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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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11-24-1983

**November 24, 1983**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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November 24, 1983

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Nationals multiply effects  
of Lottie Moon Offering  
page 10





Foreign missions at work: Romualdo Yaxcal, one of four K'ekchi Baptist missionaries in Guatemala, has helped start 98 churches and missions since 1966. The work of Southern Baptist missionaries there is funded in large part by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

JULY 1983	AUGUST 1983	SEPTEMBER 1983	OCTOBER 1983	NOVEMBER 1983	DECEMBER 1983
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## Next month in Arkansas

**December 4-11, Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:** Time for learning about foreign missions and giving through the offering which supplies nearly half of the FMB's yearly budget.

**December 8-9, Evangelism Workshop, Camp Paron.** Planning and training sessions for associational leaders in evangelism.

**December 25, Student Day at Christmas:** Suggested day for local churches to recognize college and university students and have them participate in the services.

**December 27-28, Youth Evangelism Conference, Park Hill Church, NLR.** Inspiration and motivation for young people to practice personal evangelism.

## October Cooperative Program breaks \$8 million barrier

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—It was a record fiscal year start for the national Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

October contributions to the unified giving program to underwrite worldwide mission and educational programs of the SBC totaled \$8,638,255. It was the first time October gifts exceeded the \$8 million mark.

The figure reflected an increase of 8.35 percent (\$665,995) over October 1982.

Requirements for the 1983-84 budget call for monthly average contributions from all

34 state conventions of \$9,541,666 to reach the basic operating budget of \$114,500,000 and \$10,416,666 to underwrite the combined challenge: and basic budget of \$125,000,000.

The top 10 state conventions in gifts to the national Cooperative Program for October were: Texas, \$1,494,760; Georgia, \$723,244; North Carolina, \$636,949; Florida, \$606,391; Alabama, \$589,510; Oklahoma, \$585,056; Tennessee, \$518,036; South Carolina, \$515,656; Kentucky, \$405,000, and Louisiana, \$370,745.

## Prison ministry video tapes available

Two video tapes dealing with prison ministry are available to Arkansas Baptists through the chaplain's office at Cummins State Prison, Grady.

The tapes, prepared on a VHS format and designed for use in churches, deal with the

present ministry at Cummins and how to begin and maintain a prison ministry and work with inmates.

Information may be obtained from Dewie Williams; senior chaplain; Cummins Unit, A.D.C.; Grady, Ark. 71644.

## Boyce Bible School offers J-Term courses

Boyce Bible School, a division of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will offer two J-Term courses during the month of January.

On three, successive Friday evenings, Jan. 6, 13 and 20, Dr. Clyde Glazener will teach Bible Doctrines from 6 to 10:30 p.m. On

three Saturday mornings, Jan. 7, 14 and 21, Dr. W.T. Holland will teach Interpreting First Corinthians from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students may register in advance by sending \$25 for each course taken to Ralph Davis, Boyce Bible School, 21215 N. Van Buren St., Little Rock, Ark. 72207.

## Sign language, interpreter training offered

A Sign Language Interpreter Training Conference has been scheduled for Feb. 2-4, 1984, at Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff.

Courses will be offered for beginning and advanced signers and in skill development and interpretation. Spiritual growth and Bible

study seminars will also be available for deaf persons.

The conference will be led by George B. Joslin, pastor of Faith Church, Goochland, Va., and former missionary with the deaf for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

## Lecture series features Moltmann, Wiesel, McCormick

The 19th season of the Ecumenical Lecture Series will feature German theologian Jurgen Moltmann, author of *Theology of Hope*, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, and bioethics expert Richard McCormick.

Tickets for the series, which begins Nov. 30 and runs through Feb. 23, 1984, are available by phoning 227-0256 or writing Ecumenical Lecture Series, 14 River Ridge Rd., Little Rock, Ark. 72207.

## In this issue

### 7 reaching across race

White Arkansas Baptists are reaching out to black Christians and black Baptists have begun a church for whites. Two articles illustrate this concern that crosses racial barriers.

### 10 ABSC wrapup

Reports on auxiliary meetings of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, including photos of officers elected, are part of continuing coverage of the annual meeting Nov. 8-10. Business conducted by the convention's Executive Board completes the overview of annual meeting events.

### Correction

In the Nov. 10 issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, an ingredient was left out of the recipe in "Food and Fellowship". A measurement of "one tablespoon evaporated milk" should be included.

## God calls all kinds

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Some Christians have preconceived notions of how a preacher is to look and sound. Others believe one should consider entering the ministry, only if he can do nothing else. Yet, the Bible clearly declares that God calls all kinds of people into his service. God's call is by grace alone and may not conform to the expectations of his people. The one who appears to offer a little or no promise of success may become one of God's most effective servants. The keys for usability in the Master's vineyard are surrender, commitment and dedication.

The responses of those who are called vary greatly. The Bible tells us of many who responded reluctantly. Moses offered an array of excuses for not serving in Egypt as the human agent in the deliverance of Israel from bondage and, even, stubbornly asked God to send someone else (Ex. 4:13). Others who were reluctant to accept God's call included Jeremiah and Gideon.

Others whose call is described in the scripture responded with enthusiasm. Isaiah apparently volunteered for his divine mission, even before he understood what was involved. He said, "... here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8). Ezekiel responded positively and found the Word he proclaimed as sweet as honey (Ezek. 3:3).

The backgrounds of those who are called into God's service are as varied as their responses. The Bible describes the background of many who became servants of the Lord. Moses was, unquestionably qualified for his task by having lived both in Pharaoh's Court and in the region of Sinai for periods of 40 years each. Amos, on the other hand, had no apparent preparation for his task. He said, "I was no prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit" (Amos 7:14). God's call was extended to people of many and varied experiences: David, the shepherd; Peter, James and John, the fishermen; Matthew, the tax collector; and Paul, the philosopher.

It is also clear that God's call is not based on a person's physical appearance. Paul, obviously, was an instrument used by God to give early impetus to Christianity. Yet, there are many scholars who believe that his physical appearance was far less than attractive, and there is little doubt that his eyesight was very poor (Gal. 4:15; 6:11).

When one studies the biblical examples of those whom God called, many of our contemporary myths are exploded. First, it is obvious that God called people who are, or could be quite successful in secular occupations. Although, God can and does take the weak to confound the mighty, it is not true that God only calls those who are inadequate and incapable into his service.

It is, also, obvious that one does not have to resist God's call for some time in order to authenticate divine call. Such false concepts can lead young people to question God's direction in their lives and may result in much heartache. It is the responsibility of our churches and leaders to nurture and encourage those whom God is calling.

Encouragement should include counsel and direction for preparation. God expects those whom he has called to prepare themselves to the best of their ability. Southern Baptists are fortunate to have many fine colleges and six seminaries which are second to none.

The scripture, too, is clear that God has a plan for every life. Paul, for example, refers to himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God" (1 Cor. 1:1). He says that he was set apart by the Lord before he was born (Gal. 1:15). God has a plan for all lives, including those whom he has not called into vocational Christian service. Jesus said, "Even the hairs of your head are numbered" (Matt. 10:30). Surely such a loving and knowing God has a plan for every life.

