our programs may be, it is always folly to disobey the expressed will of God.

Obedience requires going, teaching, baptizing, and disciplining (Mt. 28:19-20). Anything less is defiance, and defiance is always folly.

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Life and Work

Faithful to the Word

by Carl Goodson, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: 2 Timothy 3:1-4:22

Focal passage: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:8

Central truth: Faithfulness to the Word progresses from child-like faith to the fulfillment at departure into eternity.

Paul, in this final set of recommendations to a Christian in ministry, deals with several levels of faithfulness to the Word. He alludes to Timothy's childhood heritage, to his active adult life, to his completion of ministry, and, finally, to his own readiness to be offered as a sacrifice.

The "entry level" of faith is at the point of our learning about God as children. Many of us are grateful to God for our spiritual Eunices and Loises, parents who taught us from the Bible. Some Christians never progress beyond this child-level of understanding the Word.

When we grow into an adult level of faith, we discover Paul's description of God's Word to be true: it is God-breathed. The Bible is only a thing of parchment and ink until God's Spirit or his breath of life makes it alive.

God's Word is profitable, that is useful, valuable, and beneficial for certain human needs. It teaches, but does more. It is useful in reproving us of our sin—conviction. It is useful for correction, showing us the solution to the sin problem—salvation. It is useful in training for righteousness.

The purpose of faithfulness to the Word is that God's ministering servant may be ready to do all the Lord's "good work." The execution of ministry is to share the Word. Although "preaching" has been made a paid occupation, its basic function is to tell the good news with the voices and communication skills that God has given us. Ministry calls for readiness at all times to let God's Word do his reproving, exhorting work through us. We are to continue patient instruction in these times when sound doctrine is rejected.

There is a fine line between the mature level and its completion at seniority. Paul calls it "fulfilling your ministry." Fulfillment calls for continuing an active ministry through all levels of faithfulness from childhood to senior adulthood.

Since neither Paul nor any other minister knows the time of departure, joy comes in continually pouring out self in offerings of service.

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Bible Book

The New Jerusalem

by Jack Kwok, Indianhead Lake Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: Revelation 21-22

Focal passage: Revelation 21:1-5a, 21-22; 22:1-2,10-12,17

Central truth: Jesus is coming to put his saints in their eternal home.

According to 21:1-22:5, an eternal home awaits the saints of God. This home will be a remade, radiant, reserved, and royal place.

A new heaven, earth, and Jerusalem will make up the parts (21:1-2) of this remade place depicted in 21:1-8. They will be remade to remove all effects of sin (Ro. 8:19-22). Two provisions of the remade place are mentioned in 21:3-4: the presence of God in incarnation and indwelling, and the prohibition of grief and sorrow and suffering. In 21:5-6, the provider of the remade place announced himself as sovereign in his performance and position as savior because the origin and offer of life comes from him. The participants in the remade place are identified in 21:7-8 as being those included (conquerors in and children of God) and those excluded (their character and consignment).

This remade place is described in 21:9-26 as a radiant place. It will radiate both the greatness of God in a literal city (9-21) and the glory of God in holiness and honor (22-26).

This radiant place is designated a reserved place in 21:27-22:2. It is served for those whose names are written in the book of life which allows them to drink from the river of life and to eat from the tree of life.

This reserved place is denoted a royal place in 22:3-5. The imminence of God (3), the intimacy with God (4), and the illumination by God (5), direct attention to the royal throne of God and the Lamb.

Jesus is coming soon to place his saints there. His coming is affirmed by revelation in 22:6-11. In 22:12-15, it is portrayed as being accompanied by recompense. According to 22:16-17, his coming is awaited with requests. His coming is attested by reminders found in 22:18-21. The inerrancy of the revelation and the imminence of his return should remind all that Jesus is coming to judge and reign.

With these final words, the Book of Revelation comes to an end. Throughout the book, Christians are assured that Christ is coming to judge sin, Satan, and evil.

