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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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ABSC Preview

Arkansas Baptist

September 22, 1988

**CLC Exec
Chosen**

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
COMMISSION AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, S
Nashville, Tennessee**



Cover Story



(BP) photo / Jim Veneman

CLC Exec Chosen 20

By a vote of 23-2, directors of the SBC Christian Life Commission have elected a new executive director.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

'All Things Work Together'

Monroe Hunt sat and stared at the young man seated on the other side of the courtroom. His heart was pounding. This was about the hardest thing the Lord had ever asked him to do.

He had felt the same urging that night at the accident scene, as the rescue team worked feverishly to free his daughter's body from the mangled automobile.

But he was struggling with a question: "Why her?" She was just a high school junior. Pretty. Popular. Just the year before, she had committed her life to mission service. Jeanette was a breath of fresh air, a teenager trying hard to please the Lord.

She had been on her way to a county fair at Perryville from her home in Plainview. She and a friend headed east on Highway 60, laughing and talking excitedly about the fair. Her friend's 11-month-old daughter played happily beside them.

It happened all too quickly. They rounded a curve to find another vehicle speeding toward them on the wrong side of the road. Jeanette's friend swerved, but too late. The other vehicle plowed into the passenger side of the car, killing Jeanette and the baby instantly.

Hunt and his wife, Laveda, rushed to the scene. They watched helplessly for four hours as a rescue team untangled the wreckage. Off to one side, a trooper had arrested the other driver. Intoxicated.

"The Lord was telling me to go over and witness to him," recalls Hunt, who was pastor of the Bluffton Church at the time. "I just couldn't do it. I kept asking, 'What good would it do?' He had been drinking and using drugs. He might be belligerent. He might reject what I have to say."

While they waited for the trial date, Hunt struggled with his grief and anger. The Lord kept urging him to go and visit the young man, who lived in Ola, just five miles away. Hunt kept putting it off.

He continued to resist during the trial. One part of him wanted to share God's love, but another part wanted to tell him, "You're going to get what you deserve."

Finally, he asked Tom Deere, pastor of the Plainview Church, to walk with him over to the table where the young man sat, waiting for the jury to return with its verdict. "As we walked up, the Lord removed the barrier," said Hunt. "It was like I was going to talk to my own son."

When the young man looked up and saw Hunt headed toward him, he broke into tears. Hunt opened his Bible and talked with him about his need for Jesus. The young man prayed to receive Christ.

"I kept thinking about Romans 8:28," said Hunt, who now pastors at Solgo-hachia. "It was not a good thing that happened to us, but seven young people accepted Christ at the funeral, and then this young man made a profession of faith. We want to give God the glory. He really can work good in any circumstance."

GOOD NEWS!

The Amazing Love of God

Hosea 11

The popular song has correctly said, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." Persons who are guilt ridden and ignored need to know of the forgiveness and personal concern of a loving God. Christian worshippers can have a satisfying encounter with the living God that will edify them and their church as they contemplate Hosea's message on the aspects of God's love.

Patience of God's love (v. 3)—This verse depicts a loving father teaching a toddling child to walk, with all the patience that implies. God continues to deal patiently with contemporary man.

Tenderness of God's love (v. 4)—The message speaks of the cords of compassion with which God drew his people into fellowship and the tenderness with which

he "bent down to them and fed them" (RSV).

Persistence of God's love (v. 8)—The preacher has opportunity to declare how God's love persists, even when his justice requires punishment for sin. Jesus' reclaiming Peter after his denials is a good New Testament parallel of this truth.

Sorrow of God's love (v. 8)—The thought of punishing his people made God's heart recoil. Parental suffering caused by a child's spurning love is a comparison to the sorrow that comes to the heart of a loving God.

Mystery of God's love (v. 9)—Israel deserved no mercy, but Jehovah showed mercy. The mystery of God's action can be explained only in terms of his being "God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee."

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The Terminated Pastor

J. EVERETT SNEED



Forced termination of a pastor often is devastating both to the minister and to a local church. In a two-part editorial we will be looking at the causes and effects on both pastors and congregations. This week we will consider the terminated pastor.

The problem of terminations stems from a series of very real causes. The foremost cause is rigidity. When both the pastor and the congregation become totally inflexible, termination becomes inevitable. Inflexibility occurs when there is a failure of communication. Effective communication results when the pastor and the church leadership regularly discuss the goals and objectives of the congregation. Seldom is there a major church crisis or termination over doctrinal matters. Most often, problems develop over leadership, church priorities, and financial matters.

A second reason why pastors are forced to resign is the pastor's tenure. Some churches set arbitrary periods of time that a pastor should serve (commonly three to five years). No one knows why nor how a congregation arrived at these maximum lengths of tenure. But they are very real with many congregations.

A third reason for pastors being terminated is conflict with an "unofficial pastor" of the church. An "unofficial pastor" is someone who works in the area of pastoral leadership. It may be a man, a woman, a deacon, an unordained person, a rich person or a poor person. These people who fill pastoral leadership roles can either be of tremendous help or detriment to a pastor.

If a pastor is threatened by those individuals, inevitably, they will be detrimental to his work as pastor. These unofficial pastors fall into two categories. There are those who are extremely positive in their behavior. They pray for the pastor, they are interested in his welfare, and they desire everything that is good for the pastor and church.

There are others who serve as unofficial, non-elected pastors of a church who secretly wish that they were the elected spiritual leaders of the church. These individuals may be secretly angry and on occasion this anger may surface in a church business meeting or in some other public or private forum. This group poses a much greater problem for a mature pastor.

When Paul first came to Jerusalem after

his conversion, the Jerusalem church feared Paul. It appears obvious that James, the half brother of Jesus, was the senior pastor of the congregation. Barnabas (his name means "son of consolation") intervened and assisted the congregation to accept Paul. Lay people often can be of great benefit in bringing a proper solution to a problem.

Another factor which sometimes creates problems is where pastors have a "fear of deacons." This problem is created by a misunderstanding of the role of deacons. Sometimes deacons have seen themselves as church managers rather than individuals who are involved in a spiritual ministry alongside the pastor. This problem is sometimes compounded by a pastor's inability to properly relate to individuals.

Finally, pastoral terminations are

sometimes produced by incompetence on the part of the pastor or by a lack of trust of the pastor by the members. Each of these situations are interrelated. Most, if not all Baptist ministers feel that they are called by God. Sometimes a pastor will feel that a "call" makes him totally adequate and qualified for the task which is before him. Pastors must realize that a call to ministry is a continuing call for preparation. Pastoral skills must be honed and continually developed.

"What does a pastor do when he has been terminated?" The problem is both financial and spiritual. A pastor's relationship to his work is different from any other individual. A pastor's work provides not only his income but also a place of service and devotion to God. A pastor, when terminated, may feel that he has not only lost his income but also his way of serving God.

Fortunately, in Arkansas we provide temporary financial aid to pastors who have been terminated where there is no moral or doctrinal problem. This can provide an interim period in which a preacher can take inventory. It is essential for a terminated pastor to evaluate his skills and eliminate any negative aspect which might have harmed his ministry. The Sunday School Board offers a "Personal and Professional Growth Seminar" which is designed to assist an individual in determining his strengths and weaknesses. This seminar can assist an individual in polishing his strengths and discovering and eliminating weaknesses.

An unfortunate termination can, by God's help, strengthen a minister of the gospel and make him more effective in the future.

Arkansas Baptist

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



Twenty-eight churches in Arkansas have ministered to the deaf. Others are developing ministries as the need is identified and leaders are trained. It is our joy to try to help facilitate and encourage this ministry. For the first time the state convention will be interpreted to the deaf who may be able to attend.

Next to the deaf congregations, the largest number of congregations speaking languages other than English are eight Vietnamese congregations. Ever since they were first brought to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas churches have been reaching out to get the gospel to them. They are such gracious and conscientious believers!

Four congregations of Laotians have been brought together in Arkansas. An equal number of Korean churches have been organized over the last few years. Three Spanish speaking works have been started. Three International Fellowships have been formed, along with one Filipino congregation.

No way would we claim to be the originating cause of these. Someone or someones in a local church saw the need, got the burden, and forged ahead to meet the need. At times we have helped with surveys to clearly pinpoint the need. Sometimes we have provided or secured financial assistance from the Home Mission Board. Counsel and encouragement have also been given. Together it has been happening. Many more works could possibly be developed if we do it together.

A major resource for helping to support the evangelization of the various language groups in Arkansas has been the Dixie Jackson State Mission offering. Of course, the Cooperative Program is the major way this good work is sustained. While giving to support these ministries, pray for Randy Cash as he tries to increase and improve the work with other language groups.

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



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Letters to the Editor

Protests and Prayer

The words in James 2:17, "Even so-faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone," seem clearly to apply to Jim Little's appeal to stop showing our lack of faith concerning "The Last Temptation of Christ." Mr. Little makes several assumptions or assertions in his letter that should not go unnoticed.

Mr. Little wrote that Jesus only demonstrated anger with "church" people when he cleansed the Temple. It seems to me that the people in the Temple that day were more like the makers of this film than the protesters. They sought to make a buck by distorting the nature and ways of our God. Perhaps these recipients of Christ's anger in the Bible were religious. I have heard countless movie critics speak of having a deep religious experience while watching the movie. Yet these religious affections should not equate with biblical faith.

It is also premature to assume the box office success of this movie. While critics, media and much of the populace have applauded the film, the decline of major theater chains to show the movie have tremendously affected the number of viewers. Not many people in the state of Arkansas have seen this film. Even if a majority of people see this movie, is that really a valid reason to be silent when the truth is so distorted?

Mr. Little implies that the labors of Christians present Christ as helpless. Scripture, however, is replete with men being used as agents of God against wickedness upon this earth. Mr. Little does assume that protests have replaced prayers. Perhaps the protests were birthed out of prayer. It also seems odd to me that prayer is not prescribed by Mr. Little instead of his letter protesting the protests.—Frank C. Gantz, Harrisburg

Very Real Problems

Some very real problems (not imaginary strawmen) exist within the SBC. We can talk of love for the brethren, utter simplistic platitudes, condemn the critics, enter name-calling contests, urge cooperation at any cost, threaten to withhold funds or to withdraw from the convention, and never address the real issues.

Anyone who thinks we are all "brothers" squabbling over degrees of bibliolatory (C.E. Bryant, 8/1AABN) hasn't observed very closely. When a leading Baptist pastor can become an Episcopalian rector, something was lacking in the first place. Education is

important and we need to broaden our outlook, but when a good professor can go to Europe and come back a hard core neo-orthodox, something is wrong. When a Baptist youth interrupts a conversation concerning what Jesus said by saying, "Oh no, Jesus didn't say that; Matthew said that Jesus said that," something is awry. When people have to explain what they mean when they say they believe the Bible to be God's Word, something is amiss.

I was shocked in 1965 to hear a SEBTS professor, whom I highly respected, state that within a hundred years we Baptists would be claiming the demythologizing Bultmann as "one of our own." The cancerous neo-orthodox teachings of European theologians have affected more people than we realize or care to admit.

