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**April 30, 1987**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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April 30, 1987

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Nashville, Tennessee

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## Reclaiming the inactive

Helpline feature  
page 10



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Nearly half of all Southern Baptist church members have "dropped out," never attending their own church and never joining another. How can churches minister to these people and reclaim them for the Kingdom? This month's "Helpline" feature focuses on "Ingathering," a new approach to reclaiming the inactive church member (p.10).

## In this issue

### 15 'open wide the gates'

The Foreign Mission Board voted April 8 to allow the appointment of qualified missionary candidates from accredited, non-Southern Baptist seminaries, citing the need to mobilize human resources to meet the "demanding and limitless" opportunities of world missions.

### 21 return to Social Security

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 allows ministers who have previously opted out of Social Security to return to the program. The pros and cons should be carefully considered.

## Record crowd witnesses commissioning

by James M. Cox  
Associate Editor, Kentucky Western Recorder

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—The largest crowd ever to witness the commissioning of new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries thronged Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., April 7.

Spectators numbered between 13,500 and 15,500. They were designated "the largest gathering of Kentucky Baptists in history" by William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, who welcomed them.

Participants witnessed the commissioning of 49 candidates to overseas service in 24 nations. The appointees bring to 3,813 the number of missionaries presently appointed by the Foreign Mission Board, an all time high.

A widowed grandmother who had felt the urge to go to the foreign mission field four decades ago testified at Lexington that she had now reached a conclusion that "life is time, and time is life." Prevented from going overseas earlier by her husband's poor health, Anda Littleford is fulfilling a life-long dream as she prepares to move to Swaziland.

Louisiana pastor Glenn Simmons, who said his wife, Sherry, will go to South Africa, said he had preached to his congregation for 12 years about following God's will in life. It took God "about 10 years to convince me I should do what I was telling everybody else to do," he acknowledged.

Native Tennessean James Hampton claimed, "I saw the movie, I heard the call, I'm

ready to go." He and his wife, Barbara, will be missionary associates in Korea.

Board President R. Keith Parks claimed obedience to God's will "is not grim faced" but the "greatest joy" in life.

There are people, he admonished, who "cannot hear (of Jesus) unless someone tells them," who "cannot be saved unless someone goes."

He observed several of the new appointees made a commitment to foreign missions in a previous commissioning service elsewhere. As thousands sang "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go," 67 people offered themselves for counseling as possible future missionary candidates.

A spontaneous standing ovation by the audience for the candidates occurred after certificates of appointment were presented, "the first time we have ever witnessed that," a Foreign Mission Board official said.

An 1,800-voice choir accompanied by a 225-member orchestra followed the appointments with "Take My Life, Lead Me Lord."

The service highlighted a three-day meeting of the Foreign Mission Board's 85 trustees in Lexington. The board has scheduled appointment services and trustee meetings away from its Richmond, Va., headquarters since 1969 in an attempt to involve more Southern Baptists in its ministry.

The event in Lexington was one of several Kentucky Baptists are experiencing in this 150th year since the founding of their state convention.

### Town officials responsible

## Baptist worshippers slain in Mexico

SANTIAGO ATITLAN MIXE, Mexico (BP)—Three people have been killed in religious persecution in the mountain village of Santiago Atitlan Mixe in southern Mexico.

The victims, according to one account, had been worshipping at a small Baptist mission and were in the process of becoming members.

A newspaper in the city of Oaxaca reported April 9 that the killings, which took place April 1, were "at the hands of the municipal authorities" of Santiago Atitlan Mixe. The article, titled "The Holy War Collects Three More Victims," also said 28 adults and 11 children were in prison because of persecution.

Killed were Terencio Vasquez Silverio, Martiniano Martinez and Abdon Julian Baltazar. No information was available about their ages or personal backgrounds.

Several members of the Baptist mission have fled Santiago Atitlan Mixe. About 10 of them are being sheltered in First Baptist Church of Oaxaca. The refugees fear others attempting to flee the village have been arrested.

The strife began the last week of March. Esteban Lorenzo, a Mexican Baptist mis-

sionary supported by the Oaxaca Baptist Association, had led Bible studies in the village March 23 and 24. On March 25, police entered the meeting and arrested Lorenzo and several members of the Baptist mission.

Lorenzo was released from custody April 5, after being beaten and forced to sign a document stating that he would never return to the village.

He subsequently obtained an order from government authorities in a nearby town for the release of the others. When he returned to Santiago Atitlan Mixe, he was not allowed to enter the village and the order was ignored.

No formal charges have been brought against any of the people arrested. Authorities in Oaxaca, the state capital, are investigating the situation. They say the people responsible for the killings will be punished.

This is not the first such incident in recent years in southern Mexico. Several years ago, a Baptist father and son were killed in one village, and others have been jailed and beaten for turning to evangelical Christianity.

## Successful prayer

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Prayer is of vital importance to the life of every Christian. Yet, all too often, we fail to avail ourselves of an effective prayer life. In order to develop a proper prayer life, desire, discipline, and commitment must be given to it.

Christian prayer is built on the foundation of the sovereignty and character of God. God created man for the purpose of fellowship. God is a personal being and relates to human needs in a very personal way. Fellowship is a mark of personhood. In the Greek, the word "fellowship" is *koinonia* and carries with it the idea of communion or partnership. God's desire is to form a partnership with his children in which they can commune with each other in a vital and active manner.

The Bible carefully records the prayers of the great heroes of the faith. Even Jesus, God's own Son, spent much of his time in prayer. The occasions for his prayers were many and varied. A careful study of the gospel indicates that Christ prayed prior to every major event in his life.

But the most important question is, "How can a Christian have a proper and effective prayer life?" First, it should be remembered that Bible study and prayer are inseparable. The Scripture clarifies the intention of God if interpreted in faith. Clearly any prayer that contradicts the Scripture is not in keeping with the will of God. When prayer is truly guided by the Holy Spirit, he will always point the petitioner to Christ, who is the central figure of the Word of God. The Bible repeatedly admonishes, "You shall meditate on it (the Scripture) day and night." Hence a part of every prayer experience should be study and meditation on Scripture.

Second, if a Christian is to have a successful prayer life, he must have a definite time and place for prayer. When an individual fails to establish a definite time and place for prayer, very little praying is likely to take place. Most Christians will only pray when there is an emergency, unless there is a definite schedule for prayer.

A prayer list also is very useful. A Christian may choose to carry a notebook in which he will jot down prayer concerns during the day. Prayer concerns may include family members, an individual's pastor and church staff, close friends or any other special needs that he or she may note.

A prayer notebook can also be helpful in that a Christian can observe when prayers are answered. Often God waits a while prior to answering prayer. Waiting for God to answer prayers and the response that he gives may provide important lessons for a Christian.

The Apostle Paul admonished, "Pray without ceasing" (1

Thess. 5:17). This command reminds us that we should continually be in an attitude of prayer. It also assures us that there is no place so unholy that a Christian cannot pray in it. It further suggests that there is no time in which we can afford to ignore God. Jesus told his faithful followers, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). It is discourteous to ignore anyone who is accompanying us. Hence the presence of Christ requires an attitude of prayer.

Successful prayer requires a willingness on the part of a Christian to accept and do the will of God. When Jesus was facing the cross, he prayed, "Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). Even as our Lord faced the most difficult moment of his life, his desire was to conform his will to the will of the Father. When our will conforms to the will of God, it places us within the framework of God's power and activity.

When a Christian totally conforms to the will of God, it rules out rebellion, anger and bitterness. It means, whatever God's desire for us might be, we are ready to follow. It further recognizes that God's wisdom is superior to our wisdom.

When a Christian is submissive to God's will, it does not mean that he will never know disappointment or hurt. Obviously, when a Christian loses a loved one, he will know disappointment and loneliness. But it does mean that we are in agreement with God, and that we participate in God's kingdom purposes.

Prayer should carry with it an element of expectancy. Hope is one of the most misunderstood words in the New Testament. Hope, of course, is the eternal victory which is assured for all who have had a personal encounter with the living Christ. But this relationship should start when an individual accepts Christ. Paul said, "That we (Christians) should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after you heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after ye believed ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (down payment) of our inheritance unto the redemption of the purchased possession, unto His glory" (Eph. 1:12-14).

Simply stated, this means that we have a down payment on the joy of Heaven.

Prayer binds together. It binds the Christian together with God in fellowship. It binds a congregation of believers together as they seek to do the will of God. It assures that the people of God will become willing to claim their privileges. It means that Christ will be glorified and that the world will become convinced that Jesus truly is the Christ.

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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## The Southern accent

Ben Early

### The sense of timing

The sense of timing cannot be learned from a paper. It can only be developed by practicing. Timing is very crucial. It is learned through experienced doing, not through reading. A poignant, poetic example of the neglect of timing in growthful caring was written by Kazantzakis in the following passage from *Zorba the Greek*:

"I remember one morning when I discovered a cocoon in the bark of a tree, just as the butterfly was making a hole in its case and preparing to come out. I waited a while, but it was too long appearing and I was impatient. I bent over it and breathed on it to warm it. I warmed it as quickly as I could and the miracle began to happen before my eyes, faster than life. The case opened, the butterfly started slowly crawling out and I shall never forget my horror when I saw how its wings were folded back and crumpled; the wretched butterfly tried with its whole trembling body to unfold them. Bending over, I tried to help it with my breath in vain. It needed to be hatched out patiently and the unfolding of the wings should be a gradual process in the sun. Now it was too late. My breath had forced the butterfly to appear, all crumpled, before its time. It struggled desperately and a few seconds later, died in the palm of my hand." (Used by permission, Simon & Schuster, publisher.)

As I read the previous illustration, my mind thought of one of our nation's greatest natural resources, our youth. The timing of proper influence, instruction, and direction in their lives cannot be measured.

I hear people say, "We will not influence our children in making decisions in the mat-

ter of Christian living." Why not? The ads will! The press will! The radio will! The movies will! The neighbors will! Their peers will! We can use our influence over flowers, vegetables, rice, cotton, and cattle. Shall we ignore our youth?

One of the greatest ways to help our youth grow and reach their full potential is through Christian higher education. Our Baptist colleges in Arkansas stand ready to help young adults at the proper time in their lives.

I can already hear you saying, "But we can't afford to." I must hasten to remind you that you can't afford not to.

How sad to see youth who are expected to move into various areas of responsibility before they are ready.

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:28 (KJV) there is "a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time of pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; A time to keep silent, and a time to speak; A time to live, and a time to hate; A time of war and a time of peace."

Proper timing can produce beautiful results if we will listen and let God direct us.

**Ben Early is public relations/ alumni director for Southern Baptist College.**

### Joint Committee releases 'Life with Liberty' series

WASHINGTON (BPA)—In conjunction with the national celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has released a series of pamphlets designed to provide an overview of issues related to religious liberty and separation of church and state.

The five-part "Life with Liberty Series" features information about the historical development of church-state separation, the role of Baptists in championing religious freedom and current areas of concern.

The pamphlet series consists of:  
— "Baptists and Religious Freedom," which explores the biblical principle of religious liberty and traces the impact Baptists have had as they put that principle into practice.

— "Separation of Church and State,"

which presents a historical look at the principle of separation of church and state and its development and importance in American life.

— "Christianity in American Life," which suggests courses of action for Christians interested in becoming properly involved in their nation's political process.

— "Government Intrusion into Religion," which addresses the ways in which government has attempted to regulate religion, especially in the area of taxation.

— "Religion in Public Schools," which answers questions on such issues as prayer in public schools and equal access.

The pamphlets are available—either by set or individually—for 10 cents each, plus postage. Orders should be sent to the Baptist Joint Committee, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

## Thomas begins new lesson commentary

Bert Thomas, pastor of Valley Church, Searcy, begins this week writing lesson commentaries on the Life and Work Sunday School lesson series in "Lessons for Living."

Thomas is a graduate of Southern Baptist College and Boyce Bible school. He also has pastored Toltec Church, Scott; Luxora First Church; and Leachville Second Church.

He and his wife, Martha, have two children, Jeff, a senior at Ouachita Baptist University, and Mary Elizabeth Ellis of Whitehall.



Thomas

## Golden Gate library needs associational info

Association clerks have been requested to check that Golden Gate Seminary is on the mailing list to receive associational records and minutes. The library at the seminary serves as a resource center for statistical and personnel information. Mailings should be sent to: The Library, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Strawberry Point, Mill Valley, CA 94941-3198.

## ACTS boards nominated

Arkansas affiliates of the American Christian Television System (ACTS) have received nine nominations for awards at ACTS' annual awards ceremony.

The nine nominations are divided between four ACTS boards: Little Rock, Fort Smith, Springdale, and Jonesboro. Only Mississippi and Texas garnered more nominations statewide.

ACTS will present the annual awards for excellence in local programming at a banquet in Fort Worth, Texas, May 8.

