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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

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**April 9, 1987**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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April 9, 1987

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine



## Coming of Age

Senior Adult Day

May 3, 1987



BSSB photo / Jim Veneman

"Coming of Age: Senior Adults and the Churches" is the theme for Senior Adult Day, May 3, sponsored by the family ministry department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. "Coming of Age" emphasizes the need for senior adult church members to become more involved in outreach activities.

## In this issue

### 10 earthquake relief

Baptists in Ecuador are preparing to distribute 30 tons of Southern Baptist provisions for relief in their earthquake-stricken country.

### 13 seize the moment!

Larry Baker, the new executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, calls on Southern Baptists to seize their opportunities and deal aggressively with this age of moral crisis and dissatisfaction.

### No issue April 23

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine will not publish an issue April 23, one of four such weeks during the year. The April 16 ABN will carry two weeks of Sunday School lesson commentaries. "Helpline" will appear in the April 30 issue.

## Coming of Age

### Emphasis recognizes senior adult contributions

Aging is coming of age in Southern Baptist life. Witness the fact that 20 to 25 percent of the average church membership is composed of senior adults. Just as the older population in the United States represents the fastest-growing segment of society today, senior adult ministry is one of the fastest-growing activities in local churches.

Sunday, May 3, 1987, has been designated as Senior Adult Day in churches across the Southern Baptist Convention. It marks the third major event in the 1986-87 celebration of the "Coming of Age" emphasis sponsored by the Family Ministry Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Senior Adult Day is a time of recognition and appreciation. In many churches, senior adults serve as worship leaders in the morning and evening services. Senior adult choirs

often provide special music programs. Various activities, such as banquets, outings, social occasions, and fellowships, add to the festivities of the day.

This year's theme, "Coming of Age: Senior Adults and the Churches," will focus on the role of senior adults in today's churches.

The first event in the "Coming of Age" emphasis was a series of Senior Adult Chautauqs at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers in September and October 1986. The second event is the first Southern Baptist Senior Adult Convention, April 27-29, in Fort Worth, Texas.

The fourth and final special emphasis of the year's observance will be an August study of the book, *Coming of Age: Senior Adults and the Churches*, written by Horace Kerr.

## Small church takes bold step toward goal

The Union Hill Church of Hermitage (Baltimore Association) has taken a daring step for missions and challenged other Arkansas Baptist churches to follow suit.

Disturbed by Arkansas Baptists' failure to reach the goal for last fall's Family and Child Care Thanksgiving Offering, the church decided to do something about it.

The congregation, which reported 26 enrolled in Sunday School and \$38,604 in undesignated receipts in 1986, voted to send a check for \$1,000 to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. They also issued a challenge for other Arkansas Baptist congregations to follow their lead.

In a letter dated March 18, Pastor Bobby Meggs told Family and Child Care Executive Director Johnny Biggs the congregation felt

it was "sinful to tie your hands in your ministry in the hour of America's greatest need in ministering to the youth." Arkansas Baptists contributed \$420,000 toward the \$500,000 goal.

Although noting they were "a very small rural church," the letter said the congregation always had taken pride in meeting their Thanksgiving Offering goal. It added: "But we have greater sorrow in our heart that Arkansas Baptists have failed to meet your needs."

To redress the grievance, the congregation has challenged "every pastor, every deacon, every member of every church" in the state convention to "do as we have done, rise to the occasion, meet this need, lead your church to respond."

## 'Minnie' tells students to trust in Christ

by Susan Coker  
Belmont Baptist College

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Sarah Cannon, known to millions as the beloved Minnie Pearl, wasn't wearing her ruffled dress and trademark straw hat with a dangling price tag when she spoke at Belmont College in March.

Clad in a checked blazer and straight skirt, the 74-year-old performer simply presented herself: a genteel, educated woman with a touch of Minnie's country wit and homespun humor. Cannon's 47 years of performing experience on the Grand Ole Opry stage and elsewhere provided the backdrop for her comments on faith.

"The joy of Jesus—not just knowing him but also rejoicing in the faith—will

keep you going when everything else barely will," Cannon told an audience at the Tennessee Baptist Convention school.

"You're probably thinking, 'What does an old woman have to say to me? What does she know about my problems?'" she said. "The answer is, I haven't always been an old woman."

Cannon told the crowd that the saddest words to her are "but everybody does it. . . . It will kill you," she stressed.

Cannon expressed her concern for the welfare of the students and young people in general. "From the time you were born and lifted your tiny voice singing, 'Jesus Loves Me,' you felt safe. That's the best song in the world," she said. "As simple as those words are, they mean more than anything else."

Lock hands together

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Currently the "Missions Advance 87-89" is seeking to have its 100 Task Force members to speak in every church in Arkansas. The purpose is to explain the Cooperative Program and challenge churches to provide more adequate support for our worldwide mission endeavor. This raises some basic questions. First, what is the Cooperative Program? And second, how is the Cooperative Program to be promoted?

The Cooperative Program is not a machine. It is not even money, and it certainly is not just an organization. In the last analysis, cooperation is people. It is men and women, boys and girls reaching out to other people who need Christ. The organizations, budgets, money, and institutions are only the means by which we reach out to tell the good news of Christ to individuals around the world.

The Cooperative Program is the way all Southern Baptists cooperate together in missions, benevolent, and educational enterprises in an attempt to carry out the Great Commission. The Cooperative Program ideal is that Southern Baptists will be united in purpose, plan, and prayer in obeying our Lord's commission. The ideal of the Cooperative Program is that Southern Baptists will be obedient to our Lord as he said, "Discipline" all nations."

Since the Cooperative Program is people, Southern Baptists reaching out is only one-half of the picture. The other half is the teeming thousands of people without Christ and those who are in physical need.

The Cooperative Program is sick people in our Baptist hospitals being ministered to by our dedicated missionary doctors and nurses. The Cooperative Program is our young people in our colleges and seminaries who represent the future of Southern Baptists. Our Cooperative Program is the lost man in Africa who would not hear of Christ apart from the missionary whom we have sent.

A second question is, Who is responsible for promoting the Cooperative Program? It is tragic indeed that sometimes individual Baptists have little or no knowledge of the impact of the Cooperative Program.

If individual Baptists are to understand and appreciate the Cooperative Program, the primary promotion must be done in local churches. This is where a Task Force speaker can be of great assistance in many of our churches. People need to be told repeatedly of the impact our Cooperative Program is having on the lives of individuals around the world.

The difficulty arises in keeping our members posted on the activities of approximately 3,800 foreign missionaries laboring in 110 countries. In addition we have more than 3,700 home mis-

sionaries working throughout the United States.

A few years ago, this Editor attended an Independent Baptist church, which partially supported three foreign missionary families. The auditorium and every educational room in the church contained information on these three families. Obviously, it is impossible for any church to publicize approximately 7,500 missionaries in this manner. But we as Southern Baptists do need to provide information and personalize the ministry of our missionaries.

Another important question to Southern Baptists is, Is the Cooperative Program scriptural? First, it is obvious that we have a mandate to carry the gospel to every segment of the world. Jesus instructed his disciples, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Hence the funds that are entrusted to any church should start in its home community (Jerusalem) and should reach to the state (Judea), throughout the United States (Samaria), and finally to the ends of the earth. Unless a church is supporting God's work in all of these areas it is failing to follow the mandate given by our Lord.