God has created man with the right of choice. He will not force any individual to do his bidding. This is true in the initial encounter of salvation, as well as in an individual's acceptance or rejection of God's plan for his life. With the right of choice comes the responsibility for choices made. When an individual chooses to seek and follow God's will for his life, he will know joy, fulfillment and contentment. The person who refuses to follow God's direction for his life will never know full joy.

Finally, God does not provide a road map with the call. Each step is a step of faith to be taken one at a time. Moses did not know what was ahead when God called him. But God was with him all the way. People of all types, called by God today, have this same assurance of God's guidance, if they are compelled and surrendered to him.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 82 NUMBER 46  
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor  
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor  
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 300 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

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

Copies by mail 90 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer  
Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association

The Arkansas Baptist News Magazine (USPS 031-260) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Inc., 523 West Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$6.36 per year (individual), \$6.40 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.00 per year (Group Plan) and \$18.00 per year (to foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, P. O. Box 662, Little Rock, AR 72205.



## On the moral scene

John Finn

### It is time to fidget

Jurors in Los Angeles fidgeted in their seats when they were required to view a pornographic film in the trial of Catherine Stubblefield Wilson, alleged to be the nation's leading child pornographer.

The film, "Randy Lolitas", an 8mm movie showing a 9-year-old girl engaging in sex with another child and two adults, was shown to the jury.

It showed the 9-year-old, along with a 12 to 15-year-old female, a male adult and a female adult in several sex acts, including intercourse, use of vibrator, masturbation and oral sex. In the hushed courtroom, jurors fidgeted in their seats or looked away from the screen.

This film reveals the depth of degradation into which pornographers are willing to descend in their attempts to make a profit. You don't have to be seated in a juror's chair to fidget over these sexual offenses against children. The very concept of child pornography, child prostitution and child molestation causes us to fidget.

The Paducah (Ky.) Sun, recently editorialized on a report of Kentucky's Task Force on Exploited and Missing Children. The report reveals the staggering proportion of sexual abuse and exploitation of abducted and runaway children.

One of the lines causing uneasiness in the task force's report says, "Sexual offenses against children have never been taken as seriously as crimes against adults."

This conclusion, if true, ought to cause us to fidget. These crimes wreck young lives and damage future relationships, and they have a tendency to be self-perpetuating. Child molesters often turn out to be persons who were themselves molested as children.

Why should we fidget? Consider the report of the U. S. Department of Health relating to the problem of runaways. The report says, "Over 1.8 million children run away from home every year in this country, a number that is growing. Ultimately, 90 percent of these return home, leaving over 100,000 children to make the decision that life on the streets is better than a life with abusive, in-

cestual or alcoholic parents."

The Kentucky Task Force explored the bottomless pit of the pedophile and the conclusion was: "These are people who are generally reputable in every respect, except one major area: their sexual orientations are toward children." One study found that "each child molester of this type was responsible for abusing an average of 78.3 young victims—more than three times the number of adult women assaulted by each convicted rapist."

Is the problem of child prostitution and child molestation confined to other states? Police officers in Arkansas report several cases of child prostitution involving children 12 to 14 years old. Two daily newspapers in different sections of our state report accounts of adults lurking in the vicinity of school, attempting to entice our precious children into cars.

Have you joined me in fidgeting? We need to do more. The need for action has arrived.

**John Finn is Executive Director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas.**



## Woman's viewpoint

Alice Beard

### Security in God's timetable

At a recent luncheon, two ladies spoke about how worried their children were at the prospect of nuclear war. One junior high school daughter had answered her mother's question concerning a career choice by saying that she didn't intend to worry about it as she would be dead from a nuclear explosion before she was grown. One answer given that day started me thinking about what the Bible really says about this problem and what our responsibilities are toward our children.

How can we help our worried children have peace in their hearts and the assurance of their abiding worth and personhood?

It seems necessary to establish with our children who they are and what God says will happen to this world.

We believe God made us in his image, bought us back with the gift of his son, and if we believe this we will never die. The Bible tells us we are important to God. When you read Psalm 139 with your children, it becomes real that God cares enough about us individually to plan our person while we

were still being formed and to know us so well that he knows what we will think and say before we do. He says that he wants us never to get away from him or his Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells us the triune God created the heavens and the earth, that Jesus laid the foundations of the earth and that the heavens are the work of his hands (Heb.1:10). Since the triune God, made the earth and heavens and they belong to God we wonder what he is going to do with them.

The earth is becoming old and worn out. In Hebrews we read that the heavens and earth will wear out like an old garment. "You (Jesus) will roll them up like a robe and like an old garment they will be changed" (Heb.1:10-20). Peter also tells us that the heavens will disappear with a roar and the elements will be destroyed by fire and everything will be laid bare (Peter3:10). This sounds like a nuclear explosion. But when will all of this occur?

Sometimes in the fears generated by the awfulness of nuclear explosion, we forget that God originated all scientific and

mathematical precepts. He has allowed man to probe the concepts of fission, yet it is he who has all power on heaven and in earth, and the world still runs on his timetable. When Jesus was asked when the end would be, he replied that only God the Father knew (Matt.24:36); it would occur as a directive from his timetable. It's good to reassure our children that there will be no world destruction until God is ready to give us a new heaven and a new earth—in which will be righteous living (II Peter3:13). We are told that he delays his return so that more people might be saved (II Peter3:9).

We parents have the privilege of living with real joy and victory before our children. They are so much more important than we are for they will lead tomorrow's churches.

**Dr. Alice Beard has taught pediatrics for 35 years at the Schools of Medicine at University Hospital and Children's Hospital in Little Rock. She is an active member at Calvary Church, Little Rock.**

## You'll be glad to know...

by Don Moore

Mission efforts are vast and thrilling! What a joy it was to hear Keith Parks, executive director of our Foreign Mission Board, tell how God is blessing our mission programs around the world. By the way, with his message coming on Wednesday night, many of our messengers were not present to hear. I'm sorry! Please make arrangements next year so that all of our pastors, particularly, may attend the Wednesday session.



Moore

In contrasting the appeal of personal ministries in TV telethons, he indicated our work is far more extensive than the orphanage or two, a single radio or TV station, or clinic they may operate. So much of their money is spent to tell what little they are doing while most Southern Baptist never know what their own programs are accomplishing.

Our missions force now number 3,356 foreign missionaries in 101 countries. They have averaged starting two new churches per day during the past year. They have won and baptized 140,844 people. So many ministries never tie their converts into church fellowships for growth and discipleship.

Our clinics and hospitals have cared for 1,500,000 people the past year. In our Korean hospital alone, there were over 2,000 people who accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

We often feel jealous when other ministries tell their story about the media ministry overseas. Your ministry, through the Cooperative Program, has been broadcasting to 94,000,000 regularly the past year. Our missionaries have distributed over \$8,000,000 toward hunger relief.

You need to know that you are a part of a massive missions ministry. You can feel good about what you are doing and strive to do more. Praise the Lord for His goodness!

Don Moore is Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

## Global Circuit in 13th year

For the 13th year, Southern Baptists will have access to current foreign missions news and prayer requests through a toll-free number, 1-800-446-2725.

