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**June 4, 1987**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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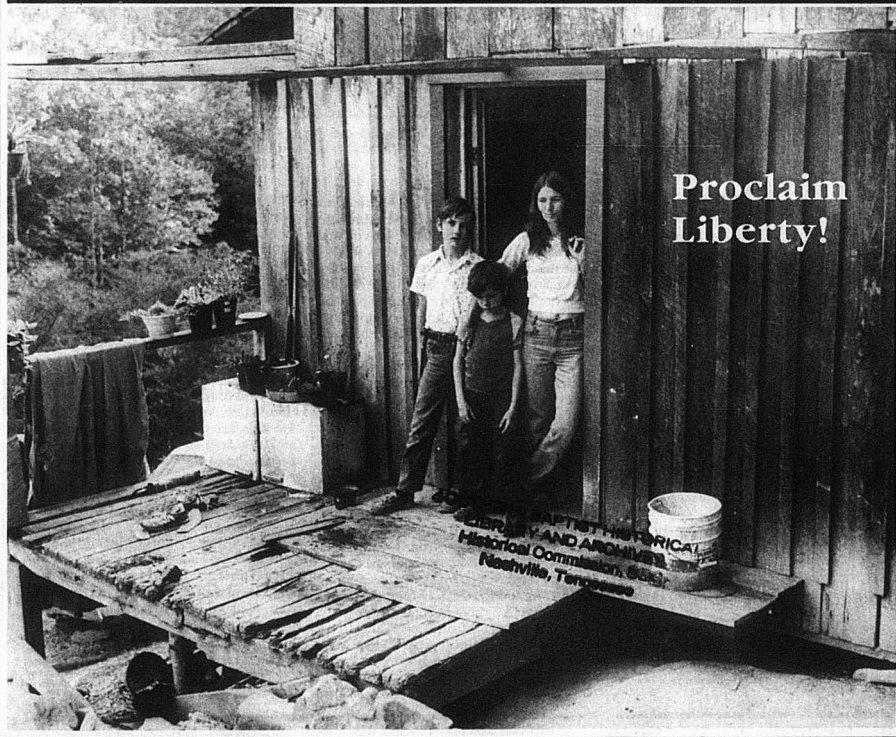
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Polling The Candidates

# Arkansas Baptist

June 4, 1987



**Proclaim  
Liberty!**

BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, 6610  
Nashville, Tennessee



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(BF) photo / Bob Kollar

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*God's liberation of man should include all forms of bondage. Christian Citizenship Day June 28 encourages Southern Baptists to "proclaim liberty."*

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## IT'S UPLIFTING

### Missionaries Use Lay People

LAMPANG, Thailand—Missionaries used six Southern Baptist lay people to break into the upper crust of northern Thai society, exposing a new side of the gospel to government officials, health care professionals and educators, including a provincial governor.

The Americans, professionals from various fields, went behind government office doors and into influential clubs and colleges in March to share their Christian testimony.

Three Thais decided to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior during the week. One is the first teacher at the Lampang College of Commerce and Technology ever to become a Christian.

"God showed us Southern Baptist lay people can help make an impact in opening work in new cities, especially in gaining entrance into hard-to-reach business and professional groups," said missionary Ronald Hill of Spindale, N.C. "We now

have entrance to government offices, schools and service institutions, with ministry possibilities and chances to witness personally as well as in Bible studies."

As a group, team members visited the Woman's Rehabilitation and Disease Control centers and talked of their life and faith at local meetings of the Rotary and Lions clubs, Jaycees, Provincial Medical Society and Dentists of Lampang.

Two of the Americans were invited to talk about dentistry and medicine in the United States and explained how they used Christianity in treating patients. And a college official was invited to two Thai colleges and explained to faculty and students how God had worked in his life.

One Southern Baptist had the chance to speak to the entire student body of 2,500 at a vocational college.

The group also spoke about their faith in Jesus for several hours with the governor of Uttaradit Province, Thawat Mokrapong, and his wife, who are both professing Christians but not yet baptized.

## GOOD NEWS!

### The Angry Wall

Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-16

In 1961, the Communist government of East Germany built a fortified wall through the divided city of Berlin to prevent the escape of its citizens. The world was shocked at this visible evidence of oppression. More shocking than the Berlin Wall, however, is the great barrier that separates persons from God. If God is to restore the world to fellowship with himself, the wall of sin must come down.

*Behind the wall.* In verse 14, Paul used the image of the wall of the Temple that divided the outer and inner courts to show God's reconciling love. Gentiles could come only as far as the outer court. There they saw signs which threatened death to any non-Jew who passed beyond the wall. The wall of stone in the Temple symbolized the wall of hostile attitudes which separate people from one another and from God. Paul included Jews as well as Gentiles among those separated from God by sin. Behind this barrier, there is spiritual death. Here life is controlled by Satan, the epitome of hostility toward God. Behind this wall, persons live for their own selfish desires. They are separated from Christ and from the community of God's people. Since they are literally without God, they have no hope. Material for the wall is supplied by the opposition to God in people's hearts

and by the wrath of God, his opposition to evil. Whatever separates a person from God is sin, and it is a wall that needs to come down.

*Beyond the wall.* On the other side of the wall is life. Here the hostility in the human heart melts away, and there is peace. Persons on this side of the wall are members of a community, the family of God. Life is lived in covenant, a working relationship between God and man. The sign that said "wrath" on the other side reads "love" on this side. Here the purpose of God is fulfilled. Those who could never get together on the other side of the wall are now brought together in Christ.

*Through the wall.* The question is, "How do you pass beyond the wall?" How does the selfish, hostile, hopeless man come to be in the community of life and love? The answer is Christ. He is the one who volunteered to live behind the wall. In his total obedience to God at the cross, he cast himself against the wall and broke it down. At the cost of his own blood, he overcame sin and hostility and created peace. Those who enter into personal relationship with him find they have passed from death to life, from despair to hope, from enmity to community.

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# The Needs of Others

J. EVERETT SNEED

Many of us pray for the needs of people who are far removed from us. We rejoice when we are able to send missionaries to remote places. The ministry of prayer is important because it is not limited by geographic boundaries, health or finance. But all too often we substitute prayer and interest in those who are removed from us for personal involvement in the needs of those who are under the shadow of our churches.

People with intense need are in every community. We are to reach out a helping hand in the name of Christ to these people. It may be the widow with a large family. It could be the juvenile in trouble with the law whose parents have failed him. It may be the elderly man whose only living relative is a daughter in another state. It may be a migrant farm worker whose English is very poor. Needs are all around us, and if we are to follow the example of Christ, we must help.

We as Baptists have rightly taught that salvation is by grace through faith. There is no way that an individual can have a right relationship with God except through a life-changing experience. We as Baptists have done a good job in communicating the doctrine of salvation by grace, but much of the time we have neglected to emphasize that we are "... created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." (Ep. 2:10). Our Master captured the concept in one of the most vivid parables ever spoken (Mt. 25:31-46). First we are to help with the simple things of life. He said that the Christian would give a hungry man a meal, assist a stranger in obtaining housing, cheer the sick, and visit those who are imprisoned.

Christ said that this help was to be given without any hope of eternal merit or reward. Christians are simply to help because the need is there and it is a natural, impulsive reaction of a loving heart.

Jesus communicates a tremendous truth to us in this Scripture as he says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mt. 25:40). The question arises How can our action toward needy individuals provide help to Christ? Most of us are aware that, if we really want to delight the heart of a parent, then the best way to do it is to help his child. God as the great Father is delighted when we help one of his children, who is our fellow man.



Those who fail to help say by implication, "If only we had known that it was Christ, we would have helped without hesitation. We thought it was only a common person who was not worth helping." It is still true today that there are those who will help if they can receive sufficient publicity and acclaim. Jesus said that this kind of service was not service at all.

