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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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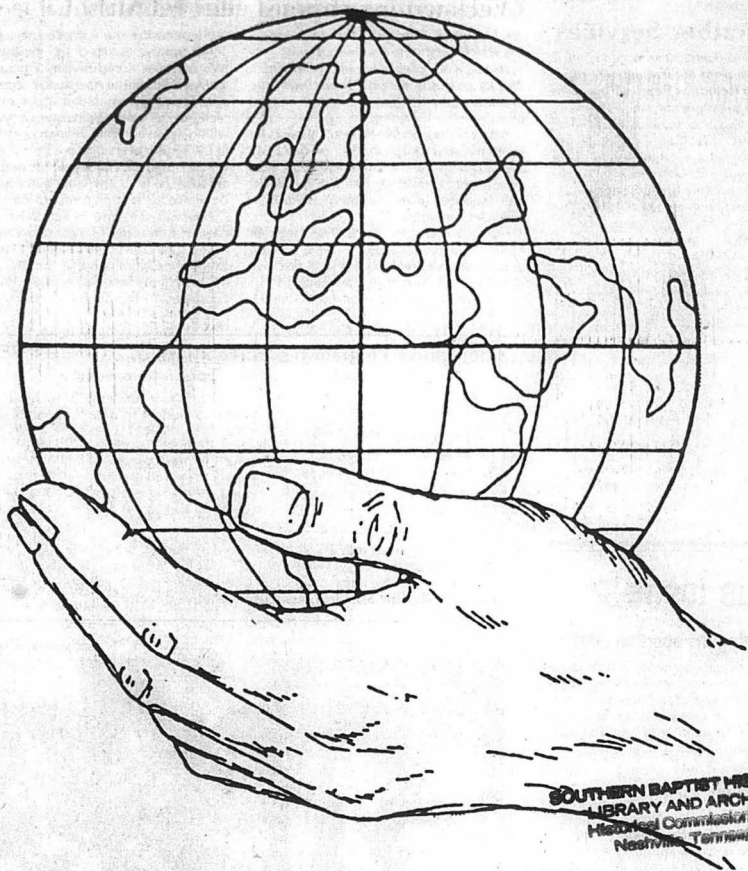
April 2, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Reaching the world... together

April 2, 1987
Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

Cooperative Program Day
Sunday, April 12, 1987

On the cover



Reaching the world... together

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

Cooperative Program Day
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Through the genius of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists have built the world's largest, most efficient network of ministries to share the love of God with a lost and hurting world. Many Southern Baptist churches will celebrate that missions success with an emphasis on Cooperative Program Day, Sunday, April 12.

Check-writing changes alter February CP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Modifications in the way several state Southern Baptist conventions write their Cooperative Program checks continue to play havoc with the denomination's monthly unified budget totals.

National Cooperative Program receipts for February were \$10,030,797, or \$852,617 below receipts for the same period last year, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

February receipts were 7.83 percent behind receipts for February 1986, Bennett said. However, receipts for the first five months of the current year are almost \$54.1 million, or 2.55 percent over receipts for the

same period of the 1985-86 fiscal year.

The positive aspect of this change is that the national Cooperative Program will receive funds based on actual receipts by the state conventions, rather than estimated receipts, he said. The negative aspect—which came about in February—is that until the system gets on-line, some of the conventions' second checks each month do not arrive at the Executive Committee in time to be tabulated with that month's totals.

That was the case in February, when a check from one of the denomination's largest state conventions did not arrive at the Executive Committee that month, producing a 75.3 percent decrease for that state, compared to the previous February.

Cooperative Program report: February

January-February gifts

Summary for February 1987	
Received	\$891,605.23
Budget	\$1,028,489.58
(Under)	(\$134,884.35)

Year	Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
1982	\$5,131.33	11.81
1983	\$21,483.81	10.71
1984	(\$156,834.15)	-2.34
1985	(\$199,901.09)	3.88
1986	(\$ 38,575.61)	3.88
1987	\$129,223.77	9.14

Though we received only 86.89 of our February budget, we are still 106.3 percent over budget for the first two weeks of 1987. Pray for "Missions Advance 87-89" that it will have a positive impact on Cooperative Program giving in our Arkansas churches.—Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

In this issue

10 stemming the abortion tide?

Larry Baker, director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, says Southern Baptists who have fought valiantly against abortion on demand can take heart in new statistics which show a decline in the number of legalized abortions performed in the United States.

13 Indiana resignations

Two top leaders of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, R.V. Haygood and Glen W. Ray, have resigned in a dispute over the misuse of funds designated for domestic hunger relief.

ABSC photo / Ervin Keathley



Handbell festival—The 14th annual State Handbell Festival was held at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, March 6-7. Participants included 273 ringers representing 19 choirs from 17 churches from across Arkansas. The guest clinician was Nancy Jane Blair, assistant minister of music/organist, Briarlake Church, Decatur, Ga. Blair previously served at First Church, Osceola. The 1988 Festival will be held April 22-23 at Ouachita Baptist University with Donald Allured, clinician. Pictured is the handbell choir of First Church, Jacksonville.

'Christian' TV personalities

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



In recent years many Christians have worshipped through the "electronic church." This practice has always been wrong for healthy people who could assemble together as the Bible instructs. Many of us also have felt that Christians were being used financially by these TV personalities. Recent events have brought to light the tragedy of allowing TV personalities to provide a substitute form of electronic worship.

The recent events in the lives of certain "Christian" TV personalities point up two important facts which all Christians should keep in mind. First, it is imperative that individuals place their trust in God, not in man. People, no matter how genuine they may appear, often fail. If an individual's trust is in a TV personality, he will be disappointed.

Second, Christians do well to direct their money through channels that are carefully audited. The Bible clearly teaches us that our money should be given to a local New Testament church. Each Baptist church determines the percentage of its money that it will give to the Cooperative Program, which supports all Southern Baptist mission causes. The Cooperative Program money and special mission offerings are carefully audited. Our checks and balances protect our money from being abused.

The manipulation and unethical activity of "Christian" TV personalities has recently been pointed up in the activities of Jim Bakker and Oral Roberts.

Jim Bakker said he had been blackmailed because of an alleged sexual encounter and resigned as chairman of PTL Network. Bakker told the *Charlotte Observer* that seven years ago he had been "wickedly manipulated by treacherous former friends" who "conspired to betray me into a sexual encounter."

The PTL organization has vast holdings in addition to the PTL television show. Included among these are a 230-acre Heritage-USA Amusement Park and a 500-room hotel in southern California. As far back as 1980, Bakker and his wife received a \$90,000 annual salary, plus a clothing allowance and use of a \$200,000 home. It appears that the questionable activity of these individuals has provided them with luxury.

TV personality Oral Roberts announced that, if he did not receive \$8 million by March 31 he would be "called home by God." It appears that he received his \$8 million as dog track "gambler" Jerry Collins gave \$1.3 million to Roberts. Richard Roberts, Oral's son, flew to Orlando in his father's private Lear jet, accompanied by Collins, so that Collins could present the \$1.3 million check to Oral Roberts on March 22.

Obviously, such "Christian" TV personalities make the cause

of Christ look bad. It also is evident that good, well meaning, devoted Christians have been manipulated by individuals for their own gain.

It is easy for "Christian" TV personalities to gain popularity. We are accustomed to TV entertainment, TV education, and TV morality. An individual should neither be accepted nor rejected because of his use of television. But it should be remembered that Christ instituted the church.

A study of Paul and Peter will assist us in setting a criteria for the message that should be proclaimed. These apostles emphasized: (1) salvation by grace, (2) the importance of the local church, (3) the necessity of sacrifice, when needed, by believers, and (4) the necessity of speaking to any group of individuals who were seeking Christ, whether a large or small audience.

It is not always easy to determine what "Christian" TV personalities believe. Many even cover up their teachings regarding the plan of salvation. A legitimate TV evangelist, such as Billy Graham, will follow certain guidelines. Among these are: (1) he will preach the New Testament plan of salvation clearly and frequently, (2) he will encourage those making decisions to unite with a local New Testament church, and (3) his finances will be carefully audited and open to the public.