### *a smile or two*

My doctor found a way to pay his malpractice premiums. He starts making house calls—trips on your steps, and sues you for a million dollars.

Politician: "We must change the status quo."  
Citizen: "What is a status quo?"

Politician: "That, my friend, is Latin for the mess we are in."

Charm is the ability to make someone else think that both of you are wonderful.

A bore is a person who is here today and here tomorrow.

## Good News run culminates at Youth Convention

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Runners Jarrod Sullivan and Shannon Eddleman brought the lighted Good News torch to the Youth Convention.

The 1987 Arkansas Baptist State Youth Convention, sponsored by the Church Training Department, was the event at which a 6,942-mile ABSC evangelistic running marathon came to a close with a run from Benton to Little Rock.

This marathon, in which 3,000 runners representing 40 ABSC associations participated, was used as a convention effort to share with state residents the salvation message of "Good News Arkansas, Jesus Loves You." Glendon Grober served as coordinator for the effort which is being strengthened by revival meetings in churches throughout the state.

Jarrod Sullivan, a Royal Ambassador Pioneer, and Shannon Eddleman, an Acteen, both members of Salem Church, Benton, were the runners who brought the lighted torch to the convention at which a reported 3,500 youth were present. Don Moore, ABSC executive director, spoke on the evangelistic run prior to a candlelight ceremony in which Sullivan, Eddleman and other representatives participated.

Other highlights included a commitment service at which Charles Page, pastor of First Church, Nashville, Tenn., spoke.

Dusty Cowell, a student at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, moderated the convention which included the annual Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament in the afternoon session. Brad Lawson, a member of Highfill Church, and Bobby King of Patterson First Church were named as first and second place drill winners and Timothy Fowler, a member of East Side Church, Paragould, and Jennifer Hopkins of Sugarloaf Church, Quitman, were selected as tournament winners.

## MISSIONS ADVANCE 87-89

### Biblical-type missions concern needed

by Allen Thrasher

It was about a year ago that a special committee first met to conduct a study of Arkansas Baptist State Convention expenditures. Our convention follows a fixed, five-year formula or plan in making distribution of the Cooperative Program dollars it receives from the churches. This special committee was asked to study the formula and suggest changes for the fiscal years 1987-92.

Through the months we laboriously and methodically accomplished our assignment, and in the process we uncovered some alarming facts which Arkansas Baptists need to hear with their own ears.

We thought long and hard about how we could communicate these facts to the nearly half million Arkansas Baptists. We concluded that we must ask for permission to visit in all of the convention churches. Only then could we be assured that all Arkansas Baptists would have the opportunity to hear the urgent concerns we had discovered.

The Executive Board, and the 1986 State Convention which met at Geyer Springs First Church of Little Rock, listened to our concerns and enthusiastically approved our plan. A task force of 100 laypersons, pastors, directors of missions, and other church ministers was elected. Their mission was dubbed "Missions Advance 87-89."

What is the urgent message and challenge which this Task Force of 100 will gladly bring to your church? It is the message that the Lord's "Great Commission Plan" is being neglected by many Arkansas Baptists. Cooperative Program giving is not adequate to meet even the "Macedonian calls" in Arkansas and the world, much less world gospel needs. The challenge is that grassroots Arkansas Baptists must meet the Lord's challenge to reach and disciple persons beyond the borders of their church fields.

The method which Southern Baptists have successfully used to accomplish off-the-church-field missions, since 1925, is the Cooperative Program. The Missions Advance 87-89 task force speakers will show that the Cooperative Program is the most biblically based, effective, efficient, and trustworthy method available to our churches for reaching our world for Jesus Christ. The task force preachers and speakers will appeal to the churches for biblical-type missions concern and giving.

I hope your church will invite a Missions Advance 87-89 speaker. You'll be glad you did.

Allen Thrasher is pastor of Booneville First Church.

### Task force speakers scheduled in 81 churches

Four additional churches have scheduled Task Force speakers, bringing the total to 81. These new churches and pastors are listed below. For more information, contact Jimmie Sheffield at 376-4791.

Faith Church.....	Greenwood.....	Doyle Russell
First Church.....	Jacksonville.....	Harvey Webb
First Church.....	Marvel.....	Bob Harper
New Hope Church.....	Pollard.....	Tom Farris

### ABSC makes two staff changes

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has reassigned one staff person and employed another.

Glendon Grober, formerly associate in the Evangelism Department, has accepted the position of Brotherhood director. A 30-year veteran foreign missionary, Grober has served as the statewide coordinator for Arkansas Baptists' partnership linkup with two Brazilian Baptist conventions. In his new capacity, Grober will oversee Brotherhood, Disaster Relief, and Lay Renewal efforts.

Paul McClung, until recently pastor at Calvary Church, North Little Rock, has been employed as an associate in the Evangelism Department, filling the vacancy created by Grober's transfer to Brotherhood. McClung's responsibilities will include Prayer for



Grober



McClung

Spiritual Awakening conferences, Lay Evangelism Schools, TELL Witness Training, Golden Age Evangelism conferences, mass evangelism, and developing evangelism programs for baptismless and small churches.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Lawson Hatfield** has announced his retirement as pastor of Fordyce First Church, effective June 30. Hatfield, who is current president of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is former ABCS Sunday School Department director. He and his wife, Juanita, will reside in Malvern.

**Kendall and Thelma Berry** of Blytheville were one of four couples receiving the 1987 B.H. Carroll Founders Awards at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They are active members of Blytheville First Church.

**Tom Bonds** resigned as pastor of Lexa Church April 19 to serve as pastor of a church in Smithville, Miss.

**Schafer Parker** has resigned as pastor of First Southern Church, Holly Grove.

**James Nowlin** has resigned as pastor of Petty's Chapel, Marianna, to continue his studies at Mid-America Seminary.

**Dennis Jones** has resigned as pastor of Corning First Church to serve as pastor of a North Carolina church.

**Pearl Marie Ashworth Harris** of Little Rock died April 10 at age 75. Her funeral services were held April 13 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, where she was a member. Survivors are a son, Thomas F. Harris of Atlanta, Ga.; a daughter, Vada Cullum of North Little Rock; a sister, Naomi Fowler of Houston, Texas; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Lucille Seligman** of Little Rock died April 10 at age 95. She was a member of Little Rock Calvary Church. Survivors are a son, Moise B. Seligman Jr. of Little Rock; a sister, Grace Forrester of Hazen; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Seligman Scholarship Fund at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Kirk Crawford** began serving March 29 as pastor of Woodrow Church, Heber Springs.

**Larry Pendegraft** resigned as pastor of Buffalo Chapel, Black Oak, April 26.

**Earl R. Humble** accepted a call April 19 to serve as pastor of Osceola First Church, where he has been serving as interim pastor. Humble recently observed 50 years of preaching ministry.

**Brandon Willey** has resigned as minister of music and youth at Warren Immanuel Church to serve on the staff of Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Willey and his wife, Tenley, have two daughters, Tara and Allison.

**Gayla O'Donley** will serve Ashdown First Church as summer youth minister following her graduation in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a master's degree in religious education.

## briefly

**Evening Shade Church** at Waldron has organized a Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union. The church also recently completed the installation of carpet in the back portion.

**Boxley Church** ordained Tim Young to the deacon ministry April 5. L.B. Atchison, director of missions for North Arkansas Association, preached the ordination message.

**Pine Bluff Second Church** was in a revival April 5-9 that resulted in two professions of faith and four additions by letter, according to Pastor Paul Holt. Mike Kemper, pastor of Green River Church, Waynesboro, Tenn., was evangelist and Randy Stracener, the church's minister of music, directed music.

**Smackover First Church** held a study on the Doctrine of Prayer April 20-22. Mark Coppenger, pastor of El Dorado First Church, was study leader.

**Atkins First Church** was in a recent revival that resulted in 15 professions of faith and two additions by letter, according to Pastor Bob Richardson. Clarence Shell, Arkansas Baptist State Convention director of evangelism, was evangelist. Robbie Jackson, associate pastor, directed music.

**Ebenezer Church** in El Dorado will host the 3rd-6th grade choir of El Dorado West Side Church May 13 for a special music program. Youth of the church recently held a retreat at Beech Springs Camp with Tom McCone as leader.

**Beech Street First Church** in Texarkana broke ground April 19 for a family activities center. A candlelight observance of the Lord's Supper followed in the sanctuary.

**Fellowship Church** at Montrose will ordain Pastor David Howie to the preaching ministry May 3 at 2:30 p.m. The church was in a revival April 22-26 led by Eugene Howie.

**Batesville First Church** will hold a Family Life Revival May 3-6. Emil Williams, pastor of Jonesboro First Church, will be evangelist. Ervin Keathley, Arkansas Baptist State Convention music secretary, will direct music.

**Fisher Street Church** in Jonesboro has completed a Together We Build fund raising campaign directed by Dwayne Fischer of the SBC Stewardship Commission. The church surpassed a Victory Goal of \$200,000 by \$25,670 through cash gifts and three-year commitments. In the 12 months prior to the campaign, the church's building fund grew from approximately \$40,000 to a current balance of over \$100,000. When receipts and funds from the sale of the church's present facility bring the building fund to \$300,000, additional financing will be obtained and construction will begin on a \$650,000 project that will relocate the congregation to property previously purchased on Highland Drive. Michael L. Trammell is pastor.

**Shepherd Hill Church** at Pine Bluff began a revival April 26 that will close on May 1. Jerry Kausler, pastor of Cord Church, is serving as evangelist. Allan McKinley, minister of music, youth and education of Eastside Church, Pine Bluff, is directing music. The church will observe its eighth anniversary with homecoming May 3. Activities will include Sunday School, morning service, and a noon meal followed by an anniversary service.

**Batesville West Church** recently voted to begin a children's worship ministry in May and elected a long-range planning committee.

**East Side Church** in Mountain Home began a revival April 26 that will close May 3. Charles Todd of Herculaneum, Mo., is serving as evangelist. Keith Hamm is directing music.

**Newport First Church** recently licensed Bob Field to the preaching ministry. Fielding, manager of a Newport restaurant, will serve as a bi-vocational pastor.

**White River Association** Girls in Action held a recent mission fair in the family

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

life center of East Side Church, Mountain Home. Gyla Thompson, a member of East Side Church and associational GA director, coordinated the event which included booths, missions education games, a luncheon, and a program. Pat Glascock, Arkansas Baptist State Convention GA and Mission Friends director, was speaker.

**Old Austin Church** at Austin observed 138 years of service April 5 by naming Elmo Haynes, Louis Kee, Linnie Mobbs, and Floyd Witcher as deacons emeritus. They were awarded plaques for their years of service. Haynes served 53 years; Kee, 36; Mobbs, 25; and Witcher, 24. Their wives were presented corsages. In the same service, Larry Pharris was ordained as a deacon. Jim Edwards is pastor.

**Pleasant Valley Church** at Heber Springs was in a revival April 11-17. Jim Wiley served as evangelist and Malcolm Sample directed music.

**Mount Pisgah Church** at Jonesboro has launched a deaf ministry under the leadership of Pastor R.W. Goodman and Sharon Good.

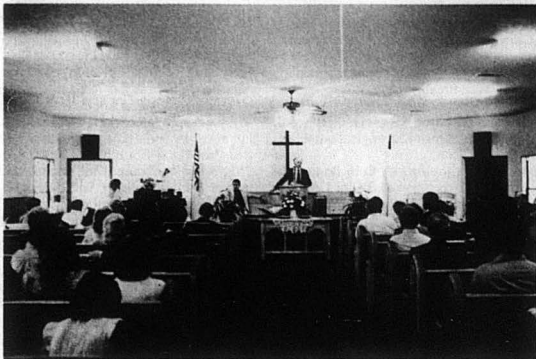
**New Hope Church** at Jonesboro has enlarged its fellowship hall. The improvement program also included enlarging the parking lot and remodeling Pastor Don Vuncannon's study.

**Wynne Church** will observe homecoming May 3 with traditional morning services and a noon meal.

**Mount Olive Church** at Crossett has launched a tape ministry for its homebound members.

**Texarkana Calvary Church** hosted the senior adult choir of First Church, Bolivar, Tenn., April 26. The choir sang at the morning worship hour and were then honored at a noon luncheon.

**Fayetteville University Church** New Creations, a 50-voice collegiate choir, recently returned from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. They had been commissioned as Goodwill Ambassadors from the State of Arkansas by Gov. Bill Clinton. Michael J. Bedford, pastor of music and worship, serves as choir director.