The truth of Jesus' parable is illustrated in an event ascribed to Francis of Assisi. He was born into a wealthy family. Although he does not seem to have been involved in any serious immorality, his youth was marked by a spirit of worldliness. But he was very unhappy and felt that his life was incomplete. One day while out riding, he met a lathsome, repulsive leper. Francis was moved. He dis-

mounted and flung his arms around the wretched sufferer. According to Francis, the face of the leper turned into the face of Christ.

It is noteworthy, indeed, that the things enumerated by Christ are things that can be performed by almost everyone. Jesus pictures the kingdom-type person as one who is giving a meal to a hungry individual or a glass of water to a thirsty person, welcoming a stranger, cheering the sick, and visiting the prisoner. These are things that almost anyone can do. It is not the matter of giving away millions of dollars, or writing our name in the annals of history. It is the case of giving simple, human help to the individuals we meet day by day.

Jesus, throughout his ministry, emphasized the help that was provided to others by the kingdom-type person. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus pictured both a priest and a Levite passing by the individual who was severely injured. Undoubtedly both the priest and the Levite had activities that they felt needed their immediate attention. But obviously each of them had bypassed the will of God.

Jesus pictured a hated Samaritan as the one who portrayed kingdom activity and did the will of God. Christ expects each of us to be concerned about the needs and hurts of others.

Every area of Arkansas has individuals who are in need. Often we are unaware of the needs that surround us. A ministry survey will reveal the needs in our community. Information can be obtained through your state WMU office, Brotherhood office, or Special Ministries office on how to conduct a ministry needs survey and also how to structure ministries.

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DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know



How great is the opportunity given to those who will be working in Vacation Bible Schools during the next several weeks! Most of the 26 years in the pastorate, I served as principal of our VBS. I would do it that way if I were to do it over again. As pastor, I needed to be involved in the knotty, nitty-gritty work of VBS. That is the only way you can really know and appreciate what all of the volunteer workers do. It really is the best way to lead them: by example. Plus, relationships with workers, children, and parents can be so naturally developed during that intense time of spiritual preparation and service.

VBS is not getting easier. For that matter, neither is Little League, Scouts or any other work that depends heavily upon parental involvement. Since both parents in most families are employed outside the home, the number of people available to work in VBS grows smaller each year. This fact also makes it more difficult to transport children to VBS.

In the face of these changes and the already hard work required to do Bible School right, many have surrendered to discouragement. We have shortened the number of days. We have eliminated parents' night. We have shortened the number of hours each day. It sort of seems like we are "phasing out," God forbid!

The next worst thing to "phasing out," is to simply be content with reaching those you already reach every Sunday in Sunday School. "New kids do not know how to act," we sometimes say. But they do not know how to be saved either. "We don't have enough workers," we sometimes lament. If workers just can't be enlisted and trained, then perhaps those who do work ought to work first with those not enrolled in Sunday School and with those whose families are unchurched.

We must rediscover the opportunity of touching masses of children in VBS who will never otherwise be loved and led to Jesus. VBS is not just a babysitting service with a spiritual dimension. It is a missions ministry of the church, if we will make it that. God bless you to make this year's VBS a missions ministry.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Can't We Face It?

It amuses me when some writer of letters to the editor purporting to be an authority on Holy Scripture actually reveals by his janglings how little he knows about God's Word. Bob Richardson's letter in the ABN May 21 took five separate Scripture passages totally out of context and actually ended up proof-texting an argument with himself. None of this was directly related to the criticisms he tried to make of Leon McBeth.

Dr. McBeth's point was: We have not given women the freedom that Christ intended. We do God's Word an injustice by picking out a brief Scripture passage from Paul's writings without consideration of the Corinthian religion (where young women cut their hair short and prostituted their bodies in the street in order to support the temple they ran). Paul's point was not that women are to be second class Christian citizens. His point was that all

Christians are to be different, holy and set apart.

If we must resort to proof-texting, what do we do with all the deaconesses, prophetesses, women judges, and Paul's personal female friends treated as "fellow" ministers.

Why can't we face up to it? We would prefer "our" women to be barefoot, pregnant, unordained, and on the edge of town. It's time we recognize with more than sweet words that Christianity would not be alive today had it not been for the ministering women all through our history. If one of those ministering women feels God called her to serve, you may say what you want but I won't take the chance (or the consequence) of telling her that: "I'm sorry, but God don't work like that." Either God doesn't want any of us ministers to be ordained, or he wants the ones he calls (male or female) to be ordained. There cannot be a middle ground.—J. Michael Butler, Hot Springs

## Woman's Viewpoint

2 - 1 = 1/2

BETTY DEMPSEY

After spending 32 years as one part of a pair, a couple, suddenly I began to face a life as half a person, for half of me was gone! I was a widow, a single, words that stuck in my throat.

This is not a unique situation, for everyday 1,600 women become widows. According to a recent *Reader's Digest* article, there are 11 million widows in the U.S., over five times the number of widowers. This doesn't include the number who are single as a result of divorce. Since there are so many of us, I felt it was a viewpoint that needs addressing.

When this trauma comes into your life, whether through the death of a mate or divorce, you have two choices: rebel against God or life itself because of the blow you have received



or face the fact of change and begin to make this half-person a whole person again.

As Christians we should have only one choice; bitterness has no place in the abundant life which Christ meant for us to experience. I have observed that people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. Happiness is truly a choice.

Christ has told us in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is all you need, for my power is strongest when you are weak." God can give us the strength we need for this time if we allow him to help us. He

also works through others who are encouragers who just called up to say "I'm thinking of you today," a timely card or note, a shared meal or snack. Don't rob people of the opportunity to be used by God as encouragers.

In this journey toward wholeness, we also have an opportunity and an obligation to comfort others with the same comfort that we ourselves have received from God.

There is a paraphrase of the Scripture about the wise and foolish builder that has meant a lot to me. It says, "You can't tell the difference between the house built on rock and the one built on sand until the rains come." Where is your house built?

Betty Dempsey is an active member of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

DANIEL R. GRANT

## One Layman's Opinion



### Freedom Or Buses?

Sometime ago a newspaper headline grabbed my attention with the words,

"Soccer fans protest against Khomeini." My initial impulse was to move on to other parts of the newspaper without reading any further, in a kind of strange personal protest against the kind of tyranny that man stands for. A nagging curiosity brought my eyes back to the story, and I read it to discover what might lead a group of Iranian people to be so bold as to protest against such ultimate power as his.

It all began when 50,000 soccer fans emerged from Freedom Stadium to discover that not enough public transport buses had been sent to take them back to the city. They smashed bus windows and waved signs against Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. They demonstrated for three hours and about 200 protesters were arrested, according to reports.

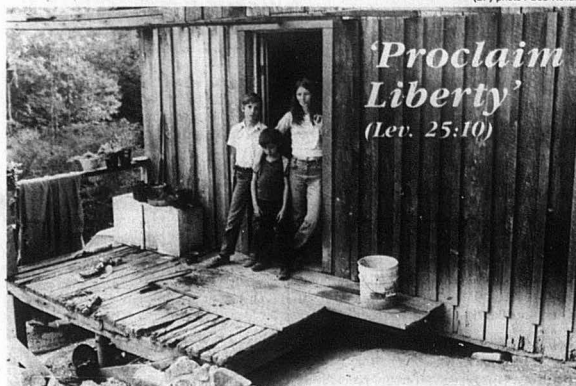
I have often wondered what I would do and how I would behave if I lived under a totalitarian government, whether communist, fascist, or religiously tyrannical as in Iran. It is frightening even to think of such a possibility. I thank God regularly for the freedom I enjoy. I am afraid to contemplate how I would cope with the religious restrictions a Christian has in the Soviet Union or in China and how I might raise my voice with any kind of effectiveness to increase the level of freedom for others as well as for myself.

There is something strange, even ludicrous, about a group of Iranian soccer fans protesting poor bus service against a government that practices all kinds of terrifying tyranny. Is it fair to ask whether bus service is more important than free speech, press, and religion?