Many superstars of the electronic church say little or nothing about local New Testament churches. The Bible, however, is clear on the fact that every believer needs the strength to be gained from fellowship with other believers. The importance of the local church is shown by the frequency it is mentioned in the Scriptures. The word *ekklesia* (church) is used 117 times in the New Testament. At least 92 of these refer to local congregations.

The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes the importance of New Testament churches. The writer of Hebrews admonishes, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Paul underscored Christ's concern for the church as he said, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it." If Christ had this kind of sacrificial love for his church, it behooves Christians to love, support, and encourage their own local New Testament church.

We have a duty to use our time, energy, and money properly. This includes giving a tithe to our own local church first, and only then should we share our income with other legitimate organizations. We have a responsibility to be alert to "Christian" TV personalities who are manipulating us.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Moving long-term goals to the immediate agenda

Long-term goals have always seemed a little bit like "pie in the sky by and by." I hate to admit it, but all of those months we worked during Ouachita's Centennial year, with task forces drawing up "Goals for Ouachita—2001," I felt sure it would be someone else's work many years down the road, not mine.

The goals were announced with great pomp and ceremony. A former president of the United States was the speaker in the Ouachita arena last year when seven impressive goals were announced on such varied subjects as student enrollment, faculty development, curriculum, the Christian dimension, and buildings and grounds.

There was something comforting—almost sleep-inducing—about announcing these goals for Ouachita's second century, beautifully summarized and printed in a pocket-size brochure distributed to everyone in that vast audience. As cartoon character Li'l Abner used to say, "As any fool would know—I know," long-term goals are supposed to be displayed on the wall for a few years while we rest up from the labors of centennial celebration, relax for a while, and then rekindle the excitement of scaling new heights in the cause of Christian and academic excellence.

A funny thing happened on the way to that rest and relaxation. The faculty and staff of

Ouachita Baptist University, without so much as a side-glance or a day of rest, began a massive assault on Ouachita's second century goals. In most cases they have not even waited for new money.

Ed Coulter and Randy Garner, with the admissions counseling staff, stepped up student recruitment activities with such an intensity that there has been a sharp increase in new student applications—the largest number in six years.

Mark Baber and Bud Fray were not kidding around when they supported the goal to make Ouachita a "doorway to the world" Following a special invitation from the Foreign Mission Board, and personally raising their own travel costs, 42 students and staff members devoted their spring vacation to a missions trip to Ecuador in support of our Southern Baptist missionaries in four sections of that earthquake-devastated country. A dozen others worked in inner-city Washington, D.C., and another student joined Dr. J. D. Patterson on a dental-missions trip up the Amazon River in Brazil.

Mike Arrington and Randy Smith have already led in achieving remarkably quick results in the field of faculty development. A new "extended faculty sabbatical" program has been adopted, a computer training program for faculty and staff has been developed, and a program of gradually

reducing faculty teaching loads is under way. Mike Arrington and Tom Auffmanberg have taken the lead in developing a foreign language requirement at Ouachita, effective with entering freshmen in the fall of 1988.

Roger Harrod burned the midnight oil, as well as burning the rubber on Arkansas and Texas highways, to complete the fund raising for the \$2 million "information age library" project. The construction of a beautiful new library addition is well under way, under the watchful eye of Ed Coulter and Ray Granade, as is the purchase of modern computer hardware and software, and the electronic link with HSU's Huie Library.

Tom and Marie Turner are at Zhengzhou University in China this year, teaching physics and English, respectfully, and paving the way for further faculty and student exchange programs with this remarkable sleeping giant of the world.

No one at Ouachita seems to understand that long-term goals are designed for the long term. If this kind of progress keeps up, I may have to appoint a series of task forces to formulate "Goals for Ouachita: 3001!" I would fully expect the faculty and staff to begin working on them next year.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Letters to the editor

Remember home missions

As a native of Little Rock, it is my pleasure to write this letter. We are serving as bivocational church planters for the Baptist Convention of New England. My wife Melissa, daughter Jessica (3), and one due in June, and myself have been here since October, when I completed seminary at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Currently we work in Milbury, Massachusetts, helping to begin a new church in a town of 12,000 with little or no evangelical work at all.

I am employed as a carpenter by a local building contractor and work 40 to 50 hours a week supporting my family. We receive no salaries for our church work and provide for our own expenses. However we depend on the Home Mission Board support services from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering as we begin this church.

Even though our church has only two members, Melissa and myself, we average an attendance of 14, that range in backgrounds

of Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Anglican, Congregational, Jewish, General Baptist, and whatever else comes our way seeking "the truth that sets men free."

To most Arkansas Baptists, our numbers may seem insignificant, but they are significant enough that Christ chose to die on the cross for them. And that is why Southern Baptists are in New England. Because here in America there are millions who have never heard the truth and even more who have never read a Bible.

It is our prayer that Arkansas Baptists will not only remember Melissa, Jessica and I but the many who serve sacrificially here in New England. And when you give to the Annie Armstrong this year, let this be a reminder that here in Massachusetts live four times as many people in one-sixth the size of Arkansas with fewer than 60 churches to see that they hear the truth that only Christ can give.—John D. Kuespert, Milbury, Mass.

Prayer partners sought for Indiana evangelistic thrust

The Central Indiana Baptist Association is planning an evangelistic ministry during the Pan American Games to be held in Indianapolis Aug. 7-23. The association is creating a network of prayer partners throughout the country to support the effort. For information on becoming a prayer partner, contact: Mark R. Powell, Central Indiana Baptist Association, 2780 Water Front Parkway, East Drive, Suite 125, Indianapolis, IN 46224.

a smile or two

"There are a lot of things that people can't take credit for, unless they thank their parents."
—Roy Hatten

Blessed are the ignorant, for they are happy in thinking they know everything.
—Herb True

Boredom is the state of being absent while present.
—Frank Tyler

You'll be glad to know...

"Gather The People" is a simple theme and plan for getting our Sunday School forces mobilized over a four to six week period of time. Weekly goals increase, moving toward the final Sunday when high attendance will be reached. No one is tricked, paid-off, or embarrassed into doing anything. It is just an organized way of working together to contact absentees and prospects. God truly blesses plans like this when people work the plans from a spiritual motivation. It has been a joy over the last several weeks to be in and out of many of our churches. Almost everywhere I have been, the churches are using this tool. I want to congratulate each of you and pledge you my prayers as you approach your High Attendance Day around Easter time.



Moore

Revival time is also on its way in most churches. God is bringing this to my mind often. It may be his reminder to pray about the revivals I am preaching. It has also reminded me to pray for all of you. We all know we need more than meetings. Many people can lead meetings. Only God can give revival. Let's not settle with anything else.

It is quite a thrill to be a part of people's lives and a part of programs that are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. There is a spark, a dynamic or dimension about such people that causes me to be drawn to them. Such programs also elicit my attention and support. There are some questions that we need to face from time to time related to the Great Commission. (1) What strategy, program or plan do I have for trying to fulfill the Commission? (2) What is our church's plan for fulfilling the Commission? (3) Do the people in the church know the plan? (4) Does the plan have the support of the Scripture? (5) Will the next generation of church members be left a plan, or will they have to rediscover and develop a plan again themselves? (6) Will our missions work throughout the world succeed because of me or in spite of me? (7) Have the resources entrusted to me by the Lord been fairly distributed between limited local needs and unlimited world needs? (8) What am I doing to be informed and to inform others about missions? Let a task force member help you!

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

'How to get involved'

by Jim McDaniel

Arkansas Baptists are being presented one of the greatest challenges ever set before us in "Missions Advance 87-89." This is an opportunity to increase our response to world missions while, at the same time, strengthening our work here in Arkansas.

I recall, as a seminary student, learning that Park Place in Boston, Mass., an evangelical congregational church, gave 50 percent of their budget gifts to world mission causes. That is the most mission-minded church budget I know about. I've heard very little talk since then of churches dividing their gifts equally between the local field and world missions until attending the Task Force of 100 Workshop. During the workshop, I heard several pastors express the desire to lead their churches to 50-50 giving. That rekindled a flame in my own heart. I don't know how the Lord will have individual churches divide their gifts, but I am certain all of us could be giving more than we are

for the cause of world missions. "Missions Advance 87-89" presents that opportunity and challenge.