Although Christ mandated that we carry the gospel beginning at home and reaching to the ends of the world, he did not give us a plan for raising money. The Apostle Paul did provide us with a model for fund raising. At least 10 churches can be documented, as sending money to Jerusalem to be used in mission activities. The plan which God gave to Paul is very similar to our Cooperative Program.

Christ also promised individuals who were involved in carrying out the Great Commission that he would be with them always. As we work together, we can be assured of adequate power for the task to be accomplished.

It has been suggested that every state convention move toward a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program receipts between the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention by the year 2000. Arkansas is working toward this goal. In 1972 Arkansas Baptists gave 24.87 percent of the money we received to the SBC Cooperative Program. In 1987 we are giving 41.41 percent of our income to the Southern Baptist mission program. This represents a growth of 16.5 percent.

God has provided us with a cooperative method for reaching the lost and ministering to the needy. If we are to succeed in the task that he has given us, we must lock hands together so that we can reach out to a lost and dying world.

# Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas' third largest publication,  
meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 15

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## Sharing the good news of CP efforts

by David D. Crouch

Growing up in another denomination, I didn't know about the Cooperative Program. I became a Baptist in October, was called to preach the next March, and started seminary training that August. I still didn't know about Baptist cooperative efforts. I did hear about the Cooperative Program in seminary, but learned little about the extensiveness of the program.

When I became a pastor, I began receiving the information and promotional materials on the Cooperative Program. Then I began to understand what it is and how far-reaching its impact is. I learned to appreciate how our small church could have a part in the Lord's work all over the world.

Information received and appreciated doesn't mean that it is shared with others. I used the bulletin inserts once a year, or some bit of information in the bulletin, but not the story of the Cooperative Program. Years passed before I began trying to teach the importance of this tool of ministry.

Sharing the good news of Southern Baptist's cooperative effort began in the new member's class. How can a pastor tell the

story of his own church and its ministry without sharing the story of the Cooperative Program? He can't. It's a vital part of any Southern Baptist church's ministry.

There is a sense of excitement in telling of our part in supporting over 7,200 missionaries in America and 107 other countries around the world. Our gifts help six seminaries train the men and women to lead in our churches around the world. To tell of the 66 colleges and universities in America, and the seminaries and colleges on the mission field, shows how important young people are to Southern Baptists.

I have become excited about the Cooperative Program. It's our way of working together to have a world-wide ministry in the fulfillment of Jesus' Commission. Now I want the information and inspiration to be shared with more than the pastor and the new member's class. I want us to know so we can share joyfully and generously with those who need our support.

**David D. Crouch is pastor of First Church, Searcy.**

## The right feeling

by Russell Miller

When a new program sounds right, seems right, and is scripturally right, we all can have the right feeling about it. That is the unanimous consensus of opinion about "Missions Advance 87-89."

It is a real privilege to work on this program with 99 pastors and laymen across the state. Our common purpose is encouraging churches to find better ways to support local, state, and foreign ministries.

Please contact Jimmie Sheffield at the Baptist Building (376-4791) and schedule one of the 100 trained speakers for an inspirational, informational service in your church. These speakers have made a covenant to go at their personal expense. They feel the urgency to improve our financial commitment to winning our world, country, state, county, city and neighborhood to Christ.

When Christ said, "Go... into all the world" (Mark 16:15), he meant all!

Request your speaker now! This is one of those positive, unifying times that will pull us together for him because all the credit goes to him. That makes it a good feeling and the right feeling.

**Russell Miller is a layman in First Church, Mountain Home.**

## 74 churches invite task force speakers

Six additional churches have scheduled Task Force speakers, bringing the total to 74. These new churches and pastors are listed below. For more information, contact Jimmie Sheffield at 376-4791.

Calvary Church.....	Little Rock
Emmanuel Church.....	Piggot..... Bill Hutchings
Fairfield Bay Church.....	Fairfield Bay..... A. H. Lane
First Church.....	Mansfield..... Joel Faircloth
First Church.....	Perryville..... Horace Gray
Meridian Church.....	Crossett..... Dan Webb

## Musicians launch annual hymn search

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will launch an annual hymn search to encourage the writing and composing of church music, said Paul Hammond, editor of publications for the conference and fine arts dean at Oklahoma Baptist University.

One hymn, selected by the conference's executive council, will be printed in the program and sung during the annual meeting of the conference. Each year's hymn will be placed in a file to be made available to hymnal committees, editors and publishers.

"There has been a renaissance of hymn-writing in the last 10 to 15 years," he said. "Because there are a large number of hymns being published, there's always a need for good, new hymns that are written in contemporary language and are current in thought."

The theme for this year's contest is "Music and Missions."

"We are looking for a strong missionary statement concerning the sharing of the

Good News at home, in our nation and in our world," Hammond said.

Any member of the music conference is eligible to submit hymns. Non-members may become eligible by becoming regular members, for a \$20 annual fee, or associate members, for a \$10 annual fee, of the conference.

The conference seeks original hymn texts, with or without music, that are written in inclusive, contemporary language.

The hymns also must be at least three stanzas long. They should be submitted in three non-returnable copies and should not have the name of the author on any copy. The deadline for entering the first contest is Jan. 1, 1988.

Guidelines may be obtained from Mary June Tabor, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, 1141 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73103.

## missionary notes

**Larry and Mary Hendricks**, missionaries to Costa Rica, report a change of address (Apartado 231, Liberia, Guanacaste, Costa Rica). He is a native of Oklahoma. The former Mary White of Arkansas, she was born in Fort Smith and considers Hartford her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

**Annie Hoover**, missionary to Japan, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: S. 22 W. 14, Sapporo 064, Japan). A native of North Little Rock, she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1949.

**Leon and Kathy Hanson**, missionaries to Zimbabwe, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 16 Pendenins Rd., Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe). He was born in Piggott. She is the former Kathryn Kumabe of Hawaii. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

## a smile or two

A "slip" came out in a newspaper story about a young doctor who treated a rather wealthy victim of an automobile accident. According to the story, "The doctor felt of the patient's pulse and decided to operate."

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

The missionaries were great! The fellowship was great! The attendance was good—great! The Spirit of the Lord was great!

I am talking about the WMU Convention. While a few weeks have passed, it continues to linger in my mind as a powerful experience. May God continue to bless these ladies who are working against the trends of the times to keep missionary education, support and involvement strong in our churches. Let me challenge you women who read this. Start a WMU or revive the one you have had in your church and make plans now to share in next year's convention. It can do you nothing but good. Let me challenge the men who read this. Help the women who accept my challenge to them.



Moore

A new record was set recently when our largest group of pastors ever to attend came to Camp Paron for their retreat. A committee of pastors out of the Executive Board heads up the planning of the program and even presides over the sessions. Many pastors in the state are scheduled to take places on the program. Their insights and experiences prove to be valuable help to those who have come to be renewed and to learn how to do their ministry better. Dr. Bill Tolar, of Southwestern Seminary, was a dynamic Bible teacher, and Jim Burleson, of Del City, Okla., inspired us with the music. Thank God for a special time apart with our pastors!

Barcelona Road has made us proud! Thirteen years ago, the dream of Hugh Owen, missionary in Central Association, and a few people in Hot Springs Village, began to unfold. Services started in a fire station resulted in a mission being organized that would soon become a church. The Arkansas Baptist State Convention provided her first building with our portable chapel. The convention provided a grant of \$10,000 and a loan of another \$10,000. This was about all that was needed to put these hardy souls on the way. We recently helped them dedicate their third building, a gorgeous new sanctuary. The tiny number who began the work has grown to 250 members. They are covering their debts while giving 20 percent to the Cooperative Program. We can hope and pray that the 14 new churches we started last year may do as well.