I would like to believe that bus service does not rank at the top of the Iranian scale of values. Could it simply be that the Iranian people are beginning to discover that elusive line where one can protest against the government and live to tell the tale? We can hope and pray that the people can find the threshold for speaking out for bus service today, garbage disposal tomorrow, and then free speech, press, and religion.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

(BP) photo / Bob Kollar



## Christian Citizenship Sunday June 28

Liberty was God's desire for Israel, and it is his desire for human beings today.

God liberated the Israelites from their captivity in Egypt. He gave them the promised land. But his work of liberation was not finished. God set limits to the bondage which some people would create for others.

To ensure limits to this bondage, God established the year of the Jubilee. Liberty was to be proclaimed boldly with loud trumpets throughout all the land. And it was to be proclaimed for all the inhabitants.

Our forefathers wanted freedom from both political and religious oppression. They sought a land with the resources

which would allow the destitute and the hopeless to find a new beginning, even as the year of Jubilee was for the Israelites.

Rooted in the biblical heritage and living in the "land of the free," the challenge for Christians is not only to proclaim liberty for all but to work so that the many forms of bondage—such as poverty, racism, extremism and militarism—do not permanently ensnare "all the inhabitants of the land."

Christian Citizenship Sunday is a special day to give thanks for the liberty which we possess, to pray for the liberation of those who are oppressed, and to commit ourselves to work as God's servants in the mighty work of liberation.

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## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**Robert Duhon** began serving June 1 as pastor of Humnoke First Church. He and his wife, Sandy, have three children, Tanya, 19, Bobby, 13, and Scotty, 10.

**Rod Mays** has joined the staff of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock as music intern. He is a junior music major from Ouachita Baptist University.

**Roy Chatham** has resigned as minister of education at Conway First Church.

**Roy A. Hargrave** recently received a master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary. He serves as pastor of Philadelphia Church in Jonesboro.

**James Ray Barrett**, pastor of Bethel Church in Elaine, recently received the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary.

**Michael Paul White** was among the May 8 graduates of Mid-America Seminary, receiving the master of divinity degree with cum laude honors. He is pastor of Emmanuel Church in Blytheville.

**Michael Roy Spradlin** was graduated May 8 from Mid-America Seminary with a master of divinity degree. He serves as minister of youth and music at First Church, Hughes.

**Terry Nolan Purtell** was recipient May 8 of a master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Purtell of Mablevale.

**Marvin Ray Emmons** of Ravenden Springs received an associate of divinity degree with cum laude honors from Mid-America Seminary May 8.

**Shana Hollaway** will serve First Church of Stuttgart as summer youth worker. She is a senior at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Thomas Gary Hawkins** retired June 1 as pastor of Lakewood Church in Oklahoma City. He also has served as pastor of other Oklahoma churches, as well as those in Arkansas, Louisiana, Indiana, Missouri, and England. His Arkansas pastorates include Jasper Church, 1962-1963, and Pickles Gap Church, Conway, 1963-1965. His retirement address is 216 S. English, Moore, OK 73160.

**Homer Adkins** of North Little Rock died May 18 at age 89. A member of North Little Rock Central Church, he was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served as pastor of Arkansas churches for more than 60 years. Survivors include his wife, Addie, and 11 children.

**Boyd E. Eldridge** died May 9 at age 69 in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Mountain Home. A retired Southern Baptist minister, he was a member of Sedgwick First Church. He had served as pastor of churches in both Arkansas and Texas. Survivors include two sons, Steve Eldridge and Charles Eldridge, both of Calico Rock; two daughters, Beth Coley of Midway and Janis Best of Springdale; a brother, Clyde Eldridge of Flint, Mich.; two sisters, Dorothy Sweet of Osceola and Mazine Markin of Memphis; and four grandchildren.

**James Corbet Martin** of Rosie died May 12 at age 79 in a Batesville hospital. His funeral services were held May 15 at Rosie Church, where he was a member. Survivors include his wife, Elsie Tucker Martin; two daughters, Mary Ellen Butler of England and Patsy Jane Simpson of Melbourne; two

brothers; two sisters; 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Perry G. Brackin** is serving as pastor of Elaine Church. A native of Moulton, Ala., he is a graduate of the Institute of Holy Land Studies, Jerusalem, Israel; Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill., and is a student at Mid-America Seminary. Brackin has served as pastor of churches and as a staff member of churches in Alabama and Kentucky. He and his wife, Nancy, have a daughter, Brittney Sha, three.

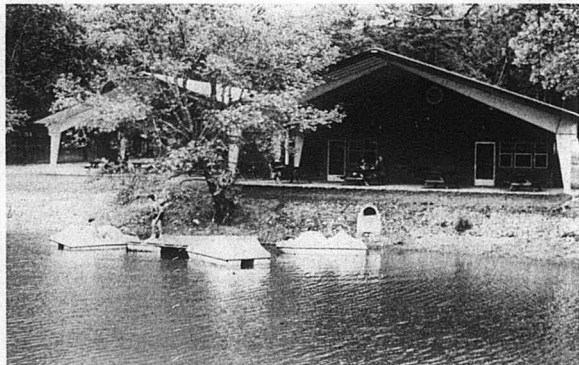
**A. Garland Brackett** began serving May 24 as pastor of Green Meadows Church in Pine Bluff, going there from Amboy Church in North Little Rock. He has been involved in both the associational and state convention work in Arkansas. He and his wife, Annetta, have four adult children.

**Gary Corker** was ordained to the preaching ministry May 24 at Dumas First Church.

**Glenn Kever** has resigned as music director at Sonora Church, Springdale.

**J.B. Huffmaster** has resigned as pastor of Falcon First Church at Buckner.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



*Little Rock Second Church held a service May 24 at its day camp site, Lake Nixon, to dedicate a \$220,000 building program and a \$30,000 improvement program debt free. The building dedicated houses a basketroom, restrooms, dressing rooms, infirmary, snack shack, and office. The improvement program included installation of a sprinkler system, construction of a pump house, spillway improvements, construction of two docks, and property landscaping. Barbara Long serves as director for the camp. Pastor Billy White was speaker for the service, which included testimonies from persons whose lives had been influenced either as a camper or camp staffer.*

**David Howie** is serving as pastor of Fellowship Church at Montrose.

**Stan Ballard** began serving June 3 as pastor of Nettleton Church in Jonesboro, coming there from Chester Church in Ackerman, Miss., where he served as pastor for seven years and was serving as associational vice-moderator. He and his wife, Beth, have two sons.

**Gale Kelsey** joined the staff of Rogers Immanuel Church May 24 as youth director.

**James Russell Hart** joined the staff of Gravel Ridge First Church June 1 as minister of music, coming there from Crystal Valley Church in North Little Rock. A native of Hope, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He also served on the staff of Prescott First Church as family life minister.

**LaWanda Smith** is serving Des Arc First Church as summer youth director. She has served as outreach coordinator for Henderson State University Baptist Student Union and as YMCA Day Camp director.

**James Burleson** observed nine years of service as minister of music at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, May 24.

**Kenneth E. Parmley** has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock. He will move there from Hazen, where he has served as pastor of First Church for three years. A native of Richardson, Texas, he is a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was licensed and ordained to the preaching ministry by Trinity Church in Port Arthur, Texas, and has served as associate pastor of Woodland Heights Church in Fort Worth. He and his wife, Joi, have two daughters, Amanda and Sarah.

**Steve Nortier** resigned as interim minister of music and youth at Warren First Church June 1 to join the staff of Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock as minister of youth and education.

**Greg Cook** joined the staff of Otter Creek First Church in Little Rock May 17 as minister of music. A native Arkansan, he is a student at Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C. He also has attended Arkansas State University and Centenary College in Shreveport, La. Cook has served churches in Texarkana and Shreveport, La.

**Harry Kennedy** has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Monticello Second Church. He will move to Monticello from Hope, where he has served for more than seven years as pastor of Calvary Church. Kennedy is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Ouachita Baptist University, and

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served on various state and associational committees in Colorado, Texas, and Arkansas, and has been involved in evangelistic efforts in Holland and Brazil. He and his wife, Marjorie, have two children, Angela, 17, and Faith, 15.