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Convention Uniform

Doing God's Will

by Gene Crawley, First Church, Newport

Basic passage: Genesis 11:1 to 14:24

Focal passage: Genesis 11:31 to 12:9

Central truth: God has a will for every life.

Often it appears that men feel God has a plan and a will for pastors' lives, but not for others. Therefore, men speak of the pastor's job as his calling, while speaking of the occupation of others as their vocations. In truth, however, God has a will and a calling for each of his children.

Even many of those who believe God has a calling for everyone, seem to indicate that God's will is hard to know. Just the opposite is true. God wants his people to know his will. Knowing the will of God is not the problem. The problem for most is doing his will.

One example of this is found in 2 Peter 3:9. The Scriptures tell us "that God is willing that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Over and over God makes this clear, yet men reject salvation.

Just as God's will for Abram was specific, God's will for each of us is just as specific. God told Abram to get up, leave everything behind, and go to a place that he would show him.

The call of God requires faith. Can I trust God with my life and the lives of my family? Can I trust myself to be sure this is what God wants me to do? Will I listen to God above all?

It is every Christian's responsibility and privilege to serve a living Savior. The choice is whether God is calling one into a vocational or a bi-vocational ministry. Does God want one to earn his living from the sharing of the gospel or is he to hold a secular job while serving God?

The choice is not whether to serve or not to serve, but how to serve. Each is called to be a minister. As Abram, we are to be a blessing. It can always be said of the calling of God that it is not for individual glory or greatness, but for the service. Many, as Abraham, may become famous through their call. However, it was because of his faithfulness to the call of God that he became great and not the other way around.

God has a plan and a will for your life. Are you willing to follow? What will your response be?

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Life and Work

Jesus: The Only Way!

by Ronnie W. Floyd, First Church, Springdale

Basic passage: Galatians 1-2

Focal passage: Galatians 1:4-7; 2:15-21

Central truth: Jesus is the only way to real, meaningful life.

Do we really believe what we say we believe about the Bible and the Christian life? Do we really believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to all problems in the world today? Do we really believe that Jesus Christ is the only way? Our lives must demonstrate this eternal truth from God's Word. How do we know that Jesus Christ is the only way to real, meaningful life?

First, Jesus Christ is the only person who has died for me (1:4-7). In our society today there are all kinds of religions and religious talk taking place. The unchurched are asking the question, "What is the real way?" Another question they are asking is, "Is there more than one way?" At the heart of the gospel is that Jesus died for me. His death has covered my sins which is at the heart of the gospel message. The unchurched should be asked by witnessing Christians, "Has anyone else died for you besides Jesus Christ?"

Second, Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal salvation (2:15-17). Twentieth century Christians must understand that there is no other way to God other than through Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection has placed him in this elite position. Living by the law, morality, or position in the world does not qualify one to be set free from sin. Jesus Christ is the only person who has the ability to forgive and set persons of all kinds free from sin.

Third, Jesus Christ is the only way to a meaningful life (2:18-21). The world is filled with many questions and problems from loneliness to purposelessness. The unchurched must see from our lives that Christ really does give us meaning and purpose. Life is worth living! If the unchurched is to see victorious Christians with the convincing message of the death of Christ for their sins, then we must die so the life of Jesus can live through us. We have already exchanged his life for ours in eternity, so now we must exchange his life for ours so every day we can demonstrate that Christ does give meaning to life.

When the unchurched see us mirror his life, they will know that Jesus Christ is the only way to the real meaningful life.

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Bible Book

The Creator Revealed

by Larry Pillow, Second Church, Conway

Basic passage: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Focal passage: Genesis 1:1-3, 7-11, 25-27; 2:2-3

Central truth: Knowledge of God helps us trust and obey him.

Genesis is the "Book of Beginnings." It is a foundational book which explains our origin. It tells us about the beginning of time, space, matter, energy, marriage, sin, salvation, etc. Genesis does not record the beginning of God but the beginning of revelation about God.

While the first two chapters of Genesis contain much information about creation, they also tell us a lot about our Creator. Just as a watch reveals information about the watchmaker, so creation is a revelation of the Creator. See Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:20.