Items will change every Tuesday and Friday during Global Circuit's two-week period of operation, Nov. 28 - Dec. 11.

## Rice, blankets sought for Ghana drought victims

Arkansas Baptists are trying to collect 240,000 pounds of rice and 5,000 blankets to assist victims of a prolonged drought in Ghana, according to State Brotherhood director Neal Guthrie.

The project was initiated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at the suggestion of Frank Norfleet, a field consultant for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board working in Kansas City, Mo. It was launched when Foreign Mission Board representatives indicated it would be possible to distribute the rice, if it was sent in smaller quantities over a period of several months.

Fuel rationing in Ghana has forced missionaries to severely curtail their driving.

Although the blankets—durable, wool-type and new—should be sent as soon as possible, the rice—milled and unpolished—

must be shipped in 40,000-pound installations over a six month period. The rice should be packed in 100-pound sacks and loaded in 20-foot metal containers, Guthrie said.

"We are asking for donations of rice and blankets from Arkansas farmers and churches," Guthrie explained, adding that cash contributions for the purchase of the two items would also be helpful. Rice will cost \$16 per hundredweight; blankets are \$4.80 apiece.

"The rice needs to be in bulk, not in small quantities from a store," he said. "We can pick it up, if Arkansas Baptists will simply call and tell us where it is."

Guthrie plans release details next week regarding pick-up points for the containers of rice.

## Letter to the editor

### Faith of our fathers

In a recent article, "The devil made me do it," the statement was made that man has a free will to choose good or evil. If this statement is true, then all scripture must be false. Is this the true doctrine of the forefathers of the Baptist faith?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon taught the sovereignty of God. Spurgeon has written: "It is no novelty, that I am preaching; no new doctrine. I love to proclaim these strong old doctrines, that are called by nickname Calvinism, but which are surely and verily the revealed truth of God, as it is in Christ Jesus. By this truth I make a pilgrimage into the past, and as I go, I see father after father, confessor after confessor, martyr after martyr standing up to shake hands with me. Were I a Pelagian, or a believer in the doctrine of free-will, I should have to walk for centuries all alone."

Spurgeon quotes from the Philadelphia Confession of Faith, the old Baptist confession; Third Article: "By the decree of God... some men and angels are predesti-

nated... to eternal life through Jesus Christ." Scripture after scripture supports this biblical teaching.

What has man done to God's word? Today we have a new gospel, man-centered. God has been made to look like a failure in trying to save people. This is not the God of the Bible. Spurgeon says, "Now-a-days the word has been dressed up with diversities of meaning, and persons have mutilated and marred the doctrine so that they have made it a very doctrine of devils."

Neither Spurgeon nor God's word say God arbitrarily chooses, but they do teach God, out of His infinite wisdom and counsel of His own will, for His own purpose and glory, has chosen many to salvation through faith, a gift of God. God's spirit quickens, and regenerates man. Now, being in Christ, man has a choice to do good or evil.

This should humble us before our Creator and Savior. "Ye have chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you..." (John 15:16). — Mrs. Sue Hayes, El Dorado

### Stewardship Department

### Cooperative Program report: October

#### Summary for Oct., 1983

			January-Oct. Gifts \$ Over (under) 10 months budget	% Increase Over previous year
Received	\$863,086.82	1978	\$ 29,655.08	9.74
Budget	833,333.36	1979	32,872.78	11.42
Over	49,753.46	1980	214,558.50	11.51
		1981	103,505.12	10.96
		1982	(147,128.86)	9.61
		1983	(62,003.31)	11.00

We rejoice in the fact that we are nearly six percent over the budget for October. We are only \$62,000 (.75 percent) short for the year. I am certain that Arkansas Baptist will exceed our budget of \$10,000,000.—L. L. Collins.

by Mille Gill / ABN staff writer

**Gary Urich** began serving Oct. 23 as pastor of Second Church in Searcy. He has resided in Searcy the past three years while serving as pastor of the Liberty Church at Walker. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His graduate studies have been at Arkansas Institute of Theology and Christian Bible College. He is a registered professional engineer in Arkansas. He and his wife, Connie, have three children, Andrea, Alicia and Phillip.



Urich

**John Webb** is serving as pastor of the Good Hope Church in Tri-County Association.

**David Brown** has resigned as minister of music at

Smackover First Church to become minister of music and education at Calvary Church in Abilene, Texas.

**Walter Knowles** is serving as interim pastor of the Ozone Church. He and his wife, Evelyn, reside in Salus. Knowles has served as pastor of churches in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Georgia and Arkansas.

**Larry Nelson** has joined the staff of Clear Creek Southern Church at Alma as minister of youth and music. A native of Crossett, he attended Southern Baptist College and Memphis State University. He came to Alma from the Northside Church in Lafayette, La., and has served other churches in Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana. Nelson and his wife, Martha, have a son, Steve.

**Larry Free** of Bates is serving as pastor of the Southside Church in Waldron. He and his wife, Kathy, have three sons, Joshua, Caleb and Daniel.

**Billy Graham** has resigned as pastor of the Friendship Church at Waldron to become pastor of the Petrus Church of Leflore County Association in Oklahoma.

**Denise Miller** has joined the staff of Rector Heights Church in Hot Springs as music director. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Walter Yarbrough of Sheridan.

**David Lewis** was ordained to the ministry Nov. 13 at Barling Cross Church in North Little Rock.

**Jere D. Mitchell** recently began his fifth year of service as pastor of Fayetteville First Church.

**Hal Gallop Sr.** began serving Nov. 6 as interim pastor of the Pleasant Plains Church, going there from Newark. The Gallops reside in Cave City.

## briefly

**Tuckerman First Church** recently honored pastor Lannie Young and family with a pounding in recognition of their two years of service.

**Southside Church** in Fordyce honored pastor Charles H. Jones Oct. 16 for his 13 years of service. Jones received special recognition for his leadership in increased Sunday School enrollment, the organizing of additional men's classes and building improvement programs.

**Freeman Heights Church** at Berryville held deacon ordination services Nov. 13 for Hubert Howard. Jack Ramsey, director of missions for North Arkansas Association, spoke.

**Jessieville Church** recognized Mrs. Hattie Ward Oct. 30 for 40 years of service as church treasurer. She was presented with a plaque and honored with a noon luncheon.

**Bluffton Church** was host for a Nov. 1 Worker's Conference that resulted in four additions to the church Nov. 6. Two joined on profession of faith and two by letter, according to pastor B. L. Dorman.

**Cushman Church** recently ordained Gary Franks, Danny Roper and Zane Fair as deacons. The service was led by pastor Ellis Roper and J. D. Passmore,

director of missions for Independence Association.

**Mountain Home First Church** held a reception Nov. 13 to honor Rev. and

Mrs. Tommy Carney. Carney, who recently resigned as pastor of the Mountain Home Church, will join the staff of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., as professor of evangelism.

## buildings



ABN photo / Mark Krutz

The Pottsville Church recently celebrated the payment of a \$32,870 note. Burning the note are (l to r) pastor Jack McKennon, Bruno Hamilton, Joe Groves, Bill Cocanougher, Ron Duffield and former pastor Sam Brown. Early payment of the note, which covered the 1976 construction of a new sanctuary, was made possible through the bequest of long-time church member Pluma Robertson Huddleston.