**Danny K. Wilson** will leave June 18 to be part of a mission team to Korea where he will serve as a camp pastor of a Centrifuge team and assist with a Korean led camp. The trip is jointly sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board and the Church Recreation Department of the SBC Sunday School Board. Wilson serves Blytheville First Church as minister of youth.

**Scotty Ray** and **Gary Powell** were awarded the Murfreesboro First Church Council Scholarships for the 1987-88 academic year at Ouachita Baptist University. Ray, who is youth director at Murfreesboro Mount Moriah Church, and Powell, who is minister of music at Dierks First Church, will both be seniors at OBU.

**Edward Edmondson** has announced his retirement as pastor of Sunset Lane Church in Little Rock, effective June 14. He has served the church for more than 21 years. Edmondson will be available for supply work or revivals upon retirement.

**Eloise Grimes** was recently honored by the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs by being named Church Musician of the Year in cities with less than 25,000 population. Grimes has spent a total of 55 years in church music, serving as organist, pianist, choir director, and choir member. She is a member of Newport First Church.

**Johnny Burnett** observed his second anniversary of service May 26 at Russellville First Church where he serves as minister to students.

**Kris Lamie** will join the staff of Fayetteville First Church this month as minister of youth and university students. He and his wife, Carla, will move there from Hugo, Okla., where he is serving as minister of youth and education at First Church.

**Jim Pelley** has resigned as pastor of Liberty Church in Lincoln.

**Dean Newberry** resigned as pastor of Caudle Avenue Church in Springdale May 31.

**Lula J. Overton** died May 21 at age 85. She was a member of Crossett First Church. Survivors include a son, Carl M. Overton of Muncie, Ind.; three daughters, Frances Royston of Mayflower, Dola Jean Hensely of Oklahoma City, and Helen Presswood of Baton Rouge, La.; a brother; 16 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

## Briefly

**Sherwood First Church** recently voted to launch a mission at Royal Oaks Mobile Home Park, according to Pastor C. Michael Anders.

**Mount Pleasant Church** at Montrose will observe homecoming June 7. Eugene Howie will be speaker.

**Piney Grove Church** at Lewisville was in a recent revival which resulted in eight professions of faith and six additions by letter. Roy McLeod was evangelist.

**Rogers First Church** dedicated a new educational facility and fellowship hall May 17, according to Pastor Ben J. Rowell.

**Martindale Church** in Little Rock was in a revival May 10-15 with Dan Caldwell and Garth Rotramel, both from Immanuel Church, Fayetteville, serving as evangelist and music director. Pastor Bernard Rusert announced the recent organization of a childcare center by the church. Gail Briggs is serving as director.

**Gentry First Church** recently voted unanimously to accept a recommendation by its Long Range Planning Committee to build a new auditorium and to remodel the present auditorium into educational space. Joe Finrock is pastor.

**Atkins First Church** youth will conduct backyard Bible clubs in Atkins this month as an outreach mission project.

**Magnolia Church** at Crossett recently conducted a Vacation Bible School for senior adults in a local nursing home. Coordinators were Mattie Smith and Colleen Mitchell.

**Shiloh Church** at Harrisburg ordained Don Fahr to the deacon ministry May 17.

**Highland Heights Church** at Benton youth have planned a summer mission trip to Tongaxoxie, Kan., where they will assist West Haven Church with its Vacation Bible School. They also plan to assist with Arkansas summer mission projects at the Albert Pike and Shady Lake State Parks.

**Pleasant Hill Church** at Sardis recently voted for the second consecutive year to increase its Cooperative Program giving two percent and its gifts to associational missions by one percent. Roy Lewis is pastor.

**Trinity Church** in Little Rock has completed a major remodeling program which included the addition of a vestibule, repainting, and the addition of a sign on front of the building. Orville Castleberry is pastor.



# LOCAL & STATE

**Nettleton Church** in Jonesboro celebrated payment of a \$14,000 indebtedness with a noteburning service May 24.

**Alsop Church** at Bay observed homecoming May 3. R.H. Whitlock was speaker. Leon Minick is pastor.

**Markham Street Church** in Little Rock is having a "Prayer for Spiritual Awakening" seminar June 5-7, according to Pastor Manuel Weeks. Bob Eklund, associate in the Texas Baptist General Convention Evangelism Division, will be leader.

**Aberdeen First Church** held a "Good News Arkansas Jesus Loves You" revival May 11-17. Bill Hilburn, pastor of First Church, Ward, was evangelist. Pastor Paul Pearson reported three professions of faith and one redemption.

**Nashville First Church** recently concluded a Lay Renewal Weekend. According to Pastor David Blase, the weekend became a revival in the "old time way," resulting in seven professions of faith and one commitment to full-time professional Christian ministry. G.B. Hambrick of Pochahontas was coordinator. He was assisted by Mrs. Hambrick and 45 team members.

**East Side Church** in Fort Smith youth will be in Corpus Christi, Texas, July 31 - Aug. 8 to assist with work at Southview Mission.

**Oak Grove Church** at Van Buren ordained Terry Parks, pastor of Uniontown Church, April 26. Participating were Carel Norman, pastor of Oak Grove Church; George Domerese, Clear Creek Association director of missions; Leroy Rogers; Wayne B. Davis; and Clayton Neidecker.

**Rose Church** will observe homecoming June 14 with activities which include morning services, dinner on the grounds, and an afternoon fellowship. Former pastors and members will be special guests.

**Gravel Ridge First Church** ordained Danny McGill and Dale Wyatt to the deacon ministry May 10. Pastor Danny Veteto was moderator.

**Backspur Church** of Forrest City youth will be in Evansville, Ind., June 14-20 assisting the Cornerstone Church with a Vacation Bible School and door-to-door witnessing and bringing the music each evening at revival services. They will be in Portage, Ind., June 21-27 to assist with a VBS, witnessing, and revival music.

**Crossroads Church** near Dell honored Pastor Warren Watkins, his wife, Karen, and their children, Bethany, and Rachel, May 17 in recognition of five years of service. An informal reception was given in their honor at the parsonage.

**Murfreesboro First Church** held a Lay Renewal Weekend May 15-17 that resulted in numerous rededications for service, according to Pastor Rick Hyde. Vernon Dollard, a layman from Rison Church, coordinator was assisted by team members from Arkansas and Louisiana. The church will be conducting outreach survey and services at the Crater of Diamonds State Park this summer. Retiring deacons Lindell Hile and Alva Miller also recently were named deacons emeritus. Hile and Rose Green were recognized as life service members for their many years of service to the church. Plaques honoring them were presented during a May 3 "Founders' Day" service.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



*The Oak Grove Church, Ashtown, held a dedication service for its new educational building on May 24. The new two-story facility has 7,360 square feet in it and was erected at a cost of \$98,450 with the use of volunteer labor. The new facility consists of a fellowship hall and educational facilities. It includes a pastor's study, a library, church office, four restrooms, a kitchen, a nursery, and 15 Sunday School classrooms. Under the leadership of Dale A. Wooten, the church has grown from an average attendance of approximately 45 in 1985 to the current average Sunday School attendance of more than 100. The congregation has had approximately 60 additions. The morning service was conducted by ABN Editor J. Everett Sneed. The afternoon dedicatory message was brought by Clarence Shell, director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.*

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## Walcott Observes Milestone

Walcott Church celebrated 100 years of Christian witness and ministry with special services May 17.

Following Sunday morning worship, church members and guests participated in a dinner on the grounds and afternoon service. In addition to recognizing former pastors, the congregation also heard messages from Representative Mike Todd and Carroll Gibson, director of missions for Greene County Association.

The Walcott Church was organized in May 1887 as a mission of Mt. Zion Church. It first met in a school house located on Highway 141 at Old Walcott Road.

In 1916, the congregation built its first log building on the property where the church now stands. A white frame building replaced the log structure in 1927, and in May 1976 the present 325-seat sanctuary was constructed.



Walcott Pastor Mel Poe preaches to the congregation.

