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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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A New Day Dawns

Arkansas Baptist

July 30, 1987

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Rural Work Grows Fast in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand—Baptist work in Thailand is growing much faster in rural areas than in cities and towns, according to figures from a recent Southern Baptist church-growth survey.

Compiled by missionary Bill Smith, survey statistics show in rural churches there are about 10 members now for every one member in 1970, reflecting a growth rate of about 895 percent from 1970-1985.

In contrast, during the same period, membership increased 79 percent in Bangkok, the capital city, and 69 percent in towns. The number of churches doubled in Bangkok but nearly tripled in rural areas.

Polish Baptists Report Growth

WARSAW, Poland—Twenty percent growth in two years has been reported by

the Polish Baptist Union. Polish Baptists numbered 3,049 at the end of 1986, 566 more than 1984's membership. Union funding from its 50-plus churches has increased 100 percent during the same period.

Non-believers See God's Power

MORETAN, Togo—New Christians in an African village were challenged about their beliefs by those who practice traditional African religions. Traditionalists told them one Sunday they would give them three days to pray to their God for rain. If their God was strong, he would send rain to their dry land. The Christians of only six months were frightened. They thought of waiting for mature Christians to arrive on Wednesday, but instead prayed in their new, simple faith. Rains came Monday and Tuesday. The Christians asked the traditionalists, "What do you think of our God now?" They answered, "We think your God is stronger than our gods."

GOOD NEWS!

Who Do You Work For?

Ephesians 6:5-9

A Baptist student publication carried the following two lines of advertisement: "God and Son. We've been doing business with people like you for 2,000 years"; and "Have you ever thought about going into your Father's business?"

Christians are to serve Christ by working in the world with others. Writing to the Ephesian Christians about Christian living, Paul included some instructions to workers and employers. In those days, most workers were slaves, and most freemen were masters of slaves. Both servant and master, Paul said, are responsible to a higher Master. His teaching will help answer the question, "Who do you work for?"

You may work for someone else.—The person who works for someone is tempted to do what the boss demands and little more, but there is more to the Christians' task than just pleasing his employer. We accept secular labor as an opportunity to serve Christ. The Master Carpenter requires good work done wholeheartedly. The man who says, "I will do only what I am made to do," robs himself of his freedom to work and robs Christ of his rightful service.

You may work for yourself.—During the days of slavery in America, Thoreau wrote, "I see young men, my townsmen, whose misfortune it is to have inherited farms, houses, barns, cattle, and farming tools; for these are more easily acquired than got rid of. . . . It is hard to have a Southern overseer; it is worse to have a Northern one; but worst of all is when you are the slave-driver of yourself."

We are blessed to live in a free-enterprise, industrial economy; but it is subject to several problems. People are divided into workers, managers, and owners. Some workers do not do good work. Some employers manipulate and exploit people. There are some owners who are not good stewards. Under God, the owner and manager are responsible how they treat the worker and how they use their profits.

You may work for the Lord.—The key to satisfaction in work is to do the will of God with single-minded devotion. This is internal motivation. God will judge and reward both master and servant.

Christians can see their daily work as a service to God and gain strength from this to work better. You can be a slave to your master, or you can master it by letting Christ work you.

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Stop the Holocaust

J. EVERETT SNEED

The Bible is clear. God is the giver of all life. The Scripture teaches that human life is sacred. Man is created in the image of God. Hence, abortion on demand or abortion used as birth control is in direct contradiction with the teachings of the Scripture. We commend the 29 Southern Baptists who were convened by the Christian Life Commission for their anti-abortion statement. We are in agreement that Southern Baptists must stand united in stopping the holocaust of abortion on demand and recognizing the sanctity of human life, both born and unborn.

The Bible never speaks of abortion in the sense that it is used today. There are three references (Jb. 3:16, Ps. 58:8, and Ec. 6:3-5) that use the Hebrew word *nehbel*, which can be translated as "untimely birth," "miscarriage," or "abortion." In each of these instances, however, the writers are lamenting the fact that they were born. To them, at that moment, it seemed that it would have been preferable for their mothers to have miscarried.

In Exodus 21:22, we have a passage dealing with accidental abortion. This passage does not deal with the intentionally induced abortion that is so prevalent in our contemporary society. The passage does, however, stress the sacredness of human life.

While the Bible does not speak directly to abortion, it contains many themes which teach that God is the source of all life (Jn. 1:3), that life is of infinite worth (Jn. 3:16), that sex is a gift of God by which humanity is endowed with the power of procreation (Ge. 1:26-28), and that children are a gift of God (Ps. 127:3).

The Christian Life Commission group convened by newly-elected CLC Executive Director N. Larry Baker recently set forth an important statement concerning abortion. The statement said, "Human life from conception is sacred and must be protected and nurtured in all its aspects. Abortion at any stage of pregnancy is ending human life and is a grave act with tragic spiritual, emotional, physical, and social consequences. In those instances in which this divine ideal is not fulfilled, there can be redemption in God's grace.

"Therefore, let us speak forcefully and unequivocally against abortion on demand and with all vigor encourage alternatives to abortion.



"Let us pledge ourselves to be compassionate, aggressive agents of God's grace in nurturing human life and in taking God's grace to those caught up in the tragedy of abortion."

Until relatively recent years, all human life, born and unborn, was considered sacred and protected by the Judeo-Christian ethic. It was only in the heathen world that human life was taken lightly. Both the Old and New Testaments give us some insight into the thinking of the pagan world. The Egyptian pharaoh gave the command that all male Jewish children should be killed at birth (See Ex. 1:16ff). The purpose of these murders was to maintain the supremacy of the Egyptian government, as the children of Israel were multiplying rapidly.

In the New Testament era, Herod the

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

During the interbiblical period, it was common practice for Greeks to carry their newborn daughters away from the house and leave them to die. Again, this illustrates that, apart from the Judeo-Christian ethic, human life has been of little value.

The most important question is, "What can we as Christians do?" First, it is absolutely essential that we emphasize the value of human life. We must teach our young people the biblical ethic regarding the value of human life. Christians have a responsibility to join hands in stopping the holocaust of the estimated 1.2 million abortions performed each year in the United States.

Second, alternatives to abortion must be made available. This means that crisis pregnancy centers and adoption programs must be developed and made available.

Finally, the sacredness of human sexuality must be taught to our young people. It is imperative that our young people be taught the importance of pre-marital chastity. With the prevailing worldly emphasis on sexual promiscuity, this will require a mammoth effort by our churches.

It is only as we work together that we can stop the onslaught of abortions that are taking place in our country today. As we join our energies together, we can make a measurable impact in stopping this tragedy.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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

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

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

You will like this! It is so fitting! As Tom Logue completes his active ministry with us, 32 years as BSU director, we will have over 100 BSU students completing terms as summer missionaries. George Sims, BSU associate, reports this record number to be the finest we have ever had. They and their peers have raised the support to keep them on the fields this summer. Many of them will end up as home and foreign missionaries because of these rich experiences. Others will be strong supporters of missions the rest of their lives.



The coming of David James to succeed Dr. Logue marks a most significant moment in our history. No group of people touches more people more lastingly than our campus BSU directors. We welcome David James as he comes to give them the leadership and support they need. Who knows, Bro. James could be beginning a 32-year ministry right now!

We extend our profound and deep gratitude to Tom and Ethel Logue for these tremendous years of unselfish service to and for Arkansas Baptists.