As the Lord leads you to become involved in Missions Advance, you may secure assistance from a Task Force member by: (1) making direct contact with the member of your choice, or (2) contacting Associate Executive Director Jimmie Sheffield in the Baptist Building. He will put you in contact with a Task Force member.

Your church will not have any expenses for the emphasis. All members of the Task Force have agreed to serve at their own expense.

Your church has an excellent opportunity to participate in advancing world missions. Call now to enlist a Task Force member!

Jim McDaniel is pastor of First Church, Brinkley.

68 churches invite task force speakers

Nine additional churches have scheduled Task Force speakers, bringing the total to 68. These new churches and pastors are listed below. For more information, contact Jimmie Sheffield at 376-4791.

First Church	Beebe	Ronnie Mayes
First Church	El Dorado	Mark Coppenger
First Church	Helena	Bill Hammonds
First Church	Murfreesboro	Rick Hyde
First Church	Waldron	Nelson Wilhelm
Glendale Church	Bonneville	Ken Barnard
Immanuel Southern Church	Salem	
Southside Church	Fayetteville	Larry Spencer
West Side Church	El Dorado	Jerry Wilson

Honor those who died for our freedom

Roger and Gerald died in South Vietnam. I knew them both. William Roger Brooks, age 42, and Gerald Eugene Booth Hamm, age 23, along with thousands of other American armed services personnel, have died to gain and preserve freedoms for you and me. This includes religious freedom.

Roger and I were boyhood friends and members of First Church in Morrilton. I shall never forget the thrill experienced when learning of his dad's conversion. Until being saved, Red Brooks had a beer joint between E. E. Mitchell's Hardware Store and Adam's Jewelry Store on North Moose Street. Gerald was a member of the U.S. Naval

Reserve Unit in Camden. I was the chaplain. I didn't get to know him very well but I remember that his uncle, the late Gene Phelps of the Cullendale Church where I was pastor, was extremely proud of him.

Their names are enshrined on both the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in our nation's capitol and on the recently dedicated memorial in Little Rock.

To honor these and those who died in other wars to preserve our religious liberty why not plan now to observe Religious Liberty Sunday the first Sunday in June? Order a free 1987 Religious Liberty Packet, which includes a poster and other materials to assist your church in developing a Religious Liberty Day emphasis. Write or call: Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 200 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington, D. C., 20002; (202)544-4226.—Bob Parker, director, Christian Life Council



Parker

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



Lynn A. Bullock will join the staff of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock April 5 as minister of youth, coming there from First Southern Church in Del City, Okla., where he has been serving as college and career minister. A native of

Del City, he is a graduate of Del City High School and is now pursuing an associate of divinity degree through Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Extension Studies at Oklahoma Baptist University. He is married to the former Deborah Burrow. They have two children, Angela Sue, nine, and Bailey Don, six.

Charles L. Langley is serving Hagarville Church as pastor. He is a bi-vocational pastor and has lived in the Hagarville area since 1984. He formerly served as pastor of Bethel Chapel at Crossett and was ordained to the preaching ministry by Bethany Church in Baker, La. He and his wife, Dean, have two married children.

Eldridge M. Snow is serving as pastor of Center Ridge Church in Conway-Perry Association.

Craig Campbell joined the staff of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock March 13 as interim minister of youth. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University, where he served as captain of the football team last year and received All American honors as well as Academic All American. He has assisted Wynne Church with its youth activities and has been active in the youth ministry at Arkadelphia First Church.

Troy Prince is serving as interim pastor of Morrilton First Church.

Johnny Lemmons resigned as pastor of Clear Lake Church near Blytheville March 31 to serve as pastor of First Church, Scott City, Mo.

Timothy Deahl has accepted a call to begin serving May 24 as pastor of Olivet Church in Little Rock. He will move to Little Rock from Jacksonville, Fla., where he serves as coordinator of masters and doctoral students at Luther Rice Seminary and serves as pastor of Colonial Church.

Deahl is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn. He and his wife, Carolyn, have two children, David, 14, and Sherri, nine.

Jay and Lynn Heflin of Little Rock received the B.H. Carroll Founders Award from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary March 12. This award was initiated to honor selected men and women of vision who have a significant role in the total ministry of the seminary. The Heflins' have been active members of Little Rock Second Church for almost 50 years. He has served on the executive boards of both the Arkansas and Southern Baptist Conventions, in addition to serving two terms as a Southwestern trustee. They have two sons, Johnny and Boo.

Stephen Parish has joined the staff of Immanuel Church in Fort Smith as minister of education and music. He came there from Bellvue Church in Hattiesburg, Miss. Parish is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Karen, have two sons, Matthew, seven, and Nicholas, five.

J.B. Hunt received an honorary degree March 16 from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. Hunt, an active layman in Springdale First Church, was

featured speaker for Founders' Day at the university.

Leon Turner began serving March 25 as pastor of Arabella Heights Church in Texarkana, coming there from Reynolds Memorial Church in Little Rock.

David Spraggins has resigned as pastor of Pisgah Church, Fouke to serve as pastor of First Southern Church in Roundup, Mont. He will be assisted on this pioneer mission field by **Southwest Association**, whose executive board voted recently to contribute \$50 per month, as available, for 12 months.

briefly

Stuttgart First Church recently hosted an association-wide rally for youth in **Centennial Association**. The event was attended by approximately 100 people, representing six churches in the association. Entertainment was by Majesty, a vocal group, and Christ and Company, a puppet team, from Arkansas Technical College in Russellville.

Cross Road Church in Little Rock recently celebrated payment of a \$65,000 indebtedness with a noteburning service. Don Moore, executive director of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



First Church, Delaware, dedicated a 300-seat sanctuary March 22, valued at \$83,900. Jeff Cheatham, director of missions for Dardanelle-Russellville Association, was dedication speaker. Speaking from I Kings 8:22, he challenged members to use their new sanctuary as a place of prayer, of redemption, of renewal, and of restoration. Building committee members recognized were Royce Jenkins, Otis Corbell, Jehu Campbell, James Farnam, and Eldon Thomas. Wylie G. Jones is pastor.

Little Rock's Calvary celebrates 50 years

ABN photo / Millie Gill



(Left to right) Millie Schumard, Lawson Hatfield, and Nora Stock reminisce over a historical photograph display.

Calvary Church, Little Rock, celebrated its 50th year of service March 20-22 with activities that included a Friday evening praise service, a Saturday afternoon reception, traditional Sunday services and a Sunday afternoon anniversary banquet. Calvary Church, originally a mission of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, was formally organized as a West Calvary Church in March 1937, with 42 charter members. In 1939, the membership voted to drop the "West" from its name and began a building program. There have been five other building programs and one remodeling program in the church's history. A 1987 resident membership of 1,075 and a Sunday School enrollment of 1,210 are the results of 30 pastors leading members to reach more people through Bible study and worship. Former pastors and staff members participating in the anniversary celebration were Padgett Cope, Dwayne Fischer, Phil Lineberger, Clyde Glazener, Lawson Hatfield, Fred Helms, Wilbur Herring, and Bob Metcalf. Calvary's new pastor, J. Randall O'Brien, will arrive in June.

Little Rock Immanuel Church is having a Sunday School enrollment and attendance campaign during April. A total attendance goal of 5,555 has been established with a high attendance goal of 1,500 set for Easter Sunday.

Mena First Church held a churchwide study on prayer March 22-25 with Ken Dodson as speaker.

Conway Second Church senior adults have planned April activities which include a hobo party, sponsoring a kindergarten egg hunt, participation in a Southern Baptist Convention sponsored senior adult convention in Fort Worth, and a joint meeting in Hot Springs with First Church senior adults. Orval Faubus, a former governor of Arkansas, was guest speaker for their March 11 meeting held at the church.

Russellville First Church youth choir has planned a summer mission/choir tour to Columbus, Ohio.