**Gilead dedication**—The Mount Gilead Church near Norman held a dedication service for its new facilities on April 12. The 2,600 square foot building, constructed at a cost of \$39,000, houses a 150-seat auditorium, a pastor's study, three Sunday School rooms, and a nursery. Participating in the dedicatory service were Carl Bunch, director of missions for Caddo River Association; Pastor Lewin Newcomb; and ABN Editor J. Everett Sneed. The Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention gave \$2,500 and the Oldham Little Church Foundation gave \$3,600 to assist with construction costs.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



**Debt free**—Conway Second Church celebrated payment of a December property purchase April 12 with a ceremony that included presentation of a \$90,000 check by Darrell Kilman, church treasurer, to Charles Nabholz, from whom the property was bought. As the check was presented, youth released balloons over the city as another reminder that the property was paid for in 90 days and interest free as the result of a "Stay Out of Debt" program implemented by Pastor Larry Pillow. Conway Mayor Dave Kinley and Bill Kreis, director of missions for Faulkner Association, also participated in the ceremony.



# Nine with Arkansas connections named foreign missionaries

Nine persons with Arkansas connections were among 49 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 7 at Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky. **William D. and Ruth Billet** will live in equatorial Brazil, where he will promote religious education.

A native of Michigan, Billet is currently minister of education and music at First Church, George West, Texas. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Billet is the former Ruth Bennett of Texas. She is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary. The Billets have one child.

As a missionary associate, **Anda B. Littleford** will live in Swaziland, where she will be directing the Bible Way Correspondence program.

While growing up, Mrs. Littleford lived in Lavaca and Hartford. She is the widow of Rev. Warren Littleford, formerly of Illinois. They were Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionaries in Minnesota for 17 years. She is a graduate of Southern Illinois

Seminary, Carbondale, and Southwestern Seminary. She has five grown children.

**Glenn and Pauline Nicholson** will live in Panama, where he will start and develop churches.

Nicholson is pastor of Smithville Church. Born in Forrest City, he is the son of Elizabeth Jane King of that city and the late Ray Nicholson. He also has lived in Caldwell.

He is a graduate of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, and Southwestern Seminary. He also has been pastor of Cotter Church and Brookland Church.

Born in Harrisburg, Mrs. Nicholson, the former Pauline Vaughn, is the daughter of Leatheh Vaughn of Cherry Valley and the late Laborn Vaughn. She is a graduate of the Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Memphis, Tenn.

The Nicholsons have three children. **D. Glenn and Sherry Simmons** will live in South Africa, where he will teach at a seminary.

Simmons is pastor of First Church, Homer, La. A native of Louisiana, he is a graduate of William Carey College, Harrisburg, Miss., and New Orleans Baptist Theological

Seminary. He has been minister of music and youth at First Church, Barling.

Mrs. Simmons, the former Sherry Smith, is a native of Texas. She is a graduate of the Charity Hospital of Louisiana School of Nursing, New Orleans, La., and Westark Community College, Fort Smith. She achieved licensed psychiatric nurse technician standing by examination in Arkansas.

The Simmonses have four children. Former home missionaries **Mark A. and Geneva Weiler** will live in the Philippines, where he will teach theology by extension.

A native of South Dakota, Weiler is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Weiler, the former Geneva Carpenter, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Carpenter Jr. of Elkins. She considers Elkins her hometown. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and Midwestern Seminary. She has been a special education teacher in Briggsville and Springdale.

The Weilers have two children.



The Billets



Littleford



The Nicholsons



The Simmons



The Weilers

## Seven Arkansans approved for training as journeymen

Seven Arkansans were among the 73 young adults that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approved for training as journeymen during its April meeting in Lexington, Ky. Missionary journeymen are college graduates under 27 years old who are selected to go overseas and work for two years alongside career missionaries.

Those who receive medical clearance and successfully complete a five-week training session at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., will be commissioned for service July 17.

**Beth Grigson** has been assigned as an MK teacher in Mukoma, Rwanda. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brosie Lee Grigson of Lincoln, and considers Prairie Grove her hometown. She has attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Ouachita Baptist University, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock.

**Gerald Harkins** has been assigned as a community center worker in Dakar, Senegal. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Franklin Harkins, Southern Baptist missionaries in South Korea. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he has lived in Little Rock.

**Scott Hobbs** has been assigned as an associate minister in Stranraer, Scotland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robbie L. Hobbs of Stephens, where his father is pastor of First Church. He has been a junior high skills counselor for Second Church, Little Rock, and a summer youth minister at First Church, Pine Bluff. He will graduate from Ouachita Baptist University this spring.

**Barry McManus** has been assigned as a youth minister in Singapore. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. McManus of Fordyce. He was born in El Dorado, and has lived in North Little Rock and Crossett. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

**Stacey Melton** has been assigned as an elementary teacher in Nairobi, Kenya. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Roy Melton of Little Rock. She has been a teacher for the Arkansas Baptist School System and youth director at First Church, Sherwood. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and will graduate from the master of education program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in the spring.

**Beth Perry** has been assigned as an English teacher in Kitakyushu, Japan. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald S. Perry Sr. of Norphlet, where her father is pastor of First Church.

**Rhonda Winstead** has been assigned to Cooperative Services International as a language student in Asia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie C. Winstead, missionaries to Taiwan. She was born in Arkadelphia and will graduate from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., in the spring.

# Helpline

for the local church

What do you do when all you do doesn't seem to be enough to get done what ought to be done? Do you keep on doing the same thing whether it is helping or not? Perhaps! If it is based



Moore

on biblical principles, and has proven effectiveness, and is spiritually motivated, you may need to do that until Jesus comes. Do you consider making some changes? Perhaps! When all you do doesn't seem to accomplish anything, as best you can honestly tell, you had better consider making some changes. Most of what we do involves methods, organizations and meetings, none of which are sacred in themselves. Sometimes people will hold on to those more dearly than their doctrines, even if in holding on they strangle the life of their church, department or class. For God's sake and people's sake, change when there is hope of reversing a declining situation. Do you give in to the discouraging situation and resign yourself to participate in continuing failure? Hey, we are made of better "stuff" than that. I know, when disappointments stack one on top of the other, and every faint glimmer of life is met by some negative thinker, it's hard to have a good, positive attitude and keep on keeping on. You are tempted to join the losers, aren't you? Don't do it. Let's find a way to do things more effectively. Everyone who reads this can become an instrument for change in their church or a helper of those who are trying to bring about change.

Do we keep on doing the same things that do not work? Please, folks, answer that question. It may be that the risk, fear, cost and uncertainty of change has intimidated us to the point that we would choose the predictability of failure rather than the uneasy potential of success. Those of us who have been chosen by God and you to help our churches are changing. We are offering you new opportunities. Here are some examples out of our May schedule. These are firsts!

**Outreach Bible Studies**—Do you know about these? This approach can get evangelistic Bible studies going in many places with people we can't get to come to Sunday School. Special study materials have been developed for this new approach to evangelism and outreach. Many pastors, Sunday School directors, adult and youth workers should learn how to use this approach in their community. Four clinics will be held in May, getting one in reach of everyone. Springdale and Pine Bluff clinics will be held on May 11. Jonesboro and Texarkana clinics will be held on May 12. Call Ed Hinkson (376-4791) if you need more information.

**Another first**—A clinic for Backyard Bible Club and Mission Vacation Bible School leaders. This is vital for folk who use this approach on mission tours. New plans and materials are available. This event is May 9 at the Levy Church in North Little Rock.

**A first for pastor and staff**—A Pre-Retirement Planning Conference. In fact, there are four of these. Featuring Annuity Board, Social Security, and financial planners—these meetings will help church leaders "set their house in order." Van Buren, Nashville, Little Rock and Wynne are the sites of these meetings on May 4-7. Watch for further information from James Walker and the Annuity office on these.

**A preaching first**—That is right! A conference on preaching will be held in Memphis, May 11-13. Four state conventions and the church administration department of the Sunday School Board are sponsoring this first. Two things are fairly certain about us preachers. One, we like to preach. Two, we would like to preach better. Could this help? It's for you!

**A singing first**—Northeast Arkansas is the winner on this. The Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas will give their first joint concert May 11 at First Church, Osceola. These may be the finest singing groups of any type in Arkansas. Both groups have separate heavy challenges before them. The Music Men will lead out in a great stadium crusade in Brazil in October. The Singing Women will sing the opening concert at Glorieta Music Week in July.

We hope our changes will help you and your church. There are some things we do that we have done for years. They work. We want to keep helping you in those areas

## Many firsts offered in May

by Don Moore

### Check these out:

**A pastor-deacon conference**, May 1-2. Bob Sheffield from Nashville can help those relationships and responsibilities smooth out.

**Cradle rolls** still hold great potential for reaching people. Three workshops, May 11, 12, and 14, could help renew or expand this work.

**Masterlife/Masterbuilder workshops**. These hold the key for better discipling in Southern Baptist churches. Leaders from California, Arizona, and Colorado have been enlisted for this ministry. The workshops are at Ouachita, May 18-22.

**Senior adult celebration**—May 28-30 at Ouachita. Both senior adults and their leaders should participate.

**Missions education** program schedule special events in May: Baptist Young Women, you will have a retreat experience at Mills Valley, May 16.

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



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# Learning how to listen

by Terri Lackey  
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Church leaders in pursuit of inactive members or "dropouts" must use not only their heads but their ears to reclaim those who no longer attend regularly, experts reported.

"Listening is the key," said Henry Webb, program design and planning coordinator in the management support group of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department. "The heart of the ingathering program is to learn listening skills before going and visiting these people."

"Ingathering: Reclaiming Inactive Church Members" is a project developed by the church training department to help churches reach out and minister to inactive members who may include as much as 50 percent of their membership, said Webb.

Stanley Howell, manager of the church training department growth section, said a visitor should not go into the home of the dropout and begin discussing why that person has not been to church for the last year.

"They should go in and find out how things are going in their life. They should listen to what's going on with that inactive church member," Howell insisted. "Many times the reason a person is inactive has nothing to do with what happened in the church. It could be a personal failure in the person's life which embarrasses them and keeps them from going back to church."

"We must let that person know we are not there to put them on a guilt trip for not going to church. We are there to say, 'Hey, we care about you.'"

Webb said when "half of our people (Southern Baptist Convention membership) are totally inactive in church, we have a dramatic problem."

Of 14.6 million SBC members, 29 percent (4.2 million) are non-resident church members who are prospects for another church. And 20.5 percent (2.9 million) are inactive church members who have not participated in any activities in the church within the past 12 months, he said.

Ministry begins with identifying those church members who are inactive or on the road to becoming inactive, Howell said.

"This ingathering project will not be a quick fix. It is a slow process. The church members will have to be very patient and have confidence the program will work," he added.

To train persons for participation in ingathering, the church training department has just released an equipping center module, "Ingathering: Reclaiming Inactive Church Members."

After leaders, or those who will teach the module, and visitors, or those who will go

to the homes of the inactive members, are enlisted, the 13-week process of learning effective listening skills through training at the church or the home of a study leader begins.

Deacons and Sunday school leaders are the primary source of visitors, Webb said. However, others with a capacity to care for others without becoming discouraged if results are not immediate and who can communicate without needing to dominate conversation may be effective visitors, he added.

Effective listening skills, said Webb, are learned by understanding principles of communication.

"Communication, for the most part, is non-verbal," he said. "Visitors must learn to understand body language and the vocal communication of the inactive church member before they can fully understand what he is saying."

Webb said 7 percent of a person's com-

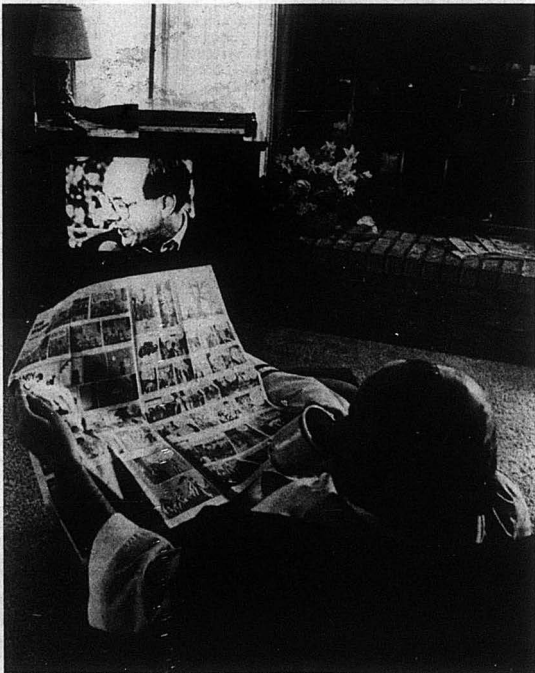
munication is verbal, while 93 percent is non-verbal, with 38 percent of that vocal and 55 percent body language. Vocal communication includes loudness, change of pitch, emphasis on particular words, speed of talking and length of pauses. Body language includes facial expressions, gestures, touching, head and limb movements and the degree of relaxation, he said.

Following the 13-week listening training, visitors are adequately equipped to go to the homes of inactive members, Webb said.

Ultimately, the use of ingathering will help churches identify the person who is on the way to becoming chronically absent, he added: "One of the side benefits of the module is that it dramatizes the need to prevent inactivity and helps church members pay attention to early signs of inactivity. It is much easier to bring a person back into the church after only a few weeks of absenteeism."