We are not majoring on minors. There is no comparison between the SBC's problems and a touring Baptist's trying to explain Baptist beliefs to a foreign correspondent (Bryant). Orthodoxy and neo-orthodoxy have nothing in common. Their adherents are not loving brothers (2 Cor. 6:14). Neither real fellowship nor effective, meaningful cooperation can exist between two such divergent groups. Either the Bible is God's word or it is not. To say the Bible merely contains the word of God is to degrade it to the level of all "inspired" literature. This is where the real problem lies.

Neo-orthodoxy always blights and stunts wherever it takes root. The more neo-orthodox goats that leave the flock, the better (1 John 2:18). Then evangelism, mission causes, contributions, baptisms, and love will increase, and the Lord will be able to bless his church again.—Herbert Stout, Mountainburg

Of Biscuits and Peace

When grandmother baked biscuits, she did not have a small tub of dough from the grocer. She made scratch biscuits. Grandmother never had a recipe, at least not on paper, but she used all the right stuff and proportions. She never had a failure. Today making scratch biscuits is almost a lost art except, of course, in Juanita's kitchen.

Today some say peace still eludes Southern Baptists, and individuals are correctly urged to work for peace. This is a peace probe, based on redemptive suggestions by Jerry Vines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. In a recent press release, the president addressed the missing elements of healing. President Vines plans to periodically issue statements

on healing to the press. He asks Southern Baptists to do three things to help: be strong in Cooperative Program support, practice proper speech, and engage in witnessing.

Now consider some implications—

(1) Cooperative Program support. Financial support in the denomination, like taxation in government, must have proper representation where the funds are administered. Less financial support of missions will not do. Balanced inclusion of all Southern Baptists on mission boards is ultimately required. Balanced board representation can best generate spirit and logic for stronger mission support.

(2) Proper speech. A most neglected ingredient for healing is that we do not speak to one another. All of us can use proper speech. Fortunately the recipe is written down. One, President Vines says, "Let us all begin to reach out to one another in speech, always with grace, seasoned with salt" (Co. 4:6). Two, parliamentary law describes proper speech as decorum. Three, Webster's lists "decency" and "seemliness" as synonyms of decorum. Four, Jesus teaches that disciples are to be characterized as being poor in spirit, mourners, gentle, righteous, merciful, pure, and peacemakers. They are to be faithful
(continued on p. 23)

BEN EARLY

Early Reflections



To My Son

Dear Son,

Congratulations as you start college and walk in your life. You

know, it seems like only yesterday we were taking you to kindergarten.

Your choice of Southern Baptist College is a wise selection. I know students come first at SBC, and every person counts.

Our Baptist colleges are for achievers, dreamers, thinkers, and communicators and you fit into those categories perfectly.

By attending SBC, you will be prepared to deal with issues which affect you now and in the future. Remember that Southern Baptist College means excellence in academics, spiritual life, social relationships and athletics. SBC's pursuit of excellence enables you to experience life at its best.

I know God has great things in store for you; his hand is very evident in your life. My heart soared as we returned from picking you up at your summer missions place of service and you began to share your goals and dreams. God is truly working in your life.

I hope you will always know how very proud your mother and I are of you. We hope you know, wherever you go and whatever you do, you have our love and support.

There are so many things I'd like to tell you, but time seems to have slipped away. I hope you take the opportunity to make the most of each day the Lord gives you.

Keep a positive attitude and look for the rainbow in every situation. There's enough misery and negativism in the world. Be sure to place your eyes and thoughts in the heavenly Father and study his Word.

I'm here for you, and you know if you need to talk, a hug, or just to sit silently, you can call on me. It is now time to leave you at the dorm, a whole world of new experiences await you.

I'm thankful that Arkansas Baptists support SBC because they believe in training Christian leaders. You'll experience the rich heritage of SBC and the faculty and staff will be a great model of Christian values both in and out of class.

Your mother and I will miss you, but we know you're in capable, loving hands. I

Be assured of our love and prayers.

Love, Dad

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

COVENANT MARRIAGE: *Fourth of Seven Articles*

A Journey Outward

by Rick M. Smith

It is often stated that marriage is the most intimate of all human relationships. It is a relationship where each partner loves, nurtures, cares for, and gives sacrificially in meeting the needs of each other. Is this all that marriage is called to be or is there a greater purpose beyond this mutual need-meeting commitment of intimacy? Covenant Marriage suggests that couples must move from beyond themselves to a higher purpose and calling. This calling brings balance to the responsibilities of mutual need-meeting and joint purpose.

A covenant marriage can be compared to a triangle with God at the peak and husband and wife at the two lower points. As each partner moves closer to God, they also move closer to each other. This analogy illustrates the purpose God has for us as a couple. He pulls us beyond our mutual need-meeting into mutual purpose and partnership.

Certain purposes help guide the relationships of a covenant marriage. The purpose and task of a marriage relationship is unique and defined by the partners. God's will and purpose for one couple may be different from that of another. It is the responsibility of both partners to discover and express God's unique calling for them. The purpose of a couple's life together is often not talked about but can be seen in what they value and how they live life with each other. The central purpose of the marital relationship changes with time. Discovering and expressing God's purpose in marriage is not a one-time event, but rather a process that continues throughout a couple's lifetime. As new experiences and changes enter our lives, our purpose may need to be redefined and refocused. One source of meaning in marriage is our role as co-creators. Not only does this effort bring uniqueness to our purpose as a couple, it also equips us to accomplish together what neither of us could do apart. Discovering and expressing God's purpose in marriage becomes the intentional effort of both partners.

Partnership in marriage relates to the need for companionship in living out God's purpose. Many areas of our lives are influenced by the strength of this partnership. One of the most obvious is the birth and parenting of children. Conceiving and raising children is the most common example of a couple's focus on a task beyond their own mutual need-meeting. Another common arena for shared purpose in marriage is the outside careers of the partners. We learn to support each other and encourage each other in these individual pursuits. Making a home is an arena of daily decision making where couples define together the details of their lives and what their home stands for. Partners also discover areas of need in their church, community, and world that can be effectively influenced by their shared purpose and partnership. Couples who share these common commitments find themselves experiencing a stronger, more intimate marriage partnership.

Rick Smith is associate pastor of Sylvan Hill First Church in North Little Rock. He serves as family ministry director for the North Pulaski Association.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Buster Prayer has joined the staff of First Church, Springdale, as minister of music, coming there from First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas. A native of Mississippi, he is a graduate of Belhaven College in Jackson, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Martha, have two children, Andrew, three, and Amanda, three.



Homer Haltom began serving Aug. 28 as interim pastor of Brookwood First Church in Little Rock.

Colby Adams has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church, Dardanelle.

Charles Douglas Elrod II joined the staff of Hot Springs Second Church Sept. 14 as minister of youth, coming there from First Church in Florence, Texas. A native of Cleveland, Tenn., he is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

James Edward Craver joined the staff of Hot Springs Second Church Sept. 18 as minister of senior adults. He has served as minister to single adults at First Church, Saginaw, Texas, and as a senior adult consultant for the Sunday School Board. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Craver and his wife, Rhonda, have three children, Kimberly, 19, Scott, 16, and Kasi, three.

Erma S. Page of Benton died Aug. 30 at age 74. She was a member of Mount Vernon Church to which memorials may be made. Survivors include her husband, Wilbur C. Page; four sons, Wilbur C. Page Jr. and Larry Page, both of Little Rock, Kenneth R. Page of Richmond, Va., and Brent Page of Oxford, Ala.; two daughters, Linda Nelson of Denver City, Texas and Mary Lou Smiley of Glenwood; five brothers; four sisters; 22 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Lillie Albritton will be honored with a reception Sept. 25 by Hardin Church, Pine Bluff, in recognition of her retirement

following 32 years of service as a teacher of four and five-year-olds.

Frank Rosipal is serving as pastor of Thornburg Church, Perryville.

The Thomas R. Wilson family, members of Lonoke Church, has been named Lonoke County Farm Family of the Year.

Bob Lewis resigned as minister of music at First Church, El Dorado, Sept. 12 to join the staff of First Church, Avon Park, Fla., effective Sept. 25.

Daniel Kennedy, pastor of Evening Shade Church, recently was ordained to the preaching ministry.

Hugh Rice is serving as pastor of Hon Church near Waldron, coming there from Howe, Okla.

Jeffrey Massey is serving as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church 2, Mansfield, coming there from Grace Church in Newbury Park, Calif. He and his wife, Melissa, have three sons, Justis, six; Jeremy, three; and Joseph, one.

Jack Barnes is serving as pastor of Bear Creek Springs Church in North Arkansas Association.

Carl Gavin is serving as pastor of Valley Springs Church, coming there from Hill Ridge Church near Crowley, La. He is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and has attended both the International Baptist Bible Institute in El Paso, Texas, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kay, have three children, David, 16, Shannon, 12, and Paige, eight.

Mark Smith has joined the staff of University Church in Fayetteville as minister of youth. He and his wife, Key, have two children, Jason, five, and Jessica, one.

Richard Smith has resigned as music director at Olivet Church in Little Rock to move to Ripley, Miss.

Brian Briley has resigned as junior high youth director at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock.

R.D. Harrington is serving as interim pastor at Bingham Road Church in Little Rock.

Norman Lewis of Fallon, Nev., was recently recognized by the Home Mission Board as the outstanding evangelistic associational director of missions for the western United States. Lewis, who formerly served in Arkansas as Ashley County director

of missions, serves as director of missions for Lahontan Association in Nevada.

Rebecca Lewis, daughter of Harmony Association Director of Missions Bill H. Lewis, recently was elected second vice-president of the American Protestant Correctional Chaplains Association. She serves as chaplain at Harris County Jail in Houston, Texas.

Karl and Thelma Weathers, missionaries to Gaza, are furloughing at 5511 Melvin Street, Memphis, TN 38119. He is a native of Jacksonville and she is a native of Earle. They attended the University of Central Arkansas, the University of Arkansas, and Arkansas State University. In Gaza, he serves as administrator for the Baptist School of Allied Health Sciences, and she teaches English there and at the Center of Culture and Light.

Raymond H. Reed has announced his plans to retire at the end of January 1989 as director of missions for Bartholomew Association following 17 years of service. **Norene Allen Reed**, his wife, retired as secretary of Bartholomew Association in July of this year. The Reeds plan to live in Camden and be available for special mission projects, puppet ministry workshops, and supply and interim work.

Ken Heim has resigned as minister of instrumental music at First Church, Springdale, to join the staff of Putnam City Church in Oklahoma City.

Tim Cybert has accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Church, Yellville. A native of Marshall, he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Briefly

Bakers Creek Church at Russellville has begun construction on an 1,800 square foot educational building, estimated to cost \$22,000.

Leonard Street Church at Hot Springs celebrated 30 years of service Sept. 18 at which Jimmy Watson, the church's first pastor, was speaker and Clarence Hill was music director. The Voyagers presented special music at an afternoon service.