Delaware First Church will ordain Jehu Campbell, Otis Corbell, Royce Jenkins, Bob Loyd, James Farnam and Lawrence Vaughn to the deacon ministry April 5. Pastor Wylie G. Jones will serve as moderator.

Liberty Association Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women will hold a prayer retreat April 24-25 at Beech Springs Camp. Ruby Snider is serving as coordinator for the event, which will be led by Carolyn Porterfield, BW/BYW director for Woman's Missionary Union, Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Deaf conference set for April 24-26

The annual Arkansas Baptist Conference of the Deaf has been set for April 24-26 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. The theme for the 1987 conference is "God Will Take Care of You," and the conference pastor will be Dr. Jerry Seale, pastor of the deaf at First Church, Knoxville, Tenn. Workshops on personal development topics will be led by Dr. Randy Cash, language missions director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24, with the program starting at 6:15 p.m. There is a registration fee of \$10 for adults and \$5 for college students and children under 12. The fee also will include the Saturday noon and evening meals. Persons wanting nursery or child care services should notify Jane Shows, TTY 834-1881.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Ida Tidsworth

Be a friend to internationals

Imagine that you moved to a little village in interior Korea. You had no Korean language skills or cultural training about Korea. Would your "America" clothes make you look "funny?" Where would you find a safe place to live? What if you became ill? How would you buy and prepare food? Would people accept you? How would you handle loneliness? What unknown experiences would you face? Where could you find a place of Christian fellowship and growth?

If you played the "suppose" game suggested above, you experienced needs of some people who come to America. They come as students, as refugees, for vocational advancement, and for many other reasons. Some of them live within easy traveling distance of most people in Arkansas.

Mildred McMurry once said, "The missions road that runs through South America, Africa, Asia and around the world also runs by your doorstep." The world is on our doorsteps in Arkansas. Jesus told us to be witnesses "unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8). People from the "uttermost parts of the earth" are right here on our doorsteps. Internationals need Christian friends. A friend can help them find answers

to the questions posed above. A friend can give genuine love. A friend can teach English to the international. Then he can meet his own needs in time. The greatest need of all people is to know Jesus. A friend can share Christ with an international friend or help Christian internationals to find a place of worship and fellowship.

Many internationals return to their own country. They carry a message with them. American friends help determine what that message will be.

Is the Spirit nudging you to be a friend to internationals? Find an international friend near you. Or ask a BSU director for the name of an international student who would like a friend. Ask your associational director of missions about International Friendship groups. Take training in teaching conversational English at Ridgecrest, Glorieta, or through the Arkansas Baptist Missions Department.

Mary Ida Tidsworth has taught conversational English for four years and is currently director of International Friendship, Little Rock. She is a member of Calvary Church, Little Rock.

Ignorance of world unaffordable luxury, Moore says

'We have coasted for a long time on what our forefathers did and taught us about the importance of missions and the Cooperative Program. . . . We simply must educate the people and hold before them all the time how very blessed we are and how much need there is in the rest of the world.'

by Mark Kelly

FORT SMITH—Southern Baptists can no longer afford to rest on the missionary laurels of their forebears and comfort themselves in affluent isolation while the world's billions suffer in hunger, disease, and poverty, a former Southern Baptist missionary believes.

Trueman Moore, pastor of East Side Church, Fort Smith, recently returned from Bangladesh, where he participated in a celebration of 30 years of Southern Baptist mission work in that country, work which he and his wife, Jane, helped begin. What he saw in Bangladesh deepened his conviction that the need to reach the world for Christ is greater now than ever before.

With so much of the world's population living in physical and spiritual misery, the United States cannot expect to continue to enjoy its material success without deepening the resentment felt by those in poverty, Moore explained. Southern Baptists in particular need to focus on the double task of sharing the gospel and raising standards of living for the world's poor, if serious global upheavals are to be averted.

Moore traveled to Bangladesh in February to take part in activities celebrating 30 years of Southern Baptist mission work in that country. He also addressed the annual meeting of the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship and helped with dedication services for a new sanctuary belonging to Immanuel Baptist Church in Dhaka, a congregation which Moore helped start during his 15-year missionary tenure in Bangladesh.

Tremendous progress has been made in Bangladesh during the last 30 years, Moore explained. He recalled the grim social conditions he encountered on arrival in that country: 90 percent illiteracy, one of three persons suffering from tuberculosis, one of six a leper. And, although he admitted much room for improvement remains, he did note the country was stronger in several areas: economy, health, agriculture, transportation, and education.

Even more encouraging, however, was the progress evident in Baptist work. While the Mission was able to start only one church

during the first 15 years of Southern Baptist missions in Bangladesh, the second 15 years saw 77 new churches begun, Moore said. Counting works previously begun by other Baptist groups, the fellowship now consists of 92 congregations. Last year alone, 17 new churches were admitted.

The key to that success, Moore contended, was the Mission's ministry to physical needs during severe crises in the country: a disastrous cyclone in November 1970 and a devastating civil war in March 1971.

In the wake of that cyclone, which killed thousands of people and left millions more homeless, Southern Baptist missionaries responded with assistance before the government had even announced to the rest of the country that the storm had hit, Moore said. The missionaries provided blankets, helped with shelter, and put down literally thousands of tube wells, providing many families with their only source of clean water.

During the civil war, Baptist missionaries ministered to the flood of Hindu refugees fleeing the country, Moore explained. When the Hindus returned after the war, the missionaries helped them re-settle and expended \$1 million in hunger funds for assistance.

Moore said such social ministries earn Southern Baptists the right to stay, in the eyes of the government, which years ago expelled all Christian organizations engaged strictly in evangelism. And as desperate human needs were met, people became open to the missionaries' message.

"We don't make 'rice Christians.' We don't buy conversions," Moore asserted. "The government wouldn't allow that, and we wouldn't either.

"But what we did showed them we really cared," and the result was thousands of professions of faith and an explosion of new churches, he said.

Moore points to Southern Baptist agricultural mission work as a proven method of demonstrating Christian concern and sharing the gospel while raising a people's standard of living. Four pillars of the

Bangladesh agricultural work—water wells, goat breeding, duck distribution, and fish farming—have dramatically improved living conditions for many people and served as tangible proof of Christian love, he said.

Moore praised the Southern Baptist missionaries working in Bangladesh for their willingness to work under government restrictions and difficult conditions, but expressed dismay at the lack of foreign mission awareness demonstrated by Southern Baptists in the United States.

"The average Southern Baptist knows almost nothing about what is going on, cannot conceive of the situation that exists in most of the foreign countries, and has very little conception of where the missionaries are, what they are doing, what their needs are, and of our obligation to support them in prayer and giving," Moore declared.

Despite "phenomenal" improvements in Southern Baptist world missions awareness and involvement, Moore said he still meets people who have no idea where Bangladesh is located. By contrast, that country's Bengali people are very aware of the United States and its people and culture.

Such ignorance of the broader world may be a luxury U.S. Christians can no longer afford, Moore contends.

"I think we have the biggest job of educating the people in Arkansas that we've ever had," he asserted. "We have coasted for a long time on what our forefathers did and taught us about the importance of missions and the Cooperative Program."

If there is to be any hope of continued well-being in today's world, Christians in the United States must realize the desperate need around the world and reach out to address it, Moore believes.

"We simply must educate the people and hold before them all the time how very blessed we are and how much need there is in the rest of the world," he emphasized. "It is impossible to live in a world of isolation anymore. We either win these people to Christ and help them with their standard of living, or, it is true, they'll probably come over here and take it all away from us one of these days."

And mission work on the Southern Baptist model accomplishes far more for the world's poor than any government programs, Moore added. While government giveaways often accomplish very little except to line the pockets of the wealthy, mission work results in better education, better health and economic conditions, and happier personal and spiritual lives for people, as they find themselves at peace with self and God.

"My observations after 30 years strongly support what we are doing and say we are doing it right," Moore concluded. "We just need to keep on doing it and do more of it."

Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Morris sentenced to death; appeal granted

SANNIQUELLIE, Liberia (BP)—A sentence of death by hanging was pronounced March 19 for Benjamin M. Morris, a Liberian found guilty of murdering Southern Baptist missionary Libby Senter and her daughter, Rachel.

But Morris has appealed and has been granted another trial during the October term of the Supreme Court, said Bradley Brown, chairman of the 67 Southern Baptist missionaries working in Liberia. Brown said he heard the news over national radio station ELBC.

In pronouncing the sentence, Circuit Court Judge Timothy Swope said the evidence was overwhelming against Morris, and in keeping with Liberian law Morris should be hanged from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 6, Brown reported. Swope directed the sheriff to prepare for hanging proceedings, awaiting a death warrant to be issued by President Samuel K. Doe.

Morris, 32, was arrested Nov. 27 near the Liberian border with Ivory Coast after Senter, 47, and her daughter were found dead in their Yekepa, Liberia, home. He later confessed orally and in writing that he killed the two after Senter tried to prevent him from molesting Rachel.

A 15-member jury convicted Morris March 5 after hearing five days of testimony from nine prosecution witnesses and Morris. Morris admitted in court to the murders. But departing from his confessions, he claimed Senter's husband, George, had hired him to commit them. Under further questioning, Morris contradicted himself on the dates involved. Jurors returned a verdict in less than 30 minutes, indicating they dismissed Morris' accusation, Brown said.

George Senter, who grew up in North Garden, Va., and worked in Evansville, Ind., before his appointment as a missionary, is a field evangelist and has been working to start and strengthen churches in about 20 villages in Nimba County. Mrs. Senter actively participated in her husband's work. The Senter's had lived in Yekepa since they became foreign missionaries in 1980.

The court proceedings have "engendered widespread interest," Brown said. Some of that interest grew out of the much-publicized forgiveness George Senter expressed to Morris just before Morris' initial confession. In published reports, the missionary has attributed his ability to forgive Morris to prayers offered in his behalf by Southern Baptists.

(BP) photo / Warren Johnson



Comfort and hope—Missionary George Senter shares a moment of grief and hope with Baptist layman Mike Gono. Returning to Liberia from study abroad, Gono had just heard of the November killings of Libby Senter and her daughter, Rachel. Mrs. Senter taught him how to read the Mano language.

Survey reveals support for Cooperative Program

by Orville Scott

Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (BP)—Ninety-nine percent of Texas Baptists who responded to a statewide survey said their individual church's contribution to missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program should increase or remain the same.

Fifty-five percent of respondents to the survey felt their church's contribution should go up and would like to see a sizeable increase.

The study by the marketing department of the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, included an analysis of 20 selected church budgets, six focus groups at six dissimilar churches and a mail survey using a random sample of 750 Baptist Sunday school leaders in Texas. Responses were received from 210 Sunday school leaders.

The survey was done at no cost to the Baptist General Convention of Texas under the direction of Richard Scott, dean of the Hankamer School of Business, and Charles S. Madden, chairman of the Baylor marketing department.

The Cooperative Program supports about 7,300 Southern Baptist missionaries, six seminaries, and other national and worldwide missions causes. Cooperative Program funds are channeled from local churches to state Baptist conventions to the Southern Baptist Convention-wide causes.

Cooperative Program giving by Texas Baptists grew from \$10.8 million in 1964 to \$56.3

million in 1985. But while giving increased almost six times in dollar amount, the percentage of total receipts Texas churches gave from their budgets to the Cooperative Program declined consistently, hitting 7.44 percent in 1985.

In 1926, the first full year of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist congregations as a whole averaged giving 10.86 percent of their receipts through the Cooperative Program. That figure rose to 11.02 percent in 1927. In 1985, the average was about 8.5 percent.

Respondents to the Texas survey said they felt economic factors were the main cause for the percentage decrease in Cooperative Program giving. Other major factors in the decline, they said, are need for education, denominational factionalism and too much power among large churches.

The study showed that while there is overwhelming support for the Cooperative Program, declines in church percentages for the Cooperative Program have resulted because of other priorities in churches that force the Cooperative Program to a lower funding level.

Also, when money is short, the Cooperative Program is sometimes reduced, the survey said. Another reason for the decline, according to the study, is lack of a group or person in the church who is distinctly responsible for maintaining or increasing Cooperative Program support.

The study also concluded the decision to cut is not usually a conscious one, but when

funds are reallocated to "pet projects" and building programs, churches have a difficult time raising Cooperative Program giving to the former level.

The survey revealed churches maintain or increase Cooperative Program giving when:

— Someone protects the Cooperative Program percentage as the "church's tithe."

— Sensitivity is raised about Cooperative Program without only referring to missions.

— The awareness and knowledge level is high among key leaders in the local church.

— Someone says something at a key time in the budget process and taps the strong support for the Cooperative Program.

Surveyed Baptists ranked Woman's Missionary Union as the greatest source of information about the Cooperative Program, followed by the state Baptist newspaper and pastors.

From the study, the survey team recommended Baptists, in order to achieve a Cooperative Program turnaround, should:

— Educate the younger generation and adult converts about the Cooperative Program.

— Use the state paper to broaden knowledge about the Cooperative Program.

— Target key church leaders for sensitivity and awareness of Cooperative Program giving and establish more direct contact with them.

— Create a network of local church "champions" who will emphasize the need to support Cooperative Program during the budget formulation process.

For opponents of abortion on demand

Decline in legal abortions good sign, says new CLC exec

by Tim Fields

SBC Christian Life Commission

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A recent government analysis that shows a decline in the number of legal abortions in the United States for the first time since 1969 is a strong indication the efforts of Southern Baptists and other groups have not been in vain, said Larry Baker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The analysis released by the Centers for Disease Control shows that in 1969 when the centers first began a program of abortion surveillance, 22,670 legal abortions were reported. The number steadily increased, reaching a high in 1982 of 1,303,980.

In 1983—the most recent year for which statistics are available—the number decreased to 1,268,987, the fewest since 1979. The analysis also shows a continued decline in the ratio of legal abortions per 1,000 live births.

"This apparent reversal in the rapid escalation of legal abortions is encouraging news for those who are working hard to stem the tide of abortion on demand," Baker said. "These figures, however, are another indication that abortion on demand continues to be a profound moral crisis."

The Centers for Disease Control analysis shows that in 1983, women obtaining abortions tended to be under 25 years of age, white (67.6 percent) and unmarried (78.6 percent). The report shows the abortion ratio per 1,000 live births for teenagers in 1983 was 720, more than twice the national ratio of 349. The number of legal abortions obtained by teenagers was 280,602, representing 27 percent of all abortions.

Although statistical data on the number of teenage abortions according to age was incomplete in 1983, 19-year-olds obtained the largest number of abortions, at 70,693. Teenagers under 15 years of age obtained an

estimated 9,171 abortions.

"Something is tragically wrong with the moral fabric of America when an astounding number of women are becoming pregnant out-of-wedlock and are ending their pregnancy in abortion," Baker said.

"The extremely high abortion ratio for teenagers shows the urgent need for diligent, effective sex education for children and youth in our homes and churches. It also indicates the need for better communication about Christian values and a continuous call to Christian moral living.

"As the Southern Baptist agency assigned to deal with abortion, the Christian Life Commission plans to make this extremely serious moral issue one of its highest priorities," Baker said. "The Christian Life Commission will be working aggressively on new programs and resources to help Southern Baptists deal with the abortion problem and to minister to persons affected by it."

Oklahoma convention adjusts CP allocations downward

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Oklahoma Baptists' board of directors voted unanimously March 17 to temporarily adjust the division of Cooperative Program gifts between state and national ministries.

The change, recommended after months of study by a special committee, increases the amount utilized for Oklahoma missions to 56 percent and reduces the amount forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention to 44 percent. It is effective as of Jan. 1, 1987.

For two years, Oklahoma has been one of only two state conventions to divide

Cooperative Program gifts evenly, 50-50, between state and national conventions. Florida is the other state convention.

The new plan implements an immediate procedure to return Oklahoma to the 50-50 division as quickly as possible.