Thirty-two pastors have served the Walcott Church in its 100-year history. One early pastor, J.D.J. Faulkner, served the congregation three times between 1898 and 1918. H.E. Williams, founder of Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, has the distinction of the longest pastorate, serving more than six years, from January 1949 to March 1955.

The congregation's current pastor, Mel Poe, has served the church since 1981.

## South Side Celebrates 70

South Side Church, Pine Bluff, wrapped up a five-day revival May 17 with a celebration of its 70th anniversary.

The revival ran Wednesday through Sunday and featured former staff members leading in preaching and singing. Former pastor Tal Bonham, now executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, preached both Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Using the theme, "Redreaming the Dream," the congregation observed Sunday morning worship, followed by a churchwide dinner and an afternoon music program featuring former members and staff.

Rick Erwin is pastor of the congregation.

## Music Men, Singing Women

The Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas met May 11 at Osceola First Church for an afternoon rehearsal and evening concert. The concert was enjoyed by a full house representing several churches in the northeast area and was followed by a reception hosted by John Dresbach, minister of music at the church.

Many of the Music Men participating in the Manaus Crusade in Brazil this fall met for rehearsal during the morning. Men are still encouraged to participate in the crusade. Contact the ABCS Church Music Department for information.

## Correction

The *Arkansas Baptist* was incorrectly informed about the May 7 reception honoring Audrey Nell Cobine for 50 years as financial assistant at First Church, Little Rock. The reception will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m., Sunday, May 7, in the church's Fellowship Hall.

## A SMILE OR TWO

Farmers today are in the agri-business. Agri—that's short for aggravation.

—Robert Orben

It's better to be a failure at something you're in love with than be successful at something you hate.

—Robin Williams

"Opened by mistake" applies more often to mouths than it does to mail.



**Don't miss it!**

Coverage of the SBC annual meeting in the June 25 *Arkansas Baptist*

## MK birthday prayer calendar: June

*Missionary kids attending college in Arkansas*

- |    |                                  |   |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 6  | Robert Duffy (Hawaii)            | Wintree Apartments #10004,<br>3349 Esters, Irving, TX 75062 |
| 17 | Sammy Braughton<br>(Philippines) | 211 Pecan Street,<br>Hot Springs, AR 71901                  |
| 18 | Terry Sargeant (Taiwan)          | P.O. Box 27-24,<br>Taichung, TAIWAN R.O.C. 40098            |

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## 25 Arkansans Graduate Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas—The largest graduating class in the history of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary included 25 from Arkansas. President Russell Dilday conferred 503 degrees at the May 15 commencement.

Charles E. Crawley Jr. received the doctor of ministry degree. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. C.E. Crawley of Forrest City and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. F.N. McCollum Jr. of Forrest City. After graduation, he will serve as pastor of First Church, Newport.

Geoffrey Arthur Hammond received the doctor of ministry degree. He is the son of Mrs. and Mrs. Rothney Hammond of Kent, England, and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Atchison of Rogers. After graduation, he will serve as pastor at Orchard Road Church in Lewisville, Texas.

Stephen Gill Hatfield received the doctor of philosophy degree. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Lawson Gerald Hatfield of Fordyce and the son-in-law of Joe and Bettie Steiger of Little Rock. After graduation, he will serve as pastor of First Church in Grandview, Texas.

The following received the master of arts in religious education degree:

Gina Louise Godfrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Neil Wigley of Booneville.

Carrie Lynn Casey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Casey of Benton. After graduation, she will serve as single adult intern at First Church, Winter Park, Fla.

James Arnold Gifford, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Riley Gifford of Booneville.

David Merle Jones, son of Berneice Jones of North Little Rock and the son-in-law of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Morris of Jonesboro.

Nancy Newton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vestal Reid of Mena and the daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Newton of Sherman, Texas.

Donald Ray Knoll, son of Mrs. and Mrs. D.D. Knoll of Almyra.

Francis Booth Porter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Booth of Tulsa.

Charles Edgar Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Smith of Botswana, Africa, and the son-in-law of Lt.Col. and Mrs. William H. Smith of Jacksonville.

The following received the master of divinity degree:

Andrew Bass, son of Annie B. Bass of

West Memphis.

Diane O'Connell, from Mountain View. After graduation, she will serve as associate Baptist Student Union director at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Gary Layne Wise, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Wise of Hot Springs and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. William Kreis of Conway. After graduation, Wise will serve as pastor at Jermy Church in Jermy, Texas.

Kent Ellis Sweatman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sweatman of Mobile, Ala., and the son-in-law of Mrs. Mildred Hays of Van Buren.

The following received the master of music degree:

Gail Allan Aunspaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Aunspaugh of Hot Springs, and son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. N. Larry Baker of Kansas City, Mo.

Jeffrey Lynn Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Parker of Hot Springs.

Rex Alan Rains, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Rains of Harrison.

Receiving the master of arts in marriage and family counseling was Gary Michael Graves, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Graves Jr. of Little Rock. After graduation, Graves will serve as counselor at Psychiatric Institute in Fort Worth, Texas.

Receiving the master of arts in church

social services was Nannette Webb Lites, daughter of the late Susie Webb of Guy and the daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Lites of Many, La.

Receiving the master of arts in communication degree was Clay Henry Grizzle Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Clay J. Grizzle of North Little Rock.

The following received the associate of divinity degree:

Larry Wayne Elsea, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Leroy Elsea of Gravette.

Gary David Livermore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Livermore of Huntsville and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. P.M. Withrow of Flagstaff, Ariz.

Larry Ray Chapman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Chapman of Napa, Calif., and Mr. and Mrs. Nestor of Springdale, and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Plumlee of Springdale.

Receiving the associate in religious education degree was Sunny Aaron Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron William of Manila and the son-in-law of Thurman and Geneva Beshear of Wynne.

Receiving the associate in church music degree was Charles R. Carter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Carter of Brinkley and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Ross of El Paso, Texas. After graduation, Carter will serve as minister of music and youth at First Church in Colmesneil, Texas.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



**Markham Street Dedicates**—Markham Street Church in Little Rock dedicated a \$1.2 million educational complex with 33,000 square feet May 17. The building houses 11 preschool departments, one meeting room, a kitchen, six adult departments, 23 adult classrooms, and a fellowship hall. Pastor Manuel Weeks reported a 1985 Together We Build program, directed by Duwayne Fischer of the SBC Stewardship Commission, raised \$750,000 through member pledges. Building committee members were Rex Crane, chairman, Sandy Hinkson, Diane Kidwell, Roger Marsh, Dwight Price, Eluwanda Smith, and George Wimberly. W.O. Vaught was dedication speaker.

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## Sanders 20th Celebrated

Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, celebrated Paul Sanders 20th anniversary in ministry on May 31. There was a "dinner on the grounds" for all ages, followed by an anniversary celebration which included special testimonies and sharing. The church has given Sanders a sabbatical leave and love offering to assist in travel.

Sanders, originally from Oklahoma City, Okla., is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Before coming to Geyer Springs First Church in 1967, he served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Texas, and as associate pastor of South Side Church, Pine Bluff.

Sanders currently serves on the SBC Foreign Mission Board and has made mission trips to Nigeria, Chile, and Brazil. He has served on numerous boards and committees at both the national and state levels.

Under Sander's leadership, the church has completed five building programs, including a 1,300-seat sanctuary and a 40,000 sq. ft. adult educational building. He has baptized 1,766 people.

Sanders and his wife, Kay, are the parents of two grown sons.



## Life Without Parole

A sentence of life imprisonment without parole was handed down May 21 to Glenn Allen, 22, of Eudora, convicted of capital murder in the death of Earl Verser Jr., also of Eudora. Verser was beaten to death Oct. 29, 1986, during a robbery attempt at his home.

Verser was a former chairman of the Ouachita Baptist University Board of Trustees and chairman of OBU's library fund-raising campaign. He was Allen's former Sunday School teacher.

## New Scholarship Established At SBC

Harry Belk of Walnut Ridge has established the Harry and Mary Belk Scholarship at Southern Baptist College.