"The major fringe benefit of ingathering is that it helps church members provide more adequate care for the potentially inactive member and thereby helps prevent dropouts."

ABN photo / Millie Gill



## Family Ministry

### Single adult Labor Day conferences Sept. 4-7

"Growing Together: Singles and Churches" is the theme for the 1987 Single Adult Labor Day conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest. The conferences, Sept. 4-7, 1987, are the largest national gatherings of single adults.

Singles will share fellowship, inspirational worship, challenging seminars, joyful music, fun, recreation, and much more. A special "County Fair" featuring an outdoor gospel concert will highlight this year's conference. The Fair will kickoff the celebration of the Special Single Adult Emphasis Year for Southern Baptists.

A detailed brochure outlining seminar topics and additional program information will be available in April from the Family Ministry Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Reservations may be made by sending a \$36 per person deposit to the respective conference center. The deposit applies toward total cost. Total costs for the week range from \$62.25 to \$99.10 per person (double occupancy). For exact costs, the conference center addresses are: Ridgecrest—P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770 and Glorieta—P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535. The conference centers began taking reservations March 1.—**Gerald Jackson, associate**



Jackson

## Stewardship/Annuity

### Gifts increase as members are challenged

Arkansas Baptists excel in giving. Total receipts, which includes income from fees, rental, etc., gained 9.17 percent over 1985. According to the 1986 church letters, Arkansas Baptists gave \$132,287,015.

Total gifts rose to \$120,146,105 in 1986, an increase of \$7,430,640, or 6.59 percent in Arkansas Baptist churches. Total gifts increased 5.84 percent in the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptists gave more than \$3.8 billion through their churches last year.

The average resident Southern Baptist gave \$370.92 during 1986. The average per capita gift by resident members in Arkansas was \$377.84.

Seven churches in Arkansas reported gifts of more than \$1 million. Twenty other churches went above the \$500,000 mark.

Fifty-five churches received between \$250,000 and \$500,000. A majority of Arkansas Baptist churches, 55 percent, received less than \$35,000 in budget receipts, with 152 counting \$7,500 or less in total gifts.

The average Arkansas Baptist, though low in per capita income, outpaced the average Southern Baptist by three-fourths of one percent. The 6.59 percent increase in gifts kept well ahead of the 1.1 percent inflation rate during 1986.

Gifts through churches will continue to increase as members are challenged by pastoral leadership, Planned Growth in Giving, and other stewardship programs. Further information is available through your Stewardship Department.—**James A. Walker, director**

## Missions Advance 87-89

### Task force continues work

Approximately 100 churches have requested a task force speaker about "Missions Advance 87-89." Several churches have already had a speaker.

The purpose of "Missions Advance 87-89" is: (1) to challenge churches to adopt a plan of advance in Cooperative Program support, and (2) to interpret the crisis we are facing in Cooperative Program support.

The challenge will be accomplished through preaching, speaking, and personal

contact. The emphasis of the challenge will center on the biblical basis of the Cooperative Program, the effectiveness of the Cooperative Program, and the need for growth.

One hundred and nine lay people, pastors, and directors of missions, have been trained to implement this purpose in our Arkansas churches. All they need is an invitation from your church. There will be no expenses for your church to have one of these speakers.

To receive a special leaflet, "How to Implement Missions Advance 87-89 in Your Church," contact Jimmie Sheffield, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72202; phone 376-4791.



### BYW Retreat

May 16

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### 'I didn't receive anything on it!'

Mail, what a problem... too much, didn't receive, too late, too early, misplaced, etc. Some of these problems can be reduced with a little effort on the part of the local church. I'm referring to the "didn't receive" one in particular.

I have been reminded of this problem a number of times and with the last call felt we need to work on the problem. The call was suggesting that we mail the music tournament materials to the part-time/volunteer leaders as well as full-time directors. Since those leaders did not know about the event, they were not participating, and several had expressed an interest. I informed the caller that the information was mailed to all churches in the state along with a later reminder that if it was not received to please let us know.

Suggestions for solving the problem: (1) design and provide a mail slot for each area of leadership responsibility (SS, CT, Music, etc.), (2) whoever picks up the mail be responsible for placing it in the slots; don't lay it on your desk, and (3) inform us of any staff or name changes along with correct address.

Studies show that we have to be informed of something a minimum of three times before we give it our attention, but it must get into our hands first.

If you don't have an efficient procedure for distributing your mail, please consider the importance to your leaders and purposely set about to solve the problem. Increased participation and response would result in fewer reminders.—**Glenn Ennes, Church Music Department associate**

## Woman's Missionary Union

### Missions-centered camps for girls, mothers

Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union sponsors two camping programs for girls, mothers, and leaders to have the opportunity to learn more about missions in an outdoor setting. GA Mother/Daughter Camp and GA Mini-Camp offer participants a time for listening to missionary speakers, a chance to do crafts, experiences in prayer, mission related activities, and a deepening of relationships.

GA Mother/Daughter Camp is for girls in grades 1-3 and their mothers. Its purpose is to give mothers and daughters quality time together. GA Mother/Daughter Camps begin with registration at 5 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. The

dates are May 8-9, June 5-6, and July 10-11. GA Mini-Camp is for girls in grades 1-6 and mothers and/or leaders. The purpose of GA Mini-Camp is to give girls and mothers and/or leaders a shortened GA Camp experience. Mini-Camp begins at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and concludes with lunch on Friday. The dates are July 1-3, 8-10, 15-17.

GA Mother/Daughter Camp and GA Mini-Camp are held at Camp paron. There is a fee for both camps. For information about registration contact the state WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—**Pat Glascock, GA/Mission Friends director**

## Sunday School

### Cradle roll workshops scheduled May 11, 12, 14

Your Sunday School can grow as you reach into the homes of babies and younger preschoolers through a Cradle Roll department.

A Cradle Roll department is a home ministry to preschoolers and their parents. It is a ministry and a witness to families who are unsaved, unaffiliated Baptists, active and inactive church members, and expectant parents. Through regular visits in the homes of young families, Cradle Roll workers manifest the interest of the church and encourage Sunday School attendance for the child, and



*Huff*

Sunday School and worship attendance for the parents.

Three Cradle Roll workshops scheduled in May will help a church start or maintain a Cradle Roll ministry: May 11, El Dorado, Immanuel Church; May 12, North Little Rock, Park Hill Church; and May 14, Ozark, First Church.

The El Dorado and North Little Rock workshops will be led by Rhonda Huff, minister of children, Council Road Church, Bethany, Okla. Pat Ratton will lead the Ozark workshop.

Each workshop is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. They are designed for Cradle Roll directors and visitor-teachers, pastors, church staff, preschool division directors, Sunday School directors, and anyone interested in reaching people in this way.—**Pat Ratton, associate**

## Church Music

### Rehearsals underway for AMAR project

The Music Men of Arkansas have reached their minimum goal of 35 for participation in the AMAR project this fall. We still have several who are giving it serious consideration, so we could easily make it up to 40. Our next goal is to learn several songs in Portuguese so we can minister more effectively. We are indebted to Bob Berry for helping in this area. Bob is on the staff at First Church, Benton, and he grew up in Brazil with missionary parents, so his assistance is invaluable. He will be checking us out very thoroughly before we get to Manaus.

Rehearsals are underway, but there is still time for your minister of music to join us. We will be meeting at First Church, Osceola, on Monday, May 11, for our next

rehearsal and concert. Folks in northeast Arkansas are invited to the concert at 7 p.m. on that day. You also can hear the Singing Women at that time. They are preparing for their appearance at Glorieta in July, so they are joining us at Osceola for a rehearsal time.

The State Music Tournament and Ensemble Jubilee will be conducted at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock on Saturday, May 2. These are the winners from associational tournaments all over the state, so their performance will be at a superior level. You are invited to drop by between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to hear ensemble or solo performances of these young people. They will appreciate your interest and support.—**Ervin Keatheley, state secretary**

## Church Administration

### Secretaries' conference slated for Aug. 10-13

Church secretaries in Arkansas will have an excellent training opportunity available to them August 10-14. The Church Secretaries Basic Certification Seminar will be offered Monday through Friday of that week.

The seminar is sponsored jointly by our department and the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. The seminar will be conducted at the Park Hill Church in North Little Rock and will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday and adjourn by noon on Friday.

Betty Walker, Administrative Secretary for the First Church of Burlington, N.C., will direct the seminar. Topics for the seminar include "My Role in My Church's Ministry," "A Look at Why I Act As I Do," "Records to Keep and How to Keep Them," "Principles of Church Finance," and "Communicating Quicker, Clearer and Surer."

The registration fee is \$50, which includes all materials. There will be no evening sessions during the week. Lodging will be available nearby for those who are from outside the Little Rock area. For registration or additional information, write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—**Robert Holley, director**



*Walker*

## Christian Life Council

### CLC schedule at Siloam

In the past, the director of the Christian Life Council has spoken briefly each week at both the children's and youth assemblies at Siloam Springs. Problems with alcohol and other dangerous drugs are dealt with from a Christian perspective. Other problems also are considered.

This year, arrangements have been made to be on the assembly grounds for several hours following those presentations. I will be available on Tuesday afternoons to counsel individually with both the youth and the adult leaders.

My schedule is as follows: the first week, June 15-19, I will be at the assembly the entire period. I will be reaching the adult Bible study that week. The following six weeks, I will be on the campus from late Monday through late Tuesday afternoons.

I would like especially to meet personally with youth and children's workers during those strategic weeks.—**Robert Parker, director**

## Sunday School Backyard Bible Club, Mission VBS Clinic May 9

May 9, 1987, is the date for the first-ever clinic for folks who do Backyard Bible Clubs and/or Mission VBS.

The place to be is Levy Church, 3501 Pike Avenue, North Little Rock, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Conferences have been planned for these four groups: Backyard Bible Club coordinators/Mission VBS directors, youth Mission VBS department leaders (adults as leaders), Children's Backyard Bible Club/Mission VBS department leaders (adults and youth as leaders), and Preschool Backyard Bible Club/Mission VBS department leaders (adults and youth as leaders).

If your church is planning a summer mission trip and is going to use the Southern Baptist Convention curriculum, you will find this clinic most helpful.

There is no cost and no registration is required. We hope to see you May 9th for this time of training.—**Jackie Edwards, associate**

## Brotherhood R.A. boys find God

Royal Ambassador camp is designed with the boy and his needs in mind. It is an opportunity for your R.A. boys to advance in camp craft, earning the prescribed awards that cannot be done in the local chapter meetings. They also have the opportunity to learn to swim or improve their swimming skills. They also learn new games and recreational skills from other countries. While living in the various cabin groups which are named for countries where we have missionaries serving, they learn leadership skills.

Another unique thing about our camp is church R.A. leadership does not have to stay with the boys. They simply see that they come to camp. However, if a man within the local church does desire to help with camp we provide this opportunity for him.

The grades that can attend are the 4th through 12th grades. There will be two camps, June 8-12 and June 15-19. We also have a Man and Boy Mini-Camp for grades 1-3. For further information contact the State Brotherhood director.



Edwards

## Church Training Reclaiming inactive members

Southern Baptists have been reasonably effective in reaching unreached and in winning them to faith in Christ. We have become the largest evangelical denomination in America with almost 15 million members. However, there is a growing concern over what some have called the "drop out" problem.

The non-resident member total has now reached 4,243,188 or 29 percent of our total SBC membership. These are members who have moved away from their community but have never transferred their membership to another church. This number and the percentage have grown in recent years.

Another concern is for the inactive resident members, those members who have dropped out of active involvement in their churches. Recent research indicates that 20.5 percent of our members are inactive

resident members. The criteria applied in arriving at this figure is that the member has not participated in any church activity in the past 12 months, even though physically able. Based on this figure (20.5 percent), Arkansas churches would have 97,081 inactive members. This is the equivalent of 260 churches the size of the average Arkansas Baptist church. The potential of these inactive members and the investment we make in reaching them and winning them to Christ merits our best efforts to reclaim them.

Churches can effectively reclaim many of these inactive members through Ingathering, a project promoted by the Church Training program. The Ingathering project requires 13 sessions to train a select group of persons who will visit and cultivate the inactive members. The Ingathering materials are available in an Equipping Center Module available through the Baptist Book Store and on the Church Literature order form. For help in preparing for Ingathering, contact the ABS Church Training Department.—**Bob Holley, director**



Holley

## Evangelism

### Regional PSA seminar to be held in Hot Springs

Another first is coming to Arkansas. Every Arkansan is invited to share in Arkansas' Regional Conference on Prayer for Spiritual Awakening.

This conference will be in the worship center of Second Church, 600 Garland, Hot Springs. Registration for the conference begins at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7. The conference will conclude on May 9 at noon.

The conference will focus on prayer for spiritual awakening in the nation and around the world. Each conference leader desires to see a great movement of God in holy revival.