"Don, no longer does Arkansas need to worry about being last or least in the area of youth ministry—we are leaders. Traveling across the country, I have neither seen nor experienced anything to compare with the balance and benefits of the curriculum and staff of Super Summer."

The above was written by a youth worker who travels throughout the nation. I respect his opinion. His further remarks commended your employee, Jim Lagrone, for his leadership. Both Jim and I would want to say a big word of appreciation to the many youth ministers over the state who make up the steering committee and

others who do so much to make Super Summer the tremendous experience it is.

We are glad God has used our denominational workers again as a catalyst and coordinator for God to do great things. We want to make a difference.

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

Letters to the Editor

Too lucrative?

I always enjoy reading the Arkansas Baptist and keeping up with current happenings in our state as well as Southern Baptists in surrounding states. I truly believe this magazine should be sent to every adult

member of a Southern Baptist church in hopes the newer, younger members will become "readers" instead of "listeners." So many good thoughts are presented by older, wiser heads with many years of experience, who are humble and sincere concerning Southern Baptist doctrine. The "ego" has become so prevalent in some of the younger preachers who seem to take a "me" attitude—"I am running things here and if you don't like it, get out!"

I am especially thrilled when I read the thoughts of Walter H. Watts, Ft. Smith, in his letter to the editor in the ABN of July 2. He so clearly described the services in some of our churches. Many times, I, too, have felt like a puppet or child in grade school, being told everything to do. I am wondering why these preachers do not join with another faith that condones this type of behavior? Could it be the benefits offered by our Baptist organization are much more lucrative?—Ruby E. Parker, Gentry

Woman's Viewpoint

Save the Children

KAY KINCL

Christ saved me from a life of alcohol, drugs, promiscuity, divorce, and self-destruction. Because of this, I have one of the most compelling testimonies ever.

Born to dedicated Christian parents, I was nurtured in a home that centered around the church. That made it very natural for me to accept Christ at an early age.

To become a Christian at age six makes for a boring testimony—or so I used to think.

But I realize that Christ really did save me from a lot of bad experiences; throughout my teenage and young adult years, he was my buffer, my



stabilizer, my guide.

In the most tempting situations, I was aware of Christ's presence and expectations; he was the deciding factor.

Salvation at an early age doesn't produce perfection nor does it guarantee a trouble-free life. But it is definitely an advantage any parent should wish for his child.

Childhood conversion can protect a child better than vitamins, raincoats,

and seatbelts—things most parents will encourage. Christian parents should encourage their young in a relationship with Christ.

A child who has a basic understanding of sin and his need for forgiveness should not be turned away when he expresses a desire to receive Christ. Counselled, yes. Encouraged, yes. Dissuaded, no.

When Jesus said, "Suffer little children and forbid them not..." he wanted to gather them to himself.

Jesus still loves the little children. He knows what life lies ahead of them. Let Jesus save the children.

Kay Kincl is married to Rich L. Kincl, pastor of Central Church, Magnolia, and is the mother of two small children.

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CHARITABLE GIVING: *Third in a four-part series*

Property Gifts

by **Bill Oakley**
Southern Baptist College

In the remaining months of the year, many people will be taking stock of their financial situation. This is a popular time for making charitable gifts. Even though cash gifts provide a large percentage of charitable contributions, there are many other available avenues of giving that are worthy of consideration. One of these methods is the giving of property. The limited space in this article will not permit a thorough presentation of this subject, but it will allow the sharing of a few options that are available.

A donor who gives an outright, irrevocable gift of real property, such as a residence, farm, other plots of land or buildings, to or for the use of charity obtains all the tax advantages that are common to gifts of appreciated property. The donor receives an income and gift tax charitable contribution deduction equal to the fair market value of the property. The deduction enables the donor to reduce the cost of making the gift, and frees cash that otherwise would have been used to pay taxes.

A bargain sale is a sale of property in which the amount of the sale's proceeds is less than the property's fair market value. When such a sale is made to a qualified charitable organization, the excess of

the fair market value of the property over the sale price represents a charitable contribution to the organization. It is almost always preferable to make a bargain sale with long-term capital gain property that is not subject to the reduction rules than to sell the property and make a cash contribution of the same amount from the sale's proceeds. The tax benefits for the donor are much greater when the former course is followed.

A remainder interest gift by deed is an arrangement in which a donor irrevocably conveys to charity a remainder interest in a residence or farm. In return, the donor receives an immediate charitable income tax deduction based on the present value of the property at the time of the gift. By retaining a life interest in the property, the donor is free to use and enjoy it for the rest of his or her life. The donor continues to be responsible for payment of property taxes, insurance premiums, and maintenance. Upon the donor's death, the charity assumes complete ownership of the property, bypassing probate and estate administration.

Public stocks that are regularly traded on national stock exchanges, local exchanges, or in over-the-counter markets are the most traditional forms of noncash gifts and among the easiest for the charity

to use. The tax benefits to the donor are as good as, or in many instances better than, any of the other types of property gifts. Publicly traded stocks are commonly owned by those donors who can make major contributions and, because they often carry otherwise taxable appreciation, they are attractive to most donors. These stocks are ideal for deferred gifts made through charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds, gift annuities, and charitable income trusts.

Government and corporate bonds with a high value due to impending maturity are good prospects for charitable giving. The donor may give the bonds, get a charitable deduction, and avoid realization of any capital gain, unless the bond's redemption is already at a stage at which it cannot be stopped.

This list of options is by no means complete, but the article is intended only to acquaint the reader with the possibilities of charitable contributions that do not involve an outgo of cash from the donor. If you would like to know more about property gifts as methods of charitable giving, or need counsel regarding your estate planning, contact Bill Oakley, Development Officer, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; phone 886-6741.

'Missions Advance 87-89'

Prayer Partners Needed

The scope of "Missions Advance 87-89" requires prayer support, therefore, you are invited to become a "Prayer Partner" in this effort.

"Missions Advance 87-89" is a plan designed to challenge every Southern Baptist church in Arkansas to consider increasing Cooperative Program gifts. The challenge will be based on a study of the biblical basis of the Cooperative Program and an examination of the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program.

Ninety-two people have been trained to present this challenge to Arkansas churches. All they need is a request. There is no cost to the church inviting a speaker. Call 376-4791 or write: Missions Advance 87-89, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

If you will be willing to serve as a "Prayer Partner," please mail the following form to the above address. You will receive additional information and a list of the task force members.

Prayer Partner Commitment



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

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Seven deadly sins: politics without principle, wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, business without morality, science without humanity, and worship without sacrifice.

—E. Stanley Jones



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Taking Christ To Cowboys

Texan rounds up souls in unlikely places

by Mark Wingfield

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

HALTOM CITY, Texas—Three words on an oversized foam cowboy hat in Ted Pressley's office roundup his ministry—"Jesus Loves Cowboys."

The souvenir hat is but one of many western items crowding the walls of Pressley's triangular office in an old bank building in northeast Fort Worth. From this humble headquarters, Pressley leads an evangelistic organization that includes 108 chapters in 17 countries.

After graduation from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1972, Pressley founded Cowboys for Christ as a ministry to the rodeo profession. His work has now expanded to include the entire livestock industry.

Pressley preaches at horse shows, stock shows, and other livestock events several times each week. Now approaching 50, Pressley is a slender man, with red hair and a handlebar mustache.