A long-time resident of Lawrence County, Belk was a successful cotton farmer and businessman before his retirement. He has been a member of the Hoxie United Methodist Church for 71 years and is a member of the American Bible society. Mrs. Belk is deceased.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have a high school grade point of 3.0 or better and demonstrate financial need. Students from Lawrence County will have priority, followed by students from contiguous counties.

Applications may be secured from Southern Baptist College and then should be submitted to the scholarship committee of Hoxie United Methodist Church, which will make the award. For more information, contact Ben Early, Office of Public Relations, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; telephone 886-6741.

## Arkansan Graduates Southeastern

David Michael Boyett of Little Rock recently graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., with a master of divinity degree. He is the son of D.J. and Pat Boyett of Perryville.

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## State Music Winners

The State Music Tournament/Ensemble Jubilee, held at Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, drew 164 young people from 21 churches across Arkansas.

First place winners were: Michael Hodges, Atkins First Church, Junior High, vocal solo; Mark Groves, Blytheville First Church, Senior High, vocal solo; Tim Fowler, Paragould Eastside Church, Senior High, song leading; David Waddle, Nashville First Church, Grades 7-8, instrumental solo; Kristi Hart, Hope First Church, Grades 9-10, instrumental solo; Robin McMoran, Camden Cullendale First Church, Grades 7-9, piano; Melanie Cicero, Camden Cullendale First Church, Grades 10-12, piano; Nicole Combe, Ashdown Oak Grove Church, piano proficiency in sight-reading and accompanying; Young Men's Trio, Atkins First Church, Junior High, small ensemble; Ladies Trio, Camden Cullendale First, Senior High, small ensemble; Chara, Mountain Home First Church, Senior High, large ensemble, amplified; Living Free, Texarkana Beech Street Church, Junior High, large ensemble, unamplified; Rejoice, Monticello Second Church, Senior High, large ensemble, unamplified.

## Retired Workers

The Retired Southern Baptist Workers of Arkansas will meet July 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Dillard Miller, current president, will conduct the meeting.

Lunch, provided by the state convention, will be served at 12:15 p.m.

## Students Assist Two New Works

Two Praxis teams will work for 10 weeks in starting new congregations in Arkansas this summer. Both teams are from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mitchell and Janet Nelson, with their 12-year-old son Christopher, will assist mission pastor Emory Day in starting a new work in Holiday Island. First Church, Eureka Springs, is the sponsor. Hilton Lane will be the supervisor for the couple.

Don and Christie Berry will work with First Church, Ashdown, in starting a new congregation at Millwood Lake. Dr. Robert Stagg of OBU will supervise the Berrys.

The Praxis missionaries receive six hours credit from the seminary for their summer's work. Four new missions have been started in Arkansas by Praxis couples in the last two years. The SBC Home Mission Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention and local sponsor jointly support the church planter missionaries.

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# Polling The Candidates

*ABN Editor J. Everett Sneed talks with the two men expected to be nominated for SBC President at the annual meeting in St. Louis June 16-18.*

## Adrian Rogers

Adrian Rogers said, "If the brethren want me (for president of the SBC) I'll be happy to serve. I have not asked anyone to nominate me, but I do expect to be nominated."

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., feels that the major issues before the SBC are those which concern the nature of our differences. He believes that the adoption or failure to adopt the report of the Peace Committee will be the major issue before this year's convention.

Rogers, a member of the Peace Committee, feels that the Peace Committee report will help the Southern Baptist Convention to understand the issues that confront it. He also believes it has the potential of narrowing the gap between opposing groups within the convention. He observed that the committee was a duly-elected committee which was chosen because of the members' differences. He said that the committee is, in a sense, the convention in microcosm.

Rogers doesn't think that anyone on the Peace Committee will be entirely satisfied with the report because no one's point of view has been completely adopted. The Peace Committee has been helpful in that it has been able to "clear away the debris" and to get down to the things that are substantive both theologically and politically.

Rogers said, "I feel that the Peace Committee will be successful in narrowing the gap between those who hold different points of view. I don't believe that it will be a cure all. I also don't believe that *ipso facto* we'll be back together, but I do believe that it will be a step in the right direction. We all need to be loving and patient and continue to work."

Rogers doesn't believe that the immediate effect of the Inerrancy Conference will be to bring opposing groups within the convention closer together, but he does believe that it might be positive in the long range.

Rogers reaffirmed his statement that 90 to 95 percent of the people believe "the Bible to be the Word of God," but that they do not have a technical understanding of inerrancy.

Rogers said, "Almost all Baptists believe that Jesus walked on the water. They believe that Moses built the tabernacle in the wilderness, and they believe that Peter wrote First and Second Peter."

"We have some people who don't believe these things, and they are out of step with rank-and-file Baptists. Rogers said, "We have several in some of our seminaries who deny these kind of things. This is not my opinion but is the findings of the Peace Committee."

Rogers doesn't feel there are large numbers of people who reject historical and miraculous elements of the Scripture. He said, "The problem is where these people are serving. They are able to exercise great influence on our denomination."

Rogers, however, categorically denied he had said Southern Baptist Theological Seminary should no longer receive Cooperative Program funds. He also said he had never stated



## Richard Jackson



In response to the question, "Will you be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention?" Richard Jackson said, "If anyone wants to nominate me, he can. I'm not arrogant enough to think someone will and if nominated that I will be elected. What I am interested in is preserving our Baptist way of conducting business."

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., believes that the bylaw that requires an individual to give permission for his or her name to be placed

in nomination is the equivalent of forcing people to run for the office of president. He said, "I am not arrogant enough to believe that Southern Baptists need me."

"But at the same time," Jackson continued, "I'm not ungrateful enough to say that, if the denomination that has given me everything were to ask me to serve in any capacity, I would not do it gladly."

Jackson recalls that he did allow himself to be nominated under the current rules in 1980 in St. Louis. The purpose of this nomination was to show that he was not related to any political action group in the convention. The group now called the "fundamental-conservatives" had a candidate, and the people called "moderate-conservatives" were loosely supporting another individual. He was not supported by either of these groups. He said, "I was wise enough to know I would not be elected. But I allowed my name to be placed in nomination so the whole world would know I didn't belong to anyone."

Although Jackson does not consider himself to be a candidate, he knows there are those who do. Since he doesn't want anyone to feel he is taking unfair advantage of his being the preacher for the "Baptist Hour," he has removed himself from this position for the next four Sunday evenings. Joe Ford, co-pastor at North Phoenix Church, will take his place.

Jackson believes the major issue about which Southern Baptists should be concerned is Bold Mission Thrust. He said, "The Bold Mission emphasis was marvelously launched in 1979, but it has basically been lost in our convention in-fighting."

Jackson believes this in-fighting may have had some theological implications in the beginning, but that this is no longer true. The Inerrancy Conference indicates that any theological issues which should have been addressed, have been. Jackson emphasizes that Southern Baptists need to return to a major emphasis on believer-priests who are charged with the responsibility of studying the Word of God for themselves.

Jackson believes the Inerrancy Conference was extremely significant. He was impressed to learn that the strongest inerrancy scholars of our day were in seeming agreement with Clark Pinnock.

Jackson was impressed with Pinnock's statement as he encouraged Southern Baptists not to destroy the greatest mission enterprise known by taking inerrancy to the extreme. Jackson also felt Southern Baptists needed to hear Pinnock as he warn-

(continued on p. 14)

(continued on p. 14)

## Appointments Criticized

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Nearly two-thirds of the members named to a key Southern Baptist Convention committee by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers are aligned with the denomination's "fundamental-conservative" faction, three Southern Baptist "moderate-conservative" leaders have charged.

James H. Slotton, pastor of River Road Church of Richmond and the recognized leader of "moderate-conservative" political coalition since 1985, told reporters the 66 persons appointed to the Committee on Committees include one "moderate-conservative," 43 "fundamental-conservatives," 11 "non-aligned" members, six persons the group was unable to check, and five persons who reportedly are unknown to leadership in the state from which they come.