Glenwood First Church celebrated payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service Sept. 11.

Little Rock Immanuel Church ordained Bob Beach, Win Mullen, George Smith, Larry Tidball, and Robert Trammel to the deacon ministry Sept. 11.

Little Rock Second Church and Hot Springs Second Church recently concluded a Sunday School attendance challenge in which Little Rock Second was winner with a 132 percent attendance increase from 1987.

North Little Rock Central Church sponsored a Sex Education for Children seminar Sept. 11 with John Howell, professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, serving as leader.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock observed Single Adult Day Sept. 11 with activities, which included a special emphasis in the morning worship, a luncheon, and an evening service led by the single adults. Allan Greer is minister to singles.

Osceola East Side Church recently closed a Vacation Bible School which resulted in an enrollment of 146, an average attendance of 121, and a missions offering of \$82. Martha Gonzalez was director. J. Wayne Moore is pastor.

Park Hill Church in Arkadelphia will celebrate its 35th anniversary Sept. 25 with a dedication of its renovated auditorium. Other celebration activities include a "Fifth Quarter" for youth Sept. 23; and a sacred concert Sept. 24 by Camille Bishop Simmons, a former minister of music and a former missionary to Japan. Garland Brackett, a former pastor, will preach the Sunday morning anniversary service, to be followed by a potluck luncheon. Bobby Cook is pastor.

Highland Heights Church in Benton will sponsor a Christian Singles Conference Oct. 21-22 beginning at 7 p.m. Friday night and ending with a banquet on Saturday night. Friday evening speakers will be B.J. Sams of Little Rock's KTHV Channel 11, and Les Carter of Richardson, Texas. Workshops, featuring speakers from central Arkansas, will be conducted on Saturday. Gene Richards is serving as conference coordinator.

Rosedale Church in Little Rock held a service Sept. 11 to dedicate stained glass windows which have been installed in its auditorium.

Fort Smith East Side Church recently sponsored a ladies' prayer retreat at Lake Tenkiller which featured Nona Smith from Bellevue Church in Memphis as speaker. Christy Carr from First Church, Fort Smith, directed music.

Cross Road Church in Little Rock will host a Sunday School conference Sept. 22. Leaders will be Ed Hinkson, associate in the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; Carol Pyeatt, preschool director from Second Church, Little Rock; Yvette Atkeison, childrens division director from Bryant First Southern Church; and Milton Cowling, youth director from Bryant First Southern Church.

Wynne Church is launching a special prayer ministry that will be conducted five days a week in the church's prayer room.

Batesville Calvary Church youth and adults conducted mission Vacation Bible Schools this summer at Northside Church, Batesville, and Oh Be Joyful Church in Crested Butte, Colo. Total enrollment for the two schools was 71.

Caraway First Church will observe homecoming Oct. 23 with former pastors and members as special guests. Bob Hall is pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church observed Family Day Aug. 28 when 92 were present for Sunday School and 140 were in attendance for the worship service led by Pastor Dale Perry. Don's King was recognized for having 10 guests present.

Liberty Association has assisted in establishing a new church in the Parkers Chapel area of El Dorado, a rapidly developing community south of the city. The church was organized with 60 members Aug. 14 in a service attended by 106. Average attendance has been in the 80s. A building will be constructed on a six-acre plot purchased by the association for that purpose two years ago.

Greater Grace Church in Little Rock ordained Chauncey Sumpter to the deacon ministry Sept. 11 in a service led by Pastor Paul Williams. I.J. Crawford of El Dorado, a trustee of Arkansas Baptist College, was speaker.

Cullendale First Church in Camden sponsored a program and reception Sept. 11 in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Jimmy L. Burks, who have completed 16 years of ministry there.

DeGray Church has renovated its auditorium by lowering its ceilings and installing new lighting.

Arkadelphia Third Street Church recently ordained Gordon Davis and Jimmy Malcolm to the deacon ministry.

South Fork Church at Okalona recently celebrated payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service.

Arkadelphia Second Church began two worship services Aug. 28 which meet at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

NOW LEASING

RIVERWALK

APARTMENTS

*Quiet Elegance
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- Tranquil riverfront setting
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- 9-foot ceilings or vaulted ceilings
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*More than
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Houseparent positions full- and part-time in Camden. Need Christian couples to minister to children and teenagers. Salary, benefits, including medical and life insurance, paid vacation and holidays. Call Earlene Clearman at 777-1896, or write Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services, P.O. Box 912, Hope, AR 71801.

Kwok To Fill State Post

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Jack P. Kwok, an Arkansas native, began work as director of the ABSC department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists on Sept. 15. Kwok holds degrees from Southern Baptist College, Park College, and Mid-America Seminary. In 1986, he earned the doctor of theology degree from Mid-America Seminary.



Dr. Kwok has served churches in Batesville, Memphis, Tenn., Mountain Home, Hickory Withe, Tenn., and North Little Rock.

Kwok has worked with black Baptists for a number of years. The Mallory Heights Church, Memphis, was a multi-racial congregation. While serving this congregation, Kwok cooperated with the Shelby Baptist Association and the Home Mission Board in Christian social ministries. He also developed a bus ministry, clothing ministry, food ministry, day care, and

evangelistic ministry. Currently, Kwok is serving as an adjunct professor at Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock. He is married to the former Kay McClure. They have two children, Jackie Prior and Edward Warrick.

Kwok emphasized the significance of the work has been done by his predecessors, Clyde Hart and Bob Ferguson. He said, "It is my desire to build on the foundation that has been laid by these men."

Kwok indicated that Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists has two objectives. First, the ministry seeks to facilitate cooperation between National and Southern Baptists in Arkansas. This includes fellowships, race relations and other activities which will produce Christian growth.

A second purpose of Cooperative Ministries is to work with National Baptists and Arkansas Southern Baptists in reaching Arkansas for Christ. The term "Cooperative Ministries" is used because the goal is to involve both National and Southern Baptists as partners on mission in Arkansas to further the cause of Christ.

Kwok sees his job as facilitating the development of strategies for evangelism,

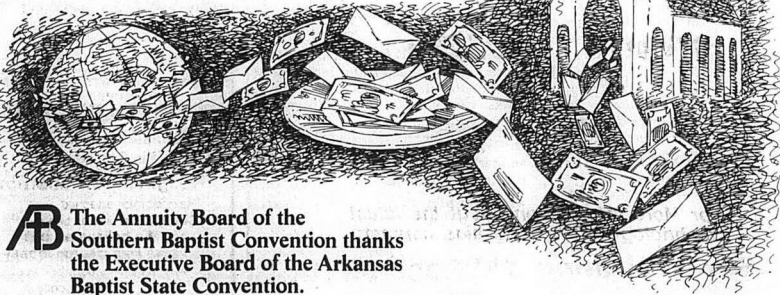
and the equipping of servants whom God has called into ministry. Equipping those who have been called out is facilitated through scholarship programs in various seminaries and colleges and educational work at Arkansas Baptist College.

Another important area is to assist in equipping local churches to be more effective in the use of Sunday School, evangelism, and ministry. Kwok observed that Dr. Ferguson has developed an excellent program in equipping the churches. Last year, for example, there were 57 in local National Baptist churches.

A major emphasis will be to bring National Baptists and Southern Baptists together in working on common goals and purposes. For example, an upcoming pastoral ministries conference will be addressing needs that both Southern and National Baptists have. All Baptists need to join hands on moral issues and evangelism.

Kwok believes that the promotion of good race relations can be expanded through a partnership built around meeting mutual needs. Fellowship meetings will be continued but working as partners in meeting needs will assist in breaking additional barriers. Kwok said, "As Baptist people work together, they discover that they have more in common than they had previously realized."

Your Cooperative Program Around the World in Love — and back home again through the Church Annuity Plan



AB The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention thanks the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Increase your Church's Cooperative Program gifts in 1989!

Black Rock's 100th

First Southern Baptist Church of Black Rock celebrated 100 years of Christian ministry Aug. 28.

The congregation marked the centennial anniversary with a noon luncheon and afternoon program following Sunday School and morning worship. Former pastor John Eason of Heber Springs delivered an invocation, and Charles Abanathy of Paragould, another former pastor, brought the morning message. The afternoon program featured singing by the Tone Masters of Jonesboro, as well as testimonies from the congregation. Seven-year-old Jenny Beary made a profession of faith at the conclusion of the morning service.

The Black Rock church was organized with a membership of 14 in 1888 by B.G. Manard, state evangelist, and W.P. Kime, first pastor of the church. A 1889 revival, which recorded 37 conversions, resulted in 34 additions to the church.

In 1905, the first church building and an adjoining parsonage were completed. The

buildings were electrified in 1909. In 1941, a basement was constructed under the facility to house classrooms. Another three classrooms were added to the rear of the building in 1948. In 1959, the basement was enlarged to provide space for additional classrooms and a nursery.

The church constructed a new parsonage in 1961 and enlarged it in 1966. A new educational building was dedicated in January 1967. In 1974, the estate of the late

Bert Angle was settled, leaving the congregation with a \$42,659.48 bequest for the construction of a sanctuary. Plans were begun in 1975, and the first services were held in the new sanctuary in March 1980.

The congregation paid off its debt on the educational building in May 1978 and in March 1986 celebrated payment of all indebtedness on the new sanctuary. In January 1988, the church purchased additional property to the west to expand parking space.

Records indicate the church has had 31 pastors since its founding. Harold Russell has pastored the church for eight years.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Coleta Waldron and Elsie Williams of Jonesboro sign in at Black Rock.

Ava Halbert Honored

Ava Fish Halbert was honored Aug. 21 by First Church, Star City, with "Ava's Day" in recognition of 50 years of service as church pianist.

Betty Moss chaired the recognition service with Anna Delle Fish serving as chairman of all events of the day.

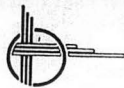
Deacon chairman Edwin Moss presented her with a plaque on behalf of the church and Colene Curry presented a book of letters from friends and relations. A special presentation was made by the four and five year-olds she teaches in Sunday School.

Following the special service the church sponsored a luncheon attended by 250 persons, including family members who were together for the first time in 16 years. Special guests were her daughters, Charlotte, and Judy, who are married to Southern Baptist missionaries and live in Venezuela and Columbia, and Sammye, who lives in England with her family.

Roy J. Fish of Fort Worth, Texas, a nephew who was born in Star City, visited his aunt on Saturday and taped a message for the recognition service.



Halbert



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Beautiful Sunsets

Aging is not a disease, at least not according to Horace Kerr.

"Through the years, many people have sought a 'cure' for the physical aspects of aging," says Kerr, director of senior adult ministry for the Baptist Sunday School Board. "But aging is the way God made us. It's a legitimate, vital part of our lives. We need to accept it, not look upon it as something to avoid."

Just as a sunset is no less beautiful than a sunrise, the later years of life should be as beautiful as the earlier ones, Kerr believes.

Kerr was one of the featured speakers in the State Conference on Aging, sponsored by the ABCS Church Training Department, held Aug. 29-31 at the Riverfront Hilton in North Little Rock.