While Oklahoma was increasing the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts it forwards to the SBC from 43.5 percent in 1980 to 50 percent in 1985, Oklahoma churches actually were decreasing the percentage of their gifts they forwarded to the Cooperative Program from 10 percent to 8.9

percent.

On top of that, Oklahoma's economy, based on agriculture and oil, was flying high in the late 1970s when the state's Baptists began their trek to a 50-50 division. The past five years of agricultural depression and crashing oil prices clobbered the state's economic base at the same time Baptists kept reaching for the 50-50 goal.


The 44 percent Oklahoma Baptists will forward to the national Cooperative Program still stands as the third-largest percentage shared by any state convention.

Airport closing won't delay inerrancy conference

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The national Conference on Biblical Inerrancy is still on schedule even though flights into the Asheville, N.C., airport have been grounded for runway resurfacing the opening day. The conference is scheduled for May 4-7 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Ridgecrest has scheduled shuttle service to the conference center from two alternate airports: Greenville/Spartanburg, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C.

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Baptist hunger gifts top \$9 million in 1986, second-largest ever

by Tim Fields

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists gave more than \$9 million to worldwide hunger relief in 1986, the second-largest amount ever given through the denomination's Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

The 1986 total of \$9,089,279 was 23 percent less than the record \$11.8 million given in 1985, but nearly a \$2 million increase over the amount given in 1984. The 1986 total is more than \$8 million above 1977 contributions.

For 1986, the Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$7,790,128, compared with \$10,625,897 in 1985 and \$6,548,901 in 1984. Thirty-four percent of the 1986 receipts came during the last two months of the year after the observance of the denomination's World Hunger Day in October.

Unlike the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board's hunger contributions climbed slightly to \$1,299,151 in 1986 from \$1,204,249 in 1985. The 1986 figure was more than twice the \$617,817 received in 1984.

"The increase in domestic hunger giving, beginning in 1985, reflects in large measure the implementation of the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention recommendation that undesignated contributions to world hunger be divided, with 80 percent going to the

Foreign Mission Board and 20 percent going to the Home Mission Board," explained Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Several state conventions, however, still send almost all their hunger receipts to the Foreign Mission Board," he said.

Texas, the largest of the state conventions, led all states in hunger contributions, with \$1,334,888 in 1986, down 31 percent from 1985.

Two other state conventions also topped the \$1 million mark in 1986: Georgia (\$1,175,952), up 10 percent from 1985; and Virginia (\$1,047,967), up 1 percent. In 1985, four state conventions surpassed the \$1 million mark.

The state conventions with the largest percentage increases in giving over the previous year were Hawaii, 30.99 percent; Wyoming, 15.44 percent; and Pennsylvania-South Jersey, 11.91 percent.

Conversely, state conventions with the largest decreases were New England, 66.69 percent; Tennessee, 60.46 percent; Colorado, 58.46 percent; New York, 58.13 percent; and D.C., 48.49 percent.

The 1986 hunger gifts represent a decline in per capita giving among Southern Baptists, from 82 cents in 1985 to 63 cents. Only Southern Baptists in Hawaii surpassed the

\$2 per capita level by giving \$2.01 per person. The next was Virginia, with \$1.76.

The 1986 figures do not reflect money given for hunger that was utilized in local churches, associations and state conventions. Such information on a conventional basis presently is unavailable.

The available information suggests a considerable amount of hunger money was either spent on the local level or used for special state mission projects related to hunger, Parham said.

Baptist state conventions in South Carolina and Virginia, for example, each keep 5 percent of the hunger gifts which pass through their state offices. Georgia retains 10 percent of its hunger gifts, while North Carolina keeps 25 percent.

"In spite of financial hardships in many of the oil- and farm-based economies, and in spite of a dearth of U.S. media coverage about overseas hunger, Southern Baptist support for world hunger programs administered by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards remains strong," Parham said. "Southern Baptists, however, still are giving less than \$1 per person each year to feed the hungry and to help them to feed themselves. We must continue to be generous with our energies and financial resources in support of Southern Baptist domestic and overseas hunger programs."

Texas WMU sets \$5.5 million goal for state missions

DALLAS (BP)—A \$5,555,555 goal for the 1987 Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions was set by the Texas Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board during their March 11-13 meeting.

The 1987 offering is the first Texas state missions offering following the once-in-a-lifetime, two-year Mary Hill Davis Centennial Offering. To date, about \$22 million of the \$30 million centennial goal has been

given or pledged.

The 1987 goal is an increase of almost 43 percent over the \$3,184,840 goal in 1984, the last "normal" state missions offering.

Basic 1987 allocations include \$1,014,500 to enhance Texas Baptist multi-cultural ministries; \$1 million to reach people through new churches; \$520,000 to strengthen new church work; \$520,000 for special urban ministries; \$727,000 to support

specialized mission opportunities; and \$623,000 to increase missions awareness and support through missions education.

An additional \$1,151,055 is added for new mission/church assistance. All receipts over the \$4.4 million basic goal will be added to the new mission/church assistance fund. Receipts less than the basic goal will be adjusted in the allocations for new mission/church assistance.

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Missionaries say Lebanon should remain a priority

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP)—Wayne Fuller's Lebanese Baptist friends didn't exactly say goodbye.

The missionary says he was told over and over, "We pray the Lord will cause you to return very soon."

The hope voiced by Lebanon's Baptists makes it impossible for Fuller to envision anything less than returning to their land, where he has worked 17 of his 24 years as a missionary.

Twenty-three other Southern Baptist missionaries had much the same experience in leaving Lebanon.

One Lebanese Baptist urged Fuller's wife, Frances: "Please don't let the mission board forget about Lebanon. Make them fight (for you) to come back." Another friend placed a note in her purse urging: "Write to everybody in America and tell them not to quit praying for Lebanon because the missionaries left. Tell them they need to double their prayers."

Among many if not all of the missionaries, a sense of divine call to Lebanon remains. "I may not be vital to Lebanon," says Russ Futrell, "but Lebanon is vital to me." Futrell worked there under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's journeyman program from 1978 to 1980 and was appointed as a missionary in 1983.

"The shock has not really gotten to us," notes Pete Dunn, a missionary in Lebanon since 1968. "We've just not had time to say our ministry could be finished in Lebanon. We've not come to that. When we do, it'll be a sad day."

Many of the missionaries want the Foreign Mission Board and Southern Baptists to continue seeking a change in the U.S. State Department order barring Americans from Lebanon for at least a year.

Such efforts have begun. Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks wrote to three State Department officials in mid-March requesting the name of "the person with whom we need to keep in contact . . . in order to know the earliest possible time to return" to Lebanon.

Parks expressed respect for the State Department's authority to refuse exemptions for missionaries, but noted, "We, along with the missionaries and Lebanese Baptists, would make a different decision based on our perspective and experience."

"We feel there is urgent need to return as soon as possible," Parks wrote. "The value of the humanitarian and spiritual contribution that could be made in this critical time cannot be overstated."

Isam Ballenger, the board's vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, acknowledges that the missionaries "might want a more aggressive policy on our part" for re-entering Lebanon. But, he says, "Our interests are the same: When the time comes that the ban could be lifted, we want to know."

Missionary Dunn would like "total pressure" exerted. The pressure should "not be in a derogatory fashion," he qualifies. But he hopes Baptists will contact "everybody with whom we have a right to express a view. I'd love to see a blitz by every state Baptist paper."

"We work to bring about change in a lot of other areas," adds Futrell. "Why should we limit ourselves in this area?" He doesn't want "protest for the sake of protest." Rather, he wants to resume "the work we've had to leave behind, sharing the love of Christ in a needy land." The missionaries ache over

leaving Lebanon's Baptists and other Christian and Muslim friends with whom they've weathered the country's 12-year civil war. At times their emotions break forth into tears and sobbing.

And there's deep concern for the future of Beirut-based gospel publishing, mass media, Bible correspondence and theological education aimed at Arabic-speaking people throughout the Middle East.

At issue, Frances Fuller believes, is the question, "Are we serious anymore about the gospel?" Do Christians have the courage to carry the gospel to a world full of danger?