Dr. J. Edwin Orr, noted author on prayer for spiritual awakening and international speaker will be a keynote leader. Orr is president of Oxford Association for Research in Revival located in Los Angeles, Cal. He is perhaps the greatest living authority on spiritual awakening.

Glenn Sheppard, who for several years led Southern Baptists in Prayer for Spiritual Awakening, also will speak. Glenn is now president of International Prayer Ministries

in Atlanta, Ga.

We will share with several other well known and highly respected Southern Baptist leaders. Dr. Lewis Drummond, professor of evangelism, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will speak. Drummond is a powerful preacher on spiritual awakening. Dr. D. L. Lowrie will share his heart for revival. D. L. is well known and loved in Arkansas. He is a long-time pastor who recently became director of the Missions Commission in Texas. Carlos McLeod, director of evangelism for Texas, is a well-known Arkansas speaker. Carlos is dynamic and shares a great sense of humor. He has always been well-received in Arkansas.

The music will be directed by Ron and Patricia Owens. This husband and wife team are international concert artists from Fort Worth, Texas. They are very gifted musicians and share God's message in a very effective way through singing.

This Regional PSA Conference is jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the State Evangelism Department. This will be a very refreshing experience for you who make a commitment to attend. Our prayer is, "Oh, God, wilt thou not revive us again that thy people may rejoice in thee."—**Clarence Shell, director**



Shell

Woman's Missionary Union

## Baptist Young Women retreat to be held May 16

"Feed My Sheep," Jesus admonished Peter. The command came after Peter affirmed three times that he loved the Savior. Our service to the Lord is a response of love.

This admonition of Christ serves as the theme for the 1987 Baptist Young Women Retreat to be held May 16 at Mills Valley Baptist Retreat in North Little Rock. The program begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m.

God's sheep come in all shapes and sizes. Carolyn Reed, from Little Rock, will lead a conference on Parenting by Grace to help equip adults to better relate to children.

God's sheep live all over the world. Susan Steeger, missionary to South Africa, will relate experiences of her career and share ways we can be involved in feeding God's sheep in a far away place.

God's sheep minister to one another. National BYW consultant Marsha Spradlin will introduce a new missions involvement avenue called BYW Enterprisers. She will also lead in Bible study.

Any young woman is invited to attend. All participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. No child care is available.

Registration deadline is May 13. More information can be obtained by writing Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

All God's sheep are gifted in different ways to feed his sheep. Encourage young women from your church to come and be a part of this significant meeting.—Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director



Porterfield

## Next month in Arkansas: May

**May 1-2, State Acteens Encounter.** Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (WMU)

**May 1-2, Pastor-Deacon Conference** (CT)

**May 2, State Music Tournament and Ensemble Jubilee.** North Little Rock Baring Cross Church (M)

**May 4, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference.** Van Buren First Church (S/A)

**May 5, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference.** Nashville First Church (S/A)

**May 6, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference.** Little Rock Baptist Medical Center (S/A)

**May 7, Pre-Retirement Planning Conference.** Wynne Church (S/A)

**May 7-9, Arkansas Regional Conference on Prayer for Spiritual Awakening.** Hot Springs Second Church (Ev)

**May 8-9, GA Mother-Daughter Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**May 9, Backyard Bible Club. Mission VBS Conference.** North Little Rock Levy Church (SS)

**May 11, Music Men. Singing Women of Arkansas Concert.** Osceola First Church

**May 11, Outreach Bible Study Clinics.** Springdale Elmdale Church, Pine Bluff Watson Chapel (SS)

**May 11, Cradle Roll Workshop.** El Dorado Immanuel Church (SS)

**May 11-13, Mid-South Conference on Preaching.** Memphis, Tenn. (CT)

**May 12, Outreach Bible Study Clinics.** Jonesboro Central Church, Texarkana Hickory Street Church (SS)

**May 12, Cradle Roll Workshop.** North Little Rock Park Hill Church (SS)

**May 14, Cradle Roll Workshop.** Ozark First Church (SS)

**May 16, Baptist Young Women Retreat.** North Little Rock Mill Valley Camp (WMU)

**May 18-22, MasterLife/MasterBuilder Workshops.** Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)

**May 28-30, Senior Adult Celebration.** Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)

## June

**June 1-5, Church Building Tour** (SS)

**June 5-6, GA Mother-Daughter Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**June 6-7, Man and Boy Camp.** Camp Paron (Bhd)

**June 8-12, RA Camp.** Camp Paron (Bhd)

**June 15-19, RA Camp.** Camp Paron (Bhd)

**June 22-25, Young Musicians Camp.** Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)

**June 29 - July 3, GA Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**June 29 - July 3, Super Summer Arkansas.** Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Ev)

## July

**July 1-3, GA Mini-Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**July 6-10, GA Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**July 8-10, GA Mini-Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**July 10-11, GA Mother-Daughter Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**July 13-17, GA Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**July 15-17, GA Mini-Camp.** Camp Paron (WMU)

**July 25-31, WMU Conference.** Gloriaeta Baptist Conference Center, New Mexico (WMU)

**July 27-31, Music Arkansas.** Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)

**July 30-31, Weekday Early Education Workshop.** Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (SS)

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

# FMB drops SBC seminary rule; Mid-America, others can qualify

by Bob Stanley  
Foreign Mission Board

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted April 8 to drop its long-standing requirement that career missionary candidates must attend one of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries for at least one year.

The new missionary qualifications policy, which will be reviewed every six months for the next two years, will open the door to qualified candidates from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and other accredited seminaries without further attendance at a Southern Baptist Convention seminary.

Board President R. Keith Parks said the new policy "grew out of a desire on the part of growing numbers of board trustees" to appoint graduates from Mid-America Seminary without requiring this additional year of study. He said the board's staff, while dealing with the question, decided the "whole qualification matter" needed review.

"The crux of the matter is the appropriate Southern Baptist identity of the missionaries representing the Southern Baptist Convention," Parks emphasized. He said the new requirements maintain "an insistence on Southern Baptist identity by focusing more on the local church and less on seminary education (as a test of this identity)."

Proponents of Mid-America have said it was unfair to require their graduates to study an additional year at an SBC seminary. They said the seminary's faculty and trustees, and 97 percent of its students, are active members of Southern Baptist churches. They

also pointed to the strong missions and evangelistic emphases of the seminary, as well as its regional accreditation.

A number of Mid-America graduates have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in recent years after the additional year's study at an SBC seminary.

The board has maintained that the year's attendance at an official SBC seminary supported by the denomination and governed by SBC-appointed trustees was needed to assure identification with Southern Baptists. It said its guidelines, which were in effect before Mid-America was founded in 1972, originally were adopted to deal with candidates from such theological schools as Princeton, Yale, Fuller, Vanderbilt and Dallas Theological Seminary.

In changing its policies, the board pointed to the "demanding and limitless" opportunities of world evangelization. "Our human resources must be mobilized as effectively as possible, without compromising quality," said an introduction to the new qualifications document.

At the same time, the statement added, "We affirm our own denominational educational institutions and encourage any and all Southern Baptists to utilize these educating, equipping centers."

Board staff who work with people considering a call to missions indicated they will continue to encourage attendance at one of the SBC institutions. However, Parks said the guidelines acknowledge that, with the geographic spread of Southern Baptists, "some find it difficult to attend an SBC seminary."

In defining "SBC identity," the qualifications continue to require a "record of meaningful membership and participation in a Southern Baptist church." But to this, they add "commitment to and identification with Southern Baptists through fellowship, prayer support, giving, cooperation and service."

Other changes in the general requirements state that candidates must give evidence of "a sound biblical faith" and "conviction of truth as held by Southern Baptists." The latter phrase is lifted almost directly from wording of Article IX of the SBC Constitution on missionaries' qualifications.

In discussion April 7 by the board's Mission Management and Personnel Committee, both trustees and staff noted the Baptist Faith and Message statement will continue to be the test of missionaries' doctrinal beliefs. This statement has been the standard applied in screening of missionary candidates.

Under the new policy the board may consider qualified candidates from any seminary whose accreditation is "commensurate with that of our Southern Baptist theological institutions."

Parks' statement on the new policy concluded: "Recognizing our responsibility under God and to Southern Baptists, we must never allow any single issue to become more important than the cause of reaching the whole world. We must not allow anyone or anything to polarize or fragment us. We believe that (this policy) is a means of responding to a concern in a way that continues to focus on our larger concern of world mission."

## FMB re-elects chairman, picks 4 area directors

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)—Bob Smith of McAllen, Texas, was re-elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by acclamation April 8. Smith was nominated by Mark Corts, a Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor who had been identified in a secular news report as a possible second nominee for the position.

Corts, in nominating Smith, said, "The nature and task of this board simply will not allow us to be dominated by contention."

In other actions, the board elected four new area directors: John Faulkner, Eastern and Southern Africa; Billy L. Bullington, West Africa; G. Keith Parker, Europe; and Dale G. Thorne, Middle East and North Africa.

Bullington, a native of Arkansas, has been associate to the area director for West Africa since 1977, most recently working with missionaries in 10 non-English speaking countries. From 1967 to 1977 he was a missionary in Togo. He is expected to continue living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, but his new responsibilities will involve work with about 450 missionaries in 14 countries.

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# New HMB president hopes to rally divided SBC

by Dan Martin  
Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)—"I hope my presidency of the Home Mission Board can be a means of rallying our convention around the overarching goal of reaching America for Jesus Christ," Larry Lewis said.

Lewis made the comment during a news conference following his election as president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board April 10.

"I hope we can put the squabbles, strife and dissension behind us and move on toward that overarching task," he added.

Lewis, 52, also said: "It would grieve my heart if my election is the source of greater strife and discord (in the convention). I am beholden to no man, beholden to no group of men. Nobody met somewhere and pulled me out as their candidate."

Lewis, president of 800-student Hannibal LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., dealt with doctrinal integrity, the role of women in the church, abortion, the SBC Cooperative Program budget and charismatics as he met with the news media following his election.

Lewis was asked if future staffers and missionaries would have to profess faith in a personal devil and a literal hell in order to work for the Atlanta-based agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. Faculty and staff at the small Missouri College are required to agree with that doctrinal stance.

"I think the Baptist Faith and Message Statement is an adequate statement for the Home Mission Board. I do not anticipate expanding it," Lewis said.

He added he believes "quite strongly that those who would lead denominational programs such as evangelism, church growth and church planting should be people of impeccable doctrinal integrity."

"Frankly, I don't believe the policies we now have would allow us to hire in a professional position people who did not believe in a personal devil and a literal hell," he added.

Lewis said he will be "involved" in the hiring of future staff members and will discuss their views of Scripture before employment.

He said the convention has gone on record—"and overwhelmingly so"—as believing that Article I of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on the Bible means the Bible is historically, scientifically, theological-ly and philosophically true.

"I do not feel people ought to be playing word games with a clear statement of faith.... It says what it means and means just what it says," Lewis added.

"As we employ professional staff in the future, we will be very careful about moral integrity and doctrinal integrity.... If we have a person in a significant staff position who has questionable theology, it causes an affront to the whole denomination," he said.

Lewis was asked if the statement means that in the future he will hire only professional staff who agree with his interpretation that the Bible is "historically, scientifically, theological and philosophically" accurate in every respect, Lewis responded, "Yes, sir, that would be an accurate statement...."

Lewis also responded to other issues: — Women. "I personally never have been able to discover from Scripture justification for the ordination of women, either as pastors or deacons. The biblical guidelines are very explicit that those who are ordained to lead the church in a pastoral role should be men."

He added the convention in 1984 had spoken against ordination of women. "Regardless of how I feel about an issue, it behooves us to concur with the direction given us by the convention."

When a reporter pointed out the vote on women in 1984 passed by a narrow margin, Lewis said: "Seldom does a resolution represent unanimous consent." He added the HMB should reflect the majority view and "be kind, loving and caring to all people."

He added, however, he concurs with HMB action declining to provide support to churches with women pastors. He noted the question is who the HMB will commission and support financially.

"We feel we cannot implement agency policy that is diametrically opposed to that which the convention has expressed. That is true with tongue speaking or women's ordination. We have no option but to go by that which has been given us by the convention."

"We need to take careful note when the SBC meets in annual session, drafts a resolution and approves that resolution. That is a communicate to the agencies, and I think we need to listen carefully to it."

— The Cooperative Program. "The Cooperative Program is a marvelous system. I

strongly support the Cooperative Program and am opposed to negative designation."

He said churches who withhold support are "like children who take their ball and bat when the game is not being played their way. That kind of immaturity is unbecoming a person who is part of the community of God and a great denomination such as ours."

"I think our support should be consistent, and if there is something in the system we don't like, then we can work to improve it or change it. If we withdraw our support, it seems to me we have forfeited the right to really have much influence in changing what we feel is a matter of concern."