# Answer to prayer opens unexpected door to ministry

by Mark Kelly

Gary Reid's heart ached.

His conversion six years ago in a West Memphis motel room—accomplished by reading a Gideon Bible—dramatically changed the young hair stylist's "fast and loose" lifestyle, filled with singles bars and racetracks.

Reid married, became involved in a local Southern Baptist church and began giving his testimony at Gideon programs around the state. But five years later something was still missing.

"I was about to bust in here," Reid said quietly, his hand over his heart. "I was hurting so bad inside, wanting a place to serve. I began to pray God would give me a place to teach the Bible."

Reid had a habit of sharing his faith whenever an opportunity arose. One day he picked up a hitch-hiker, a young black man headed for home in Fargo, a small community just a few miles from Reid's home in Cotton Plant.

"I witnessed to him, gave him a Bible and let him out. I never expected to see him again," Reid recalled. "But he called me two weeks later and asked me to start a Bible study in his home."

"I was afraid to go by myself, at first. I was afraid I wouldn't be accepted. So I took a black friend with me."

When Reid arrived at the young man's home, he found 21 people waiting to hear him. He shared his conversion experience and talked about starting a Bible study.

The group began to grow right away. Soon the house was too crowded. A local congregation, Union Church—so called because it is a cooperative effort of several groups sharing one pastor and one building—made their building available.

One year after it began, Gary Reid's Bible study ministers to at least 60 persons, many of them members of one or another of

several large families. Reid leads Bible study and discussion for the adults and youth after a period of singing and testifying. His wife, Crystal, works with children in a Big A Club session.

Just what Reid has done breaks the rules for starting such projects, said Dean Preuett, director of Christian Social Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Raised in Cabot and having lived in Beebe, Reid has had very little contact with blacks before this experience.

"But Gary is able to cross that barrier simply by the grace of God," said Preuett. "He has a real compassion for the people he is working with, for doing what he is doing."

Reid, a member of First Church, Cotton Plant, acknowledged he has encountered opposition from people in the community, which Preuett estimates as 70 percent black.



Gary Reid found his place of service among blacks in the Fargo community.

"I believe the Lord will work in spite of that, though," Reid asserted. "Deep-seated prejudices often keep people from relating to each other. But Christ came from heaven, a sinless being, and accepted us even though we are sinners. And we want to stand back and not accept people because of their color."

Reid finds it impossible to stand back, however. One extended family in Fargo consists of 23 persons, most of them children, he said. There are three beds in the house and no dishes or plates. The children have no shoes.

When he hesitates to go back to Fargo, Reid said he simply asks himself, "Do you really love them?" The conviction in his heart answers the question.

Reid envisions adding literacy and agricultural training to help families in the Fargo community that are caught in a cycle of poverty. He and Preuett have consulted with the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, a non-profit, federally-funded project working to preserve black family farms and train people in the methods of coop farming.

Preuett mentioned the possibility of an acre of land being provided for a trailer park to house families wanting to make a new start. Rounding-up surplus trailers, along with the literacy and agricultural training, would be the first step toward helping such families.

"We need to minister to people, meet their spiritual needs and let God change their lives," said Reid. "But at the same time they have other needs. We need to try and meet them."

"After all, if you can't read, you can't search the scriptures to learn God's will."

Mark Kelly is an intern with the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

## Black congregation provides 'open door' to white neighbors

by Mark Kelly

Christ Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock is breaking new ground.

Located at 12th and Adams, in the heart of a neighborhood that had been transformed—white to black—since the mid-60s, this congregation of Black Missionary Baptists has begun a white Southern Baptist mission across the street from their own building, which itself once housed a white Assembly of God church.

But this 5,400-resident community, bounded by Markham, Asher, Woodrow and University Streets, is changing again—pluralizing, according to Christ Temple pastor James Thrower.

Thrower and his congregation realized they could not minister to a significant portion of their neighborhood when a witnessing team "got stalled" at the door of a fearful, elderly white woman's home.

"We wanted to find a way to reach white people in this area, without making them afraid," said Thrower.

The church already owned part of the answer, a second building across the street from their own. The congregation began surveying the community for prospects, but leadership was still a problem.

That answer came when two of Thrower's classmates at Boyce Bible School, Jerry Kinney and Bob James, brought Thrower a young Black Muslim they had won to Christ. Thrower talked with them about the proposed mission, and things seemed to click.

Kinney and James both turned out to have been residents of the neighborhood before the transition. In fact, James had lived only three blocks from the mission's location.

On Aug. 14, Open Door Baptist Mission opened its doors to the community with four

people present, its two bivocational pastors among them. Three months later, Sunday morning worship averages 16, and plans are being made to begin a Sunday School program after the first of the year.

The mission is already contributing to the Pulaski County Association and the Cooperative Program, according to Kinney.

"There are lots of reasons for not doing this," explained Thrower, recalling perennial economic depression, a struggle for acceptance, theft, vandalism and the three leaders' relative inexperience—all are first-time pastors.

"The only answer we have found is Matthew 28: 'go, baptize, teach!'"

Mark Kelly is an intern with the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



Five millinery fashions were used by Gladys Lewis of Oklahoma City in a humorous presentation when pastors and staff wives of Arkansas Baptist churches met Nov. 8 in Pine Bluff Convention Center. Mrs. Lewis portrayed women involved in assisting their mates in their "call of service to the Lord." She emphasized that she was able to do this because some days she had been all five of those she portrayed as she assisted her physician/husband on the foreign mission field of Paraguay. She admonished the Arkansas women not to become so intent on meeting the expectations of others that they failed to become the person God would have them to be. Juanita Hatfield of Fordyce, Pam Long of Lowell and Norma Kirkpatrick of Heber Springs, through personal testimonies, also shared their journey toward being the person God would have them to be. Arkansas women elected to office for 1983-84 were (left to right) Bobbie DeBusk of Little Rock, secretary/treasurer; Carolyn Byrum of Carlisle, vice-president and Barbara Hassell of Stuttgart, president. Kaye Glazener of Little Rock was 1983 presiding officer.



ABN photo / Mike Gil

## Preaching gospel to poor authenticates ministry: Parks

by Mark Kelly

"A lost world cries out for truth, asking 'Who can we believe? Who is from God?'" declared Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president Keith Parks. "The only way to prove we are the ones sent from God is the way Jesus proved it (to John's disciples): 'the poor have the gospel preached to them.'"

Parks, preaching to the 130th annual session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Nov. 8-10 in Pine Bluff, told messengers that God has given Southern Baptists all the resources needed to carry the gospel to the world. The only question remaining is "Do we have the commitment to do what we need to do?" he said.

Southern Baptist missionaries minister in 101 countries all over the world, and the authenticating factor in their ministry is that they preach to the poor, Parks claimed.

"That doesn't mean the spiritually poor," he cautioned, "but those so poverty-stricken they have nothing to give in return. Charging that some preach the gospel 'for what they can get out of it.' Parks admitted he had not reached the Apostle Paul's state of maturity, so that he could say he did not care about a person's motives, as long as the gospel is proclaimed.