He told more than 30 senior adults ministers and leaders participating in the conference that senior adults are patrons, not persons to be patronized.

"They are the folks who made what we now enjoy," Kerr observed. "But some of our programs are patronizing toward them, instead of recognizing their ability and potential as persons who could be motivated to achieve great things."

Senior adults also are survivors who both want and need to be independent, Kerr said. Senior adults are capable leaders and growing persons.

The conference also featured a presentation from Maurice Hurley, retired professor of psychology at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, who addressed

biblical perspectives on aging. Hurley currently serves as minister to senior adults at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Perry Thompson, chairman of the Department of Gerontology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, shared his understandings of the physical, psychological, and social aspects of aging. Herb Sanderson, deputy director of the Arkansas State Division on Aging, addressed community resources for ministry to the aging.

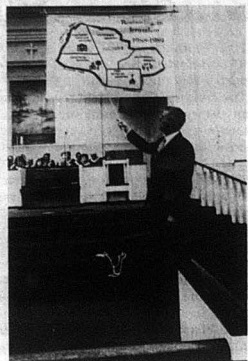
Red Ribbon Week

The week of Oct. 23-30, 1988, will be observed as Red Ribbon Week by proclamation of the Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton.

Red Ribbon Week is a national drug and alcohol awareness campaign sponsored by the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth. In Arkansas, the campaign will be sponsored by Arkansans for a Drug Free Youth. Governor Clinton and his wife, Hillary, are state honorary chairmen for the event.

During Red Ribbon Week, communities plan programs and activities which are designed to raise awareness about drug issues. Red Ribbons are worn by supporters to symbolize their support for a drug free America.

For more information, contact Betty Herron, executive director of Arkansans for a Drug Free Youth, at 664-7865.



Pulaski Heights Pastor Bill Elder

Opening the Second Chapter

by Millie Gill
Reporter/Photographer, Arkansas Baptist

When Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock observed 75 years of service Aug. 26-28, members responded to a challenge from Pastor Bill Elder to open the second chapter of its history by "Beginning In Jerusalem."

Elder said, "As Jesus in the Upper Room instructed his disciples to become his witnesses, and as four women heard that same command 75 years ago and prayed for the organization of this church, of which we have become heirs, we too must hear God's plan and open the second chapter of history."

Members surged forward at the close of the Sunday morning worship service, committing themselves to assist in launching an apartment satellite ministry; to participate in the church's dayschool program; to become involved in a program of visitation; and in ingathering.

Current ministries of the church include a dayschool, a senior adult program, an active singles ministry, and a music ministry that includes both choirs and handbell groups for all ages.

The anniversary celebration emphasized all age levels of the church, with special attention given to the children and youth as symbols of the church's future.

Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference

The Apple of His Eye

October 31, 1988
Park Hill Church
North Little Rock

Gold Room 1-4:45 p.m.

— Seminars —

Sometimes I'm Up, Sometimes I'm Down
Let Me Entertain You
Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree
With Anyone Else But Me
Shifting Gears

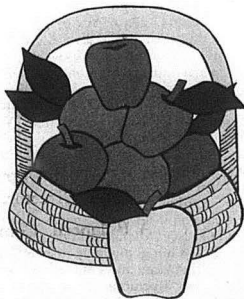
So You're Not the Pastor's Wife
Help, I'm the Mother of PKs!

— Guest Speaker —

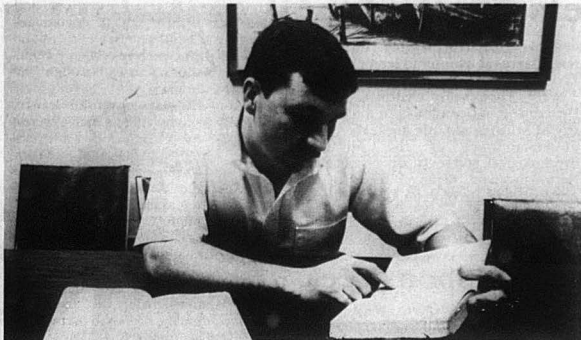
Marge Caldwell
Lecturer and Author

— Special Music —

The Singing Women of Arkansas



ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Frank Yoakum found the Book of Mormon contradicts the Bible.

STATE MISSIONS

Church Around the Corner

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Frank Yoakum grew up in the Church Around the Corner.

It wasn't one of the scores of odd-ball outfits which flourish in Yoakum's native Southern California. In fact, it was quite the opposite.

"My father died when I was quite young, and my mother raised me," recalls Yoakum. "Whatever church was closest to where we lived was the church we belonged to. If we happened to live close to a Protestant church, then we were Protestant this week. If we happened to move and the Church of Christ was close, then we were Church of Christ.

"We were always in a Christian church, but it was never what I would consider a New Testament, Bible-believing church."

As a result, Yoakum's upbringing never included any serious Bible study or training in Christian doctrine. He was an easy mark when, at age 20, he crossed paths with the Mormons, also known as the "Latter Day Saints."

He was in the Army and dating an attractive girl who invited him to her Mormon meetings, Yoakum says. When he accepted her invitation, he heard the same words he had always heard in church, and it all seemed to make sense.

"I didn't know the Mormons were a cult or that they worship a false Jesus. I didn't really know what I believed, and therefore what they believed sounded good. I couldn't see any reason why I should stay out of the Mormons."

Yoakum became active in the Mormons

and began a quick ascent through the ranks of their organization, a journey which would take him within a year to the Mormon Temple in Los Angeles. But all the time, something else was happening.

Four months after he joined the Mormons, Yoakum was sitting in an Army barracks in Goose Bay, Alaska, watching a Sunday morning television evangelist. As he listened to the message, the Holy Spirit moved in Yoakum's heart, and he accepted Jesus as his Savior. But he still did not realize there was any difference between the Mormon cult and the Christian church.

But he began to study the Bible, rather than the Mormon scriptures, and he began to encounter Bible teachings that ran contrary to what the Mormons were telling him. When he read Ephesians 2, for example, he couldn't square "for by grace are ye saved through faith" with the Mormon doctrine of salvation by works.

And when he asked his Mormon leaders why the Bible said one thing and the Book of Mormon said something different, their responses were less than satisfying. "You need to pray about that. The Lord will guide you." Or "That's not essential for your salvation." Or, even more disconcerting: "You don't need to know that."

The questions eventually built to a point where he could no longer believe in the Mormon cause, Yoakum explains, but leaving them was not going to be easy. He had since left the Army and entered business. Leaving the Mormons in a Mormon-dominated state like Alaska would ruin his chances of making a living. On top of that, he would lose his friends and family, all

loyal Mormons who would shun him as an apostate. When he chose Christ over them all, he left with only a duffel bag.

Yoakum, who now works as an instructor for the National Guard at Camp Robinson and attends the Gravel Ridge Church, believes he would not have been as susceptible to the errors of Mormonism if he had been better grounded in the Christian faith.

"You need to know what your belief is," he warns. "Either you will stand for something or you will fall for anything. Christians need to be grounded in the gospel and know what they believe so they can evaluate what others tell them."

Bobbie Sparkman agrees. Mrs. Sparkman, whose husband Al pastors Crossett First Church, serves as an interfaith witness consultant for the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. One of her specialties is Mormonism.

"Southern Baptists should be concerned about Mormonism," says Sparkman. "They should be concerned because Baptists who are leaving the church are joining the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses more than any other group."

She points out that Southern Baptists offer "awareness conferences" which can help church members understand the beliefs of other faith groups and know how to present a gospel witness to them.

The conferences, which are led by certified interfaith witness personnel, touch on world religions such as Islam and other Christian denominations, as well as cult groups like the Mormons. She sees the conferences as not only helping keep Southern Baptists from becoming naively involved in cult groups, but also as preparing them to present a gospel witness to them.

Interfaith witness is a major focus of this year's Dixie Jackson campaign for state missions. Under the theme of "Reaching Out... Touching Lives," Arkansas Baptists are being challenged to give \$475,000 to further their comprehensive program of missions ministries. The Week of Prayer for State Missions is Sept. 18-25.

Resident Couple

Our Jonesboro Group Home for five boys needs a couple without children to serve as house-parents. Ten days on, four off. Husband may be employed elsewhere or in school. Salary and fringe provided. If interested in this ministry of Arkansas Baptists, please call Tom Stafford at 935-5134.

'Equipping the Saints'

"Equipping the Saints" will be theme of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's 135th annual meeting.

Messengers will convene Nov. 1-2, 1988, at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock to conduct their business, which will include receiving recommendations from the ABSC Executive Board regarding 1989 priority goals and a new partnership mission project with the Central American nation of Guatemala.

In their annual meeting last year in Fort Smith, Arkansas Baptists marked the conclusion of a three-year partnership with Baptists in Equatorial Brazil.

This year's annual meeting program will run in four sessions, three on Tuesday and one Wednesday morning. Each session holds promise for messengers in search of inspiration.

Dawn Smith, a former Miss South Carolina and second runner-up in the 1986 Miss America pageant, will present an interpretation of the convention theme, "Equipping the Saints," in each of the sessions. Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will conduct a Bible study in each session.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., will deliver the keynote address Tuesday evening.

ABSC President Cary Heard, pastor of this year's host church, will bring his Presi-

dent's Message during the Tuesday morning session. ABSC Executive Director Don Moore will address the messengers Tuesday afternoon.

Ron Herrod, pastor of Fort Smith First Church, will conclude the annual meeting as he brings the convention sermon Wednesday morning.

Messengers will receive six recommendations from the ABSC during the Tuesday afternoon business session. Foremost among those recommendations is a \$13 million proposed budget for 1989.

The 1989 budget proposal represents a 4 percent increase over projected receipts for 1988. Projections indicate Arkansas Baptists will subscribe about 97 percent of the 1988 budget.

The new budget, if adopted by messengers and met by the churches, will pass along \$5.3 million to worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention. That represents 41.14 percent, an increase of .25 percent over 1988.

Programs of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will receive 58.86 percent of the 1989 budget, a total of \$7.7 million.

The 1989 budget proposal reflects concern over what appears to be a lowering percentage of annual increase to missions giving on the part of the churches. Because of this trend, Arkansas Baptists have slowed their progress toward a 50-50 division of Cooperative Program receipts between state and world causes.

In an effort to reverse the giving trend, Arkansas Baptists last year launched "Mis-

sions Advance 87-89," an educational and motivational thrust which encourages churches to commit themselves to annual increases in the percentage of their receipts going to missions causes through the Cooperative Program.

A team of 116 state convention leaders stand ready to come at their own expense to interpret for churches the missions challenge which confronts the state convention. Messengers will hear a report on Missions Advance 87-89 on Tuesday morning of the annual meeting.

A new film on the Cooperative Program, entitled "The Darkness Shall Turn," will be screened for messengers on Tuesday evening.

Messengers will receive four other recommendations from the Executive Board, including the proposed partnership with Guatemala Baptists.