Prior to attending Southwestern, Pressley managed quarter horse and thoroughbred ranches and competed in rodeos. "God saved my soul and called me to preach," he said.

"I really didn't want to go to seminary," Pressley recalled. "So I put in for Southwestern because I figured I couldn't get in—and there we were."

Pressley is certain his ministry should be to cowboys. "God called me to the cowboys and I'm going to stay with them." "The cowboys will receive their own kind," Pressley said. An outsider may have the same gospel, but might not get the cowboys' attention, he said.

Pressley's commitment to cowboys has also led him to minister in prisons. "A lot of cowboys get in prison," he said. "They don't know Jesus and end up in the pen."

Pressley preaches to anyone who will listen. "If the sucker's got a soul, I'll tell him about Jesus," he said.

That openness takes him to places great and small. One day he may preach in a small New Mexico village to 10 men and the next day to thousands in a coliseum. "There's no difference. A soul's a soul."

At a recent horse show in South Dakota, Pressley was on the program "right next

to the hootchy-kootchy girls," he said. Ninety-nine people were saved.

For the past nine years, Cowboys for Christ has conducted worship services at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. The event draws 430,000 people.

The show's organizers provide the worship time to attract Christian rodeo participants in the show. That motive is fine with Pressley because "the Christians get illuminated, and the lost people get saved."

Pressley writes a syndicated column called "Rule Book Talk" for secular livestock magazines. All rodeo riders have a rule book they must follow, Pressley said. "My rule book, of course, is the Bible."

Pressley has appeared on television programs on CBN, PTL, and the BBC. Cowboys for Christ produces video programs that are shown on cable networks.

Despite the far-flung reaches of his ministry, Pressley realizes he cannot single-handedly win the world for Christ.

"God told me, 'I want you to bloom where you're planted,'" Pressley said. "If you bloom where you're planted, seeds are going to fall and spread."

Seeds of the Cowboys for Christ ministry have blossomed all over the world, so that Pressley's ministry often extends beyond the cowboy circuit, especially in foreign countries. Last year while in Poland, he preached at the nation's largest Catholic church, home church of Pope John Paul II.

From that trip he has a Polish coat-of-armor the people gave him. That token hangs on his office wall among the branding irons, spurs, and stuffed animal heads.

Pressley also has hung a collection of horseshoes on the wall, with the open ends facing down. He purposely hung them that way, against the cowboy tradition that horseshoes should be hung upside down so the luck won't run out.

"I don't live by luck," Pressley says. "I live by Jesus."

SWBTS photo / Rodger Kettering



Ted Pressley believes his calling is to bloom where God has planted him, which happens to be among cowboys.

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IMPACT 87

Listening to Baptists

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Larry Baker is listening to Southern Baptists.

The new executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission has taken on a rigorous travel schedule since his election in January: Oregon and Alabama, Arizona and North Carolina, eleven states all told. He has been conducting what he calls "Listening Posts," meeting with Southern Baptists in their local settings to hear their ideas and suggestions about the denomination's moral concerns agency.

Baker conducted one such "Listening Post" in Fort Smith July 6 at the Concord Association office. Approximately 30 pastors and lay people from western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma gathered to voice their concerns about Southern Baptists and moral issues.

A wide range of issues surfaced during the meeting, including abortion, pornography, suicide, and sex education. Participants told Baker they wanted materials which approached important issues from a biblical base, sounding a clearer "Thus saith the Lord" on problems which people confront in their daily lives.

Baker, who is a former pastor of churches at Doddridge and Fayetteville, explained that the Christian Life Commission pursues four responsibilities: producing resources and materials; offering conferences; serving as a consultant for individuals, churches, associations, and state conventions; and testifying before Congress in behalf of Southern Baptist interests. He told participants that one of his commitments was to do "the very best job possible" providing the biblical foundation for Christian moral views.

While reminding participants that the CLC must help Baptists understand the various positions taken by Christians on different issues, Baker contended that Southern Baptists are in far greater agreement on moral concerns than many believe.

He illustrated that agreement by pointing to a strong statement on abortion ham-

mered out during a two-day national consultation in May. That statement supported the sanctity of human life, opposed abortion on demand, and called for strong action to fight abortion and minister to persons "caught in the tragedy of abortion." CLC Chairman Lynn Clayton called it "a declaration of war against abortion that all Southern Baptists can move on."

Although most Baptists would disagree on the exceptions which might be allowed, virtually all stand in agreement that abortion on demand is wrong, Baker said. That concern "cuts across all lines and tags and groups" and Southern Baptists should be able to find enough common ground in it to join united in the battle against abortion, he asserted. Baker also noted the Christian Life Commission is planning a conference on abortion in August which will deal with the theme: "Choosing Life: Southern Baptists and Abortion."

Baker pledged to "be as responsive as possible" to Southern Baptist needs and promised he would do his best to help Southern Baptists "apply the gospel in the places where they live."

Concord Association Director of Missions Ferrell Morgan characterized the meeting as "very, very helpful and informative" and commented that he believed people "went away feeling like they had met an honest man."

Brooks Hayes Award To Dunn

by J. Everett Sneed

Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

The annual Brooks Hayes Award was recently presented by Second Church, Little Rock, to James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. In making the presentation, Pastor Billy White enumerated some of the ways the Baptist Joint Committee has helped Southern Baptists:

—Aided the Annuity Board in its efforts to protect the retirement interest of ministers,

—Assisted in the passage of the Equal Access legislation (a law that provides for Christian clubs in high schools to convene where other such clubs are meeting),

—Worked to stop the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican by the United States,

—Assisted the Foreign Mission Board in stopping missionaries from paying taxes in home when they were paying taxes in the country where they were serving.

White explained that the Brooks Hayes

Award is presented annually to individuals who have rendered unusual and worthwhile benevolent services. The award also is intended to honor the memory of Congressman Brooks Hayes, who was a long-time member and Sunday School teacher at Second Church. Congressman Hayes also was a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Several members of the late Congressman Hayes family were present, including Mrs. Hayes; a son, Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Steele Hayes; and a daughter and her husband, Bill and Betty Brooks Bell.

Dunn spoke from the book of Galatians on the subject of freedom. He said, "All evangelism and missions is predicated on freedom. A forced confession is no confession at all."

Dunn emphasized that because Southern Baptists believe in soul competency they don't want to force people to pray nor do they want government money. "Our goal is a free church in a free state," he said.

Super Summer 'Best Yet'

The 1987 version of Super Summer at Ouachita Baptist University June 29 - July 3 was the "best yet," according to event coordinator Jim Lagrone.

The 624 paid registrations from 70 churches represented a 20 percent increase over the 1986 event, and nearly one-third of all those registered recorded a decision of some sort, Lagrone explained.

Twenty-eight teenagers made professions of faith, and 170 rededications were recorded, Lagrone said. Six young people commitments to special service.

Super Summer is a week-long event focusing on evangelism and discipleship training for older youth. This year's program featured youth communicator Rick Ousley and musician Al Denson. Eighteen seminars were offered during the week, dealing with topics ranging from drama to teen suicide. According to Lagrone, the teen suicide seminar, conducted by Mike Curry of Little Rock, drew more than 50 youth to each of the two sessions.

Lagrone complimented Ouachita on the "superb job" OBU staffers did in preparing to host the conference. He said the response from the young people was "the best yet" for the program.