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



## The Southern accent

Ben Early

### Amen?

During my seminary days, each Sunday I drove 50 to 70 miles one way to preach. Usually my wife, three-year-old daughter, and myself would stay in the home of a church member the entire day.

This was not always easy with a child our daughter's age.

Each Sunday on the way to church, we would spend the travel time teaching the do's and don'ts while a guest in someone else's home.

One Sunday, our worries increased as we drove to the lovely home of an elderly, retired couple. As we walked through the front door my eyes couldn't help but notice the beautiful white furniture and carpet.

My heart beat a little faster as Melissa, our three-year-old, proceeded to make herself very much at home, examining each piece of furniture with her little hands.

Everything seemed to be going fine, and I had started to relax as we were enjoying a delicious lunch. All of a sudden, the conversation was interrupted by an extremely loud burp from a very little girl.

Knowing we had trained and taught our daughter proper etiquette, I quickly said, "Melissa, what do you say?" After a great deal of pondering, she replied, "Amen!"

I've thought of that instance often as I watched my daughter grow into an awkward girl, a charming youth, then a vibrant student in one of our Baptist colleges, a lovely wife, and now a soon-to-be mother.

The values we teach are very important. When you give your child a quarter for the offering plate and dollar for candy, you are showing your sense of values to your child. When you insist that your child learn his homework but complain if the church asks you to memorize or study Scripture, you are showing your sense of values to your child. When you stay at home to putter around the house instead of going to church, you are showing your sense of values to your child. When you tell your child the most important thing he can do is to get the best education possible, but as you seek a college you never visit any of our Baptist schools, you show your sense of values.

We must continue to model to our children the highest and best way of life which is only found in Christ and his will for each of us.

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

## Secretarial conference slated for April 23

The Arkansas Chapter of the National Association for Church Business Administration has planned the Third Annual Conference for Secretaries on Thursday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The conference will meet at the Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

The program features Betty Walker, administrative assistant, First Baptist Church, Burlington, N.C. In the morning, she will lead two general sessions on "Communication Styles" and "Building a Self-Image I can Live With." In addition, she will direct an afternoon workshop entitled "Listening and Speaking."

Another program leader is Dr. Marian Crawford, teacher in the Department of Management in the College of Business Ad-


ministration at UALR. She will lead a workshop on "How to Say No and Still Be Friends."

Ray Williams, Church Business Administrator at the Fellowship Baptist Church, Little Rock, will direct a workshop on "Time Management."

Grant LeRoux Jr. and Lloyd Halsey will lead a workshop on "Dealing with Transients." LeRoux is the assistant to the dean, Trinity Episcopal Church, Little Rock. Halsey is the director of St. Francis House, Little Rock.

The conference begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. concludes with a sharing and celebration time.

Registration is \$30 per person which includes lunch. For more information call Jimmie Sheffield at 376-4791.

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# Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

## people

**Earl R. Humble** observed 50 years of preaching ministry March 29 at Osceola First Church, where he is serving for the third time as interim pastor. Humble is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now University), and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas. He is married to the former Mable Louise Childers. They are parents of three children, Ruth Humble Miller, David E. Humble, and Daniel R. Humble. They have three grandchildren. Humble has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas and Texas, and served on the staff of Southern Baptist College from 1965-1983 as dean of men and chairman of the religion and social science division.

**Ray Edmonson** will begin serving April 12 as pastor of Nalls Memorial Church in Little Rock, coming there from Keo Church. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College. Edmonson is married to the former Brenda Alexander. They have two children, Tony, 20, and Jeff, 18.

**J.B. Collingsworth** has been named adult/youth/recreation consultant for the Louisiana Baptist Church Programs Division, effective April 1. He was serving as associate pastor and minister of youth at Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith. He is a graduate of Louisiana College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Collingsworth is married to the former Anne Leavell Mann. They are parents of two children, Mary Margaret, and Robert Leavell.

**Carolyn Johnson** was recently recognized by Central Church, Magnolia, for 10 years of service as educational secretary.

**Don Martin** has joined the staff of Forrest City Second Church as associate pastor, coming there from Jonesboro.

**Glen Pool** has joined the staff of Cherry Valley Church as minister of youth, coming there from DeWitt.

**Jim Berryman and Bob Stagg** have been elected to offices in the Association of Baptist Teachers of Religion. Berryman was elected as president for the 1987-88 academic year. Stagg was re-elected to his sixth consecutive term as secretary-treasurer of the organization. Both are faculty members at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Al Sparkman** has been elected chairman of the Stewardship Development commit-



Humble



Edmonson

tee of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Sparkman serves as pastor of Crossett First Church.

**William T. Flynt** of Fayetteville was recently honored at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, recognizing his 10 years of service as a seminary trustee. He will retire from this position at the close of the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention.

**Everett Mearl Duffin** of Little Rock died March 29 at age 81. He was a deacon of Immanuel Church in Little Rock where his funeral services were held April 1. Duffin was a retired pressman with the Arkansas Gazette. Survivors include his

wife, Ida Killion Duffin; two daughters, Lorain Danner of Searcy and Betty Wilfong of Little Rock; a brother, Fay Duffin of Kansas City, Kan.; a sister, Fern Huber of Roach, Mo.; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorials may be made to Immanuel Church.

**Charles (Duffy) Quinn** died March 29 at age 69. He was a member of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock and was a retired carpenter and construction worker. Survivors are his wife, Blanche Westerfield Quinn; a son, Charles E. Quinn of Illinois; a brother, Ellis Quinn of Roland; and two sisters, Wilma Heard of Maumelle and Minnie Glover of Carlisle. Memorials may be made to Geyer Springs First Church or the Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute.

**John Stoner** is serving as pastor of Pleasant Plains Church, coming there from the Floral community.

**Leo Anthony Hook** of Lake City died March 28 at age 72. His funeral services were held March 31. He was a member of Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro. Survivors include a twin brother, Theo Hook of Lake City; three other brothers,

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Parkway Place Church in Little Rock dedicated a building March 29 valued at \$550,000. Architect Keith Miller presents the keys to Rick Keen, building committee chairman, for the building which houses a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 650 and eight classrooms. This second of a three phase building program was financed through a bond issue and pledge campaign, according to Pastor James Wilson. Serving with Keen were Myrtle Cook, Howard Davis, Bob Haydon, and Cliff Rogers. Lawson Hatfield, pastor of Fordyce First Church, a former interim pastor and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was dedication speaker. Others on program were Glenn Hickey, director of missions for Pulaski Association; Bill Craig; Don Eades, contractor; and Richard Walker, missionary to Brazil.

Woodrow Hook and Bill Hook, both of Lake City, and Don Hook of Little Rock; and a sister, Zelma Carter of Little Rock.

## briefly

**Brush Creek Church** at Springdale will hold a Bible Prophecy Conference April 5-10, according to Pastor Larry Catcher. Dave Kelly will be the speaker.

**Russellville First Church** mission team will be in Macapa, Brazil, a city of approximately 180,000 residents, July 12-22. The team will hold revival services in six different churches and will assist with door-to-door visitation and other evangelistic outreach efforts, according to Pastor Stephen Davis.