He said he was sure, however, that when "the gospel is proclaimed and nothing is expected in return, the authenticating quality is present."

Evangelism "that results in churches" is the heart of Foreign Mission Board efforts overseas, Parks explained. He pointed out that Southern Baptist missionaries baptize converts at three times the rate of Southern Baptist churches in the U.S. New overseas churches were begun last year at a rate of 13 each week, he added.

"I wish Southern Baptists knew what Southern Baptists are doing" when they moon over the ministries of television evangelists, Parks said. "Southern Baptists are doing more in any area than any other group you want to talk about," he declared.

Parks cited 1.5 million patients treated in Southern Baptist mission hospitals last year, including one in Korea that won 2,000 converts. "I know some churches that don't do that," he commented.

In addition, Southern Baptists gave \$5

million above budget for hunger relief and also broadcast radio messages in native languages on a regular basis to 94 million people. "Some preachers brag about their broadcasts overseas in English," Parks said.

"God multiplies our loaves and fishes so much. Miracles take place on a daily basis," he continued, citing the case of an ambassador to Mali, an African country previously closed to Southern Baptist missionaries, who became aware of



ABN photo / Mike Gil

FMB president Keith Parks told convention messengers he wished "Southern Baptists knew what Southern Baptists are doing" overseas, compared to the ministries of TV evangelists.

Southern Baptist ministries in drought-stricken Upper Volta. That ambassador later became second in command of his government, and the country was opened to Southern Baptist missionaries.

At the same time, a missionary couple in Upper Volta had decided to concentrate on learning an obscure dialect in that country. When approached about transferring to Mali, they learned that dialect was the dominant one in their new country.

"We have work in Mali now, because a person recognized something different about what Southern Baptists are doing," Parks

concluded.

"God is moving among us in a remarkable way," Parks asserted. He told messengers that the number of countries with missionaries has increased 18.5 percent and the number of missionaries by 20.6 percent since the denomination adopted Bold Mission Thrust, a plan to take the gospel to the whole world by the year 2000. In addition, overseas churches have increased 60 percent, baptisms per year 74 percent, hunger and relief efforts 250 percent, and use of volunteers 380 percent, Parks said.

At that rate, Southern Baptists will surpass their Bold Mission goals in foreign missions, he told the messengers.

At the same time, however, missionary buying power has decreased by 7.2 percent, Parks revealed. "It's not because we don't have the money. It's that, in spite of our praying, talking and going, we have not decided we want to pay the financial price of carrying the gospel to the world," he charged.

He recalled a recent gift of \$30,000 received by the Foreign Mission Board from Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya and Tanzania. Parks pointed out that was an average of \$150 for each adult. "One of those missionaries has \$79 a year to do all of his evangelistic work in a city of more than a million people," he told the convention.

"If Southern Baptists all gave like that, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering would go past \$500 million, instead of this year's \$60 million goal," Parks declared. "The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering would receive \$200 million.

"I submit that if missionaries who have responded to God's call feel that kind of compulsion to share the gospel, we as Southern Baptists could provide adequate resources for Bold Mission Thrust, if we wanted to," Parks said.

"Some think it would cost too much, but it would cost more not to support it," he concluded. "Not supporting Bold Mission Thrust would rob us of the very essence of who we have been over the years: a people committed to proving we are sent by God to tell the world Jesus loves them."

Mark Kelly is a staff writer intern with the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine



ASBY photo / Lillian Gill



Elected officers of the Arkansas Baptist Pastor's Conference at their sessions Nov. 7 and 8 were (left) Lamar Lifer, president, and Kerry Powell, first vice president. Voted second vice president but not present for the photo was Neal Prock, pastor of Haven Heights Church, Fort Smith. Lifer is pastor at Olivet Church in Little Rock, and Powell serves at First Church Forrest City. Lifer served as first vice president during the past year. The conference included messages by Ken Lilly, Clark Hutchison, Bobby Moore, Jaroy Weber, John Bramlett, Paul Jackson, and Bailey Smith, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.



ASBY photo / Betty J. Karmody

After assessing individual leadership styles, members of the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association elected their leaders for next year. Named president was Pete Ramsey (right), minister of education at Fayetteville First Church. Others elected were (from left) Mark Short Jr., minister of music at Fayetteville First, first vice president; Delores Lynn, minister of childhood education at Park Hill Church, NLR, secretary/treasurer; and Charles Treadway, minister of education and youth at Heber Springs First, second vice president. Their annual meeting preceded the state convention sessions in Pine Bluff and was held at First Church. Mark Short Jr. directed them through a self-testing procedure. Short said knowledge of their leadership style could make them more effective as well as help them avoid potential conflicts caused by style clashes.



ASBY photo / Lillian Gill

Will Wilson, president (left), and Eddie McCord, vice president, greet Conway Sawyers (left), director of the State Missions Department, following their election as board officers.

### Executive Board names officers, staff members

New officers and new staff members were the business items at pre-convention and post-convention meetings the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board held at Pine Bluff Nov. 10.

Jerry Wilson, pastor of El Dorado Second Church, was named president at a meeting at the close of the state convention's annual meeting. He has served as chairman of the board's Finance Committee. Wilson succeeds Ken Lilly, a Fort Smith physician.

Another pastor, Eddie McCord, who serves Highland Heights Church at Benton, was voted vice president. He served last year as chairman of the board's Nominating Committee.

In a session preceding the convention's opening, the board voted to employ Freddie Pike as director of the state Sunday School Department and Glendon Grober as associate in the state Evangelism Department.

Pike has been serving as interim director of the Sunday School Department since the resignation of Lawson Hatfield this spring.

Grober, a foreign missionary for almost 30 years, will begin work in the Evangelism Department early in 1984. He will complete commitments in Brazil where he has been head of the Evangelism Division of their Baptist convention.

Both men were elected to their positions without negative votes.

# Because He First Loved Us

## Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

December 4-11, 1983

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
Goal: \$60,000,000



**PEACE DURING UNREST** — Men of rural villages in Guatemala had been organized into civil patrols to provide local participation in restoring order to the region. Jose Reyes Chub Choc, a member of Garden of Eden Baptist Church (background) talks to his pastor, Matias Pan Choc, while on a 12-hour shift at this guard post. Romualdo Yaxcal is former pastor of this church and currently serves as a leader.

**ON THE TRAIL** — "I really like to go places where there's never been an evangelical work," says Romualdo Yaxcal, one of four K'ekchi Baptist missionaries. Since Southern Baptist missionaries began working with the K'ekchi in 1966, 98 churches and missions have been started by Yaxcal and others.



**BELIEVERS ON THE MOVE** — Baptist work among the K'ekchi people centers on their indigenous leadership. Here Yaxcal visits with two pastors in his area. Matias Pan Choc (left) and Jose Choc (center) outside the little store the Yaxcals operate in their Chajmaic home. The gospel is carried up the trails and stream of the jungle area by believers on the move. Southern Baptist missionaries work to train their leaders, provide materials and encourage congregations in Bible study and worship.