Super Summer is sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in coordination with a steering committee composed of youth ministers in Arkansas Baptist churches. Pat Batchelor of Cedar Heights Church, North Little Rock, chaired the steering committee this year.

CRISES?

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

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Edgar W. Bryan III was honored July 5 by Matthews Memorial Church in Pine Bluff, recognizing his five years of service as pastor. He was presented a plaque during the morning worship service, and in the evening service he was presented with a suit and an anniversary album containing cards and letters from church members, friends, and fellow pastors. A fellowship for the Bryan family closed the evening service.

Robert Leslie Willis Jr. joined the staff of Life Line Church in Little Rock July 12 as minister of music, coming there from Brinkley First Church, where he had served as minister of music for seven years. He also has served on the staff of Carlisle First Church, Philadelphia Church in Jonesboro, and Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas. A native of Marianna, he is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Willis and his wife, Rebecca, have three children, James, John, and Rebekah.

Fred Nally has resigned as pastor of Harris Chapel, Pangburn, following more than five years of service, to join the staff of a Sherwood church.

A.D. Corder resigned July 12 as pastor of Pleasant Valley Church, Heber Springs.

Bob Guess has resigned as pastor of Belleville Church. He and his family will move to Rector, where he is the newly elected superintendent of schools.

Bennie Foster has resigned as pastor of Plainview Church. He and his family are now residing in Heber Springs.

Kelly Dunn resigned July 5 as pastor of Rover Church to serve as pastor of First Church, Ackerly, Texas.

Rawls Pierce has joined the staff of Mount Olive Church in North Crossett as associate pastor to senior adults.

Jim Burlison has accepted a call to join the staff of Two Rivers Church in Nashville, Tenn., going there from the staff of First



Bryan



Willis

Southern Church in Del City, Okla. He is the son of Jim and Shirley Burlison of Little Rock. He was ordained to the ministry July 5 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, where his father serves as minister of music.

Jack Nicholas was elected vice-chairman of the Southern Baptist Education Commission at its annual meeting June 28-29 in Kansas City, Mo. Nicholas is president of Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

Barbara Long recently celebrated 17 years of service on the staff of Little Rock Second Church, where she is currently serving as director of both the kindergarten-nursery school and Lake Nixon Day Camp.

Paul Durrell Vaughan of El Dorado was recently graduated from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. with a bachelor of arts degree.

John Henderson Lanier Jr. of Little Rock was recently graduated from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., with a bachelor of general studies degree.

Jimmy Karam, a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, shared his testimony July 18 with the Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union at Crystal Hill Church, Little Rock. He spoke July 19 at a National Baptist church in North Little Rock and was speaker at Central Church, Bald Knob, Aug. 23. Karam also will share his testimony in the Aug. 2 services of Bingham Road Church in Little Rock.

Lawrence Vowan has resigned as pastor of Friendship Church, Marianna. Vowan, who is retiring as a full-time Southern Baptist pastor, will be available for supply preaching or revivals. He and his wife, Helen, will reside in Moro, where she is a teacher in the school system.

Malcolm Sample is serving as pastor of Antioch Church, Beebe.

Bobby Buseck has joined the staff of Benton First Church as assistant pastor. He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Marilyn, have three children.

Dennis C. Corder began serving July 12 as pastor of Providence Church, Fayetteville. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist College, and Louisiana College. He has served as pastor of churches in Louisiana and Missouri. Corder and his wife, Tracy, and their son, Danny Lee, moved there from Fort Benning, Ga.

Gary Allen has joined the staff of First Church, Warren, as minister of music and youth. He graduated July 17 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Dallas, he has been serving Plymouth Park Church in Irving, Texas, as director of young adult and junior high ensemble. He and his wife, Laura, began their work in Warren July 26.

Russell Branson of Dumas is serving as pastor of Tichnor Church.

Mike Hattabaugh has resigned as minister of youth at Second Church in Arkadelphia to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Henderson State University.

Mark Brookhart has resigned as minister of education and evangelism at Central Church, Hot Springs, to serve as pastor of First Church, Wrightstown, N.J. Brookhart also has served as pastor of a Dardanelle church and as minister of education and youth at Second Church, Russellville, and First Church, Berryville. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and John Brown University.

Martin Thielen, pastor of West Helena First Church, has had a book, *Getting Ready for Sunday: A Practical Guide For Worship Planning*, accepted by Broadman Publishers in Nashville with release currently scheduled for Feb. 1, 1989.

Mike Spradlin was ordained to the preaching ministry July 26 at Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock, where he made his profession of faith in 1977 and was licensed to the ministry in 1978. He currently serves as assistant pastor of Hughes First Church.

Briefly

West Memphis First Church youth and sponsors served in the Rio Grande Valley area of Texas and Mexico July 10-19. Backyard Bible Clubs, worship services, and fellowship with area churches were the elements of this project, coordinated by Jeff Ginn, minister of youth.

Warren First Church is hosting the youth choir from First Church, Florence, Miss., for a concert July 30.

Morrilton First Church had a foreign mission emphasis July 19 when former pastor Coy Sample and Mrs. Sample were present and spoke on their mission work in Africa.

Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock senior high youth conducted children's Big A Clubs at the church July 20-24, canvassing nearby apartment complexes for participants. The congregation recognized L.C. Thomas July 19 for his 20 years of janitorial service.

El Paso First Church recently voted to establish the last Sunday in April as a date for its annual Homecoming Day.

Osceola First Church held a service July 12 to dedicate a grand piano given to the church by John and Sherri Edrington of Dallas, Texas, as a memorial to his father, John Andrew Edrington.

North Park Chapel in Van Buren received a New Congregation Recognition Certificate June 28. Pastor Murl Walker was presented the certificate by Jack Ramsey, field consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Van Buren First Church is chapel sponsor.

Van Buren First Church received a New Work Sponsor Certificate June 28 for its sponsorship of two missions in Van Buren. Pastor Stanley Daniel received the certificate from Jack Ramsey, field consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Oak Grove Church at Ashdown recently installed a steeple given by family members in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Golden. New choir robes have been donated in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Dowdy by their family.

Hopewell Church at Atkins celebrated the 50th anniversary of its present building with homecoming June 14. Special music was provided by Susan and Phillip Haney.

Quitman Church youth adult men's Sunday School class has accepted the responsibility of maintaining the Arkansas Baptist

State Convention disaster relief bus. They also will be responsible for driving the bus to emergency sites.

Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock ordained Jim Burleson to the ministry and licensed both Brian Briley and Paul Smith to the ministry on July 5.

Springdale First Church is sponsoring extension Sunday School classes at the Pleasant Valley and Holland Nursing Homes and at the Butterfield Trail Village Retirement Center. Serving as teachers are Wayne Oglesbee, J.O. Whitaker, Charlie Foster, and Cliff Jenkins.

Rogers Immanuel Church youth and sponsors returned July 19 from a mission tour which included musical performances in Green Trails Church and along the riverfront area in St. Louis; ministering at six campgrounds in the Branson, Mo., area; and a musical performance at Eagle Heights Church, Harrison.

Gentry First Church youth and sponsors have returned from a mission trip to Richland, Mo., where they assisted a new Southern Baptist church with outreach ministries.

New Life Church near Benton broke ground July 26 for a new building. James R. Swedenburg, director of missions for Central Association, was speaker. The first shovel of dirt was turned by Jimmy Johnson, the church's oldest member. Lester Aldridge is pastor.