**Northpoint Church** in Little Rock is holding a Good News revival April 8-12. Ray Branscum of Little Rock is serving as evangelist, and Pastor Steve Harrelson is directing the music.

**Little Rock Second Church** recognized Pastor Billy White March 29 for three years of service.

**Friendship Church**, located eight miles east of Conway, will observe homecoming April 12. Activities will include Sunday School, morning worship, a noon meal, and an afternoon musical program. Dedication of additional educational space will close the afternoon program, according to Pastor Arnold Teel.

**Helena First Church** will hold a Lay Renewal Weekend April 10-12, according to Pastor Billy F. Hammonds.

**Alexander First Church** will be in revival April 13-19. Richard Brown will be the evangelist, and Jerry Taylor will direct the music.

**Aulds Church** near Portland will hold an evening musical program April 25, beginning at 7 p.m. Special music will be provided by the Macedonians of Oak Grove, La., the Hacketts of Dermott, the Dedications of Hamburg, the Sunlighters of Promise Land, and the Marter Family of Monticello. John W. Harris is pastor.

**Lakeshore Estates Mission** was constituted as a church March 8 with Shelby Bittle, moderator for Tri-County Association, presiding. Eugene Ray, pastor of Marion First Church, the mission's sponsor, promised a continued relationship. Robert Tucker, director of missions for

Tri-County Association, was speaker. Pastor James P. Herron and members of Hope Chapel of West Memphis presented themselves to become members of the new congregation and were adopted as a mission. Lakeshore

Estates celebrated a growth of 70 baptisms and 30 additions by letter in its two years as a mission. It is the first of 10 mission models in Arkansas to become a constituted church. Neal Stevens serves as pastor.



## Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

### The blackness of Good Friday

"Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Father! In your hands I place my spirit!' He said this and died" (Luke 23:46).

At the Easter season we emphasize the empty tomb, the beauty and hope of the resurrection. We do not want to dwell on the suffering that was the necessary prelude to Easter morning. We do not usually contemplate the darkness of Friday noon. Instead, we think of it as "Good Friday," which it is, but only in retrospect. It was black Friday for Jesus, for the disciples, and for Jesus' relatives. It was a day of deepest despair. As they experienced this blackness, they must have felt themselves in the same hell into which Jesus descended. After the hellish weeks that preceded Easter morning, they had trouble receiving the risen Christ. But when the truth of Easter finally dawned within them, they received the power to transform their world.

With Jesus' first followers, we need to enter the blackness that preceded the first Easter. Entering the despair and blackness will prepare us for a full understanding of the light and hope of Easter morning. The cross is a symbol of the blackness which has been transformed into a symbol of light and joy.

On Good Friday in Britain, hot cross buns are a traditional bread, marked with a cross and served as a reminder of the meaning of the day. The cross on the bun may have had its origin in the ancient sacramental cakes eaten by the Anglo-Saxons, but Christians chose to transform the symbol. Today hot cross buns are available in America throughout the Easter season.

You might bake some on Good Friday, reminding your family of the cross and its symbolism of blackness turned to joy.

### Hot cross buns

1 cup scalded milk	4 cups flour
½ cup butter	½ teaspoon salt
½ cup sugar	1 cup currants or raisins
1 pkg. dry yeast dissolved in	½ cup candied fruit peels
¼ cup warm water	½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 large egg	or nutmeg

Pour scalded milk over butter and sugar and stir to dissolve. Let cool to lukewarm. Add the dissolved yeast and eggs and blend well. Add flour and salt gradually, reserving a small amount of flour to dust the fruits. Add fruit and spice to the dough and knead in thoroughly. Place in an oiled bowl and cover. Let rise until double in a warm place. Punch dough down and turn out onto a floured board. Shape dough into 15 large buns or 20 smaller buns. Place in shallow butter pan. Cover and let rise 30 minutes; then very carefully press the shape of a cross into each bun, using a spatula or a knife. Bake in 375 degree oven for 10 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and continue baking until buns are browned and done, about 10-15 minutes. If desired, the shape of the cross can be made with frosting or the entire bun can be frosted.

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



# Lay hunger will spark Southern Baptist renewal, White says

by Mark Kelly

The people of God, gifted and called, ministering to the needs they find around them. It's a concept whose time has come, believes Jim White.

And the awakening of the laity's sleeping masses will revolutionize Southern Baptist churches across the nation, creating vast new reserves of energy for Christian ministry.

White, editor of Southern Baptists' *Deacon* magazine, sees the coming great awakening arising not because someone demands it, but because of a great hunger for meaningful involvement abroad in the churches.

Southern Baptists need such an awakening, White says. Although the denomination claims 14.7 million members, barely one-third are ever in Sunday School at any one time. And church growth now largely comes through the baptism of members' children, with the conversion rate down to one for every 42 members. And churches have become too dependent on the skills and energies of one person: the pastor.

"We have become largely a denomination of spectators, as have all other mainline denominations," White observes. "That is producing a lot of frustration among committed Christians who see their brothers and sisters unwilling to do anything."

Such a state of affairs runs against the grain of what Southern Baptists say they believe,

White continues. Overburdened staff members, frustrated "stackpole" workers, and masses of passive "spectators" hardly square with the biblical doctrines of the priesthood and ministry of every believer.

To spark the waiting renewal, Southern Baptists need first to bring their convictions and practice in line with those doctrines, White asserts. As conviction rises that the call to salvation includes a call to ministry, the priesthood and ministry of every believer can become more than just talk.

The second step, White believes, is recognizing the place of spiritual gifts. Rather than looking to the pastor and church staff for all the leadership skill and energy, the congregation looks within to discover the skills and abilities God has placed there.

The pastor then becomes free to fill his God-given role as an equipper of the saints, and the massive resources dormant within the congregation erupts in new life. Instead of nominating committees trying to plug organizational holes with reluctant people, a survey of available gifts is conducted and ministries are begun on the basis of God's gifts to the congregation.

White points to several Southern Baptist emphases which can help move a congregation toward a biblical model of organization and ministry: the Doctrine of the Laity study,

MasterLife discipleship training for leaders, and the Shared Ministry approach, all promoted by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

When conviction develops among leadership and membership that spiritual gifts and teamwork are the keys to renewed vigor, people will begin to discover their gifts and respond to God's call to ministry, White says. Rather than 20 percent of the people carrying 80 percent of the load, vast numbers of formerly peripheral church members will step in to take up their ministries, many in areas previously untouched by the church.

"The church will have energy it never had before, because these people are pulsating with a desire to discover their gifts and ministry," White explains. Instead of not serving at all or serving from a sense of duty, church members will serve in joy because they have found a calling to ministry.

"There have been points in history when men have seen God's spirit poured out, like the Great Awakening of the 1700s," White observes. "We are on the verge of that kind of movement today, a movement which explodes out of our expectation of seeing God do something magnificent. We must not quench that work of the Spirit."

**Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.**

## Change language, attitudes on ministry, Edge insists

by Ferrell Foster

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Attitudes toward lay ministry need to be changed, but that will not happen until Southern Baptists change some of the language they use, long-time Southern Baptist educator Findley Edge maintained.

Speaking during a special chapel service at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Edge said, "Unless we change our language, I have serious question whether we're going to be able to change the attitude of our people" about ministry.

Edge, professor emeritus of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said all Christians are called to be ministers, and use of the terms "ministry" and "minister" need to be changed.

"Instead of calling our people 'church members,' I think we need to call everybody a minister," Edge said.