The danger is great in West Beirut and other areas of Lebanon controlled by Muslim extremists, where kidnappers hold eight Americans, more than a dozen other foreigners and numerous Lebanese. But kidnapping hasn't yet spread to the Maronite Christian stronghold of East Beirut and the surrounding region, where most of the missionaries lived and worked.

"I fear not attempting to do God's will more than I fear being kidnapped or dying by an explosion or sniper fire," says Emmett Barnes, a 20-year missionary in Lebanon.

"It's not my nature to try to live dangerously," he adds. But at the core of his motivations are "what I know of God, a realization of his love, a desire to do his will."

The government can command its soldiers to risk their lives in battle, Ballenger notes. The missionaries "would like to take the weapons which they have . . . the Bible, the proclamation of a way of peace and love and reconciliation . . . and stay in the battle and take the risk."

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Hunger funds diverted

Two Indiana leaders resign in funds use dispute

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—The executive director and the director of state missions of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana (SCBI) have resigned as the result of a dispute over the misuse of domestic hunger funds.

Executive Director-Treasurer R.V. Haygood and State Missions Division Director Glen W. Ray resigned March 20 during a special called meeting of the SCBI Executive Committee. Although the committee did not request the resignations, it did accept them—effective immediately—during the 12-hour marathon meeting.

The executive committee March 23 named Lew Reynolds, director of the church growth division, and David Simpson, director of the communications division, as interim "co-advisors." B.J. Watts, Haygood's administrative assistant, was named interim treasurer.

The resignations are the result of a three-month controversy over the diversion of \$8,850 in domestic hunger funds to supplement the Church Pastoral Aid budget.

According to Indiana records, missions director Ray requisitioned CPA checks for \$19,700 on Dec. 5, 1986, to pay the salary supplements of pastors receiving assistance. Of that amount, \$8,850 was covered by diverting funds from the designated hunger relief fund account.

Domestic hunger funds are designated gifts distributed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as part of Southern Baptists' program of combatting hunger around the world. Church Pastoral Aid provides funds for small congregations to be

able to have a full-time pastor in order to facilitate church development.

Haygood brought the diversion of funds to the executive committee at a regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 23. During that meeting Haygood presented and the committee adopted without opposition a strongly worded resolution which called the expenditure of hunger funds for pastoral assistance a "direct violation" of the guidelines from the Home Mission Board, and put the committee "on record as strongly opposing this misuse of funds."

Moore said Haygood told the committee Ray had seen and was in agreement with the resolution. "I realized it was a hard statement and it would have a tendency to scar his (Ray's) ministry, but we accepted it because we were told he (Ray) had seen it. When we went to tell him about our action, I found out he had not seen the resolution."

Subsequently, Ray asked to speak at the March 2 meeting of the 33-member executive board. He was allowed to speak and told the board: "In retrospect, I probably should have requisitioned other available limited funding instead of domestic hunger funds . . ."

Haygood disagreed with the Board's decision to hear Ray. He quoted from the SCBI constitution and from the employee policy guidelines which says staff members shall report to the executive director-treasurer and "not directly to the executive board or its committees."

"Protocol has been seriously violated. The staff of the State Convention of Baptists in

Indiana has always worked for the executive director, not the executive board. Unless it stays on that keel we will let the bottom fall out of what we have," Haygood told board members.

Following the March 2 meeting, the executive committee met and rescinded the strongly worded resolution, substituting one which only says the use of hunger funds was a "direct violation" of HMB guidelines and instructing Ray and Haygood to work together to transfer funds to the hunger fund, "making up the difference for the mistake which has been made."

Haygood's resignation says, "Due to recent events and because I feel I no longer have the full support of the executive board, I do not feel that I can lead this convention any farther. I do not wish to damage it with further strife. Therefore I am submitting my resignation."

Haygood, 57, came to Indiana in 1969 as state director of missions. He became associate executive director in 1973 and became executive director-treasurer Jan. 1, 1981. Before he moved to Indiana, he was associational director of missions in Little Rock, Ark.

He is a native of Arkansas. He attended Arkansas A & M College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. He has been pastor of churches in Texas and Arkansas.

Ray, 51, came to Indiana from Ohio in 1983 to become state director of missions. Previously, he was director of associational missions of the Cincinnati Baptist Association. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary and has a doctor of ministries degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

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Officials recommend minor changes in tax-exempt law

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—Representatives from the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Treasury told a House subcommittee they do not favor a "wholesale change" in the law governing lobbying and political activities by tax-exempt organizations.

Lawrence B. Gibbs, commissioner of internal revenue, and J. Roger Mentz, assistant treasury secretary for tax policy, recommended that members of the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee work to clarify and balance current regulations.

The Internal Revenue Code contains 25 categories of organizations—ranging from charitable, educational and religious organizations to labor unions—generally exempt from federal income tax. Those organizations are subject to a variety of restrictions on lobbying and political activities, depending upon the specific activity and the type of organization involved.

The most stringent restrictions are applied to religious, charitable and educational organizations, which are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are eligible to receive deductible charitable contributions. Organizations receiving 501(c)(3) status are prohibited from engaging in direct or indirect participation or intervention in any political campaign and must limit their lobbying activities—any attempt to influence legislation through affecting the opinions of the general public or through communication with any member, official or employee of a legislative body or governmental agency—to an "insubstantial" portion of their total activities.

Both Gibbs and Mentz testified regulations on lobbying involve a number of ambiguities that have resulted in problems for tax-exempt organizations and the government.

"The rationale for the current restrictions on lobbying activities has never been clearly articulated," Mentz said, adding the current restriction was added to the tax law by

a Senate floor amendment, the history of which is inconclusive as to its purpose.

Gibbs noted additional problems occur in determining whether a lobbying act may be attributed to an individual member rather than the entire organization and in measuring what amount of lobbying activity constitutes a "substantial part" of the organization's overall activity.

"Lack of a precise standard causes problems for the Service in its attempt to enforce the statute uniformly," Gibbs said. "It also has a negative effect on charitable organizations since they cannot gauge the permissible level of these activities."

Both men referred to a 1976 congressional action designed to address charges of vagueness against the substantial part test. As a result of Congress' enacting Internal Revenue Code section 501(h), a 501(c)(3) organization now may elect to be subject to a mechanical test, based on expenditures, for determining a permissible level of lobbying.

BWA president takes message of love, prayer

by Linda Lawson

Baptist World Alliance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Whether he is worshipping with 19 members of a Christian church in China, giving a Russian man his first Bible or taking \$50,000 in relief funds to Baptists in Nicaragua, the president of the Baptist World Alliance carries the message that a larger Baptist family loves and prays for them.

Less than 24 hours after returning from a five-day trip to Nicaragua that included a 45-minute session with President Daniel Ortega, G. Noel Vose spoke during an employee chapel service at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Vose noted that the 7,000 Baptists in Nicaragua have gained acceptance in the country through medical, educational and social work. He said the \$50,000 in BWA aid was received "warmly and gratefully. I only wish we could have been taking \$250,000."

After seeing overwhelming needs in countries like Nicaragua, Vose said his message to Baptists in affluent parts of the world is "live simply and share."

He said the purpose of the trip to Nicaragua with Gerhard Claas, BWA general secretary, and Edna de Gutierrez of Mexico, president of the BWA women's department, was to meet with Baptist leaders and deliver aid funds, learn of additional needs, discover more about church-state relationships in the country and to express support for Nicaraguan Baptists through meeting government officials.

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Convention Uniform

Condemned, but not guilty

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: Luke 23:1-25

Focal passage: Luke 23:1-5,13-25

Central truth: Despite the fact he was acknowledged to be without guilt, Jesus suffered condemnation.

In today's study, we see how the Jewish religious leaders, without authority to carry out a death sentence, conned Pilate into sentencing Jesus to die on the cross.

1. The first appearance before Pilate (Lu. 23:1-5)

Luke's Gospel makes it clear that the charges against Jesus were false. See Luke 20:22-25 for what the Lord had said about paying tribute (taxes) to the Romans, and Luke 23:3 for his answer to the charge of heading a rival earthly kingdom. Finding "no fault" in Jesus, and learning that he was from Galilee, where Herod ruled, Pilate sought to sidestep the issue by sending him to Herod (vv. 6-12).