West Helena Second Church mission team will be in Okahumpha, Fla., Aug. 3-10 to assist with a Vacation Bible School at First Church. Danny Petrie, a former Second Church pastor, serves as pastor of the Florida church.

Vimy Ridge Immanuel Church will conduct a Vacation Bible School Aug. 3-7. "The Bible, God's Treasure Book" will be theme for the sessions. Pastor Ronald Mimms will serve as director.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock will sponsor an aerobirhythm's workshop Aug. 14-15 which will include both basic training for beginning instructors and sessions on exercise, nutrition, stress management, and spiritual development. Bobby Shows, minister of activities, is serving as coordinator.

Monticello First Church youth were recently in Fort Worth, Texas, to present the musical "Forever" at the All Churches' Childrens Home.

Cabot Second Church ordained J.W. Taylor to the deacon ministry July 12. Joe

Craft of Forrest City preached the ordination message and W.T. Byrum, director of missions for Caroline Association, served as interrogator.

Midway Church near Melbourne observed its eighth anniversary with its first homecoming July 26. Former pastors Don Sanders and Ralph Allmon were speakers.

Wynne Church ordained John Randolph Gardner Jr. to the preaching ministry July 19. Gardner is the son of Mrs. J.R. Gardner and the late Mr. Gardner of Wynne. He has been called to join the staff of First Church in Atlanta, Ga., as associate pastor for singles ministries. He is a graduate of Wynne High School, the University of Arkansas, and Dallas Theological Seminary. For the past two years, he has served on the Dallas Seminary staff and has taught in the singles department of First Church, Dallas.

Ouachita Church at Sparkman will celebrate its 100th anniversary Aug. 23. Former members and pastors will be special guests for activities which will begin with sharing of experiences session rather than Sunday School. A noon meal and afternoon service will conclude the celebration, according to Pastor Dennis Tyner.

Tilton Church observed homecoming June 28 with morning services, a noon meal, an afternoon musical program, and an evening baptismal service in which Pastor Larry Finley baptized two candidates.

Pleasant Valley Church at Heber Springs ordained Lloyd Waller to the deacon ministry June 28.

Batesville Calvary Church held a service July 12 to ordain Bill Allen, George Brickell, Bill Dugger, and Mike Middlecamp to the deacon ministry. Pastor Johnny Ross served as moderator.

Hindsville First Church celebrated payment of its indebtedness on education and fellowship space with a noteburning service June 28. Pastor Bob Jones moderated the service in which Harold Gateley, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association, and deacons Jack Fullerton, C.G. Mason, and Melvin White participated.

Hot Springs First Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the first worship service held in its auditorium with a Day of Rededication July 19. Special guests were Norman Sutton and David Blaylock, who served as minister of education and minister of music 25 years ago.

Students Facing 'Critical Time'

David James believes these are critical days for college students. Confronted as never before with a complex set of challenges to their character and convictions, students need more than ever to be brought face-to-face with the person of Jesus Christ.

"This is a critical time for students," says James, who will begin serving in August as director of Baptist Student ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "Students are facing crisis times, but crisis times can also be growing times.

"That's why I have given my life to students. If we can impact them at this point in their lives, we can make a difference in the world."

James recalls that his college days at East Central State University in Ada, Okla., had been a key time in his own life. He remembers that the example of his college BSU director and his own involvement in Baptist Student Union—first as freshman president and eventually as state



president—taught him how to care for others and how to assume responsibility. "I saw how important BSU had been in my life, and I wanted to give my life to students," he says.

And the tenor of the times leads him to believe that spiritual awakening on the nation's campuses is not only possible, but imperative. "Our leaders tomorrow will come from the student population of today," he notes. "We must reach them and train them if we are to reach the world for Christ."

James believes ministry with students on campus should see students develop in four areas: commitments, convictions, character, and competencies. If Baptist Student Union is achieving its goals, it will be helping students understand what to do, what to believe, and who they are, as well as to become more proficient at doing ministry well.

The college campus offers a more varied, more vast ministry field than ever before, James believes, and Baptist Student Union should respond to this challenge as an extension of the church on campus.

"I like student ministries because you can be more specialized in ministering to student needs than you can from the pulpit," James asserts. "But the BSU still is an extension of the church. If it ever ceases to be that, it has ceased to be what it was created to be."

Four Staff Positions Filled

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has filled four positions vacated by retirement and resignation.



Willis



Venable



Belken

David James, director of religious activities and Baptist Student Union at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., will succeed Tom Logue as state director of Baptist Student Union. Logue will retire in August after 32 years in that position.

James, 36, is a graduate of East Central State University, Ada, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He formerly directed Baptist campus ministries in Tulsa and Miami, Okla., and has served as associate or interim pastor of churches in Oklahoma.

Scott Willis will become director of the Baptist Student Union at Arkansas Tech in Russellville. He will succeed Steve Masters, who accepted a campus ministry position in Oklahoma.

Willis, 31, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He formerly was director of the Baptist Student Union ministries at the Medical College of Georgia and Augusta (Ga.) College.

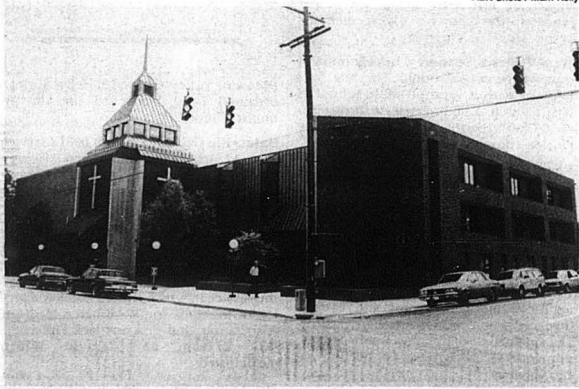
Bruce Venable will become associate director of the Baptist Student Union at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro. He will succeed Keith Inman, who accepted a campus ministry position in Kentucky.

Venable, 26, is a graduate of Arkansas State University and Southwestern Seminary. He has been employed as a mental health worker in Fort Worth, Texas, and formerly served as a youth director for churches in Paragould and Walcott and Fort Worth. He also was a Student To Student Worker at Arkansas State.

John Belken will serve as chaplain at the Cummins Unit of the Arkansas State Department of Correction. Belken succeeds Oscar Barrow.

Belken, 33, is a graduate of Dallas Baptist College and Southern Seminary. Formerly employed as a parole officer and corrections officer in Texas, Belken also has served as a chaplain for a Texas children's home and an education and youth director for a Texas church. He also previously served as a chaplain intern at Cummins.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Open House—Benton First Church held an open house July 12 for its recently completed education and administration building. The 25,411-square-foot, three-story complex houses church offices, a choir suite, and educational space adequate for 13 adult departments. Stained glass windows from the original church sanctuary were incorporated in the new building, which cost approximately \$1.4 million. Randel Everett is pastor.

King Dies In Little Rock

W. Dawson King died July 15 in Little Rock at age 98. His memorial services were held July 18 at First Church, Little Rock, where he had served as associate pastor since 1959.

King and his wife, the late Ruth Esther Pye King, had served as missionaries to China for 18 years. He had served Arkansas Baptists in a number of positions for 14 years.

In China, he taught in Graves Theological Seminary in Canton, and in Arkansas he had served as superintendent of Arkansas' ministers' retirement plan for the Relief and Annuity Board in Dallas; as assistant bookkeeper in the executive department; as ABCS recording secretary from 1948-1958; and Pulaski Association treasurer.