The Genesis account of creation reveals God as a personal Creator. God's name appears 34 times in Genesis 1. Nine verbs are used 30 times to describe God's activity and interest in creation. God is personally interested in all his creation, including me and you.

The Genesis account of creation reveals God as a purposeful Creator. We are not on a collision course in a race against time and chance. There is observable order and design in creation. Creation reveals a master plan with a master planner.

God's purpose is seen in the sequence of creation. First, he created light and atmosphere which were necessary to sustain life. Then he created life. Why? He created everything with a purpose in mind, including our life. Life is not meaningless. God had a plan for his creation, and he has a purpose for our lives.

The Genesis account also reveals God as a powerful Creator. He "spoke" and separated the upper waters from the lower waters, like playing an accordion. He "spoke" and chemical reaction necessary to form the crust, the core, and the mantle of the earth took place. These were unparalleled engineering feats by a powerful Creator!

The sun is powerful. We tap solar energy from it. But imagine the power behind the One who created the sun. Of course, John 1:2 and Colossians 1:16 tell us the Creator is none other than Christ. The power behind creation is the power of Christ.

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Visa Extensions Denied

by Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)—For more than 12 years, Southern Baptist missionary Clyde Meador has worked in Indonesia, first developing churches and later teaching theology. But now Indonesia is asking him to go back home.

Meador's family is one of 16 Southern Baptist missionary families who have been told the Indonesia Religion Department will no longer supply them a letter of recommendation allowing them to live there.

"If this is carried out, it will have significant impact on our (Baptist) work," said Meador, who is from Albuquerque, N.M. He and his wife and their two daughters moved to Indonesia in 1975, just months after they were appointed career missionaries.

If unchanged, the situation leaves the Meadors with less than a year before they will be required to leave. Other Southern Baptist families would have to move out next winter, he said.

By early next year missionaries expect about 10 other families to receive the same notice, which has come in an official letter of clearance required from the Religion Department as part of the visa-approval process. The note has appeared on the letters of missionaries who have held visas recommended by the Religion Department

for 10 years or longer. The note has not appeared on visas for healthcare workers or the one agriculturist assigned to Indonesia, whose visas are processed through other channels.

Unless government officials reverse their course, nearly two-thirds of the Southern Baptist missionary force in Indonesia—about 50 missionaries—will have to leave by early 1989. Some mission groups started receiving the notation last year. But the first Southern Baptist missionary saw it in June, said Meador, who received his notice the second week of August.

Without Southern Baptists, the well-established Indonesian Baptist Convention should be able to maintain existing churches and institutions. But by requiring the missionaries to leave, the government's new policy would hamper Baptist outreach and new church growth, Meador said.

With a population of about 170 million, Indonesia is the world's fifth largest country, behind China, India, the Soviet Union and the United States.

"This is the most serious threat to our missionary ministry that I can recall in the last 27 years," said Ed Sanders, chairman of the Southern Baptist missionary organization in Indonesia. "They (the government) mean business."

The visa denials result primarily from Muslims exerting a growing pressure on the Indonesian government, according to mis-

sionaries and mission strategists at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Muslims make up about 90 percent of the population, and as Islamic nationalism has solidified in recent years, foreigners have felt an increasing pressure to leave.

Last year a mid-level Religion Department official stated in a public letter that no new missionary visas would be given for extended periods, reported Harry Bush, a church developer in Bali. The last religion visa to be granted came in 1984, Bush added.

Missionary Notes

Gerald Harkins, journeyman to Senegal, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as a community center worker (address: BP 3330, Dakar, Senegal). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries, he considers Taegu, South Korea, his hometown. Before he was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1987, he was graduated from Ouachita Baptist University.

Scott Hobbs, journeyman to Scotland, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as an associate minister (address: 11 Willowdene Crescent, Stranraer DG9 OHE, Scotland). He considers Stephens his hometown. Before he was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1987, he was graduated from Ouachita Baptist University.