**PARTNERS** — Southern Baptist missionaries Wendall and Jane Parker enjoy fellowship with Romualdo Yaxcal and his wife, Cristina Coy, at the Yaxcal home in Chajmaic. Missionaries such as the Parkers train K'ekchi pastors, teach, visit congregations and write curriculum



materials for their use. Lottie Moon dollars mean support and a home for the Parkers in Las Casas, a central point in K'ekchi life. They also provide the Land-Rover that takes them over the rough terrain separating the congregation with whom they work.



**A DEEP FAITH** — Yaxcal, 44, accepted Christ after struggling to relate to the teachings of Catholicism as practiced in his K'ekchi upbringing with the truth he found in scripture. "The K'ekchi (believers) have a deep faith," says Southern Baptist missionary Jane Parker. "If the Bible says it, there is just not any question about it: it stands true."

## Missionaries, nationals multiply effects of Lottie Moon Offering

If Wendall and Jane Parker alone set out to evangelize the K'ekchi Indians of Guatemala, their support from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering might be like the biblical talents buried in the ground — not very productive.

But the Parkers and the other Southern Baptist missionary couples assigned to K'ekchi work believe in multiplication of evangelistic effort — they concentrate on developing the effectiveness of K'ekchi believers in witnessing and starting churches. And the K'ekchi believers are great multipliers.

One example is Romualdo Yaxcal, a K'ekchi area missionary responsible for 22 churches and missions in central Guatemala. Yaxcal proclaims the gospel, counsels pastors and visits remote missions without pastors. He is "on the road" a lot of the time.

During unrest in this part of Guatemala, Yaxcal walked the trails when they were tightropes between guerrilla and government forces. But he never felt unprotected. "I never carried a gun; I never carried a machete," he says. "I always just carry my Bible."

And alongside Yaxcal are Southern Baptist missionaries you support with those Lottie Moon funds. The Parkers visit congregations to teach, encourage believers, train leaders. In addition, they write some of the Sunday School materials prepared in the K'ekchi language. What they won't do is take over.

"If a brother can preach, I won't," Parker says, summing up their approach.

There are challenges enough for K'ekchi Baptists like Romualdo Yaxcal and Southern Baptist missionaries like the Parkers as they work together to reach the K'ekchi people with the gospel. And as they serve together, the results of your Lottie Moon funds are multiplied.

FMB photos by Don Rutledge

# Your state convention at work

## Sunday School Good teaching helps growth

One of the laws of Sunday School growth indicates that your ability to grow is affected by the quality of involvement that the teacher and pupil achieve in Bible study. In other words, good teaching helps the Sunday School grow, and poor teaching is a barrier to growth.



Pike

Most pupils like a class in which there is opportunity for sharing, asking questions, stating opinions, and other involvement opportunities. While this is not true of every single individual, it is true of the majority of pupils. Learning experts tell us that more learning takes place when a person gets actively involved in the learning experience. Pupils will forget what we tell them but they will remember what we lead them to discover for themselves. Learning is more than listening and teaching is more than telling. We must seek to involve the pupil in scripture searching, question answering, opinion giving, discussion, writing or other such learning activities if we want the pupil to have a maximum learning experience.

Another teaching key is to use a variety of learning/teaching procedures in the classroom. Variety in teaching produces a sense of expectation and anticipation which aids the learning process. The worst way to teach is the way you always do it if you do it the same way every Sunday. Teach well—reach people. — Freddie Pike, director

## Evangelism The associational evangelism conference

Each of our associations in Arkansas elects a chairman of evangelism. Many of the associations also have an evangelism committee. The chairman is usually responsible for setting the evangelism events in the association.



Shell

Every association is encouraged to have an annual evangelism conference. This conference is usually set in the first quarter of the new year. The State Evangelism Department staff is committed to working

with the associations in their local conferences.

There are some very important questions that must be answered as a prerequisite for the conference. Do you really want an evangelistic association? Is it worth the effort? Are you willing to pay the price? Am I committed to winning people to Jesus? If you can answer yes, you are on your way to an evangelistic association.

The purpose of the evangelism conference is to inform and inspire the church people to be involved in evangelism. This should hold a high priority in the association direction. Remember, the churches are independent, but they are interdependent upon one another. This conference is worthy of the very best that you can put into it. — Clarence Shell, director

## Church Training An encouraging word

It's happening all across the state of Arkansas! Churches are having a good experience with the Developing Believers



Holley

Emphasis that was launched throughout our Convention in October. The response to the Dynamic Doctrines studies this quarter is unprecedented, especially among adults. At the recent State Convention in Pine Bluff many pastors stopped by the Church Training booth to share the good news about the response of their people to the current studies offered by the Church Training Program. Several churches have reported that their Church Training attendance has doubled since the first Sunday in October.

Remember that Dynamic Doctrines is not all there is to the Developing Believers Emphasis. Beginning in January we move into the studies entitled "Bringing Together Belief and Behavior." To understand and be committed to sound doctrine is good, but it must express itself in right living. The studies in the January-September curriculum deal with how one lives out his faith in practical, everyday life situations and relationships. This emphasis will be in all curriculum materials for adults, youth and children.

If your church is having a good experience with the Dynamic Doctrines studies, you will find the Belief and Behavior series just as challenging and exciting for your people. Secure the materials, train your leaders and enlist your people in these timely, practical studies on Christian living. — Robert Holley, director.

## Christian Life Council We, too, are hostages!

Alcoholic beverage interests in America are currently holding us hostage. The Soviet Union, and other nations are assisting them by exporting booze. Evidence of our being held hostage is seen in the way drinking has become socially acceptable. The high employment rate of people related to production and sales of alcoholic beverages is further evidence.



Parker

Also, the multi-million dollar propaganda and efforts at every level of government by alcoholic beverage interests assist in holding America hostage.

Day after day, a few more innocent people are released by accidental death related to drinking. Many others are released by self-imposed death.

Still another group is beginning to play the hostage game seriously. Dr. George Sternlieb, author of a new book on gambling in Atlantic City, N. J., and director of the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University, said at a meeting in Nashville, Tennessee the gambling interests in New Jersey have grown to a \$1.5 billion a year industry in four to five years and now holds hostage its citizens, law enforcement officials and politicians.

Protest the free commercials lottery interests are receiving in the form of a program entitled "Lottery". Protest to Frederick Pierce, President, American Broadcast Companies, Inc., 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N. Y. 10019. — Bob Parker, director

## Family and Child Care Looking ahead

Can a person look forward and backward at the same time?

Recently, I've had contact with two people that caused me to feel a stronger appreciation for our past and to strengthen my faith about our future.

Mr. Smith lived at the Children's Home 55 years ago. He said to me, "I owe my very existence to Arkansas Baptists. They took me in and cared for me when there was no one else". He was 1½ years old when he was accepted into the Home. He shared with me briefly about his pilgrimage with its ups and downs. However, his faith and love for Jesus had brought him through. He had a strong foundation for his life.

The forward look came from a board member who is working in his association

toward the development of a receiving home for families and children. In speaking of the proposed plans, he said, "We want a building that will last at least 50 years." He expressed faith in the future that God's people will continue to meet the needs of children for many years to come.