Repeating a statement made in his book, *The Doctrine of the Laity*, Edge said, "The call to ministry and the call to salvation are one and the same call."

In that call, everyone is equally "responsible and accountable before God for fulfilling that for which we are called."

Being a minister "is not optional," Edge said. "It was for this we were called. . . . We were called to be a part of the people of

God. Let's consider what our language is doing to our people."

By calling pastors and other staff members "ministers," Baptists give laypersons "the impression that they are at a different level, at a different point than those of us who are called into the ministry."

"I do not want to minimize either your calling or your function," Edge told the gathering of pastors, staff ministers and seminarians. "The ministry for which you're called and the ministry for which other people are called are different. You are called to a leadership role and responsibility. . . .

The difference in our ministry is a difference in role and function."

But he said the language Southern Baptists use has given some laypeople the idea their service "is optional. . . . And I think that is wrong."

"Thank God for the nucleus of people who have heard and who have responded" to their call to ministry, he said.

"If we could get our laypeople to understand that they have been called by God to fulfill his mission in the world, . . . we would really be able to do a much, much better job than we are now doing."

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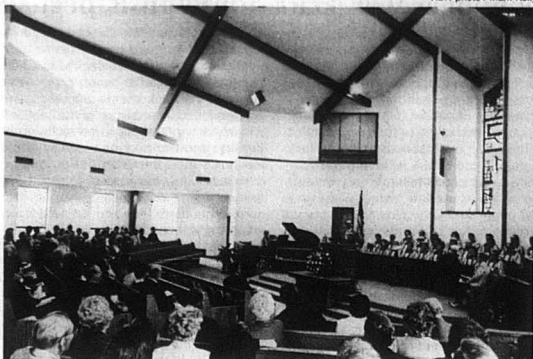
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**Worship center dedicated**—Barcelona Road Church of Hot Springs Village dedicated its new sanctuary March 29. The 350-seat sanctuary was financed through gifts, pledges, and bonds purchased by members. Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, preached in the morning worship and afternoon dedication services. The 14-year-old, 250-member congregation gives 20 percent of its budget receipts to the Cooperative Program. Tim Reddin is pastor.

**Court affirms decision on restricting cable TV**

by **Kathy Palen**  
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has limited the power of states to restrict "indecent" programs on cable television, by affirming a lower court ruling overturning Utah law.

The Utah statute, which was struck down on grounds it violated the First Amendment, confined cablecasting of indecent programming—material displaying specifically-described sexual activity, but not considered legally obscene—to the hours between midnight and 7 a.m.

By it 7-2 vote to affirm, the Supreme Court gave the lower court ruling precedential effect throughout the United States rather than only in the circuit in which it was decided. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor voted to hear Utah's appeal.

In 1983, the Utah legislature passed its second effort to regulate indecent program material on cable television by placing restrictions on its presentation. The original statute—approved in 1981, but struck down almost immediately as constitutionally overbroad—made it a misdemeanor for cable television operators to distribute "pornographic or indecent material" and defined the term "indecent" to include almost any sexual activity.

In drafting the 1983 bill, the state legislature more narrowly defined "indecent material" and replaced the criminal penalty with a maximum \$1,000 fine for first-time offenders.

The day after the law's passage, four cable television operators filed suit against the state attorney general. In separate action, several cable television subscribers also filed suit. The federal district court for Utah later consolidated the cases and allowed Home Box Office to join as a plaintiff.

The district court in April 1985 held the law unconstitutional because it regulated material that was not legally obscene. Two months later, it permanently enjoined enforcement of the law. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court decision.

In his appeal to the Supreme Court, Utah Attorney General David L. Wilkinson said the entire nation would benefit from the high court's clarifying the extent to which regulation of cable programming is permissible. Laws similar to the Utah statute have been proposed in nine other states and numerous communities.

Wilkinson argued the lower courts' rulings result in a state's having "no constitutional authority to regulate any patently offensive material other than that which is obscene."

Joining in a friend-of-the-court brief, 10 other states urged the court to hear Utah's appeal. They argued the lower courts created an "absolute 'either-or' rule" resulting in material being "obscene and therefore totally restricted or not obscene and in no manner restricted."

The states were Arizona, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington and West Virginia.

# Relief arrives in Ecuador; Baptists begin distribution

by Marty Croll

SBC Foreign Mission Board

QUITO, Ecuador (BP)—Baptists in Ecuador are preparing to distribute about 30 tons of Southern Baptist provisions for earthquake-stricken Ecuadorians.

A cargo jet packed with food, blankets, clothing, building materials and tools landed in Quito March 24. Although the provisions were unloaded that evening, a nationwide strike caused a two-day delay in distribution, said Larry Doyle, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Ecuador.

Ron Patterson, pastor of Lynchburg Baptist Church in Winterhaven, Fla., and a regional disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission, is helping organize distribution.

"Baptists here are very grateful for all of

this," said Doyle. "You can be assured it will be put to very good use."

Missionaries are working with Ecuador Baptists in a relief program they planned together the week after two powerful earthquakes jolted an area east of the capital city in early March and destroyed sections of the region's most important roadway and the country's most important oil pipeline.

Missionaries have rented about 3,200 square feet of warehouse space at the airport. From there they and national Baptists plan to distribute the provisions primarily in four areas during the next three months, Doyle said. Surveying regions suggested by Ecuador authorities, missionaries discovered people without homes and without food in villages cut off from commerce when whole sections of road were destroyed.

In the city of Lago Agrio, First Baptist Church has turned its Sunday school facilities into a distribution center for food and supplies. The provisions will be airlifted to the city, which sits at the edge of the jungle on the eastern face of the Andes Mountains. The major thoroughfare in that area was destroyed when mountain snowcaps and watery sludge rumbled down a river valley after the quakes.

In Tabacundo, about 50 miles northeast of Quito, food and supplies will support about 90 families whose breadwinners have been forced to abandon their work while they rebuild their homes, Doyle said. Baptist young people from the 15 churches in Pichincha Baptist Association around Quito will visit house-to-house in the area around

Cayambe, the village nearest the epicenter of the earthquakes. They will give away packages of food that should feed families of five for five days.

Baptists also will supply tools and building materials to six families who lost their homes just east of Quito in the town of La Merced, Doyle said. The families were identified by students at nearby Baptist Theological Seminary, who went into the grade school and talked with children, then visited their homes. Their adobe-type homes were either destroyed or cracked enough to discourage the families from going back inside.

After meeting immediate needs, missionaries may ask for volunteer work teams from the United States to rebuild schools and public buildings, Doyle said, stressing such action would occur only in cooperation with the government's education department and local authorities.

The Boeing 707 that carried the provisions to Ecuador had been scheduled to take off more than a week earlier, but jet fuel availability problems in Ecuador delayed its departure until just after noon March 24. The government agency INNFA, responsible for working with children and families, was instrumental in securing jet fuel for the plane's return flight, Doyle said.

The food, clothing and building supplies were purchased with money provided by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Florida Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist churches. State Brotherhood departments from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and South Carolina also gave funds.

## foreign mission briefs

### Moscow youth making music

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands—Music has become a key avenue of involving youth in the Moscow Baptist Church. The church's youth choir now numbers 80 members. There's also a 30-member youth orchestra. Rehearsals include Bible study, times of sharing and prayer, which encourages personal evangelism.