Another proposal sets out five priority goals for 1989: beginning 200 new Sunday School teaching units; enlisting 500 churches to participate in "A Call to Baptist Basics," a discipleship and evangelism emphasis; launching 45 new churches through the "Church Arkansas" emphasis; training 200 youth leaders to lead Youth Christian Life seminars; and involving 638 churches in activities related to the "Year of the Laity in Evangelism and Discipleship," which begins in October this year.

An important feature of the concluding session Wednesday morning will be a report on Church Arkansas which will be brought by Floyd Tidsworth, ABSC director of church extension.

Church Arkansas goals challenge Arkansas Baptists to start 370 new churches by the end of the century.

Your Convention Hotel

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Hilton Inn**

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**Arkansas Baptist
State Convention
Annual Meeting**

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\$42 per night
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On the riverbank
Just off the freeway
Near the convention site
Come stay with us!

Riverfront Hilton Inn

#2 Riverfront Place North Little Rock
For reservations, call 371-9000

Welcome to North Little Rock

Welcome to Park Hill Baptist Church and the 135th annual session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Our congregation is honored to host this gathering of fellow Southern Baptists from all across our great state. We strive to be a people "given to hospitality," so consider yourself one of our own as we gather Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.

This year's convention program is built around the theme of "Equipping the Saints." I hope you will join me in praying for our Lord to so bless and use this meeting that when it concludes we will all be better prepared and motivated to do the work of ministry he has entrusted to us.

*With best wishes,
Cary Heard, pastor*



ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Proper Credentials

Membership and messengers to the 1988 Convention are determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of the *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their findings and recom-

mendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. —**Dillard Miller, chairman, Credentials Committee**

Registration

Messengers elected by Arkansas Baptist churches who are planning to participate in the annual meeting Nov. 1-2 in North Little Rock must bring messenger registration cards approved by their churches and signed by their moderators or church clerks.

Messengers who present themselves for registration without properly certified credentials will be sent to the Credentials Committee.

Balloting

In accordance with the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and in keeping with previous policies and procedures, the following guidelines have been established for voting at the annual meeting.

All duly-elected messengers who register

at the convention will be given an official book of numbered ballots. Messengers are encouraged to print their names on the front of the ballot book as soon as they register.

A ballot is considered the property of the person to whom it is issued. Therefore, a ballot can be used only by that individual. Ballots are not to be exchanged or used by any other messenger or nonmessenger, even with the owner's consent. When ballots are used, instructions will be given designating which ballot is to be cast. Ballots which do not bear the appropriate number for a specific vote will be considered invalid. Ballots which are not legible or which are submitted blank will be considered invalid.

Messengers who lose or find ballot books should notify the registration desk. An owner may claim a lost ballot book only if the book bears his or her name.—**Harry Black, Tellers Committee chairman**

Resolutions

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Cary Heard has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Oct. 21, 1988. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to Randel Everett, 211 South Market, Benton, AR 72015.

We would like to express our appreciation in advance for your cooperation in this matter.—**Randel Everett, chairman, Resolution Committee**

Convention committees

Parliamentarian

Hal Bass
Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Credentials Committee:

Dillard Miller, Mena, chairman
Rich Kincl, Magnolia
Ferrell Morgan, Ft. Smith
Jimmy Wallace, Eudora
Eugene Ray, Marion

Tellers Committee:

Harry Black, England, chairman
Donny Settles, Kensett
Don Phillips, Camden
Bill Hilburn, Ward
Hal Graves, Hot Springs
Ken Jordan, Morrilton
John Greer, Conway
Charles Mays, Hot Springs
John Edwards, Paragould
William Gullick, Corning

Resolutions Committee:

Randel Everett, Benton, chairman
Tommy Robertson, El Dorado
Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron
David Crouch, Searcy
Sonny Simpson, Pine Bluff

Order of Business:

Mike Huckabee, Texarkana, chairman
Jerry Hogan, North Little Rock
John Maddox, Little Rock

Interest Group Plans

In addition to the regular sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, a variety of special interest groups will offer programs for messengers.

Ministers' Wives

The biggest change in this year's offerings will be in the Ministers' Wives Conference, which in the past has met for an afternoon fellowship on Monday prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

This year the Ministers' Wives Conference will feature six seminars directed at needs of the minister's wife, according to Sheila Everett, president of the conference.

Seminar topics will include:

—"Help! I'm the Mother of PKs!", led by Ruth Everett of Springhill, La., and Janet Wentz of Arkadelphia;

—"Sometimes I'm Up, Sometimes I'm Down," led by Shirley Moore of Little Rock, Jonya Davis of Russellville, and Patsy Johnson of Paragould;

—"So You're Not the Pastor's Wife," a seminar for staff wives led by Marilyn Dusek of Benton, Cindy Morris of Pine Bluff, and Janie Thompson of Arkadelphia;

—"Let Me Entertain You," a seminar on hospitality led by Betty Grant of Arkadelphia;

—"Shifting Gears," a seminar on senior adults in ministry led by Kathleen Holland of Little Rock;

—"Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree with Anyone Else But Me," a seminar on marriage and ministry led by Cary and Mary Lou Heard of North Little Rock and Dillard and Nellie Miller of Mena.

"... We want this to be a time to make some real friends," Sheila Everett said. Guest speaker for the conference will be author and lecturer Marge Caldwell. The Ministers' Wives Conference will convene Monday, Oct. 31, at 1 p.m. in the Gold Room at Park Hill Church. The program will conclude at 4:45 p.m.

Pastors

Arkansas Baptist pastors will convene their annual preconference conference Monday, Oct. 31, at 10 a.m. at Park Hill Church. Three sessions will be held, concluding at 9:15 p.m.

This year's conference theme will be, "A Holy People for a Holy God," based on Leviticus 10:7, according to Pastors' Conference President Stephen P. Davis of Russellville.

Program personalities will include Stephen F. Olford of Memphis, Tenn., T.W. Hunt of Nashville, Tenn., and Ed Young of Houston, Texas.

Religious Educators

Jack Terry, dean of the School of Religious Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will be the featured speaker when the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association convenes Monday, Oct. 31, at Park Hill Church.

Registration and fellowship will begin at 2 p.m. in the Music Suite at Park Hill. The \$10 conference fee includes the cost of refreshments and the dinner.

For more information, contact Delores Lynn, P.O. Box 4064, North Little Rock, AR 72216.

Alumni Meetings

Ouachita Baptist University alumni fellowship and reception for President and Mrs. Ben M. Elrod will be held in Park Hill Baptist Church's Gold Room, Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 9:30 p.m., or immediately following the evening session.

Southern Baptist College alumni will meet for fellowship immediately following the afternoon session on Tuesday, Nov. 1. Place to be announced.

Midwestern Seminary will host a luncheon for alumni at 12 noon, Wednesday,

Nov. 2, at Red Lobster on McCain Blvd. in North Little Rock. Meals will be ordered from the menu, plus 15 percent gratuity, payable as you leave. Reservations are necessary. For more information, contact Ed Simpson at 676-5136.

New Orleans Seminary alumni will meet for lunch Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 12 noon at the Holiday Inn Holidome, North Little Rock. For reservations call Ruth at 663-8303.

Southern Seminary alumni will meet at 12 noon, Tuesday, Nov. 1, in the Gold Room of Park Hill Baptist Church. Tickets may be obtained for \$5 (\$6 at convention) from Ed F. McDonald III, Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Medical Center, 9601 Interstate 630, Ex. 7, Little Rock, AR 72205; phone 227-2569.

Southwestern Seminary alumni will meet Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 12 noon at the Riverfront Hilton, North Little Rock. Tickets are \$9.53 and should be purchased from Don Phillips, Rt. 4, Box 83, Camden, AR 71701.

Mid-America Seminary will host an alumni luncheon immediately following the morning session on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Western Sizzlin' on JFK Blvd.

DOMs

The Arkansas Baptist Director of Missions Fellowship will meet at 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, at the Wyatt's Cafeteria located in the North Park Mall on JFK Blvd.

Annuitants and Retirees

Southern Baptist annuitants, retired ministers and staff persons, and their spouses will be the guests of the Annuitant/Stewardship Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at a fellowship dinner Tuesday, Nov. 1. The dinner will be held at 5 p.m. at Park Hill Church.

For reservations, contact the Annuitant/Stewardship Department at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.

Child Care

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the state convention.

Pre-registration for babies through five-year-olds is necessary in order to provide quality care with a planned program for preschoolers. No child care will be provided for school-age children at any session.

The accompanying registration form should be completed and mailed to: Linda Reagan, P.O. Box 4064, North Little Rock, AR 72116. For more information, contact Linda Reagan at 501-753-3413.

Pre-registration for preschool child care

Child's name _____ Age _____

Parent's name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please circle sessions needed:

Monday, Oct. 31 Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____

Tuesday, Nov. 1 Morning 8:30-12:00 _____ Afternoon 1:45-4:15 _____ Evening 6:15-9:10 _____

Wednesday, Nov. 18 Morning 8:15-12:30 _____

Mail to: Linda Reagan, P.O. Box 4064, North Little Rock, AR 72116

LOCAL & STATE

ANNUAL CONVENTION PREVIEW

ABSC Tentative Program

Equipping the Saints

Tuesday Morning Nov. 1, 1988

8:30	Congregational Singing	Lester McCullough
8:40	Theme Interpretation	Dawn Smith
8:55	BIBLE STUDY	Roy Fish
9:25	Call to Order	Cary Heard
	Welcome	Cary Heard
	Appointment of Committees	Cary Heard
	Enrollment of Messengers	Dillard Miller
	Adoption of Order of Business	Michael Huckabee
	Tellers Committee Instructions	Harry Black
	Resolutions	Randel Everett
	Constitution Amendments	John Maddox
9:50	Congregational Singing	Lester McCullough
9:55	Special Music	Music Men of Arkansas
10:05	"Missions Advance 87-89"	Allen Thrasher
10:15	FMB Commissioning Service	Don Moore
10:25	Announcements	Cary Heard
	Recognition of Baptist Hospitals	
	Recognition of Former Presidents	
10:45	Recognition of Senior Ministers	John McClanahan
10:55	Recognition of New Arkansans	Don Moore
11:10	Recognition of Missionaries	Glendon Grober
11:20	Congregational Singing	Lester McCullough
11:25	Special Music	Music Men of Arkansas
11:30	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	Cary Heard
12:00	Benediction	Larry Kindrick

Tuesday Afternoon Nov. 1, 1988

1:30	Prelude	Music Men Brass
1:45	Congregational Singing	Gary Lanier
1:50	Prayer	Terry Traxler
1:55	Theme Interpretation	Dawn Smith
2:10	BIBLE STUDY	Roy Fish
2:40	Miscellaneous Business	
2:50	Congregational Singing	Gary Lanier
2:55	Special Music	James Allcock
3:00	Nominating Committee	Jerre Hassell
3:10	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT	Jere Mitchell
3:30	Congregational Singing	Gary Lanier
3:40	Special Music	Stephen & Denise Edds
3:45	MESSAGE	Don Moore
4:15	Benediction	Paul Sanders