Slotton, was joined in the news conference by Norman Cavender, a layman from Claxton, Ga., and John H. Jeffers, retired pastor of First Church of Auburn, Ala., in announcing the results of an informal survey of the 66-member committee.

Slotton told the news conference: "We had been hoping against hope that there would be in Dr. Rogers' appointments this year a move away from politics, a move toward including people rather than trying

to shut them out. We expected a preponderance of fundamentalists, but not a committee with only one identifiable moderate."

In addition to the ideological slant of the committee, Slotton said the survey reveals 36 percent of the committee members have been uninvolved in state Baptist activities and 19 percent have been marginally involved. Forty-two percent are considered active in their states, he said.

Rogers told Baptist Press, "These appointments have been carefully selected from loyal, active, and qualified Southern Baptists.

"The churches from which they have been selected have an average Cooperative Program percentage of over 12 percent and the pastors have an average tenure of over 11 years," he said. "Many of these selected are direct recommendations of state executive secretaries, and many others have been approved by these executive secretaries. Still others were chosen from recommendations that came from the broad spectrum of denominational life.

"These appointments have been made in consultation with the two vice-presidents. I have every confidence that these good and godly people will serve Southern Baptists well," Rogers added.

## FMB 'Regrets' Lack of Women

by Craig Bird  
Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Foreign Mission Board voted May 20 to express "regret" no women have been slated for nomination for election to the board at the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention and to ask the SBC Executive Committee to "note this inequality in future years" and address it.

Mary Strauss, who completed her second and final term as a Foreign Mission Board trustee at the May meeting in Richmond, made the motion after reading the list of nine pastors and one full-time evangelist who will be nominated to the agency by the Southern Baptist Committee on Boards in June.

"I stand before you as a member of a vanishing species — a woman serving on one of the Southern Baptist Convention's boards or agencies," Strauss told her fellow trustees. "The women of this denomination are beginning to feel disenfranchised, second-class and second-rate as they con-

tinue to be bypassed for positions of leadership."

Since the April 28 Baptist Press news release she based her comments on, another pastor has been nominated to the Foreign Mission Board. Two vacancies are yet to be filled. Ten women elected in earlier years remain on the 85-member board.

No count was taken on the motion which passed easily, but apparently three trustees voted "no" while some other trustees did not participate in the hand vote. No one spoke against the motion when discussion was called for.

T.C. Pinckney, chairman of the 1987 Committee on Boards, was contacted at his home in Alexandria, Va., after the vote. He said he had encouraged committee members to consider women and ethnic minorities and feels "they did a commendable job — we have a number of women who will be nominated to other boards, it just happened the people for the Foreign Mission Board all happened to be men."

## Texas Will Nominate Jackson

ST. LOUIS (BP)—A Texas pastor, Charles Redmond of Sulphur Springs, says he will nominate Richard Jackson for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention when the SBC holds its annual meeting June 16-18.

"For the past two years, perhaps three, I have prayed that God would raise up someone that would be a new person to guide us and lead us," Redmond said. "I really feel that Richard Jackson represents the mainstream of Southern Baptists and will give a balance of leadership that will represent the majority of us."

"I think God has raised Richard Jackson to lead us to a new plateau as Southern Baptists in reaching the world for Jesus Christ," he added.

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## Rogers

(continued from p. 12)

Southern Seminary graduates should not serve as foreign missionaries. These statements were recently published in a nationwide publication. Rogers said, "We have some very wonderful graduates from Southern Seminary who are now serving on the foreign mission field and many more who are worthy to serve. My desire for Southern Seminary is that it will continue to receive Cooperative Program funds and that its professors will teach completely in accord with the Baptist Faith and Message statement."

## Jackson

(continued from p. 12)

ed against labeling individuals "liberal" who are godly, Bible-loving, and Christ-honoring people.

Jackson said he had long held to the doctrine of inerrancy. He said, "I myself was teaching the inerrancy of the Bible long before anyone began screaming about it in our convention."

Jackson stressed his love for the Southern Baptist Convention. He said he was not blind to our need for checks and balances, but that we need to proceed with love. He said, "I'm on the side of love, ministry, and walking in the teachings of the Word of God. I reject those who are judgmental and condemn everyone."

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## Church Immunity Gone

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—The law of the land that has kept churches immune from liability no longer applies, pastors and church leaders were warned during a church and law conference at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., May 11-12.

"Charitable immunity is gone," said James Guenther, a Nashville attorney and chief counsel for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

"The end of charitable immunity means that if you slander someone in a public prayer, or a child is hurt in a tug of war or you are negligent in counseling, you and the church can be sued for damages," Guenther said.

Guenther and other program personnel cited numerous court judgments—some involving millions of dollars—that have been leveled against religious organizations. More than 2,000 cases involving churches and their leaders are before the courts.

The conference, entitled "The Legal Threat," was sponsored by Samford's Center for the Study of Law and the Church. During the conference, center director Chriss H. Doss announced a hotline available for use by pastors and others who seek information from the center. The telephone number is 1-800-468-6726.

Participants expressed concern after being warned churches are liable if a pastor, church staff member or volunteer is involved in a vehicle accident while on church business. In one such case, plaintiffs are seeking a \$6 million settlement.

"Liability insurance must be in place, and church staffs should be sensitive to selection of drivers," Guenther stressed. Accidents related to church-sponsored recreational activities rank second in number to incidents involving vehicles. Many of these are the result of negligence, he added.

"Use common sense and gumption when planning activities, particularly those involving children," he said, citing negligence shown in a California case in which a girl was paralyzed following an injury at a church outing. She was awarded \$2 million.

Guenther observed two types of cases "waiting to happen": those resulting from children running in church hallways and those resulting from church kitchens which fail to meet health codes.

He also pointed out churches are liable for violation of statutory duties, such as state and federal securities laws and copyright laws. "Songs can be sung during a service, but not broadcast. Copyrighted material may not be copied," Guenther reminded the audience.

The participants also were warned "the clergy will be the newest group of professionals sued for malpractice," by Roy and Nancy Herron, both Tennessee attorneys and ordained Methodist ministers. The couple spelled out the dangers related to malpractice.

Breach of confidentiality is a growing problem, and pastors should be careful about telling stories and giving examples from the pulpit, they said.

The flip side to confidentiality is that pastors often have a duty to warn a third party when that person might be in danger. Many states, for instance, require that any knowledge of child abuse be reported to authorities.

"It is important that a pastor know what his or her limits are in counseling. Many are not equipped to deal with certain mental illnesses. They should refer people to other professionals when over their bounds of expertise," said Mrs. Herron.

Insurance representatives advised the group to carry adequate and proper insurance.

"The legal explosion we are seeing today has caused insurance premiums to skyrocket," and Dave Smith, an independent agent who specializes in church liability insurance. "If we don't stop this trend, church insurance premiums will escalate to unprecedented heights.

His advice included obtaining written parental consent for each special event a child participates in and making certain that supervisors are qualified.

"Insure church property to value and be sure you can replace it at today's prices," he said.

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## Convention Uniform

### *A Gospel to Share*

by Jim Byrum, Toltec Church, Scott

Basic passage: Romans 1:1-17

Focal passage: Romans 1:1-17

Central truth: The gospel is mighty to save.

Paul had not been to Rome when he wrote Romans. Rome was the center of the world. It was a great city, but it was exceedingly wicked. Paul wanted to go there and preach the gospel of Jesus to those people.

What is the gospel? It is the good news that sinners can be forgiven and receive a righteousness that is nothing short of the righteousness—the holiness—of God, as the result of the shed blood of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection from the dead.

This righteousness is free to the sinner. It is of grace alone. Grace is that wonderful, matchless willingness of God to send his one and only Son Jesus Christ to this sinful world to take upon himself the guilt of our sin and the penalty which is rightfully ours. Willingly he set aside the glory that had encircled him for eternity. He was born like one of us—a human being. He paid for our sins on the cross, and he gives us his righteousness without cost. It is amazing grace!