### 50 teens won in Singapore

SINGAPORE—Fifty teen-agers decided to accept Christ as their savior during seven meetings at International Baptist Church recently. American evangelist Jay Stack preached at the meetings.

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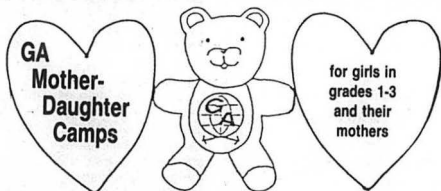
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# Smith named to PTL board after Stanley declines position

by Bob Terry  
Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith has accepted a position on the board of directors of the PTL television ministry following the resignation of evangelist Jim Bakker.

Smith, a full-time evangelist, said he was offered the post after Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta, and immediate past president of the SBC, declined appointment to the board.

A statement released by the Atlanta church said Stanley determined that, in light of his "previous and prolonged involvement in

Southern Baptist Convention activities and the growth and demands of his present ministry," it was best not to accept the position.

Smith explained he accepted, in part, because he did not want to see the "PTL giant fall into the wrong hands." He said this was an opportunity for Southern Baptists to influence the future direction of the PTL television ministry.

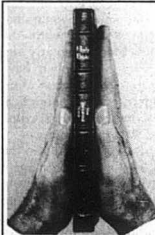
A change in PTL programming is in the works if Smith has his way. "I don't want to say too much," he said, "but I agree with Jerry Falwell that anything takes on the stance of its leaders." Falwell is chairman of the PTL board after being given the ministry

in a private meeting by PTL founder and former president Bakker.

Smith said he and Falwell "have the same things in mind" for the future of PTL. "If they don't work out, I'll be gone," he added.

Smith noted the new PTL board represents a wide range of evangelical leaders including Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians. Only one new board member, former Secretary of the Interior James Watt, comes from the Assemblies of God, the denomination of the former PTL leader.

Each director was hand picked by Falwell, Smith said, adding "Now it is his (Falwell's) ministry. He is in total charge."



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# Christian life seminar focuses on family issues

by Marv Knox and David Wilkinson

Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptists must build stronger families by "consulting the Architect," Larry N. Baker urged at the conclusion of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's annual seminar March 23-25 in Charlotte, N.C.

Baker—who was installed as the commission's fourth chief executive during the opening session of the seminar—used the Bible as a "plumb line" to urge churches to provide a supportive, caring environment for building families according to God's design.

"Let the church be brave enough and bold enough to care for the family in all its seasons and circumstances—and all who are in the family," Baker exhorted in the meeting's closing message. He urged the church "to be there" at the pivotal points for every family—marriage, parenting, illness, death.

"When dreams are shattered and hopes are dashed, when the heat of life's midday toil and pressure beats insensely on the family, let the church be a 'rock in a weary land' and give its coolness and shade as gifts to weary travelers," Baker said. "Let the church walk with our people through life's calm and storm, and in the end our families shall stand together, singing doxology for the journey."

Baker's message wrapped up three days of addresses dealing with some of the thorniest issues confronting today's families: pornography, domestic violence, teenage suicide, homelessness, aging and various public policy concerns. More than 550 participants also heard a sobering description of the country's growing AIDS crisis from U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and homespun depictions of family life from country humorist Jerry Clower.

Baker's installation address was given by Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, who called for a "new agenda for the church" to correct the crisis of integrity that plagues America. He exhorted Southern Baptists to "renew our zeal, our commitment to be a strong, clear voice as representatives of our Lord in the midst of our nation's moral and ethical confusion."

Presenting the seminar's keynote address, "The Crisis in Today's Family," Joel Gregory pointed to two unique factors he said have destroyed modern American families: divorce and TV.

"Divorce is the one contemporary pro-

blem that didn't become major until after World War II," said Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. "The responsibility of our church is to sound as never before the clear teachings of Jesus concerning the marriage union," that it belongs to God's created order and is exclusive, effective and permanent.

After citing figures of television programming and use, Gregory called for "absolute discipline in the lives of parents and children concerning the influence of television."

Surgeon General Koop enforced previous statements he had made regarding the need for AIDS education in American schools. AIDS victims are doubling annually and will number 250,000 by the 1990, he said, urging Americans to observe faithful monogamy with a faithful partner as the only certain precaution against the disease.

Koop challenged Southern Baptists to "write the definitive sex education curriculum. No one is better equipped to be in the vanguard of this important initiative than you are."

Humorist Clower called on Southern Baptists to "stamp out negativism," noting that malady "is the greatest culprit against the happy home." He advised them to put Christ first in their marriages and in their families, admitting his suggestion "is simple, but it sure ain't easy."

In other addresses on the American family: Sen Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said parents "extend their own lives beyond the grave" as they raise their children and instill in them a set of opinions that will enable them to face the future. Consequently, "it is the parents who must take responsibility" for their families, he noted. Bradley admitted intense new pressures challenge families, but he urged parents to withstand those

pressures and even emphasize duty to "the world beyond self."

M. Mahan Siler Jr. struck a similar theme when he outlined ways for parents to cultivate Christian values in their homes. The pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., counseled parents to probe the question of what it means to be Christian: "What are the deep convictions of your life? What are your basic moral convictions, the fire in your bones, those things you live by?" The church can help pass these values to their children, as can family rituals, from mealtime gatherings and bedtime routines to holiday observances, he said.

Merton P. Strommen, a Lutheran minister and research psychologist, also stressed young people—and ultimately their families—need a "sense of family" found within the fellowship of churches. He particularly emphasized the need for young people to have relationships with adults within their churches if they are going to develop "identification with the people of God" and become committed to Christ and the church.

The need for involvement of adults in the lives of young people was promoted again by John Q. Baucum, a Baptist layman and family counselor from Chattanooga, Tenn. A specialist in prevention of teen suicide, he stressed the need for involvement of adults in the lives of teenagers. "It takes more than two adults today to raise one healthy child," he said, especially urging parents to spend time with their children and provide them with unconditional love.

Carolyn Koons, a professor at Azusa Pacific University in Glendora, Calif., described what it was like to grow up without such love and concern. She told of life in the home of a violent, alcoholic father and prostitute mother and also warned the church is not

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## 'Grand opportunity' confronts CLC, Baker says

by **Marv Knox**  
Baptist Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—An age of moral crisis and dissatisfaction "is a marvelous time to step into the ministry" of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, N. Larry Baker said during his installation as the fourth executive director of the national ethics agency March 23.

"Our nation is in crisis," Baker told participants in the commission's annual seminar in Charlotte, N.C. "Dishonesty, duplicity and deception are in epidemic proportions. Integrity is a lost commodity. . . . The social problems that plague us are complex and comprehensive."

But the Christian Life Commission "will not join the religious handwriters who say nothing constructive can be done for or with our world," he insisted. "God calls us to see the possibilities, seize our opportunities in faith and to act aggressively. God wants us to take hold of the problems of our day with faith, hope and love—and plunge in to do what we can with him to solve them."

Consequently, the commission stands on the threshold of "a grand new opportunity," Baker said. "The day in which we minister differs from others before. We will strike out in new directions in response to our call and under the impetus of God's Spirit."

"We give thanks for what God has done in the past, but we will not settle there or enshrine that; rather, we commit ourselves to be our best in pursuit of God's dream for us. We will not be enslaved to a past, its approaches or its style; rather, we will do our best to live in faithfulness to God in our new

day, to deal with issues current and to forge approaches that make it possible for Southern Baptists to respond effectively and to act responsibly in our world."