Tuesday Evening Nov. 1, 1988

6:15	Congregational Singing	David Oliver
6:20	Prayer	David Blaze
6:25	Theme Interpretation	Dawn Smith
6:40	BIBLE STUDY	Roy Fish
7:10	Southern Baptist College Report	Jack Nicholas
7:25	Special Music	Ouachita Baptist University Choir
7:40	Ouachita Baptist University Report	Ben Elrod
7:55	Congregational Singing	David Oliver
8:00	CP Film—"The Darkness Shall Turn"	Jimmie Sheffield
8:35	Special Music	Judy Scott
8:40	MESSAGE	Larry Lewis
9:10	Benediction	Paul Williams

Wednesday Morning Nov. 2, 1988

8:15	Congregational Singing	Ron Feener
8:20	Prayer	Don Sanders
8:25	Theme Interpretation	Dawn Smith
8:40	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
8:55	Special Music	David Hayes & Tim Hess
9:05	BIBLE STUDY	Roy Fish
9:35	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:45	Christian Civic Foundation	John Finn
9:55	Memorial Moments	Harold Elmore
10:00	Resolutions	Randel Everett
10:20	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
10:30	Miscellaneous Business	
10:45	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
10:55	Congregational Singing	Ron Feener
	"Church Arkansas"	Floyd Tidsworth
11:10	Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care	Johnny Biggs
11:20	Arkansas Baptist Foundation	Harry Trulove
11:30	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	Everett Sneed
11:40	Executive Board Program Goals	Jimmie Sheffield
11:50	Special Music	Pam Lowery
11:55	CONVENTION SERMON	Ron Herrod
12:25	Presentation of New Officers	
	Benediction by New President	

Program Personalities

Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will lead the Bible study in the four sessions of the convention.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, will bring the Tuesday evening message.

Cary Heard, president of the ABSC,

will preside during the annual meeting and bring the President's Message on Tuesday morning.

Jere Mitchell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, and president of the ABSC Executive Board, will present the Board's report Tuesday afternoon.

Don Moore, executive director, ABSC, will bring the Tuesday afternoon message.

Ron L. Herrod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, will bring the Convention Sermon on Wednesday morning.

Dawn Smith, a former Miss South Carolina and second runner-up in the 1986 Miss America Pageant and now a contemporary Christian artist, will bring the theme interpretations for the four sessions.

Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1 1989 Budget

I. State causes	1989 requests
1. Administration	\$219,028
2. Business Services	232,646
3. Annuity	14,247
4. Baptist Student Union	587,962
5. Brotherhood	112,075
6. Christian Life Council	77,295
7. Church Music	153,911
8. Church Training	206,197
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	119,667
10. Evangelism	233,197
11. Ministry of Crisis Support	90,663
12. Missions	448,230
13. Stewardship	94,521
14. Sunday School	268,011
15. Woman's Missionary Union	262,470
16. Support Services	54,012
17. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	178,492
18. Camp Paron—Operating	54,410
19. Camp Paron—Improvement Fund	26,100
20. Annuity Dues	375,000
21. Baptist Student Union—Buildings	131,802
22. Convention	84,650
23. Historical Commission	8,583
24. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes	218,034
Total Executive Board Programs	\$4,251,201
25. Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care	370,983
26. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	219,644
27. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	190,212
28. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	1,970,513
(2) Southern Baptist College	542,882
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	106,366
Total State Programs	\$7,651,800
II. Southern Baptist Convention	\$5,348,200
Total Budget	\$13,000,000

Recommendation No. 2

Simultaneous World Mission Conferences

The Executive Board recommends that Simultaneous World Mission Conferences be conducted in 1991. The dates are: April 28-May 5, East; May 19-26, West.

The five services that will make up a World Mission Conference will include two foreign missionaries, two home missionaries, and one state missionary. Conferences will be scheduled for Sunday through Wednesday and Thursday through Sunday.

The Brotherhood Department Director will be the overall coordinator of the project. Each association will be asked to function with a Director of Missions and a Baptist Man as coordinator of the World Mission Conference. The goal is to have 30 associations and 800 churches participating in the project.

Recommendation No. 3

Directions 2000 Planning Group

The Executive Board recommends that a planning

group be established to plan Executive Board objectives, goals, and action plans for 1991-95. The planning group will be composed of:

- (1) Executive Board Program Department Directors (Excluding the Director of Crisis Support)
- (2) Eight Pastors (David Blase, Mark Brooks, Brian Harbour, Tommy Kimball, Bill Kimbrough, Clyde Spurgin, Jimmie Wallace, Noble Wiles)
- (3) Three Church Church Staff Members (Dennis Coop, Gerald Spicer, Joe Statton)
- (4) Three Directors of Missions (L. B. Jordan, Bill Lewis, Eddie McCord)
- (5) Three Laypersons (Martha Dewbre, Ina Miller, Verlon Taff)
- (6) Administrative Staff (Dan Jordan, Don Moore, Jimmie Sheffield)
- (7) Director of Support Services (Jan Kelley)

The Associate Executive Director will serve as leader of the planning group which will be called Directions 2000.

Recommendation No. 4

Witnessing-Giving Life Emphasis

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the Witnessing-Giving Life Emphasis for 1991-95. Witnessing-Giving Life is a Southern Baptist Convention emphasis involving the Evangelism Division of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Witnessing-Giving Life involves leading people to make commitments by:

—Awakening to the need for revival and renewal of commitments

—Adopting new Christian lifestyle qualities

—Joining in efforts to make Bold Mission Thrust dream a reality.

—Resisting the appeals of materialism and humanism.

—Giving new priority to church membership development in witnessing and giving.

The calendar of activities includes:

1990—April: Interpret Witnessing-Giving Life during Key Leader Meeting; December: Evangelism Workshop provide training and orientation for associational evangelism and stewardship directors.

1991—January-May: conduct associational Witnessing-Giving Life conferences. September-November: Witnessing-Giving Life Revivals.

1992—January-May: Conduct associational Witnessing-Giving Life conferences. Spring: "Give and Grow Sunday" (Planned in conjunction with Sunday School.) December: Train associational evangelism and stewardship directors to conduct "One-Day Soul Winning Leadership Training Conferences."

1993—January-February: Conduct associational "One-Day Soul-Winning Leadership Training Conferences."

1994—January: (1) Witnessing-Giving Life Studies previewed during State Evangelism Conference; (2) State Evangelism Conference to feature speakers on Witnessing Giving Life. January-May: Associational Pastor's Conferences feature Witnessing-Giving Life studies. Spring: Churches conduct Witnessing Giving Life studies.

1995—Continue Witnessing Giving Life emphasis through regular programming of evangelism and stewardship.

Recommendation No. 5

Partnership Mission Project

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention join in a Partnership Mission Project with Guatemala for 1989-1992. 1989 will be a year of planning with a few projects to begin in the fall of 1989.

The Foreign Mission Board has issued a formal invitation to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to participate in this project. The Guatemala Convention and the Guatemala Mission have both approved the partnership.

Recommendation No. 6

1989 Priority Goals

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the 1989 Priority Goals and department goals for Executive Board programs. The priority goals are:

Our goal is to lead churches to begin 200 new Sunday School teaching units by Dec. 31, 1989.

Our goal is to equip 500 churches to commit themselves afresh to the Baptist basics of discipleship and evangelism through an emphasis on "A Call to Baptist Basics."

Our goal is to begin 45 new churches by Dec. 31, 1989.

Our goal is to train 200 youth leaders to learn how to plan and implement a Youth Christian Life Seminar by Dec. 31, 1989.

Our goal is to involve 638 churches in one of the activities related to the "Year of the Laity" by Dec. 31, 1989.

Constitution and Bylaw Changes

The following Constitutional changes were approved in the 1987 Convention. According to Constitution procedure, changes must be approved in two consecutive conventions.

BYLAWS—Section 4. "Trusteeships"

Delete all but the first sentence of paragraph one.

BYLAWS—Section 5. "Committee Members"

1. Sentence 2. Inserted the word in italics.

Following each annual convention, the president will appoint one-third of this committee to three-year terms to replace the one-third rotating off, plus filling any vacancies that may exist on the committee at that time.

3. Inserted the words in italics.

No member of a commission or committee delegated to study or make recommendations concerning our agencies and institutions shall be a member of any Board of Trustees of such agency or institution.

4. Sentence 1. Inserted the word in italics.

All associational missionaries or mission pastors receiving all or part compensation from the Convention through the Executive Board shall be considered employees of the Convention and shall not be members of any convention, agency or institutional board.

ARTICLE VIII—"Operating of Agencies"

(Added the following two new sections)

Section 2: Each board, agency and institution of this convention shall operate on the funds provided by the churches through the Cooperative Program and from special offerings solicited and received from individuals, corporations, foundations, the annual Family and Child Care offering, and the Dixie Jackson State Mission offering.

No additional appeals may be made to the churches without the recommendation of the Executive Board and approval of the annual convention in session.

Section 3. A deficit in a board, agency or institution operational budget for any year shall be reported to the Executive Board and the convention in annual session.

Such deficit may not be carried over into the second year without the approval of the Executive Board and the convention in annual session as to how this deficit will be eliminated.

John Maddox, chairman; Richard Johnson; Roy Buckelew; Raymond Higgins; Jim Pate; Betty Harp

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Foundation Recommendations

In order for the Foundation to strengthen its services we recommend the Convention approve adding the following to Section II of our Charter:

"... and to develop innovative ways and means for raising, developing and acquiring funds for the charitable purposes thereof, to act as an agent for life insurance companies in procuring, receiving and forwarding applications for life insurance, together with the collection of premiums and the taking of such other actions as may be designated to agents by life insurance companies, in order to facilitate the contribution by donors of life insurance policies, the beneficiary of which is this organization or some other charitable cause amenable to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, such proceeds to be used for the charitable objectives and purposes thereof."

We believe that this amendment would:

(1) ... offer Baptist institutions, agencies, churches and associations a way to build substantial endowment income for the future.

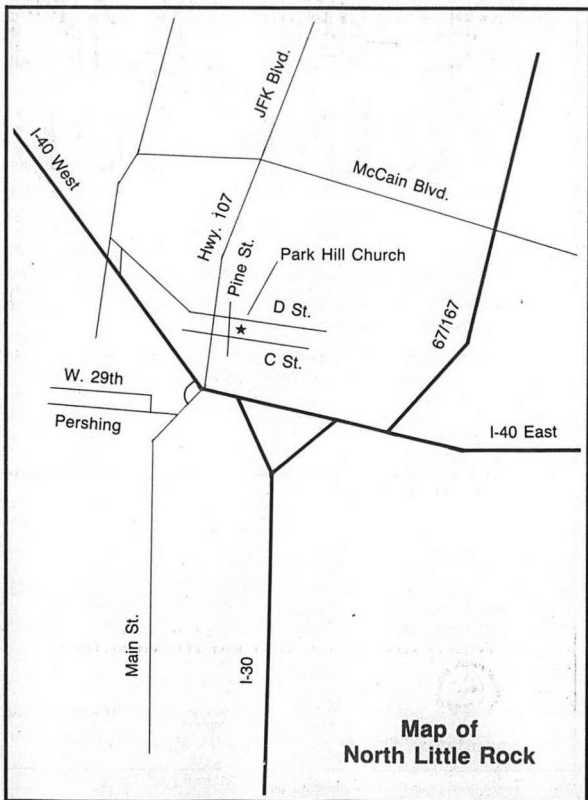
(2) ... provide a person of modest means a way to make a major gift to a Baptist cause.