Both views are refreshing. To see the results of ministry in the life of one person who was touched many years ago gives us an exciting link to the past. To sense the concern about a building to last "at least 50 years" expresses a strong belief in the future of our child care ministry.

It is our prayer that Arkansas Baptists will "open their hand wide" to the children this year that we might move ahead in our ministry to families and children. — Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services

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## Centurymen concert makes Chinese history

BEIJING, China (BP)—The Centurymen made Chinese history Nov. 5, becoming the first group from outside the People's Republic of China to perform in the Radio Beijing Music Hall.

The Centurymen, a 100-voice men's chorus sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), were on a 17-day cultural exchange tour of China. The performance in the Radio Beijing Music Hall was the last Chinese stop for the tour, which concluded with two performances in Hong Kong.

The two groups achieved another musical first during the concert, introducing a new synthesis of traditional Chinese music and choral music of Western tradition. As the Centurymen sang American folk and Christian songs, the Conservatory orchestra accompanied them with ancient Chinese instruments.

struments.

Songs like "I Am Bound for the Promised Land" and "Who'll Be a Witness" took on a new sound with Chinese instrumentation, which Centurymen director Buryl Red likened to American mountain music.

Red and Chinese conductor-composer Huang Xiao-Fei collaborated to compose and conduct the music, which was received with a standing ovation from the Chinese audience.

Radio Beijing recorded the concert for their English-language broadcast. ACTS and NBC crews have taped each concert on the tour for use on American TV.

The Centurymen also performed before a standing-room-only crowd at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing Nov. 4. After several encores, the group ended the concert with "Stars and Stripes Review".

## missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. David L. Spegel, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough. Their address is: 227 East C St., North Little Rock, Ark. 72116. Son of missionaries to Brazil, he was born in Elmhurst, Ill., and lived in Texas, Brazil, Missouri and Ohio. The former Laura Berry, daughter of missionaries to Brazil, she was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, but also lived in Brasilia, Brazil, and Louisville, Ky. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1979.

Walter and Charlean Moore, emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries, have retired after 28 years of service and are residing in Mena. The Moores spent their last 10 years of service in Ghana, where he was a public health physician and she was a church and home worker.

The Moores are both natives of Oklahoma. They are graduates of Oklahoma Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Moore is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine and Tulane University.

Irene Branum, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary retired after 36 years of service, now resides in Arkadelphia.

A native of Leslie, she was first appointed to China and later transferred to South Korea, where she served as a nurse at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital, Pusan.

Miss Branum received her nursing education at Missouri Baptist Hospital's school of nursing. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (now University).

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## International

### God's witnessing people

by Ed Simpson, Lonoke Church, Lonoke  
**Basic passage:** Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20  
**Focal passage:** II Corinthians 5:18-21; II Timothy 4:1,2

**Central truth:** God's relationship with us compels us to share him with others.

Good news travels fast. "A person who has been touched by Christ and stays in touch with Christ can't keep from touching others for Christ." God's relationship with us certainly compels us to tell others of his great love. Our scripture this week offers some helpful truths for witnessing as God's people.

1. Our method (Matt. 5:13-16)

First we must spread it. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth (v. 13)." Salt merely has to be spread to be effective. When spread, its capacities to purify, heal and sting are made active. How we need to flavor our surroundings with Jesus.

Secondly we must shine it. A light shines. Once a candle is lit, it can only be concealed (vv. 14,15). We are the light of the world and must allow the light to shine "that they may see your good works, and glorify your father in heaven (v.16)."

2. Our mission (Matt. 28:18-20)

Jesus said, "Go ye" (v. 19). Unfortunately we have said, "Come hear." The reversal of his commission is killing our churches. On his authority, we have been commissioned to totally evangelize the world, making, marking and maturing believers (vv. 18,19,20).

3. Our motive (II Cor. 5:18-21)

Our motive for witnessing is our relationship to Christ. We have been reconciled to God through Christ and given the great ministry of reconciling others (vv. 18,19). "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ. . . (v. 20)." God's love for us which compelled him to give his sinless son on our behalf at Calvary, compels us to go tell others the good news (v. 21).

4. Our mandate (II Tim. 4:1,2)

Paul's mandate to Timothy is God's mandate to us. "Preach the Word; be diligent in season, out of season, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine (v.2)." As we go we must also remember, "God will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom (v. 1)."

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## Life and Work

### Success

by Bob Metcalf, Calvary Church, Little Rock  
**Basic passage:** II Samuel 7-8  
**Focal passage:** II Samuel 7:18-22; 8:11-15

**Central truth:** God's definition of success deals with our character and attitudes rather than our accomplishments.

Successful people learn from successful models. This is why we can look to David for some characteristics of a successful person. By both worldly and godly standards David was a success. Our text will help us to focus upon an inner standard for success that can be applied to our lives regardless of our position, wealth, or fame. Consider this sampling of lessons from David's story:

1. Successful living involves genuine humility. David proved his humility by leaving his palace to bow before the Lord (vv. 18,19).

James Madison completed eight years as President and returned to his Virginia plantation only to be pressed into public service again as a justice of the peace. Truly successful leaders are usually humble servants at some point in their careers. Jesus warned a success-crazed world that "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

2. Successful living includes a thankful heart. David not only knew that he must be a servant in order to obey God, but that he must also recognize God as the giver of his gifts. We become boastful when we deny that our blessings come from the Lord. Boasting is not only theological error, it is also the trait that would make us boorish to those we are around.

3. Successful living includes faithful stewardship. David's gifts and gains were dedicated to the Lord. Silver, gold, and even conquered nations became a part of David's kingdom wholly surrendered to the sovereignty of the Lord.

Sometimes we thank God for his blessings gifted to us and then use those gifts foolishly or ineffectively. What God has given us is still his if it is to be of its greatest usefulness.

A high school basketball team was feted for winning the state championship. The speaker warned the athletes that if they let their accomplishment become their standard for success in life, their lives would be failures. True success is not measured by points and trophies. To the child of God, success can only be found in knowing and doing the will of God.

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## Bible Book

### Joy in trying circumstances

by Johnny Jackson, pastor, Forest Highlands, Little Rock

**Basic passage:** Philippians 1:1-26

**Focal passage:** Philippians 1:3-5, 12-26

**Central truth:** The Christian's greatest joys are knowing Christ and living for Christ.

The Book of Philippians is the real "joy" letter of Paul. Although written while in prison the book radiates the excitement and enthusiasm of one who is living life to the fullest. Prison walls could not crush the spirit of the great apostle. He rejoices in the Lord's presence with him (v-21), the Lord's power upon him (v-19), and the Lord's people in Philippi praying for him (v-19).

Most of us can experience and express our joy in good times. It is a bit more difficult to do so in hard days. Yet those who are able to do so testify to an inner strength that is unmistakable.

In my early seminary days I pastored a woman like that. A widow for many years, living in near poverty, she cared for a grown mentally retarded daughter with great compassion. During those days her other child, a young adult man, was killed in a tragic accident. Through all of those trying circumstances Mrs. Fenton never wavered. She kept on praising God and serving him with joy and faithfulness.