Baker said he begins his tenure "with a clear sense of God's calling." He also expressed gratitude for the "shaping vision and nurturing life of Southern Baptists" and reported a sense of indebtedness to family, friends and fellow believers in Christ who have shared his Christian journey.

The new ethics leader cited as a model for ministry the life of Jesus Christ as "the way to which we are called in our living." The source of direction for his life "is the belief that God's Word, the Bible, is able to make us wise for salvation and to equip us thoroughly for every good work."

Baker also offered a pledge to Southern Baptists:

— "To stand for, speak in behalf of and call for a recovery of biblical morality.

— "To stand for, speak in behalf of and call for moral righteousness in every sector of our nation's life.

— "To speak out against the evils that plague our age, that thwart the purposes of God for his world and destroy the lives of persons.

— "To help Southern Baptists amass our strength and align our power in the cause of right and righteous living.

— "To call Southern Baptists to be aggressive, to seize the initiative and to give strong leadership in the moral arena.

— "To give my best energies to developing ways and means for Southern Baptists in all walks of life to put their faith to work."

exempt from domestic violence. Noting actions of caring Christians can "bring inner healing to the scars and pains of the past," she asked churches to extend their ministries to rebellious teens who may be striking blindly against authority, acting out of frustration with abusive parents.

Speaking to related topics:

Sportscaster Kyle Rote Jr. urged Christians to help people—especially youth—who are consumed with success in sports. Recounting a list of top athletes whose personal lives have failed, Rote said: "The answer is not sports success, academic achievement or social adjustment; the answer is Jesus Christ. We've got to teach our young people that success isn't succeeding, but accepting Jesus Christ."

Millard Fuller, executive director of Habitat for Humanity, which helps construct and finance housing for poor people, urged Southern Baptists to practice the "economics of Jesus" and "get involved in a new mission field—building houses for the world's poor and homeless."

Paul C. McCommon III, general counsel for Citizens for Decency through Law, emphasized distribution of obscenity has "never, ever been legal in this country" and urged Christians to be vigilant in urging local officials to enforce existing anti-obscenity laws.

Dan Blazer, professor of psychiatry at Duke University in Durham, N.C., said late life can bring "liberating freedoms" and encouraged churches to "secure these mental, social, physical and especially spiritual freedoms for our older persons."



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### Fitness lecture set at Southern College

WALNUT RIDGE—A lecture on exercise physiology and nutrition will be presented free to the public at Southern Baptist College on Tuesday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel. The Staley lecture will be presented by Richard Bryant Couey of Waco, Texas.

Couey is the author of several books and articles on being a physically-fit Christian, has served on the President's Commission on Physical Fitness, and was a professional baseball player.

## May 7 proclaimed National Day of Prayer

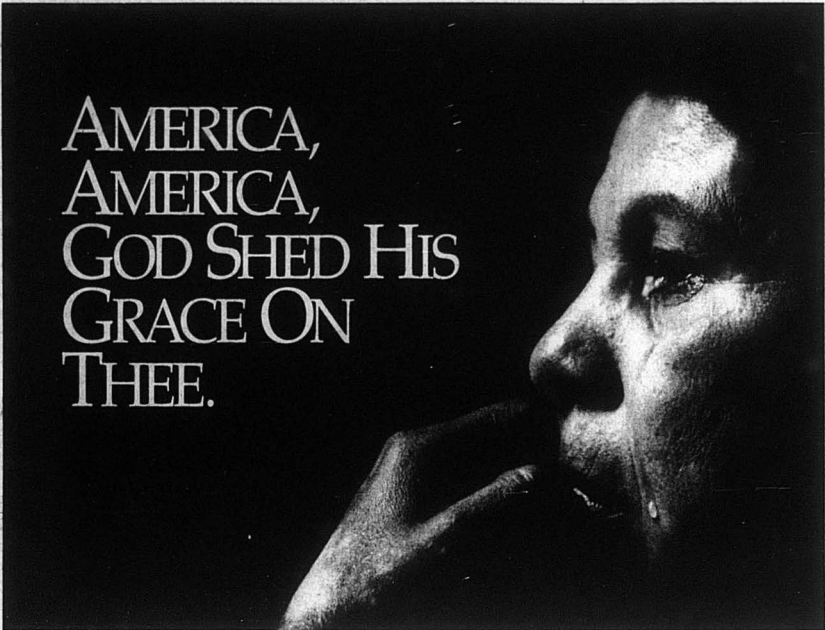
May 7, 1987, has been proclaimed National Day of Prayer by President Ronald Reagan. Resuming a tradition that was observed by the Continental Congress from 1776 to 1783, in 1952 the Congress of the United States adopted a resolution calling on the President to set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year as a National Day of

Prayer.

President Reagan noted in his presidential proclamation, "On our National Day of Prayer, then, we join together as people of many faiths to petition God to show us his mercy and his love to heal our weariness and uphold our hope, that we might live ever mindful of his justice and thankful for his

blessing."

A privately-sponsored, non-governmental group of citizens, the National Prayer Committee, urges all Americans to become personally involved in the observance. For more information, contact the National Prayer Committee, P.O. Box 6826, San Bernardino, CA 92412.



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THEE.

The land of plenty is not without problems. Home Mission Board researchers estimate that by 1990, the number of U.S. residents who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior may reach 175 million.

WHO WILL WIN AMERICA? Winning America to Christ is the goal of the Home Mission Board. For the 3,637 missionaries appointed by the

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## Convention Uniform

### *Death on the cross*

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: Luke 23:26-49

Focal passage: Luke 23:32-48

**Central truth:** Jesus gave up his life on the cross in the place of every person.

Who crucified the Lord? Pilate? The Romans? The Jews? You and I? Luke shows by a careful presentation of facts that Jesus was innocent of all charges of evil or criminal action and that no individual, not even Pilate, and not the Jews or the Romans as a people, but all of us because of our sins, brought about the Lord's death on the cross. Whatever else it was, the death of Jesus was a sacrifice for the sins of a lost world. Jesus gave himself freely, deliberately, and out of love for us all.

(1) Companions of the cross (Lu. 23:32-33,39-43)

"Calvary" means "place of the skull." From downtown Jerusalem the hill by this name has the remarkable likeness of a human skull and is generally accepted as the authentic place of the Lord's execution. Luke reveals here an intimate glance of how Jesus related to two convicted criminals who were being crucified with him, one of them repentant and the other unrepentant. Of the Lord's response to the plea of the repentant thief someone has said, "He stopped dying long enough to save a man from eternal death."

(2) Prayer of forgiveness (Lu. 23:34-38)

For all of us—sinners and sinners-saved-by-grace—God's loving and continuing forgiveness is one of the greatest of his assurances. Even as the soldiers unfeelingly cast lots for the division of the Lord's apparel, Jesus prayed, "... forgive them; for they know not what they do" (v. 34). We can be eternally grateful that this prayer was not only for those who crucified Jesus, but for all of us whose sins sent him to his death.

(3) Christ and the centurion (Lu. 23:44-48)

When Jesus died, nature itself erupted in the face of the wicked deeds of men. The earth was shrouded in darkness at mid-day, and an earthquake rent the veil of the temple, symbolizing that mankind would henceforth have direct access to God's heavenly throne. Even a Roman centurion was moved to glorify God, declaring Jesus "a righteous man" (v.47b).