— Charismatics. "I have never spoken in tongues and don't expect that I will," he said, in response to a question about the status of proposed action by the HMB to decline to appoint or commission people who are "involved in the charismatic movement."

"I don't think we should be part of employing or commissioning someone who is involved in speaking in tongues, but I am reluctant to see us invade the privacy of someone's prayer closet. How one prays in private should be private, and we should be very cautious in dealing with it."

— Abortion. "I am a strong advocate of pro-life. I think that is the biblical position and in accord with the resolutions passed by the SBC since 1980. I am opposed to abortion except to save the life of the mother."

"I do feel the unborn baby is a human being and to terminate a pregnancy is to terminate the life of a human being. If God chooses to terminate it through miscarriage or stillbirth, that is God's election, but it is not man's prerogative."

Lewis said he believes the matter of abortion should be dealt with by the SBC Christian Life Commission but would like to see the Home Mission Board discuss the feasibility of crisis pregnancy centers.

— Annuity/Stewardship

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 May 6 9:30 a.m. Little Rock Baptist Med Center  
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## Faculty nomination dropped; politics blamed

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The nomination of a Fort Worth, Texas, pastor to become professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been withdrawn because of what the school's president called "political" objections.

James Carter, pastor of University Church in Fort Worth, was nominated to become professor of preaching by Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday Jr. during the March 9 meeting of seminary trustees. Questions arose, however, in the trustees' academic affairs committee and the nomination was not presented to the full board.

Dilday told the *Baptist Standard*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, that one of the trustees, Ken Lilly, a medical doctor from Fort Smith, Ark., had told Academic Vice-President John Newport

that 18 of the board's trustees opposed Carter's nomination before the board meeting began. Five more joined in opposition after the meeting started.

When contacted about the report, Lilly said whether the report was true or not was moot since the nomination had been withdrawn. He declined to say more.

Dilday said the kind of questions raised in the academic affairs committee sets a new precedent for the questioning of a prospective faculty member.

"Faculty members have always been chosen because of their theological position, the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, which is our doctrinal guideline; spiritual and moral character; and the academic, intellectual capabilities and qualifications," Dilday said. "Those things were not the bases

of objections of those who opposed Dr. Carter's election."

Carter is "solidly conservative," Dilday told the *Standard*. "But it boiled down to just the practical matter of which side of this controversy Dr. Carter was considered to be on."

"It has become more and more clear that the issues before us are no longer, if they ever were, basically theological," Dilday said. "They are indeed political."

Carter reportedly had been questioned about his belief in the Bible, the style of worship and ordination of women in the congregation he pastors, that the other four Southwestern preaching professors are members of University Church, the congregation's evangelistic record, and that he had been called a "moderate-conservative" in the SBC controversy.

## Seminary address recounts Norris' influence

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The "Texas Cyclone" blew through Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary again during the annual Founders Day address delivered in March by Leon McBeth, professor of church history at the Fort Worth, Texas, school.

Speaking on "J. Frank Norris and Southwestern Seminary," McBeth credited the former pastor of Fort Worth's First Church with both helping establish the seminary and nearly destroying it.

McBeth said Norris really was two different people: a model pastor early in his ministry and later a man who tried to destroy Baptist work.

After 1911, Norris embraced "angry fundamentalist doctrines and turned to sensational methods," McBeth said. The result was an exodus of nearly 1,000 members from First Church and a feud with Southwestern Seminary that lasted until Norris' death.

Norris "declared war against all Baptist schools" and especially Southwestern,

McBeth said. He carried on a private war with the seminary's second president, L.R. Scarborough, and trustee Chairman George W. Truett, pastor of First Church of Dallas.

But Norris' attacks did not stop with Baptists. He also attacked Fort Worth officials and often "named names, exposed alleged corruption, and somehow skirted libel laws enough to stay out of jail," McBeth said.

McBeth illustrated Norris' stunts by telling about the time Norris brought a monkey into the church for an anti-evolution sermon. The monkey, dressed in a suit, sat on a stool by the pulpit. "Norris would make a point against evolution, turn to the monkey and say, 'Isn't that so?'"

Norris was expelled from Tarrant Association and the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1924. He later was put out of fellowship with the Southern Baptist Convention.

But before turning to destruction, Norris was one of the most instrumental figures in

bringing Southwestern to Fort Worth from Waco, Texas, McBeth said.

Under Norris' leadership, First Church gave more than \$50,000 to get the seminary to Fort Worth. Norris was a seminary trustee for six years, overseeing the construction of Fort Worth Hall.

After his exclusion by Southern Baptists, Norris continued his attacks through radio and his newspaper, the *Searchlight*. "He printed rumors, innuendoes, and mere suspicions. Without a shred of evidence, he accused Scarborough of cheating in land dealings, of dishonesty in seminary financial records, and skimming funds from the Seventy-five Million Campaign," McBeth said.

"The Texas Cyclone swept through Fort Worth with a fury that is hard to imagine today," McBeth noted. "Like all cyclones, this one came with a loud noise and left a path of destruction in its wake."

"But today the Cyclone is stilled, and the seminary still stands."

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### BTN to broadcast inerrancy conference

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Although accommodations for the Conference on Biblical Inerrancy at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center May 4-7 are nearly full, thousands of other Southern Baptists will view the event at their churches.

The conference's general sessions will be offered to subscribers of the Baptist Telecommunication Network through a delayed transmission, said Joe Denney, manager of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's telecommunications department.

A \$75 fee will be charged to cover cost of production and transmission, he said. Videotapes made at the conference center will be sent on a commercial flight to Nashville, Tenn., for satellite transmission from the Sunday School Board.

# Hobbs urges Christians to pray in Jesus' name

by Jim Lowry  
Baptist Sunday School

(BP) photo / Jim Veneman

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Prayer is seriously neglected in the lives of many Christians who erroneously view it as a battering ram to a reluctant God, Herschel H. Hobbs told employees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board during their recent Spiritual Emphasis Days.

"Some people believe that because they do not receive what they asked for in prayers, they can question the veracity of what Jesus said," explained Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church of Oklahoma City.

"Ours is not a name-it-and-claim-it theology but has to do with the work and will of God," said Hobbs. "Jesus loves to give gifts to his children, but he wants us to receive them in keeping with his will and authority.

"In the battle against the principalities and powers of the world, keep your lines of communication open," urged Hobbs, who preached three messages to board employees on the importance of prayer, the motivation for prayer and how to pray.

He cautioned employees to avoid the temptation of viewing spiritual truths they deal with in the workplace as merely tools of the trade: "It is one of my most besetting temptations and true of many others who deal with sacred things. I find myself reading the Bible and looking for sermons rather than feeding my soul.

"The greatest life ever lived was the most prayerful life. Jesus prayed publicly, privately, silently, alone and with others. In the crisis moments of his ministry, he was always praying.

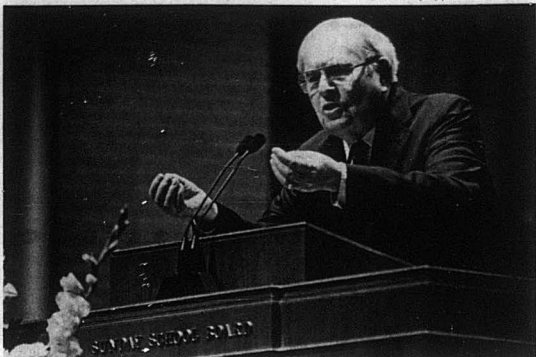
## Baptists urged to build on dream of racial harmony

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Stressing "the dream is now in our hands," civil rights activist Otis Moss challenged Southern Baptists to build upon the vision of racial reconciliation championed two decades ago by Martin Luther King Jr.

Moss, pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, and a fellow civil rights activist with King in the turbulent 1960s, told a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary audience people of all classes and races have benefited from King's dream.

"Because of his life, every person on earth who is in his right mind can stand a little taller and walk with a little more dignity," Moss said.

Moss, who described King as "a man sent from God," outlined some of the Baptist preacher's contributions during observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the Louisville, Ky., campus. The event was held near the April date in 1961 when King preached at the seminary.



Herschel Hobbs told Baptist Sunday School Board employees prayer is seriously neglected in the lives on Christians.

"We should pray when a condition exists in our lives and we have a sense of need," Hobbs said. "God doesn't seal us in plastic bags, trouble free, but leaves us in the marketplace of the world to witness for him—to show the world what we have.

"When we pray, it is important to pray in Jesus' name. When we pray in Jesus' name, we are asking on the basis of his merit, not ours."

Hobbs, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee and a former SBC president, said he has observed an alarming trend in the past few years of Christians not praying in Jesus' name to avoid offending persons who do not believe in Jesus.

He said when he was once requested to omit the phrase from a public prayer, he refused, because that was the only way he

knew how to pray and, more importantly, he did not want to risk offending his Lord.

Hobbs also addressed the times in the lives of Christians when problems are so overwhelming they cannot even seem to pray: "I'm sure each of us has found ourselves in the position when we just can't pray any more. Words are wonderful, but they are limited. They break down when the idea or burden is so heavy.

"The Holy Spirit comes to us when we have burdens and can't pray. It is then the Spirit says, 'You get on that side of the problem, and I'll get on this side, and together, we will lift your problem to the throne of grace with groanings that cannot be uttered.'

"Through the power of the Holy Spirit, that groaning in your soul is the most prayer you ever prayed."

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# Baptist center in Israel targeted by arsonists

by David Smith

SBC Foreign Mission Board

ACRE, Israel (BP)—Extremists praising a rabbi well known in Israel as anti-Arab are suspected of setting fire to the Baptist center in Acre early the morning of April 12.

Investigators found graffiti inside the church extolling Rabbi Meir Kahane, a member of Israel's Parliament, as "our example" and "messiah."

A neighbor, noting light inside the church, then smoke outside, called the police at 1 a.m. The witness, a Muslim who occasionally had visited the congregation, reported she saw no unusual activity before the fire.

The arsonists entered the yard through a weak place in the fence, climbed a ladder 12 feet to break through a window, set up a second ladder and climbed down into the

church.

After heaping some pews, Arabic and Hebrew Bibles and songbooks near an organ, they poured gasoline over the pile, set it aflame and left.

The congregation's 35 worshippers do not own the building. The Anglican church property suffered only partial damage, since few of the building materials were flammable.

Other graffiti scribbled on the walls in Hebrew included: "Arab Christians go home to Islamic countries. . . . Death to terrorists. . . . Death to missionaries. . . . Death to (Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir) Arafat. . . . Death to PLO. . . . Death to the pope."

The caretaker of the church and also a member, Sameer Sim'an, said: "I'm just trying to know what is happening, but I'm

not angry. I don't blame anyone. I know I need to open the church again with more (security) lights.

"Maybe this is the work of God," he continued. "We need to turn this to good. Maybe people in town will hear about this, and we will have opportunity to witness to them about Christ.

"If they think because of this we will close the congregation, this is a big mistake. We need to open and begin again seriously, Lord willing."

Abraham Sim'an, pastor of Haifa Baptist Church as well as Acre Baptist Center, described the extremists as "sick."

"They give the sickness a theological and religious name," he said. "I don't think they are less dangerous to the state of Israel than the severest enemy from outside."

# Mission board leaders cite growth in Cuba

by Jim Newton

SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Two executives of the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards returned recently from a four-day visit to Cuba, saying they were encouraged by the growth and stability of Baptist churches there.

It was the first time that representatives of both Southern Baptist Convention mission boards have visited Baptist leaders in Cuba on a jointly sponsored trip.

Oscar Romo, director of the language missions division for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and Don Kammerdiener, vice president for the Americas at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., were enthusiastic about the reception and response they received in Cuba.

Romo said the visit of Foreign and Home Mission Board representatives marks the beginning of a new cooperative relationship between the two boards and Baptists in Cuba.

Historically, relationships with the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba and Southern Baptists have been through the Home Mis-

sion Board. Until 1965, the Home Mission Board supported missionaries in Cuba, and it has maintained relationships in Cuba through the Baptist World Alliance after the missionaries left the country. American Baptists have maintained relationships with the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention.

Romo noted the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba reported 256 baptisms last year. Total membership in the 102 churches affiliated with the convention was reported at 6,413. Total membership last year decreased by 47 from the number reported in 1985, when there were 105 churches with 6,640 members.

The convention excluded three churches from membership last year because they felt the churches and their pastors were out of step with convention programs, objectives, and relationships, Romo explained.

Both Romo and Kammerdiener said they were somewhat surprised that many of the younger pastors in Cuba are more conservative than the elder pastors.

Kammerdiener, who has travelled extensively in other Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, said he was impressed with

the high level of commitment, education and training of the Cuban Baptist pastors.

There are 65 full-time Baptist pastors in Cuba serving the 102 churches, Romo said. Most of them have been trained at the Baptist seminary in Havana. Nine full-time students currently are enrolled in the seminary, compared to three full-time students five years ago.