Faith is the key that opens the door: "The just shall live by faith." What is faith? It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to define; however, certain behaviors always accompany saving faith.

There are always strong convictions concerning Jesus Christ. The Bible presents Jesus as the Son of God, the virgin-born Son of Man, the sinless sacrifice of our sins, the victorious conqueror over the grave, and the coming King of Kings. Wherever one finds saving faith, he will find people who stand firmly on these truths and who have at times even staked their lives on them.

There is always a personal surrender to Christ. "Lord, what will you have me to do?" is the natural response of a new born sould. Paul, Peter, John, James, and Jude identify themselves as servants (slaves) of Jesus Christ. There is something in saving faith that brings the sinner to his knees before the Lord Jesus.

There is always a proper conduct inspired by such a surrender. The gospel changes lives. If anyone is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away, and all things are become new.

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## Life and Work

### *Peter, Willing to Change*

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 9:1-11:18

Focal passage: Acts 10:9-16, 28, 34-35

Central truth: Christians must allow God to change any belief or prejudice they have so they can witness effectively.

One modern myth we often hear is, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Those who believe this myth do not usually want to change. The Bible teaches not only we can change, but that we must change. Paul wrote, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Co. 5:17). That's change! Change is expected after conversion. Paul wrote about that desired change. "Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, as you have been taught. . . ." (Co. 2:7). It is clear the Bible teaches growth and that growth is change.

Peter needed to change his beliefs if he was to be an effective witness in this evangelistic movement. Cornelius, a Roman centurion and a Gentile, was under conviction. God instructed him to go to Joppa and ask for Simon Peter who would tell him how to be saved. All his life Peter had been taught that any relationship with a Gentile was forbidden by God. He is a classic example that cherished, life-long beliefs may not always be right. What beliefs do you need to change? Are they life-long beliefs? Are they congruent with God's plan to redeem the world?

Peter was open for change. While staying at Simon the Tanner's house in Joppa, God spoke to him through a vision.

As Peter thought about the vision, men sent by Cornelius arrived at the house and asked for him. The Holy Spirit spoke to Peter and instructed him to go to this Gentile's home and witness to him.

Peter was willing to change. He invited the Gentiles from Caesarea into the house and entertained them. The following day Peter, other Jewish believers, and Cornelius' servants arrived at Caesarea. Cornelius met Peter and fell at his feet and worshipped him. Peter's attitude toward a person of another race is seen in Acts 10:26 where he said, "Stand up: I myself am also a man." Peter began preaching to those present. Before he finished the Holy Spirit revealed to those present that the gospel has no second class citizens.

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## Bible Book

### *Songs of Thanksgiving*

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Psalm 107; 118; 121

Focal passage: Psalm 107:1-8; 118:19-24; 121:1-8

Central truth: The psalmists' expression of gratitude for God's deliverance, victory, and protection challenges us to make thanksgiving a central part of our worship.

Thanksgiving, for the Christian, should not be a seasonal affair. God has done so much for us that words of thanksgiving should be constantly pouring forth from our lips. For the psalmists, deliverance, victory, and protection were a reality of God's blessings. He was most thankful to God for these blessings.

Psalm 107 expresses thanksgiving for God's deliverance. The writer begins the Psalm with a call to give thanks. Then, he shares four examples of deliverance for which the people of God should be thankful.

With each example, the psalmist says: "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble and he saved them out of their distress" (vv. 6, 13, 19, 21). And in each instance, the psalmist concludes, "They must thank the Lord for his constant love" (NEB—vv. 8, 15, 21, 31).

Psalm 118 speaks of the victory that God gives us and the thanksgiving that should be part of his victory. The first part of the Psalm (vv. 5-14) describes the problems faced by the psalmist. His enemies had him surrounded, but God intervened and gave him victory.

Because of God's help, the psalmist desires to enter the temple so that he may express his thanksgiving. In referring to the victory, the psalmist referred to "the stone which the builders refused" (v. 17). Jesus said that he was this stone (Mk. 12:10-11). Peter referred to the same scripture (1 Pe. 2:7); and he was also talking about Christ. Victory comes through Christ. Thank God!

Psalm 121 expressed thanksgiving for God's protection. The TEV of this Psalm uses the words "protector" or "protect" five times (vv. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8). How many of us can live or make it through life without God's protection?

Are you thankful all the time? When you think of God's deliverance, victory, and protection, you will feel gratitude. Learn to express that feeling daily.

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## 'Wage War' on Porn

LOS ANGELES (BP)—A war against pornographers who devastate homes, destroy lives and prey on women and children is being won all across America, participants at an SBC Christian Life Commission conference on pornography were told.

"Pornography is a powerful \$8 billion per year industry, but current federal laws prohibit the production and distribution of pornography which is judged to be obscene by specific obscenity standards," Alan Sears, legal counsel for Citizens for Decency through Law of Phoenix, Ariz., and member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, told Baptists at the two-day meeting in Los Angeles.

Sears, who was executive director of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, which released its report last year, said he has been overwhelmed by the number of Southern Baptists who have told him their lives have been hurt or destroyed by pornography. Some Southern Baptists have died from suicide directly related to pornography, he said.

Southern Baptists, must join the battle against pornography and obscenity either by joining their own church and community groups now fighting the battle or by initiating their own efforts, Sears challenged.

"Pornography is a very lucrative and dangerous business," he asserted. "One adult bookstore with 12 peep-show booths where anonymous sex acts occur can generate from \$750,000 to \$1 million a year in untaxed income. Men who engage in sex acts in these places contract venereal diseases and come home and give the diseases to their unsuspecting wives."

"Pornography shops are training camps for sexual abuse," Sears charged. "Every single adult bookstore sets up a motive for sexual abuse to women and children."

According to Sears, the abuse of children comes both in physical abuse by parents, friends and relatives whose actions are motivated by their obsession with pornography, and by the pornographers who use children as models or participants in the production of obscene materials.

Pornographers, he said, also abuse children by targeting them as purchasers of pornography: "The main consumers of pornography are 12- to 17-year-old youth. They know far more about pornography than their parents or grandparents ever knew. The main target of dial-a-porn telephone numbers is teenagers. Some of these dial-a-porn numbers are designed solely to appeal to youth, and the content is very explicit."

One dial-a-porn operator also owned a

newspaper in a major city and published the phone numbers on the front page of the paper, where they would be easily accessible to young people, he said.

"Discrimination and abuse are not limited to women and children," Sears said. "I call pornography 'hate literature.' The Nazis and Ku Klux Klan are amateurs compared to the pornographers. Pornography exhibits blatant discrimination against blacks, Hispanics, and Orientals. There is even a genre of pornography against Vietnam veterans."

N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, also spoke to participants and said churches have been apathetic about the issue of pornography. "Pornography's influence may not show up immediately," he warned, "but think about the impact of pornography on the mind. That which we foster in the mind becomes a part of our personality and our behavior."

"Pornography lurks in our minds seeking an opportunity to devour us," Baker said. "Southern Baptists' warning about pornography needs to be wider and more foreboding." Baker pledged an active role by the Christian Life Commission in providing resource materials and program leadership in a Southern Baptist fight against pornography.

In the closing session of the conference, Sears gave the following suggestions for organizing to fight pornography:

- Educate yourself and others about the issue of pornography and obscenity. Pornographic materials which meet the criteria of federal obscenity laws are not protected by the first amendment. Even soft-core pornography can be regulated as to time, place and manner of display.

- Fix the law. Enact new legislation related to dial-a-porn and cable television. Push for federal forfeiture laws which allow profits from obscenity convictions to be used to help pornography victims and to pay for law enforcement and prosecution costs.

- Deal with sources of pornography. Use local zoning laws to move pornography out of residential areas. Work with the local prosecutor to bring purveyors of legally obscene material to trial. Put economic pressure on vendors of soft-core pornography, which is not illegal but is destructive.

"An \$8 billion industry is still no match for the power of the 72 percent of the population opposed to pornography," Sears concluded.

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