(3) ... allow each association, agency, church, and institution to decide if the plan is to be offered to their people.

(4) ... be based on actuarial tables. The plan is not an accident policy.

(5) ... not be "locked in" to any one company. The Foundation would be able to work with any company willing to tailor such a program.

This resolution was approved by the 1987 Convention BUT WITH THE CONDITION THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EXECUTED UNLESS THE IRS ISSUED A FAVORABLE LETTER RULING concerning the matter of Unrelated Business Taxable Income. Since then it has been determined that having unrelated business taxable income will not jeopardize the Foundation's tax free status or contaminate other investment income. Therefore we respectfully request the Convention to remove the conditional statement and approve the amendment.



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Thanks, Arkansas churches, for your caring and support.

Those churches with highest per capita giving for 1987:

First Baptist Church, El Dorado	\$33.47
First Baptist Church, Sparkman	25.91
Black Oak Baptist Church, Fayetteville	20.00
Lake Ouachita Baptist Church, Mt. Ida	13.93
Bella Vista Baptist Church, Bella Vista	13.64
First Baptist Church, Hot Springs	12.81
Columbus Baptist Church, Columbus	12.60
Forrest Park Baptist Church, Pine Bluff	12.09
Bingen First Baptist Church, Nashville	10.71
First Baptist Church, Stuttgart	10.09

And those with highest dollar amounts in 1987:

First Baptist Church, El Dorado	\$32,966
Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock	19,718
Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock	18,927
First Baptist Church, Hot Springs	15,914
Geyer Springs First Bapt. Church, Little Rock	13,946
Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Smith	11,074
Baring Cross Bapt. Church, North Little Rock	9,916
First Baptist Church, Russellville	9,325
First Baptist Church, Horatio	9,027
First Baptist Church, Fort Smith	8,635

(These figures were obtained from the state convention office and from the 1987 Uniform Church Leavers.)



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the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

**The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
for Home Missions**

CLC Exec Chosen

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—On a 23-2 secret-ballot vote, directors of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Sept. 12 elected Richard Land of Dallas as the new executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist moral and social concerns agency.

Land, 41, who has been vice president of academic affairs at Criswell College, an arm of First Baptist Church of Dallas, will assume day-to-day direction of the agency about Oct. 24, succeeding N. Larry Baker, who resigned June 3 following 16 months as executive.

In presenting Land as the choice of the eight-member search committee, Joe Atchison, a director of Baptist associational missions in Rogers, Ark., told commission members: "We (the search committee) decided from the beginning that we were not going to let any political fallout or any other thing keep us from going for the most qualified man... God's man."

"Richard Land is the unanimous choice of the search committee."

Atchison had pledged to have an "open" process of selecting a replacement for Baker, whose selection and tenure of office was one of the most controversial in the history of the agency. Conservatives had complained they were "run over" by the then-moderate majority in the selection process, presentation and election of Baker, who was called on a 16-13 vote and, in September 1988, survived an effort to fire him when commission members tied 15-15.

Following the vote, Atchison told Baptist Press the "atmosphere of the meeting was markedly different in a very positive, upbeat way," from the tense meetings of January and September 1987. "Commission members said over and over how much they appreciated both the time we gave and the opportunity to ask questions," he said.

Fred Lackey, commission chairman and pastor of First Baptist Church of Athens, Ala., noted the "contrast in the atmosphere of this meeting," from that of the immediate past meetings. "This meeting was

much, much more positive," he said.

In his presentation of Land to the board, Atchison acknowledged that charges of "politics probably will be made regardless of what we say until they get a chance to sit down and talk with Richard Land." He added some of the search committee had "negative feelings" about Land, "but when we sat down, those negative factors just fell away."

"We believe the Lord led us to Richard Land; we believe he is the best man," Atchison said, adding he received "absolutely no outside pressure regarding our recommendation. Nobody got on the telephone

(BP) photo / Jim Veneman



New CLC Executive Director Richard Land

to try to sway us."

Trustee Coy Privette, executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina in Kannapolis, told Atchison he was "glad to hear" there was no political pressure, and commented that 18 months ago he had been told by a prominent conservative leader that it was only "a matter of time until Richard Land was elected executive director of the Christian Life Commission."

Following his election, Land told commission members he is aware "perceptions

of me are not neutral," and added: "There are many who will see this (the election) in a way that will be profoundly disturbing. I have a need and an obligation to try to dispel as many of those concerns as possible, and, if given the opportunity, I can dispel them."

Prior to the vote, Land spent nearly three hours with commission members, giving his personal Christian testimony, spelling out his positions on moral issues—including abortion, women in ministry and capital punishment—describing his vision for the future course of the Christian Life Commission and answering questions from the 25 board members present at the annual meeting.

"I have a strong pro-life position," he said, specifying he believes "it is only morally defensible to take life to protect life. The only reason for abortion is when the life of the mother is in extreme danger. I have held this position a long time."

Later, under questioning by Privette about what he would do if his own 14-year-old daughter were raped and impregnated by "a demented individual," Land responded he would be "personally devastated," but that a decision for abortion "would be a choice between my daughter and my granddaughter—or grandson—that I am not prepared to make." He added that "two wrongs don't make a right."

He said he believes capital punishment is "society's way of upholding the sanctity of human life. If human life is sacred and God has given it, then we must uphold its sanctity. When another person callously... wantonly takes life, then capital punishment is one of the options of the magistrate."

On women, Land said men and women "are equal in God's sight," but does not believe the "New Testament allows women to be over men in the church... or the home." He warned listeners not to "extrapolate from the home and the church," and specified he believes women should receive equal pay for equal work and are not prohibited from top positions in education, government, business, corporations, finance, politics or other work.

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PAC Wants \$75,000

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee will request \$75,500 as its allocation from the Southern Baptist Convention's 1989-90 budget.

The decision to request the funds was made during an Aug. 26 meeting of the PAC's "executive body" of officers and "members who have had specific duties assigned to them."

The group also made plans for the Oct. 2 and Oct. 4 meetings of the PAC, scheduled a Religious Liberty Conference in Atlanta for April 21-22, 1989, and discussed the

need to revise the program statement under which the PAC operates.

The September meeting will mark the first time the PAC has made a direct request for funding from the unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, although the Executive Committee granted the PAC an allocation of \$24,200 in the 1988-89 budget without a specific request by the PAC to do so.

Technically, the PAC is a standing committee of the SBC, and standing committees do not have staff, budgets or program statements. Usually, standing committees are entitled to one meeting per year and are funded through a line item in the Executive Committee's budget.

ABORTION

Protests 'Unbiblical'

by Mark Wingfield
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, has opposed the Operation Rescue abortion protests in Atlanta as unbiblical, but he maintains he still views abortion as murder.

During Sunday worship Aug. 28, Stanley read a statement concerning the protests that later was distributed to worshippers in a leaflet titled "A Biblical Perspective on Civil Disobedience." The statement is labeled as the opinion of the pastoral staff and deacons of First Baptist Church.

More than 700 people, including several members of Stanley's church, have been arrested for trespassing on the properties of Atlanta abortion clinics since July 19 in attempts to "rescue" babies scheduled for abortions. The people arrested and hundreds of other supporters are part of an interdenominational effort known as Operation Rescue.

Stanley noted he agrees with the Atlanta rescuers that abortion is wrong. "From our perspective, the wrongness of abortion is not up for discussion," he said. "God's word clearly teaches that life begins at conception and that abortion is murder."

Stanley advocated "all lawful means of protesting abortion," but declared that Operation Rescue's tactics do not meet the biblical test for justifiable civil disobedience.

"It is right to break the law when there is a direct, specific conflict between God's law and man's law, because God's law is higher," Stanley said.

However, he added, the civil disobedience advocated by Operation Rescue does not meet the biblical requirements of civil disobedience for three reasons:

— Trespass laws have nothing to do with abortion. Therefore those arrested are not being arrested for opposing abortion. "If certain anti-God protesters blocked the entrance to First Baptist Atlanta so we could not enter to worship, we would use the same ordinance to have them arrested," he said.

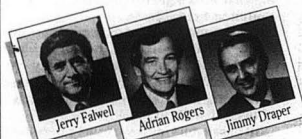
— The Supreme Court ruling in *Roe vs. Wade* "neither requires abortions nor prohibits them," but makes them permissible with certain restrictions.

— Women who have abortions are "free moral agents responsible before Almighty God for their actions."

Stanley said the proper way to change abortion laws "involves carefully working through the judicial, elective and legislative process to effect change—especially in the composition of the U.S. Supreme Court."

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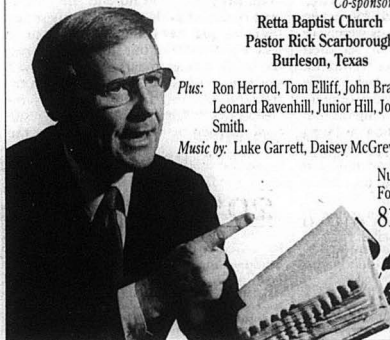
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Convention Uniform

Job's Victory

by Jim Box, Central Church, Bald Knob
Basic passage: Job 38-42

Focal passage: Job 38:1-7; 40:3-5;
 42:1-6,10

Central truth: Job's victory as God confronts him.

Job challenged God to appear and talk with him fact to face. The thunder of God's voice came to Job out of a whirlwind. A whirlwind or a storm was often the way God made his appearance to ancient Israelites. God and Job carried on a conversation, and during that conversation God gave two speeches and allowed Job to respond.

The speeches which God made did not deal with Job's sufferings or their causes; they were questions about the universe and its operation. God asked questions about the creation, inanimate nature and about life. The questions asked were simple in grammar and construction, yet their full answer has never been given by man.

The essence of God's speeches revealed Job's nothingness and destroyed his pride by challenging him to know and do that which God knows and does.

During this conversation, God did not charge Job with the sins that his friends accused him of committing; he simply charged Job with not seeing himself in the light of the greatness and majesty of a sinless, omnipotent God. The result was that Job humbled himself and repented.

Because Job was humble, God honored him. God rebuked Job's friends and instructed him to pray for them. When he did his body was healed; God restored his health and fortune and gave him other children. He lived to see his great-grandchildren.

Sometime during his suffering, Job's troubles were so grievous that he felt he could not bear them, and sometime he accused God, but he never lost faith in God, and that steadfast faith helped him overcome the tragedy.