The quality of educational training and the professional competence of the 65 Cuban Baptist pastors stands very high in comparison to that of pastors in other Spanish American countries, Kammerdiener said, noting, "I was very impressed with them."

Few other Spanish-American countries had as many full-time pastors, and such a low number of volunteer and bi-vocational ministers.

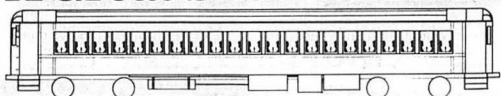
Kammerdiener said he was also impressed with the way the Brotherhood laymen's organization supports the Baptist home for the elderly and the way the Woman's Missionary Union supports the seminary.

The home for the elderly has 14 residents, including several retired Baptist pastors, Romo said. In addition to support from the Brotherhood, Romo said, the government provides for the needs at the home for the elderly and plans to help the expansion of the current facility.

Pastors and churches are creative in dealing realistically with their local context, Kammerdiener said. Many of the programs of the churches are patterned after programs in the Southern Baptist Convention during the 1950s, he noted.

Kammerdiener commended the relationship that the Home Mission Board has cultivated with Cuban Baptists historically, and especially the leadership that Romo has given in maintaining these relations since 1961. The visit marked the beginning of a new era in improved relationships between Southern Baptists and Baptists in Cuba, Romo and Kammerdiener said.

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# Peace group considers draft; to meet again

by Dan Martin  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee worked on the first draft of its report to the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC during its 14th meeting April 2-3.

The 22-member committee, which was created in 1985 to find the sources of the controversy in the convention and to make recommendations on ways to solve them, sent the draft back to the subcommittee and set what is hoped to be the final meeting, May 4, in Atlanta.

"It was uncertain as to whether we would have to meet again, but it became quite apparent early that another meeting would be necessary before any report could be released to the convention," said Chairman Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va.

"We settled on receiving the preliminary draft, registering our reaction to it and establishing two rather thorough premises upon which the next draft will be written."

"Most of our time in this meeting was divided three ways: composing a premise for the theological recommendations in the report, composing a premise for the political recommendations and evaluating the structure of the preliminary draft submitted by the drafting subcommittee," Fuller said.

He noted a "lion's share" of the work in formulating the preliminary draft was done by the drafting subcommittee Chairman Bill Poe, an attorney from Charlotte, N.C.

He added Poe and the other five members of the subcommittee "must now work through the next three or four weeks to have a revised and refined draft for the full committee to review May 4."

The subcommittee is composed of Poe, Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.; Daniel Vestal, Midland, Texas; Albert McClellan, Nashville, Tenn.; Bill Hull, Shreveport, La.; and Ed Young, Houston, Texas. Also meeting with the group is Vice Chairman Charles Pickering of Laurel, Miss.

Despite the additional meeting, Fuller said

he hopes the committee will be able to release the report "soon after May 4. We continue our hopes to give Southern Baptists a month to study our report before being asked to act on it June 16 in St. Louis."

Fuller declined to discuss the content of the political and theological premises hammered out during the committee meeting.

"We acknowledge that politics is going to be there," he said. "You can't have a denomination of this magnitude without politics. We're looking at what's been inappropriate in the last seven to nine years and what's appropriate now and from this point on."

On theology, Fuller said the committee is not attempting to "replace or amend the Baptist Faith and Message Statement. It's an adequate statement of what Baptists believe. Ours is an attempt to interpret it.

"We're trying to put down something basic and clear enough for the average Southern Baptist to understand what is being said," Fuller said.

## Smith named editor for new Baptist commentary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The general editor for a new multi-volume commentary to be published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman division will be Michael A. Smith, chief editor of general religious books in the Broadman products department.

Smith will oversee editing of the commentary with the first volume expected to be released in 1991, said James W. Clark, senior vice president for publishing and distribution.

Smith, 33, an employee of the board since 1985, holds the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has been pastor of four churches, including Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., from 1983-1985.

Smith is a "thorough and committed student and teacher of the Scripture, an excellent editor thoroughly familiar with the intricacies of book publication," said Clark. "He will provide the kind of on-site leadership which will be absolutely essential to the successful publication of this major work."

The commentary, which was approved in February by the board's trustees, will use writers who are biblical inerrantists.

The "Baptist Faith and Message" will be the doctrinal guideline for editing the commentary, as it is for all other Broadman books, Clark said. The "Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy" developed by the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy will be the guideline for defining inerrancy, he added.

## Pastors call for peace in SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—More than 30,000 Southern Baptist pastors have been mailed a two-page document calling for peace within their convention.

"A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists" is subtitled "No Lord but Christ, No Creed but the Bible." It was formulated by four ministers who claim no affiliation with either faction of the theological/political controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention.

They are Ralph Langley, pastor of First Church of Huntsville, Ala.; William Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Church in Norfolk, Va., and former professor of church history at Southern and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminaries; Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Church in Tyler, Texas, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Dan Yeary, pastor of University Church in Coral Gables, Fla., and national alumni president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The authors described their document as "a mainstream rallying point around the Bible," noting it does not include the word "inerrancy," which has become a point of contention between groups within the convention. The four primary points of the pastoral

plea are:

— "We hold to the Bible as the supreme and reliable source of authority in all matters of faith and practice, and we hold to the Bible first and foremost.

— "We hold to the duty and responsibility of every person to learn the Bible, to interpret the Bible and to obey the Bible.

— "The Holy Spirit is the true guide in interpreting the Bible to our hearts. The Spirit, and not human theories, is the sole defender of the authority of Scripture.

— "Southern Baptists have always gathered around the Bible itself and not around theories about the Bible. This is the true secret and foundational basis of our unity and cooperation."

The document concludes: "By taking our stand upon the Bible itself, the Bible alone and not upon a human notion about biblical inspiration, Southern Baptists can return to the basis of unity which gave us peace. By esteeming the Bible above theories about the Bible, and by esteeming the necessity of personal interpretation along with the centrality of the Bible, we choose for the Bible and for peace.

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## Ministers can elect back into Social Security

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 permits ministers who previously elected out of Social Security coverage to make an irrevocable election back into Social Security coverage. Filing Form 2031 is required.

Though ministers generally will have until April 15, 1988, to make this election, a Southern Baptist Annuity Board spokesman suggests, "the earlier could be the better."

"The central issue," said Thomas E. Miller Jr., director of communications for the Board, "is the number of quarters of coverage required for the various benefits of Social Security."

"Even if a minister needs to file an amended return for his 1986 income tax," said Miller, "he should carefully consider the quarters of coverage he would gain. Ministers born in 1929 or earlier and those who turned 21 in 1959 or later will require less than the normal 40 quarters of coverage to be fully insured."

Social Security benefits may be paid in three general circumstances: after you retire; after you become disabled; after you die.

In addition, monthly benefits may be paid to your family after your retirement or disability or death. Family members benefiting could be spouse, children, grandchild and parents.

Medicare benefits also may be payable to you and your family.

The number of quarters of coverage necessary and the time period within which those quarters of coverage must have been earned varies depending of the type of benefit. There are three tests for eligibility: fully insured, currently insured, and insured for disability.

### Fully insured

If you are fully insured, you are eligible for retirement benefits and your family is eligible for survivor benefits after your death. Also, being fully insured is one of two requirements that must be met to be eligible for disability benefits.

Any quarter of coverage, no matter when you earned it, counts toward the number you must have to be fully insured.

You can be certain you are fully insured for retirement if you have 40 quarters of coverage. However, persons who reach age 62 before 1991 need fewer than 40 quarters of coverage to be fully insured for retirement.

This is a consideration made for older people.

If you were born in 1929 or earlier, the number of quarters of coverage must equal at least the number of whole calendar years from 1951 through the years before the year being checked. For example, if you were born in 1929 or before, you are fully insured in 1987 if you have 36 quarters of coverage—the years in 1951-1986.

To be fully insured for death and disability benefits may also require fewer than 40 quarters of coverage. This is an allowance for younger people and for people who haven't been in the work force very long.

If you were born after 1929, the number of quarters of coverage must equal the number of whole calendar years after you turned age 21 and through the year before the year being checked.

For example, if you turned 21 in 1959, you are fully insured in 1987 if you have at least 27 quarters of coverage—the years in 1960-1986. In all events, you must have least six quarters of coverage to be fully insured.

### Currently insured

If you are currently insured, some types of survivor benefits will be paid even if you are not fully insured. In general, to be currently insured you must have six quarters of coverage which must have been earned within the 13 calendar quarters ending with the calendar quarter of your death.

### Insured for disability

You must first be fully insured to receive disability benefits. You must also be insured for disability. Your disability eligibility depends upon your age at the time of your disability. The number of quarters of coverage required ranges from 20 for ministers age 31 or over to as few as six for a minister under age 24. There also are requirements for when these quarters of coverage were earned.

The Annuity Board will supply a step-by-step guide for electing back into Social Security effective Jan. 1, 1986, or Jan. 1, 1987.

The guide explains the process for filing the election before a tax return, with a tax return, or after a tax return.

Call 1-800-262-0511 and ask for the Guide for Filing Form 2031.

## Proposed legislation protects taxpayers rights

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—During the 100th Congress' first hearing on proposed legislation designed to protect taxpayers' rights, four lawmakers urged passage of the measure as a guard against what one senator called the Internal Revenue Service's "bully mentality."

The proposed bipartisan legislation calls for changes in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. One of the changes would prohibit the IRS from conducting any investigation into or surveillance of the beliefs or associations of any individual or organization, including an individual's or group's religious beliefs.

The measure also would require the IRS to prepare a brief, comprehensive statement of taxpayer rights and obligations. The statement would be distributed to taxpayers with all forms sent from the IRS.

Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., subcommittee chairman and co-sponsor of the bill's Senate version, said his goal in introducing the measure is "to ensure that those taxpayers who, for whatever reason, become entangled or find themselves in a dispute with the IRS are still afforded their basic due process rights."

Pryor suggested compliance with tax laws could be achieved better by "re-establishing respect for the IRS in the manner in which it performs a difficult and unpopular task."

## IRS agrees to review proposed regulations

WASHINGTON (BP)—Following opposition from a number of groups including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service has agreed to reconsider proposed regulations that would affect the lobbying rights of non-profit organizations.

Although not offering to withdraw the proposed rules, IRS Commissioner Lawrence B. Gibbs announced his agency "will consider whether it is appropriate to re-propose part or all of the regulations." He said the IRS also will include "interested parties" in future discussions on the proposed regulations.

The rules were proposed by the Treasury Department in an attempt to interpret a 1976 law that guarantees charitable groups the right to lobby within limits. Non-profit groups contend the proposed regulations include an expanded definition of lobbying that would allow the IRS to re-classify many of their research and educational activities as lobbying.

In written testimony filed with the IRS, Oliver Thomas, BJCPA general counsel, voiced concern about the regulations' "expansive definition of lobbying," which he said "could imperil some of our nation's finest charitable organizations."

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## Radio-TV Commission votes to sell ACTS time to churches

by Richard T. McCartney  
Radio and Television Commission

POTTSBORO, Texas (BP)—The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has reversed a long-standing policy against sale of time on the American Christian Television System TV network to individual churches. The change was made during a two-day retreat and board meeting in Pottsboro, Texas.

The commission also adopted revisions in budgets for the remainder of 1987 and 1988, elected officers and approved a committee to explore ways to develop advertising revenue for the ACTS satellite network. Trustees agreed to continue the long-standing network policy of not asking for money on the air, even as trustees seek other methods of funding the Southern Baptist television service.

The commission approved a plan recommended by commission President Jimmy R. Allen to establish a series of new preaching programs to be called "Great Preachers of America." Allen said he had received commitments from three churches to purchase programs in the new series and has composed a list of pastors and churches he hopes to enlist.

The first three preachers are Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta,

Ga.; Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church of Lafayette, La., and Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss.

The series is to include 12 and one-half hours of preaching by some of the best pulpites in America, Allen said.

The series would include nightly programs Sunday through Saturday each week, plus four additional hours each Sunday and a daily morning half-hour each weekday. Commission staff estimated the sale of all available time would provide \$1.2 million of needed additional income annually.

Officers elected for the coming year are Jewell Morris, shopping center developer from Hot Springs, Ark., chairman; Len B. Turner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Merritt Island, Fla., first vice chairman; Harold Brundage, a Martin, Tenn., attorney, second vice chairman; and Laverne Butler, pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., secretary.

Trustees also considered ways to increase income from network advertising. A special committee of commission and staff members was appointed to recommend possible methods for increasing advertising income. Gary Jossa, a Newburgh, Ind., advertising executive, was appointed chairman.

In the face of revenue shortfalls for the current year, the commission approved a staff-

recommended reduced operating budget for the remainder of the current fiscal year and lowered income and expense projections for 1987-88. The current year's budget was reduced from \$8.9 million to \$8.1 million. The projection for 1987-88 calls for combined income of \$9.6 million.