No matter how difficult our situation may be we can be like Paul and find a basis for true joy. He rejoiced in remembering his good friends and great fellowship in Philippi (vv 3-5). He rejoiced in the assurance of Christ's presence in his life (v-21). He rejoiced that the will of God was being done in his living or dying (v-20). His greatest rejoicing was his confidence that death would usher him into the personal presence of his Lord (v-23).

Whatever trying circumstances come to us — illness, grief, financial loss, accidents, loneliness, misunderstanding, disappointments, etc. — none should rob us of our joy. We are his, and he is ours, and that is joy enough.

This kind of joy gives us a stability in life that enhances our personal testimony for Christ. We can rejoice that difficult situations offer us special witnessing opportunities (v-12). Magnifying him is our great goal (v-20) and nothing helps us do that quite so much as living a victorious and joyful life for him in the midst of personal hardship.

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## For and about senior adults

Ray McClung

### Senior adults reaching out

Some people reach out in desperation—like a drowning person. Some reach out to catch themselves while falling. Some reach out to accept alms. Some to steal. Thank God for those who reach out to give alms—to help humanity's—hurt, most especially if they do it in the name of our Savior.

Senior adults reach in various ways, to love and to be loved. They first need to reach out to themselves. Let them learn how to keep healthy in mind and body. Christian seniors find reading the Bible, going to Sunday school and church, reading *Mature Living*, and other good periodicals and books, a health exercise for the mind. Reasonable physical exercise, along with right eating habits, contribute to good health.

Sixty senior adults I know were invited to get on a bus to go on a "Mystery trip". Their leader had arranged for surprise places to go, to see, to experience during the day-long excursion. When they returned home their expressions of delight were freely shared with families and friends. They had reached out to their state, their community, their peers.

Another time a group of seniors attended a senior adult day camp at Petit Jean mountain. In addition to a delightful journey there and back, the view of Arkansas from that lofty elevation, and the picnic lunch they brought and shared together, a devotion added to their pleasure.

Once each month two teams of senior adults load into two church vans on a Friday afternoon and go to two nursing homes in the area. They give a birthday party to the residents of the homes, sing the hymns they love, visit in the rooms and serve refreshments. On a Sunday afternoon each month another team of senior adults go to the Levi Towers residence facility and have a service for them.

Twenty-five to 30 senior adults meet each Thursday morning to sing together as the Singing Seniors adult choir. They recently sang the musical, "The Brush Arbor Meeting", to the entire church. When their church began having two Sunday morning worship service recently, the minister of music called upon the Singing Seniors to be the worship time choir for the early morn-

ing service.

Another musical activity for yet another group of senior adults is the Ringing Seniors, a bell choir that also meets on Thursday and rings for church worship services and at ministry points frequently.

Many of the younger senior adults take at least one long trip each year. Last May they visited Epcot Center and Disney World. The Senior Adult Chautauqua at Glorieta was a recent favorite.

It is always illuminating to compile a list of how many of our senior adults are Sunday school teachers and officers, deacons, choir and committee members.

Work with senior adults turn on attitude. Life for senior adults has most meaning when "self-giving replaces self-seeking as the ultimate expression of adult maturity. For God is love. And those who love seek the good of others, even at cost to themselves". (*Understanding Today's Adults*), page 8, by Lucien Coleman Jr.)

Ray W. McClung is minister to senior adults at Second Church in Hot Springs.



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## Missionaries head to Grenada; volunteer dentists to follow

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Two Southern Baptist missionaries who evacuated Grenada in the wake of the international invasion Oct. 25 returned to the Caribbean island less than two weeks later knowing more help was on the way.

Charlotte Davis and Robin Eberhardt will rejoin their husbands for continued ministry on the Caribbean island to be followed soon by two volunteer dentists from Knoxville, Tenn.

Davis had talked briefly by ham radio with her husband Nov. 5 for the first time since the women left. He reported the U.S. State Department had supplied emergency food to people within 24 hours after the women left the island, and water and electricity had been restored.

"He said the people, our church people,

were around and their spirits were good and he felt optimistic things for Grenada," she said.

But Davis did report the Cuban exit had left the island of 110,000 people with very little medical care. He and a Grenadian in private practice had been the only non-Cuban dentists on the island, she said.

Davis requested volunteer dentists immediately and expects to request physicians as soon as he can work out arrangements with medical officials in Grenada.

Carter Davis expects the volunteers to work in Grenadian government clinics that were formerly staffed by Cubans. In addition to operating the Baptist dental clinic, Davis works one day a week in a government clinic. He has requested other volunteers to follow.

## Midwestern Seminary trustees defend professor

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in their semi-annual meeting in October, approved a report from their instructional committee concluding Midwestern professor G. Temp Sparkman "does not teach or advocate universalism, but rather he teaches in accordance with the seminary's statement of faith with reference to this matter."

Sparkman's doctrinal views were considered by trustees after a letter expressing concern was mailed to each trustee in June 1983 by a Kansas City layman, Dennis Sullivan.

The trustees also concluded Sparkman's emphases regarding the desirable age for a public profession of faith and believer's baptism, set forth in a recent book, are not contrary to but in accordance with the seminary's statement of faith "which does not specify and/or limit with respect to the traditional 'age of accountability' as practiced by Southern Baptists."

Sparkman, in his book, suggests the period

of adolescence is the more desirable time for confronting young people with the need to make a public commitment to Jesus Christ through believer's baptism.

The trustee instructional committee concluded Sparkman's emphasis "constitutes one of several options" historically practiced by Baptists and "since it involves a sensitive and controversial area(s) may elicit opposition and/or criticism."

Nevertheless, it calls for "further discussion and study of an area in Southern Baptist life which needs attention." The full board of trustees approved the instructional committee's findings at this point by a vote of 28 affirmative, one negative and one abstention.

The trustees unanimously approved a third recommendation that trustees and administration "remain sensitive and receptive to any additional concerns which may be expressed," with the understanding that any and all expressed concerns "be acknowledged and handled in accordance with established policy and procedure."

## California Baptist College fights \$500,000 deficit

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)—Trustees of California Baptist College, struggling with a half million dollar current fund deficit, will ask the state convention next week for \$150,000 in an emergency grant.

California Baptist College, with 678 students, is owned by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. The annual meeting of the state convention of California was Nov. 15-17 in Oakland.

The \$551,000 current fund deficit, revealed in September by an audit, had been the focus of a special trustee meeting Oct. 6-7 and Nov. 4-5.

In calling for the \$151,000 grant from the convention, trustees also directed the college to raise an equal amount, although trustees backed away from requiring the college portion as a condition of the convention request.

Earlier, Trustee Chairman James Morton, Livermore pastor, said more than \$90,000 had already been cut from the present budget to prevent further deficits.

Trustees also will ask a local bank to increase the college's line of credit from \$300,000 to \$500,000, although Staples told the board the bank is waiting to see what the state convention does. The college will also explore the possibility of allowing commercial development on the portion of the 75-acre campus now not being utilized.

The trustees also approved more than 10 percent increases for tuition and dormitory fees beginning with the next school year.

California Baptist College's budget for 1983 is approximately \$4,500,000, of which the state convention Cooperative Program portion for 1983 is \$1,012,353.