In addition, he had served as pastor of South Highland and Hebron Churches in Little Rock, as well as a mission sponsored



by Little Rock Second Church.

King attended the University of Arkansas and Ouachita Baptist University. He was a graduate of George Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Memorials may be made to the building fund at First Church, where the children's education building, housing his diaries and other records of his missionary work and pastoral services, bears his name.

Boyce Bible School Begins Aug. 21

Term I at Boyce Bible School begins Friday, Aug. 21, and goes through Saturday, Oct. 10. The deadline for enrollment is 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21.

Course offerings, times, and professors are as follows:

Friday, 6-7:55 p.m., The Doctrine of God (0604), James Berryman; 8:20 p.m.-10:15 p.m., New Testament Survey (0560A), J. Everett Sneed.

Saturday, 7:45-9:40 a.m., Biblical Backgrounds, New Testament (0514), Sam Adkins; 10:15 a.m.-12:10 p.m., Marriage and Family Counseling (0748), Larry Henderson; 12:50-2:45 p.m., Study Skills (0500), W. T. Holland.

The classes will meet in the Medical

Towers Building at the former Central Baptist Hospital, in room 201.

The fee is \$30 per course, with the maximum being \$90 for three or more courses. The wife of a student may take any number of courses for \$30 per term.

For more information, contact Lehman F. Webb, ABSC, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock AR 72004; phone 376-4791.

Association Offers Family Workshops

The North Pulaski Association has announced plans for a "Families in Grace Conference," an age-graded family enrichment conference scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7, 7-9 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 8, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

The purpose of the conference is to take an educational and preventative approach to the many needs and problems facing contemporary family life. Various workshops will be conducted to teach growth and relational skills to enhance the family, including marriage enrichment, parent enrichment, the needs of single adults, and the needs of senior adults.

For more information, call the offices of the North Pulaski Association in North Little Rock at 753-6425.

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Northeast: Aug. 14-15

Village Creek State Park
Wynne

Southwest: Aug. 20-23

DeGray State Park
Arkadelphia

For more information, contact:
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 376-4791

Photo by Garland Goodwin



Note Paid—First Church, El Dorado, celebrated payment of a \$600,000 indebtedness, the only money borrowed on its \$1.9 million Christian Life Center, July 12. The noteburning service took place on the congregation's first Sunday back in its newly repainted auditorium. Participating were (left to right) Van Evans, church administration; Mark Coppenger, pastor; John McAlister, finance committee chairman; and Bob Shepberd, chairman of deacons.

Church Constitution Signals 'New Day'

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas Baptists opened a new era of evangelism and ministry Sunday July 19 with the constitution of the state's first black congregation affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

And the organization of Greater Grace Baptist Church represents a milestone not only for Arkansas Baptist work, but also for Southern Baptist church starting efforts among blacks.

A spirit of celebration marked the gathering, which was attended by representatives from Little Rock-area churches and leaders from the Pulaski Association, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and SBC Home Mission Board. Congratulating members of the church on the growth of the three-year-old congregation, missions leaders all agreed that the historic service should give all Arkansas Baptists occasion for rejoicing.

Launched in February 1984 as a mission of nearby Life Line Church, an anglo (white) congregation, Grace Mission has grown from an initial membership of four to a total of 107 under the leadership of bivocational pastor Paul Williams. In 1986 Grace started a new work of its own, Charity Mission, in another section of the city.

In addition to the historic significance of the event for Arkansas Baptists, the constitution of Greater Grace is "very significant" for Southern Baptists, according to Willie McPherson, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board consultant.

In the first place, Arkansas' history of racial segregation and turmoil, like much of the South, makes it an unlikely place for one to find an anglo church taking the initiative to start a black mission. Yet because Southern Baptists are predominately white, anglo churches must take on the responsibility to start new black work if such

efforts are to be begun, McPherson explained.

This is compounded by the fact that the primary emphasis in black Southern Baptist congregations is on worship, McPherson added. Consequently, most black Southern Baptist congregations have no planned, strategic approach to starting new black missions. Anglo churches are better oriented to strategic mission work and, as a result, better equipped to take the initiative in starting missions to reach black communities, he said. In that sense, McPherson suggested the Little Rock effort should be seen as a model for black church starting across the country.

Another way in which the constitution of the church offers a model for Southern

Baptists lies in the belief that new missions are capable of starting new work themselves, without waiting until they are constituted—or even longer—before launching a mission effort.

"I want to promote the idea that mission congregations can start missions of their own," McPherson said. "I'm not aware of any other black mission congregations in the country that have started missions of their own before constituting."

"We need models of reaching black communities by starting new churches," asserted McPherson. "This was an exciting meeting. It signals an openness that hasn't been there before. What happened here can be a model for the rest of the country."

"We have come a long way in the Southern Baptist Convention," McPherson noted. "What happened here Sunday is going to keep happening around the country. It could signal a new day for Southern Baptists."

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Life Line Pastor Tommy Cunningham prays for Greater Grace Pastor Paul Williams.

Northwest Arkansas Women's Concerns Conference

October 1-3 (Thursday evening through Saturday noon)

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Special features: Potter's Wheel Demonstrations, Dynamic Speakers, Practical Workshops, Multi-faceted Displays, Book Store, Inspirational Music, Wonderful Christian Fellowship

Nationally Known Speakers: Jeanette Clift George, Joyce Rogers, Marge Caldwell

Total cost for all sessions: \$25 To pre-register, contact:

Tony Thompson, 1206 Countrywood Circle, Rogers, AR 72756



They Go Together!

by Jim Lowry

Baptist Sunday School Board

CEREDO, W. Va. (BP) — For Southern Baptists, Scripture distribution might be the catalyst which sets in motion new progress toward winning the world to Jesus Christ.

In Ceredo, W.Va., members of First Baptist Church are reaching out in their community by giving away New Testaments in nearly every situation where they contact prospects or make visits.

"Good News America, God Loves You" New Testaments are given away by church members during weekly visitation, as well as in visits to hospitals, senior adult retirement homes and to youth who "hang out" in the downtown area.

Use of the New Testaments has been cultivated as a lifestyle for church members by Pastor Wade Armstrong, who said he has seen people grow in confidence and security where fear formerly controlled their witnessing efforts.

"People become more confident when they give the Word," Armstrong said. "They know they have sown the seed that is the sword of the Lord."

He added that when people give the Bible, it quickly goes beyond the mechanics of giving away a book. "Enthusiasm carries over into their personal lives and the life of the church."

In one service, copies were provided to church members to mark and use in witnessing. Armstrong preached from one of the New Testaments, encouraging mem-

bers to make personal notes so they would remember how to organize their witnessing efforts.

The "Good News America, God Loves You" testaments, which are published by the Holman division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, are marked with the plan of salvation to help individuals understand how to accept Christ. These testaments also are provided as pew Bibles in the church's new auditorium.

Preaching from the marked copies gives his messages "a two-pronged approach," Armstrong said. "It fortifies church members with resources and allows lost persons to watch and learn how to be saved."

Associate Pastor Charles Reber has coordinated the Scripture distribution effort. He said some 100 church members participate in the witnessing efforts.

"We give copies to new Sunday school members, newly saved persons and to new church members on the day they join," Reber said. "Several members have asked for copies to mail to unsaved relatives or give to neighbors."