Income from development sources was projected to be \$350,000 less than the original 1986-87 budget. A further reduction of \$190,000 in development income was projected for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Allen reported staff members are continuing to experiment with various fund-raising methods in hope of finding strategies that fit the peculiar needs of the agency.

Finance Chairman Fred Roach of Dallas told the commission the new projections would enable the commission to operate within income while seeking additional revenue needed to increase production of new programs and expand the ACTS network. Roach, whose term on the commission expires in June, was asked to head a special local financial committee to work with the staff in guiding the agency's financial affairs.

A motion also was adopted requiring reports of future nominating committees be made known at least one day before they are to be considered by trustees.

## ACTS seeks financial boost from Jacksonville supporters

by Greg Warner and Dan Martin  
Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Fund-raisers for the American Christian Television System network visited Jacksonville, Fla., April 3 in search of financial backing for the fledgling TV service.

The 1,100 ACTS supporters who met for a free banquet were told their gathering constituted the largest ACTS dinner on record and the largest banquet in Jacksonville's history, even though about 600 guests did not show up.

The Jacksonville effort is a new approach in ACTS fund raising, because the cost was underwritten by nine corporate sponsors in advance of the event. Two of the sponsors donated \$28,000 to pay for the cost of the meal, and another \$41,000 was contributed by 10 other donors.

Previously, fund-raising events had been based on ACTS paying the costs of the campaigns, which generated donations generally in the form of pledges.

The necessity of spending money to generate donations has put the four-year-old network in difficult financial circumstances. During the first two years of fund raising, ACTS spent \$1.6 million in development efforts. In the same period, the efforts generated \$2.3 million in pledges but only received \$1.1 million in cash, leaving

a negative balance of \$466,000.

"Jacksonville was a good experience for us in that it has taught us a new way to hold these events without the tremendous out-of-pocket, up-front expense of putting on a dinner," said Dick McCartney, executive vice-president of ACTS' parent, the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

McCartney, explaining that most development or fund-raising activities are long-range events, said the previous dinners, which were heavy on pledges and short on cash gifts, caused some cash-flow problems since costs were incurred immediately while proceeds were gathered slowly.

"It was very tough for the first couple of years (after a campaign) because we were having to spend money when we were in a difficult situation over cash flow," he said.

According to Jacksonville ACTS board figures, a budget of \$63,000 was established to hold the dinner, including paying for the room, food, decorations, printing and expenses of consultants who staged the dinner.

The 12 donors who contributed to the advance gifts phase of the Jacksonville campaign will be featured in 30-second spot announcements on the local ACTS cable outlet.

Despite the optimism of national and local ACTS officials about the new approach to fund raising, the Jacksonville campaign did

not reach the goal set for the effort. Sponsors had established a "minimum goal" of \$445,000 for the dinner. They also set a "challenge goal" of \$702,000 and a "hard goal" of \$225,000.

Ray Melton, pastor of San Jose Church in Jacksonville and chairman of the local ACTS board estimated the effort raised \$191,000, but Bill Nichols, senior vice president of affiliate services for the RTVC, said the figure probably is closer to \$180,000.

Nichols said dinner patrons pledged \$106,000 and gave another \$5,000 in cash. The cash and pledges, added to the \$69,000 in advance gifts, total about \$180,000.

The \$111,000 in cash and pledges will be divided evenly between the local ACTS board and the national network, giving each participant pledges worth \$55,500.

The Jacksonville banquet was part of the RTVC's attempt to prop up ACTS, which has struggled to stay afloat since it went on the air four years ago. In 1985 the SBC Executive Committee authorized the commission to borrow \$10 million to cover expenses incurred in launching the network and to conduct a \$10 million development campaign to repay the loan. Commission leaders told the Executive Committee in February, however, that development results were disappointing, because income from fund-raising activities has not equaled expenses.

## Convention Uniform

*Hosea marries Gomer*

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: Hosea 1:1 to 2:1; 4:1-15

Focal passage: Hosea 1:1 to 2:1

**Central truth:** God works with his people many ways to bring them to himself.

A survey of American college and university students in 1984 revealed that their main goals in life were two: to rise to the top in their chosen occupations, and to command the highest possible incomes. But God's requirement of all who choose to follow him—in Hosea's day and in ours—is a denial of self, the taking up of one's cross daily, and following God (Lk. 9:23). In the five lessons for May, we'll see how Hosea learned the meaning of God's love through heart-breaking personal experiences.

(1) A strange match (Hos. 1:2-3a)

At a time of great apostasy of God's chosen people in the Northern Kingdom and of their deep involvement in international affairs, God directed his prophet to take as his wife a whore. Surely this was the strangest marriage ever "made in heaven." But through the breaking of Hosea's heart by an unfaithful wife, he would come to understand God's own hurt by Israel's infidelity.

(2) Children of a miss-match (Hos. 1:3b-11)

See Romans 9:22-26 for Paul's commentary on this passage.

Even in the naming of his children, Hosea sought to reveal God's continuing providence in the life of the Northern Kingdom. Jezreel, the name of the first child, was a name deeply rooted in the recent history of Israel. Lo-ruhamah, the name given to the second child, a daughter, meant "unpitied," "unloved," "not obtaining mercy," indicating God's further dealing with rebellious Israel. Lo-ammi, "not my people," has further implication for both Hosea, who may have suspected the child was not his own, and for the nation.

(3) Words of mercy (Hos. 1:10 to 2:1)

Through his prophets, God always lets it be known that he never abandons the human race. Here he points to a new Israel in the church of Jesus Christ, a covenant people bound to him by grace and not by law. This says to us as individual sinners that, as long as we live, there's hope. God has in hand eternal salvation for each and every person who will turn his back on sin and turn his eyes, in faith, to the Lord Jesus Christ (Joh. 3:16).

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## Life and Work

*The church challenged*

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 1:1-26

Focal passage: Acts 1:1-11

**Central truth:** Jesus challenges the church to continue his mission.

"Why do we have to go to church?" a five-year-old boy asked his mother. The question came after he had resisted all her efforts to get him dressed for the Sunday services at the local church. Many adults silently ask the same question. Their lack of active involvement in the mission of the church hinders its work and robs the individuals of the joy of serving Christ. The lessons for the next 13 weeks should lead us to a better understanding of the church's mission and to take a more active role in witnessing and missions.

For a church to be challenged it must know something about the nature of its mission. One definition of the mission of a church is the continuation of both the teachings and actions of Jesus (v. 1). Its mission is to be a witness of Jesus that extends to all parts of the world.

The church is challenged by Jesus' ministry. The language of verse one indicates New Testament churches are a continuation of Jesus' mission. Luke informs us that Jesus' mission included both his teachings and deeds. The church is challenged to move from the pulpit and the classrooms and put what we have learned into practice.

The church is challenged to cooperate to be a more effective witness. The early disciples assembled together. They were told by Jesus to wait together. Together they were told to be witnesses of Jesus. They witnessed Jesus' ascension. They prayed together. They selected as replacement for Judas together. Churches must cooperate more than they ever have because of the urgent needs of the mission fields.

The church is challenged to be concerned about major things. The disciples needed to grow spiritually. They still thought that Jesus was going to establish an earthly kingdom and asked when he was going to do it (v. 6). Jesus did not say this was not important. He did tell them it is not for you to know when it is going to happen or how it is going to happen (v. 7). Just as the restoration of the kingdom is in the Father's hands, so are many of the issues and questions we face. The church is challenged to be an effective witness for Jesus that will begin at home and reach around the world.

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## Bible Book

*Job's search for a fair trial*

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Job 22:1-28:28

Focal passage: Job 22:5; 23:1-11; 28:28

**Central truth:** Job's maintaining of his innocence despite his suffering and condemnation of his friends illustrates the strength that comes from a clear conscience.

Eliphaz, Job's so-called friend, begins the third dialogue with Moses in chapter 22. He still insists that Job has sinned and his sin has caused all his troubles.

In chapter 23, Job replies to the accusations by Eliphaz. Job's basic reply is that he wants to face God. He wants to state his case before God (v. 4). Job is convinced that he had done no wrong. He believed that if he could present his case to God that would declare him innocent once and for all (23:6-7).

The problem is that Job cannot find God. One can sense the frustration that Job was experiencing. In 23:8-9, Job said he searched everywhere, north, south, east, and west. But, even in the midst of that frustration, Job still believed he was innocent (23:10). He decided to remain true to God despite the fact that he could not find God (23:11).

Bildad, another of Job's friends, picked up the theme of Job's guilt in chapters 25 and 26. Job answered Bildad in chapter 27. Job still maintained his innocence. One can feel the intensity of his feelings in Job 27:3-4. Such strong feelings make one admire Job for his consistency.

Verses 5-6 of chapter 27 also gives insight into Job's fierce belief that he was innocent. He concluded by saying, "my conscience is clear" (27:6).

In chapter 28, Job launched into a deep discussion of wisdom. People look for wisdom everywhere (28:1-12), but Job concluded that wisdom is not to be found among men (28:13). In verses 15-19, the price of wisdom is discussed, but wisdom cannot be purchased for any price and it is more valuable than any precious stone.

Job concluded that only God knows where wisdom can be found (28:3). Then, Job shares how one can receive wisdom. He said to be wise, one must (28:28):

Have reverence for God.

Turn from evil.

Adults today must seek that kind of wisdom. Armed with God's wisdom, we can discern God's will in every circumstance of life.

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## Midwestern Seminary trustees elect vice-president

by Don McGregor

Editor, Mississippi Baptist

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—M. Vernon Davis, associate professor of Christian theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected by the seminary trustees as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

He succeeds N. Larry Baker, who was elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and assumed the post March 15. Davis, who has been acting dean since March 15, assumed office immediately. He was nominated by seminary president Milton Ferguson and elected by a vote of 21 to 4.

J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., was elected chairman of the board. Trustees elected Graydon K. Kitchens, of Minden, La., a district judge, first vice-chairman and Kerry Powell of Little Rock, Ark., second vice-chairman. Powell is associate pastor of First Church, Little Rock.

Named as secretary-treasurer was Robert L. Perry of Kansas City. Perry is director of missions for Clay-Platte Association.

In other actions, the trustees approved the establishment of a fund for supporting religious liberty studies at the seminary and approved the announced intent of the seminary to establish a master's degree program in the field of church music.

The religious liberty studies fund will be known as the G. Hugh Wamble Fund for Religious Liberty Studies. A \$23,000 residue from another church-state separation fund was made available to the seminary and it will be used to initiate the Wamble fund. It

was pointed out that no other Southern Baptist seminary has such studies. Wamble is professor of church history at Midwestern.

Trustees heard plans for a regional conference on evangelism Oct. 14 to 16 on the campus. The purpose of the conference would be "to involve students, pastors, laypersons, and denominational workers in a major focus on the needs and resources for evangelism today."

The trustees also heard the details of a cooperative program between the seminary and the Foreign Mission Board that will allow seminary professors to visit mission fields on a short-term basis. Funding for the project was initiated by V. Lavell Seats, professor of missions at the seminary. The fund was named in honor of Seats.

Davis' election was preceded by a long discussion, mostly revolving around questions concerning the lack of time available to consider the election following receipt of material on Davis and his involvement earlier on the board of directors of SBC Today, an independent, "moderate conservative"-oriented newspaper. He resigned his position on the board of the publication in 1986. Trustees received material on Davis the week before the meeting.

Jerry Davenport of Sheffield, Texas, said he wished there could be more time and proposed a substitute motion that would have continued Davis as acting vice president until the next meeting in October, when the vote would be taken. The substitute motion failed 17-5.

Davis joined the faculty in 1983. Previously, he was pastor of First Church of Alexandria, Va.

## Mother of Annuity Board leader dies

DALLAS (BP)—Sarah Jane Morgan, mother of Southern Baptist Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan, died April 4 in Coffeyville, Kan., after a brief illness. She was 94.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer E. Morgan, who died in 1973.

The funeral services were held April 6 in Coffeyville.

## Kitchings dies in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—Harold Kitchings, 60, executive secretary of the Mississippi Foundation, died April 8 in Jackson of bone marrow cancer.

Kitchings' funeral was April 10 at First Church of Clinton, Miss., with burial at Clinton cemetery.

A native of Eminence, Ky., Kitchings was a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He did post-graduate work at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was awarded an honorary doctorate from Mississippi College.

Kitchings was pastor of First Church of Kosciusko, Miss., from 1965 until 1976, when he became executive of the foundation. He

also was pastor of churches in Hattiesburg, Miss., and McComb, Miss. Earlier ministry positions were as associate pastor of churches in Dallas and in Jackson.

Active in denominational affairs, Kitchings' service on numerous boards and committees, included chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission, Attala County Baptist Associational moderator and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Honors included being named in "Who's Who in Religion, 1976-77" and Mississippi College alumnus of the year for 1985.

Kitchings is survived by his wife, the former Ann Overstreet of Clinton; three children; and six grandchildren.

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