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## Life and Work

### *Rejecting God's authority*

by Harry T. Kennedy, Calvary Church, Hope  
Basic passage: Luke 20:9-10,13-16a; 23:20-25

Focal passage: Luke 20:13-16

**Central truth:** Rejecting the Lord's way brings his just response.

Jesus was the master teacher. He knew how to express truth in such vivid terms that nobody could miss what was being said. One of his major means of expressing truth was through the use of parables. He did this in speaking to the high priests, scribes, and elders as he gave the parable on rejection. These leaders were so angered that they would not stop until Jesus was crucified.

This parable is a reminder to those who listen to never forget who owns everything and remember that the owner expects a harvest. The treatment of the owner towards the husbandman serves as a reminder of the Lord's patience and the reality that it will end one day (II Pe. 3:8-10). We observe several points of interest in this parable:

(1) The owner of the vineyard. He has not withheld anything for the sake of a profitable harvest. He has taken personal interest in the planting of the vineyard. He has provided every means of protection: the hedge and the towers, and the equipment to process the harvest (Matt. 12:1).

With all this invested, he leaves to live somewhere else. So it became necessary to entrust this field into the hands of other men.

This is exactly what God did through creation and bringing into being the nation of Israel. Then he entrusts all this into the hands of these leaders who hear him speak this parable. Yet something has happened over the years.

(2) The husbandmen change. No longer do they respect and honor the owner. Somewhere along the way they had rejected the owner's instructions and assumed full control over the vineyard for personal gain.

Again, the accusation falls heavy on these Jewish leaders who had also forgotten the purpose for Israel's existence—give Jehovah God to all the nations that he would be worshipped. Instead, Jehovah was confined to Israel and their God, and they refused to do what the Lord told them to do.

They were so determined, that the life of the only begotten Son of God would be taken (Lu. 23:20-25) and bring the just removal of Israel as God's spokesman. Once Israel rejected God's authority, it died and the church came into being that includes all the believers in all the world.

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## Bible Book

### *Job's anguished search*

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Job 3:1-14:12

Focal passage: Job 3:2-3; 8:3-8; 9:1-3; 13:18-24; 14:13-15

**Central truth:** Job's despair because of his sense of suffering unjustly demonstrates the necessity of a spiritually mature understanding of suffering.

Job proved that he was human after all. He finally complained to God about his situation (Job 3:1ff.). Job was very depressed. He wanted God to curse the day he was born and even the night he was conceived (Job 3:3).

Before you get too critical of Job, ask yourself if you could have made it through the suffering and pain he experienced. Job finally caved in, so to speak. He finally let his deep feelings of despair come out. A thorough reading of Job 3 will help you to understand his deep feelings at this time.

Job's so-called three friends did not help matters. These men had some elements of truth in their speeches to Job, but in the end they were rebuked by God (Job 42:7).

In Chapter 13, Job begins to ask God what he has done wrong. He asked what sins he had committed. Many people associate suffering and pain with sin.

Job concludes in Chapter 14, that it would be better if he could just be hidden until God was through with punishing him. In fact, Job indicated he would rather be dead (Job 14:13) than to continue being punished by God.

We may not understand all that Job felt and went through, but we can learn some lessons. We can certainly identify with Job's frustrations, anger, and depression if you have ever gone through a period of crisis when you felt God had forsaken you.

Take heart! Just as Job struggled for answers to his condition, it is okay for you to ask questions and search for answers. In Job's search for answers, he desired to meet God and present his case in person. We have the great privilege of meeting God through our mediator, Jesus Christ.

The truth is that we must have an understanding of suffering or we will also live in a sense of frustration, anger, doubt, and suspicion. Job was taught a valuable lesson. If we are willing to search for answers as Job searched, we will find that "all things work together for good to them that love God..." (Ro. 8:28).

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## Instability at home root of teen problems

by Terri Lackey  
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—While some Baptist youth ministers have felt like David slinging the proverbial stone at the Goliath problems of teen sex, drug and alcohol abuse, many now are standing back and taking a different aim.

Several people involved in youth and education ministry say they are loading their slingshots with get-tough programs aimed not only at solving problems with drugs and sex but with what may be their root cause, family life.

"We are really working with parents now as a viable part of our ministry to youth," says Jim Poole, minister of youth and education at Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Poole says he believes drug and alcohol abuse, teen sex and rebelliousness are by-products of the breakdown of the family.

"The No. 1 problem area I'm seeing in youth today is the lack of a strong family life," Poole notes, adding substance abuse is an indirect result of a poor or unsatisfactory home life.

He says he believes a stronger family life, "with youth seeing Christ as a viable option," would lessen the need of young people to turn to drugs or alcohol.

His church is establishing parental support groups and holding seminars for parents who have teens with those types of problems. Cottage Hill programs also stress the importance of healthy home lives, he adds.

Through its "Youth Leadership" magazine, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board suggests ways "to get parents and kids together to talk about controversial issues," notes Myrte Veach, manager of the Sunday school department's youth program section.

Youth-parent-worker dialogues can be an important forum for communication and understanding, she says.

Curt Bradford, youth specialist in the youth section of the board's church training department, reports church leaders are beginning to realize youth ministry "is not just entertainment-type programs."

"There is a growing awareness among our churches that youth ministry is not simply for youth, but for parents and youth leaders as well," Bradford says. "Churches are beginning to equip parents in parenting skills, communication skills and caring skills."

Church training department resources "which attempt to get youth and parents together to work out their differences," Bradford says, include the Equipping Center module, Parent-Teen Relationships and the Convention Press book, "My Home Today, Tomorrow." Parenting by Grace, a Christian parenting guide developed by the board's family ministry department, also can help family relationships, he says.

Two counselors, one from Missouri and

one from Arizona, agree the lack of communication and lack of quality time mothers and fathers are spending with their children adversely affects the young people.

"There is no substitute for quality and quantity time," says Steve Dowdle, director of the counseling center at Casas Adobes Baptist Church in Tucson, Ariz. "Strong families do lots of things together. They do a lot of sharing."

Dowdle and Julienne Thomas Auld, pastoral counselor from Kansas City, Mo., believe parents must make a concentrated effort to spend time with their children, especially during the child's first six years. Both say spending time with the children doesn't necessarily come naturally. It takes thought and planning.

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*'There is a growing awareness among our churches that youth ministry is not simply for youth, but for parents and youth leaders as well. Churches are beginning to equip parents in parenting skills, communication skills, and caring skills,' Bradford said.*

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"We come totally unprepared for parenthood," Dowdle says. "Being a parent doesn't come naturally."

He notes that because mother-and-child relationships usually prove to be the stronger, fathers need to step up their efforts at establishing a relationship with their children.

"I preach hard at fathers. They need to compensate for the lack of time spent with their children," Dowdle says. "It's never too late to build a relationship."

Auld says she thinks "it is 99 and one-fourth percent true a young person's behavior is an extension of his family relationship. Behavior is not the problem, but the result of a problem."

Jim Gibson, youth ministry coordinator at First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., says the present divorce rate and the resulting single-parent or blended family households are major sources of poor family relationships.

"Also, as moms get out of the house more, kids are on their own, making decisions before they are capable," Gibson says, adding to the list of problems he believes cause poor family relationships.

Gibson says his church also has established parent support groups and ministries to parents as well as youth.

"Kids just don't see stability in their homes, and the result is rebellion, teen suicide, teen pregnancy and alcohol and drug abuse," Gibson says.

"There is no doubt about it, we have been treating the symptoms and not the problem."

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