Scripture distribution gives shy members an outlet—almost an excuse—to witness where they normally wouldn't do it," he continued. "There is just something about a Bible that makes people accept it and not throw it away. There is a reverence which opens up another step, another visit."

In the 18 months of Scripture distribution, adults and youth in the church has

been involved, Reber said. Youth have witnessed to other youth who have joined the church. Median and senior adults have had their personal witnessing strengthened.

In all of this, a new unity has developed in the church, which has experienced steady growth in an economically depressed area where a significant number of people have moved away over the past few years.

The participation in Scripture distribution was prompted by the partnership between the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. A gift of 10,000 New Testaments was made to West Virginia Baptists by the North Carolina convention.

Reber said Ceredo church members not only increased their efforts in evangelism, but in prayer as well through the Scripture distribution project. Church members have matured through intercessory prayer instead of focusing on themselves.

"Handing out Scriptures breaks down barriers of fear for witnessing," Reber concluded. "It also gives church members a sense of accomplishment, affirmation and an avenue of obedience for expressing their commitment."

Jobs Exchange

Special education supervisor with 14 years experience in special education seeks employment in public or private school. Certified as elementary teacher, elementary principal, special education teacher K-12, special education supervisor, and education examiner. Ed.S. degree in field. Contact James L. Sneed, Star Route Box 25, Conway, AR 72032; phone (501) 679-3118. 816

Special education teacher with two years experience in resource room seeks employment in public or private school. Certified as elementary teacher 1-6 and special education teacher K-12. M.S.E. in special education. Contact Donna F. Sneed, Star Route Box 25, Conway, AR 72032; phone (501) 679-3118 816

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



Phyl Wells, a deacon at First Church, Ceredo, W. Va., frequently offers a copy of the Scriptures to people he visits in the hospitals.

CLC Abortion Conference

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission will sponsor a national conference on abortion Aug. 31-Sept. 1 at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, Tenn.

The conference, according to N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian moral concerns agency, "is designed to help Southern Baptist ministers, church staff, and lay persons attack the problem of abortion and minister to those who are affected by this critical issue.

"A personal invitation to this conference is being sent to every pastor in the

Southern Baptist Convention," Baker said. "This conference is designed to help Southern Baptists say 'yes' to life and 'no' to death. Together we can attack a terrible evil and minister to those impacted by it.

"We can work together as Southern Baptists to shape the minds and hearts of others and move our nation away from its easy acceptance of abortion and toward a renewed commitment to the sanctity of human life," he said.

The conference, which begins at 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 31, and concludes at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 1, will include addresses on biblical principles related to abortion, current legislation on abortion, a history of the abortion issue, and how Southern Baptists can effectively fight

abortion both in their local communities and nationwide.

The conference also will feature six practical workshops: preaching on sanctity of human life, educating children about sex, establishing crisis pregnancy centers, working through public policy, caring for persons who face crisis pregnancies, and supporting state Baptist convention homes for children.

Hunt To Launch Prayer Training

NASHVILLE (BP)—As part of a major Southern Baptist Convention effort to train church leaders in establishing and conducting comprehensive prayer ministries, T.W. Hunt has been named to a newly created position as prayer consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department.

Hunt, 57, has been a professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 24 years. He is the author of the 1987 adult Baptist Doctrine Study textbook on prayer and a 13-week Lay Institute for Equipping course, *PrayerLife*, to be released in January 1988.

Roy Edgemon, director of the church training department, said the new position has been created to develop a nationwide network of prayer groups undergirding Southern Baptist efforts to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000. He described Hunt as a "leading prayer warrior" in the convention.

"The Sunday School Board is making a strong statement that we really believe the Southern Baptist Convention needs prayer at the center of its focus," said Edgemon.

He said the denomination has many resources for identifying prayer needs, and Hunt's efforts will be focused on training church leaders to use the resources in conducting a comprehensive prayer ministry that would include missions, evangelism, ministry needs, intercessory prayer and other concerns.

In addition, the church training department will utilize a newsletter and Baptist Telecommunication Network programming to provide regular information to prayer groups.

Hunt said he was willing to change careers at age 57 and move to Tennessee, leaving grandchildren behind, "because God called me."

He has dedicated a room in his home to prayer and has kept since 1959 a catalog of his prayers and the answers he has received. He said he has been praying daily for the Southern Baptist Convention since 1976.

Hunt will assume his position Aug. 1.

National Mass Evangelism Conference

August 17-21, 1987

First Baptist Church

754 Peachtree Street, NE

Atlanta, Georgia 30365



John Biango
Inspirational
Speaker



Jim Henry
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Speaker



Charles Stanley
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Larry L. Lewis
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Speaker

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MUSIC EVANGELISM

August 17-18

Valuable information on how to build an evangelistic music program in your church.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Larry Black, FBC, Jackson, Miss.
Mark Blankenship, Music Design Editor, Church Music Department, Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.
Alan Cokoria, Evangelist, Smithdale, Miss.
Billy Jack Green, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.
John Glover, FBC, Atlanta, Ga.
Ragan Vandenberg, FBC, Orlando, Fla.
Jim Whitmore, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Registration cost: \$25.00

REVIVAL TRAINING

SEMINAR

August 19-20

Information on how to prepare for and conduct successful revival meetings.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Bill Cathey, Evangelism, Dallas, Tex.
Bob Hamblin, Vice Pres., Home Mission Board
Larry Lewis, President, Home Mission Board
James Merritt, Pastor, Snelville, Ga.
Jack Price, Evangelist, Dallas, Tex.
Nelson Price, Pastor, Rowell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.
Joy Strack, Evangelist, Dallas, Tex.
Jim Whitmore, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Registration cost: \$25.00

Registration cost for all three conferences: \$50.00
Monday and Tuesday evenings are without cost to attendee.

AREA CRUSADE

PREPARATION SEMINAR

August 20-21

Information on how to prepare for and conduct successful area crusades.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Wayne Bristow, Evangelism, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Ernie Eady, Evangelist, Dallas, Tex.
Jack Price, Evangelist, Dallas, Tex.
Felix Snipes, Evangelist, Atlanta, Ga.
Joy Strack, Evangelist, Dallas, Tex.

Registration cost: \$25.00

Send registration fees to Mass Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601

Hotel/motel reservations will be handled individually by conferees.

For reservations call: (404) 898-7787.

A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.



Convention Uniform

The Goodness of God

by Ray Meador, First Church, Judsonia

Basic passage: Romans 8: 28-39

Focal passage: Romans 8: 28-29

Central truth: God's people can count on him to meet their needs and help them find victory regardless of the conditions they face.

One of the most difficult tasks Christians have is to attempt to bring comfort to persons who are struggling to overcome the insecurities and heartbreaks of life. In such situations it is difficult for an individual to use the proper words to bring comfort or hope. However, those who are despairing and fearful can find hope and assurance in verses 28-29, where one of the great promises of all the Bible is found.

Paul writes, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (8:28, KJV). It must be noted that the verse does not say that all things work together for good for all people. Rather, it specifies those for whom the promise holds. It holds for those who at their conversion have responded to God's initiative of grace with faith and God's love with love. For those who respond accordingly the promise is assured.

The "good" that God promised is found in verse 29, "Those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren." God seeks to order our lives so that each of us increasingly conforms to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This does not mean that God's people will never suffer crushing sorrow from the evil and tragedy of the world, because this does occur. However, J.W. McGorman says, "We must refrain from attributing to the will of God that which is not true to Christ's revelation of him. God is not responsible for terrible things; sinful men are. They occur because God's will is flagrantly transgressed."