Barry McManus, journeyman to Singapore, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as a youth minister (address: 01 Goldhill Plaza, Singapore 1130). He was born in El Dorado. He was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1987.

Stacey Melton, journeyman to Kenya, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an elementary teacher (address: P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). She is a native of Little Rock. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1987, she was a teacher for the Arkansas Baptist School System, Little Rock.

Ginger Sadler, journeyman to Korea, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an elementary teacher for missionary children (address: Korea Baptist Mission, Yeo Eui Do, P.O. Box 165, Seoul 150, Korea). She is a native of Perkins. She was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1987.

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WORLD

Goatcher Named FMB Associate

RICHMOND, Va.—Earl Goatcher of Little Rock, Ark., has been named associate director for community development in human needs for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Goatcher, 59, will help missionaries around the world plan rural and urban development, and he will help put together programs to train others in development. He is now administrator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand.

Goatcher and his wife, the former Joann Horton of Odessa, Texas, were appointed as missionaries in 1962. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a former interim pastor of Riverside Church in Little Rock. Mrs. Goatcher is a medical doctor.



Peru Missionary, Volunteer Injured

TRUJILLO, Peru (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Ken Bowie and volunteer Bob Kersten were injured seriously in a one-car accident in central Peru Sept. 1 when the automobile Bowie was driving went off a mountain road and down an embankment. The car plunged some 20 feet to a dry river bed.

Bowie and Kersten were hospitalized in Trujillo. Bowie suffered a dislocated shoulder, cracked ribs and two fractured vertebrae in the accident. He also received a deep cut around his right eye that took 44 stitches to close.

Kersten suffered three cracked vertebrae. He was released from the hospital Sept. 6 after being placed in a plaster body cast because an aluminum brace was not available. He was flown Sept. 8 from Lima to Miami, where his son met him at the airport and took him to Orlando, Fla., his hometown. Kersten is dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Bowie, a native of McLouth, Kan., was expected to remain hospitalized in Trujillo until sometime in mid-September.

Bowie told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials he apparently "black-ed out" while driving Kersten to Cajamarca after meeting his plane in Lima. Bryan Brasington, the board's area director for

Spanish South America, said that although doctors are not sure what caused the blackout, there is speculation it may have been produced by a hemorrhage.

A Peruvian neurologist recommended 21 days of rest in bed and then appropriate medical tests. Since one of the tests, an angiogram, cannot be done in Peru, Foreign Mission Board health officials have recommended that Bowie, 37, return to the United States as soon as he is able to travel.

In addition to the tests, Brasington said the cut around Bowie's eye may require plastic surgery to repair the tissue. That operation presumably would be done when Bowie returns to the United States.

Recalling the treacherous terrain of the area in which the accident occurred, Brasington said the men were "fortunate the injuries were not more serious."

Bowie, an agricultural evangelist, has supervised the construction of several irrigation canals in the Cajamarca area and now is involved in digging water wells. He was featured last fall in two foreign mission study videos, "Tools Missionaries Use" for children and "The Missionary Overseas" for adults.

Kersten has made several trips as a volunteer to help Bowie in those projects. The Floridian was in Peru to see what had been accomplished since his last work there and to survey other possible sites for wells.

Appointed To Peace Panel

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)—Baptist leader Gustavo Parajon has been named by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to a panel that will monitor compliance with the new Central American peace plan.

Parajon, a medical doctor and commissioned missionary of the Board of International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., will serve on the National Commission of Reconciliation along with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who was appointed as the Roman Catholic representative. The cardinal, who has been a critic of the Sandinista government, will be president of the commission.

The Nicaragua commission is one of the national panels called for when chiefs of state of five nations in the troubled area met in Guatemala to sign a peace accord.

Parajon is a member of the executive committee of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and directs the convention's program of primary health care, *Providence*. Some of *Providence's* 27 clinics throughout the country have been attacked by *contra* forces. Parajon is also interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Managua, where he regularly teaches an adult Bible class.

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