2. The persistence of the temple authorities (Lu. 23:13-19)

Herod, who happened to be in Jerusalem at the time, welcomed Jesus, more out of curiosity than anything else, but he, too, found no justification for condemning Jesus to death. Quickly the accusers had Jesus back before Pilate. This time, Pilate could announce that Herod had concurred in his own finding. Before finally giving in to the Jewish leaders, he would say a third time, "I find no fault in this man."

3. Barabbas chosen over Jesus (Lu. 23:18-25)

As a final proposition, the temple leaders, mindful of Pilate's custom of releasing a prisoner on the occasion of the Passover, cried, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas" (one convicted of sedition and murder). And they continued to cry out, "Crucify him, crucify him." And Luke set down for all time, "And the voices of them . . . prevailed" (v. 23b).

In the light of these events, some questions come to mind. If Pilate was so convinced Jesus was without guilt, why did he condemn him to death and release Barabbas? Why were the "good" people (the religious leaders) so insistent? How could they have been so wrong? But here is the big question: What danger is there that "good" people today will make wrong decisions about Christ?

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Life and Work

Reality and hope

by Harry T. Kennedy, Calvary Church, Hope

Basic passage: Luke 17:20-30

Focal passage: Luke 17:20-21; 30

Central truth: The reality of the Kingdom of God within a Christian creates an excitement about the return of Jesus.

The Pharisees were constantly approaching Jesus with questions that reflected their beliefs about the Messiah. To their questions came the word of Jesus that the Kingdom of God was not going to be an earthly power as they imagined but the inner presence of the Lord that completely changes people. That's why they ought to quit looking for signs of an earthly ruler as King David, because he is the Kingdom in their midst.

This is no problem for the Christian, because they know there is someone in them and that someone is Jesus by the power of his Spirit.

Then Christ addresses the disciples. He speaks to them about the time when the world will be so hostile and godless that the believer will long for an ending to it all.

When the masses come to disregard God's way socially, economically, as well as morally, be aware of false prophets who say "it's time!" History has recorded many examples of such prophets who came along when times were hard and God's children were under severe persecution. Jesus simply says, "Don't follow them!"

Our hope as Christians is in the "promise" of the return of Jesus and not in events. He will make good his promise at the right time, because it will be right and on God's time table.

Even though the world at large will be unconcerned, the child of God can know there will be no hiding from the fact that Jesus has come back. Then the frustration and discouragement will end and we will be vindicated with our Lord.

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Bible Book

Satan's testing of Job's faith

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Job 1:1-2:13

Focal passage: Job 1:8-12; 20:22; 2:4-10

Central truth: Job's response to the testing that God allowed Satan to carry out encourages believers to be faithful in all of life's trials.

The next 13 weeks, you will have the opportunity to study from the book of Job and the Psalms in three units.

The first unit takes a look at Job 1-28. You will study Satan's testing of Job's faith. You will feel Job's search for answers. You will search for a fair trial. Inserted in this unit is a study of John's account of the resurrection.

The lesson for Sunday focuses on Satan's challenges to God and Satan's resulting tests. To understand this lesson, you need a deep appreciation for Job. The Bible describes Job as "perfect," "upright," "one that feared God and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1). Job was a rich man and very religious (Job 1:3-5).

Satan challenged God by stating the reason Job feared God and worshipped him. Satan said God protected Job and blessed him with material things. Satan also said, in essence: "Take away all the things you have given Job and see if he is still faithful!"

God allowed Satan to do just that but Satan could not touch Job. Job remained faithful when he lost everything. He refused to blame God. Satan's recourse was to challenge God again.

This time God allowed Satan to hurt Job but not to kill him. As a result Satan made sores break out all over Job's body. At this point Job's wife tried to get him to curse God.

Job's reply was profound. He said: "When God sends us something good, we welcome it. How can we complain when he sends us trouble?" (Job 2:10, NKJV). Job refused to complain or say anything against God.

In studying this lesson for Sunday, you need to keep in mind the following truths:

(1) Tragedy in a person's life does not necessarily mean that God is punishing them for some sin.

(2) The source of all our blessings is God (Job 1:21).

(3) God is more powerful than Satan.

(4) When evil or tragedy strikes, we need to remain faithful and true to God.

(5) Even if someone close to us pressures us to be unfaithful, we must remain true to God.

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Wideman unanimously elected Missouri exec

by **Trennis Henderson**
Missouri Baptist Convention

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Donald V. Wideman was unanimously elected executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention March 17 during a special called meeting of the convention's executive board.

Wideman, 59, currently is pastor of First Church of North Kansas City, Mo. Scheduled to assume office May 11, he will succeed interim executive director Tom Nelson, who has served since Nov. 7, 1986. Nelson was elected following the Nov. 6 death of Rheubin L. South, the convention's executive director from 1975 to 1986.

"The more the committee talked with Dr.

Wideman, the more impressed we were," Jones continued. "The final meeting with Dr. Wideman explored in depth his personal convictions about the issues confronting Baptists today—theologically, socially and denominationally. We believe Dr. Wideman will start well as executive director and... he will wear well."

Prior to Wideman's current pastorate in North Kansas City, which he has held since 1973, he has been pastor of Liberty Manor Church, Liberty; First Church, Oakville; and Oakland Church, DeSoto, all in Missouri.

A native of St. Louis, he graduated from Southern Illinois University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Brown new editor of Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Glenn A. Brown, associate director of planning and promotion for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma since 1973, was elected editor of the *Baptist Messenger* by state convention directors March 17.

Brown, 54, will assume duties as the seventh editor of the 75-year-old Oklahoma Baptist newsjournal April 1.

Brown succeeds Richard McCartney who resigned in January to become executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas.

An Oklahoma convention employee since August 1971, Brown was religious education department associate secretary and church training director until moving to the executive office in 1973. For the past 14 years

he has been state stewardship director and church administration consultant.

Brown was born in Porum, Okla., and grew up in Shawnee. He attended Oklahoma Baptist University from 1950 to 1952 and graduated from Tulsa University in 1962. He earned a master of arts degree in educational psychology from the University of Oklahoma in 1968.

He has been minister of education and music at Springdale Church in Tulsa, First Church of Sallisaw, and Britton Church in Oklahoma City.

Brown has written and led conferences on stewardship and church administration.

The *Baptist Messenger* is the third-largest circulated news publication in Oklahoma and fifth-largest state Baptist newspaper, with a circulation of more than 117,000 copies.

Students told 'how to get the most out of life'

by **Pam Parry**
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—"You ought to be sure about two things. First, be sure of your salvation, and secondly, your call to ministry," SBC First Vice-President Jack Stanton told Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students during a recent chapel service.

"Nobody ought to be able to shake that," Stanton said. "Just because you doubt does not mean you're lost (a non-Christian). The devil does a lot of making folks doubt. It does mean you better find out for sure."

Speaking to the topic, "How to Get the Most Out of Life," Stanton reminded the seminary students: "Jesus said, 'I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.' He means that it might be full, meaningful and exciting. Some folks have just enough religion that they are miserable. They don't want to stay home because they are afraid of missing something. But they don't enjoy it when they come."

Using the text from II Timothy 1:3-14, Stan-

ton said the Apostle Paul's concept of living a meaningful life involves commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. But he stressed there are all kinds of conversions: moral, emotional, intellectual and institutional.

"You have to have a time when you hate sin so much that you cry out to God for mercy," said Stanton, director of the institute of evangelism and special assistant to the chancellor at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. "You ask him to forgive you, and the best you know how, you take your hands off your life and turn it over to God."

He challenged students at the Kansas City, Mo., seminary to "discover your gift under God. With a dark world on its way to hell as fast as it can get there, God will use anyone who is usable. If you are not being used of God, take inventory and find out what you can offer.

"Somehow find out where God wants you to be, be there and be satisfied with it, rejoice in it," Stanton concluded. "Use it as a witnessing tool to tell people about Jesus Christ."

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