All things that happen to Christ's disciples are not good, but all things work together for their good. It is important for Christians to realize that God's love and resources are so great that he can overrule in the tragedies we suffer. In all situations, joys and laughter or sorrows and tears, he can make us more like Jesus Christ. This is God's grace in action. This is the promise he gives to all who follow Jesus.

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Life and Work

Foundation For Ministry

by Larry E. Kindrick, First Church, Blytheville

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 1:5-7, 12-19

Focal passage: 1 Timothy 1:5,14,16

Central truth: The foundation upon which all Christian ministry is built is one made up of Christ's love which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

The teachings of the gospel must come from the solid foundation of correct doctrine. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to warn the church at Ephesus about strange and false doctrines (vv. 3-4,6-7).

Sound doctrine and the basis of ministry comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith centered in the love of Christ (vv. 5,14). In 2 Timothy 2:14-16a, Paul reminds Timothy of the need to avoid anything outside of Christ and to be faithful to "handle accurately the word of truth" (2 Ti. 2:15b).

Paul illustrated the power of the gospel and its ministry by giving his personal testimony (vv. 12-16). He noted that this change in his life is an example for all who would believe in Christ (v. 16). If Christ could save Paul he can save whosoever will, and this is the essence of ministry.

Paul says the goal of our instruction (ministry) is love. Not everything called love is really love. Therefore, Paul is specific in his statement concerning the three essentials of love which make up the foundation of doctrine and ministry.

Only Jesus Christ can purify the heart through regeneration. Jesus himself said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Mt. 5:8). Peter speaks a helpful word in 1 Peter 1: 22-23.

A good conscience is another benefit of the regeneration of Christ. However, a good conscience is maintained through sanctification (spiritual growth). In Jesus Christ we have a standard to live up to. Prayer, Bible study, worship, and ministry keep us in a position where God can use us and grow us. When we maintain these areas in our lives, we feel good about ourselves and thus have a good conscience.

A sincere faith is centered in Jesus Christ and is not hypocritical. A hypocritical faith depends more on self and logic than God. A sincere faith believes God concerning his Word even though logic may not accept it.

Here then is the foundation of all Christian ministry—Christ's love!

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Bible Book

Judgment and Woes

by Jack Kwok, Indianhead Lake Church, Sherwood

Basic passage: Revelation 8-9

Focal passage: Revelation 8:1-3, 13 to 9:4,11,20-21

Central truth: God's judgment will fall upon sin and evil, but judgment alone will not produce repentance.

The martyrs of the fifth seal questioned God as to when he would avenge their deaths. Today, the judgment of evil receives the same consideration. The six trumpet judgments provides assurance that evil will be judged.

All the trumpet judgments comprise the seventh seal. Like the seals, the first four trumpets are set apart from the latter three. The latter three have woes attached to them; the first four do not.

With the sounding of the first trumpet, one-third of the earth's vegetation dies from hail and fire mixed with blood. At the sound of the second trumpet, something resembling a mountain of fire pollutes the seas which kills one-third of the marine life. A falling, blazing star which pollutes one-third of the fresh water ensues the sound of the third trumpet. The fourth trumpet ushers in a darkening of one-third of celestial light.

More severe and drastic characterize the last three trumpet judgments. Two are found in Revelation 9. The fifth trumpet heralds the unleashing of symbolic locusts from the pit of hell. Since these locusts are led by Satan himself, they are probably demons. These demons bring immense suffering upon the Antichrist's followers. Following this woe (5th trumpet) comes the second woe (6th trumpet): the release of the four angels bound at Euphrates River which prompted the killing of one-third of the human population by cavalry of 200 million.

An interesting observation concerning this judgment of evil by God is that he allows the forces of evil to inflict destruction upon the evil world-system and its supporters. The willingness of these evil forces demonstrates the true nature of sin, Satan, and evil. Outside of Christ, there is no immunity from these forces.

In spite of all this death and destruction, the survivors of these judgments will not repent of their idolatry, murder, witchcraft, immorality, and thievery. Only God's sovereign grace can lead people to repent.

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Assassin Unable To Shoot Christian

VITORIA, Brazil (BP)—Assassinations are common in parts of Brazil, but a paid assassin was unable to shoot a Christian he had stalked for three days.

Valter Custodio Dias, a Baptist in Vitoria, was walking along a downtown sidewalk. A paid assassin met Dias face to face, and the expression on the assassin's face caused Dias to stop, said Southern Baptist missionary Kent Faris.

The professional killer said bluntly: "You're not the one. I have been trying to kill you for three days, and I haven't been able to succeed."

Dias was stunned by what he heard. "Why have you tried to kill me?" he asked.

"You're not the man I was hired to kill. You look like him and I almost made a big mistake," the killer explained.

"You always were in some place hidden, or a car passed in front of you, or someone else stood between us. I just couldn't get a good shot at you. I really tried to kill you, but something always came between us."

Dias regained some composure. "You couldn't kill me because God would not permit it," he said. "I am a believer in Jesus Christ, and the Bible says, 'The angel of the Lord surrounds those who fear him and frees us.'"

USSR Open To Baptist Bibles

AMMAN, Jordan (BP)—Baptist men of the world will ship 100,000 Russian-language Bibles to the Soviet Union.

They will lead in raising \$250,000 during the next six months to support a Baptist World Alliance/United Bible Societies joint Bible project.

The project was approved by the BWA General Council at its annual meeting in Amman, Jordan, July 5-12. Baptist men worldwide will provide about one-half of the \$500,000 needed. The remainder will come from United Bible Society support funds.

The Russian Bibles will cost about \$5 each for paper, printing and shipping. The Bibles will be delivered early in 1988 to The All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union.

The council received an import permit in June from Konstantin M. Kharcher of the Soviet Union Council of Ministers.

The gift is to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church, organized in 988, a celebration which will be observed by all Soviet Christians.

Missionary Notes

Clyde and Elaine Meador, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Jl. A20, Komplek POLRI, Ragunan, Jakarta 12550, Indonesia). He is a native of Arkadelphia. She is the former Elaine Grisham of New Mexico. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974.

Edwina Davis, journeyman to Korea, has completed her two-year term of service as a secretary in Seoul and returned to the States (address: Rt. 1, Box 276, Vilonia, AR 72173). She considers Enola her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1985, she was graduated from Arkansas State University.

Parks Invites 36 Groups To Talk

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Leaders of 36 denominations and organizations active in world missions have been invited to discuss their concerns "in reaching all the people of our generation for Christ."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, is proposing that the discussion take place this fall in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

In his letter suggesting the meeting, Parks expressed "a deepening concern for more communication" among U.S.-based missions groups. In seeking to spread the faith, he asked, "Is there a way to share information or plans that would avoid wasted effort and lost time?"

Among the denominations queried about the initial meeting are Conservative Baptists, National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Christian and Missionary Alliance, Assemblies of God, United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Interdenominational organizations contacted include the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, American Bible Society, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Campus Crusade for Christ and North American Charismatic Renewal.

"None of us is large enough, strong enough, wise enough to make a significant impact on the whole world," Parks said. "We need each other. If we can help each other have a more effective part in world evangelization, we're having a greater impact than if we lived and worked in isolation."