Job learned how to deal with suffering. He taught us that man should not exalt himself over God, criticize God, accuse God, or doubt God, but man should humble himself under God, praise God, justify God, and trust God. The Lord restored Job after he got right with God and his three friends. Blessings come when we are in right relationship with God and our fellowman.

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Life and Work

Do You Give Your Money?

by Tom Harris, Park Place Church,
 Hot Springs

Basic passage: Matthew 23:23; 5:20,
 23-24; 6:1-4

Focal passage: Matthew 23:23; 5:20,
 23-24; 6:1-4

Central truth: The Christian must not give as the Pharisees of old, who gave out of pride, selfishness, and from external motives only.

(1) The Pharisees tithed to the last penny but ignored the weightier matters of the law.

Jesus is condemning the Pharisees and their giving methods in Matthew 23:23. The Pharisees were highly esteemed as a religious sect which based its beliefs on the traditions of the Jewish fathers. The Pharisees loved the external law and tithed even down to the flower seeds they possessed. However, Jesus sharply pointed out to them their obedience was partial and they ignored the weightier parts of the law. We as Christians must be reminded that tithing is absolutely essential for us to bring pleasure to God. However, tithing is not the last nor the only responsibility of Christianity.

(2) The Pharisees gave money but ignored their relationships to offended brothers. Note Matthew 5:20-24. A brother is angry and the Pharisee ignores him. The Pharisee piously walks up to the altar and gives with an attitude that his giving is proof of his very religious lifestyle. Jesus sharply condemns this. Giving tithes to God does not make up for bad relationships with fellow humans. Verse 24 clearly says correct human relationships are even more important to God than giving.

(3) The Pharisee gave publicly for human praise (Mt. 6:1-4). The Pharisees were very ego motivated. If no one could see their good works, then good works would not be done. They gave in public. Verse 2 says that they might swim in the glory of men. Jesus condemns methods of religion that are motivated for outward show as being hypocritical. Sometimes the devil, who inspired the glory-seeking Pharisees, can deceive pastors and laypeople into doing things just so it will be displayed at a banquet or announced on Sunday morning. If their work is not announced, hard feelings arise. Jesus says in verse 4, be motivated to give only because you want God's praise and God's reward.

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Bible Book

Watching Jesus Die

by Captain Lovell, First Church,
 Harrisburg

Basic passage: Matthew 27:33-66

Focal passage: Matthew 27:36

Central truth: Watching Jesus die, they saw God's divine approval on his Son.

And sitting down, they watched him there (Mt. 27:36). First they saw the signs of divine order. Darkness came over all the land for three hours (Mt. 27:45). This unusual happening was at mid-day (12 noon to 3 p.m.). God gave this divine sign to show his approval. The veil in the Temple was rent from top to bottom (Mt. 27:51), signifying God's coming down to man, not man's going up to God.

The earth quaked (Mt. 27:54). This sign God has used much. The earthquake sign was used at Jesus' death and at his resurrection (Mt. 28:2). It was used to free Paul and Silas from prison (Ac. 16:26) and will be used as a sign for the closing of the church age (Mt. 24:7).

There was the sign of the open grave (Mt. 27:52-53). The bodies of the saints which slept came forth, went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Jesus yielded up the ghost (Mt. 27:50), which means he died of his self-will (Jn. 10:18).

The garments Jesus wore are interesting. First, as an innocent baby, he wore "swaddling clothes," a white garment, the symbol of purity. Then there was the "shepherd" garment (Mt. 27:31). It was this garment the woman with the issue of blood touched and by that touch was made whole (Mt. 9:20-22). Then there was the "Savior" garment (Mt. 27:31). The one without seams which represents that there is no beginning and no end. He is from everlasting to everlasting. Then there was the "sin" garment (Mt. 27:28). The scarlet robe represents sin, our sin like filthy rags (Is. 64:6). Our garments are stained with sin, but they are made white through the shed blood. And finally there was the "saintly" garment he wore after the resurrection when he ascended to heaven (Ac. 1:10-11).

We also shall wear such a garment, Jesus being the first fruits of the resurrection (I Co. 15:20) and saints likewise (Ph. 3:21). John states, "When he shall appear we shall be like him" (I Jn. 3:2). Knowing this, we have victory beyond the grave, a steadfast unmovable hope that our labor in the Lord is not in vain (I Co. 15:51-58).

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The General's Decision

Brazilian Commander Responds to Youngster's Witness

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Mission Board

AMARILLO, Texas (BP)—An eighth-grader from Amarillo, Texas, knows at least one reason why he felt a sense of urgency to go to Brazil.

Kale Phillips, 13, helped a general in Brazil's air force make a decision to follow Christ.

"I really felt God's calling to go to Brazil," Kale recounted. He was among 80 Southern Baptists who assisted 25 churches in the city of Campinas in evangelistic efforts during the first two weeks of August.

Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo supplied half the group from the United States, including Kale and his father, Rick.

Finances made the trip seem out of the question for Kale and his father earlier this year. The family—Kale, his parents and three younger sisters—already had made arrangements for a home missions trip to Wisconsin in June.

But Brazil remained on Kale's heart. "I'm just going to trust God to work it all out," he told his dad.

Paramount's pastor, Shad Rue, invited Kale's father to tell of his son's desire to minister in Brazil during a meeting at the church in May. "That night I got a phone call and someone had paid my way," Kale recounted. Little by little, his father's ex-

penses also were covered.

Kale said he prepared for the trip every way he could: "I prayed a lot. That was probably the most important, praying that God would prepare me."

After arriving in Brazil, Kale said, he discovered "The people are real open. Even though they may not believe in what you're there for, they're going to welcome you to their homes."

Southern Baptist missionary Dan Burt struck up a friendship with Kale and invited the youth to go along to an air base where they would seek permission to conduct services. They first talked with a colonel who had become a Christian two years earlier. The colonel said the base's general would have to make the decision.

The general "was real busy at the time, but he allowed us in, and we talked," Kale said. The general ruled out any services on the base because Brazil's secretary of defense would be visiting the base in several days.

"Before we left, I gave the general one of my testimonies," Kale said. It was a tract with his testimony translated into Portuguese. "And Dan said, 'Let's pray before we go.'"

"I just thanked God for the general's openness, for him allowing us to come into his office, even though he was busy," Kale recounted. "I prayed that the general

would always accept God's authority in his life, that although he has much authority, he would always go to God for his decisions."

And Kale prayed "that the general hopefully someday would come to know the Lord."

Burt translated the youth's prayer into Portuguese, sentence by sentence, and then added a prayer of his own.

Tears welled up in the general's eyes. He said he was touched by their visit. He invited them back in two days to "share with me about this Jesus Christ."

The missionary and the youth, along with Rue, a Brazilian pastor and a couple of others, returned to the general's office at the appointed hour.

The Brazilian gave the general a New Testament. Rue then talked about faith in Christ, pausing as his words were translated into Portuguese.

And Kale talked again with the general: "I told him, 'This is probably the last time I'll be able to come to share with you.' His return flight to Amarillo was that night. 'Even though you may be busy... if you really know that you need to accept Christ into your life, which I hope you do, you need to do it today, at this moment.'"

The general was asked if he wanted to receive Christ. "Yes, I would, very much so," the general said, noting, he had been lonely and searching. He prayed his own prayer for salvation. Several days later, he made a public profession of faith at Central Baptist Church in Campinas.

Kale said he was impressed that a general—someone with so much authority—would embrace a higher authority. But Kale wasn't too astounded, either.

In sharing his faith in Brazil, he encountered many people who were "just so hungry to hear the word of God, so hungry to find what they need in life."

Letters

(continued from p. 5)

under stress (Mt. 5:3-12). In other words, we are to follow high standards of proper conduct using caution and restraint in speaking and writing. Decorum is doing the right thing in the right way, right now.

(3) Witnessing. Our priority is witnessing, and it deserves our full attention now at home and next summer at Las Vegas.

Hear the new drum beat! As we march "like a mighty army" to the new healing drum beat; peace will come! To implement President Vine's healing actions need not be an elusive butterfly. Like grandmother's biscuit recipe, Southern Baptist leaders can do the right thing in the right way with the right ingredients, right now.—Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

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Landslide Victims Fed

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP)—A tropical depression that caused heavy rainfall and widespread flooding throughout Central America has been blamed for more than 40 deaths and has left hundreds of people homeless.

In Comayagüela, Honduras, just outside the capital of Tegucigalpa, Central Baptist Church began housing and feeding 170 refugees Aug. 19. The refugees lost their homes in massive landslides in the hilly area.

Southern Baptist missionary Joyce Harms, reached by phone Aug. 23, said rain had continued through the night and church members were expecting more homeless people to arrive at the church that day, reported Stanley Stamps, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Honduras. Harms' husband, David, who is pastor of Central Church, is working with the national relief organization to help meet the needs of the flood and landslide victims.

When the church opened its doors to the homeless families, the Baptist mission in Honduras and the Honduras Baptist Convention each released \$1,000 to help pay for food. Mrs. Harms said the feeding program was costing between \$850 and \$900 a day.

Missionaries Share Flood

DHAKA, Bangladesh (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary couple has sought refuge in the mission guest house in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as rising floodwaters filled their ground-floor living quarters below.

Jim and Betty McKinley, from Louisville, Ky., share the plight of 50 million Bangladeshis driven from their homes as three major rivers have overflowed in the southeast Asian country of 110 million people. The homes of other Southern Baptist missionaries have been virtually untouched by floodwater.

The McKinleys' living quarters, with guest rooms rising several stories above, and administrative offices for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh are in a compound built less than 10 years ago on reclaimed lowlands.

Mrs. McKinley has not been outside of the compound since the flooding began. McKinley uses a boat he boards in the stairway of the guest house to obtain water and supplies. They have no electricity.

Southern Baptists do not know yet how they can help the country rebuild. "What to do when the water recedes is more than

my mind can manage at this point," McKinley wrote.

The Foreign Mission Board plans to send a human needs representative to Bangladesh within weeks to plan immediate hunger relief programs as well as long-range programs to help the people recover. The board has authorized the release of \$25,000 in emergency funds, said John Chetyne, the board's director for human needs.

In Dhaka, 200 people have made their homes in the Immanuel Baptist Church building. In the area of Gopalganj, Christians are living on a road north of the town.

More than two-thirds of the nation is reported to be under water that is rushing southward to the Bay of Bengal. As it destroys crops and livestock in its path, it brings with it rats and poisonous snakes. People are huddling wherever they can find dry spaces and are being forced to drink polluted water.

Robbery Attempted

COTONOU, Benin (BP)—"Jesus held us up through it all," Southern Baptist missionary Richard Bartels said after three armed men shot at him and his wife, Carmela, during an attempted robbery Aug. 31 in Cotonou, Benin. They were not hurt.

"We're doing fine," Bartels said Sept. 2. "The police are investigating and doing everything they can to help."

Mrs. Bartels said the attempted armed robbery at her house was the first in Benin against Southern Baptist missionaries, who have been there since 1972. The Bartels arrived in Benin in 1981.

Mrs. Bartels said God was watching over them as the gunmen fired at them during the robbery attempt. After her husband refused to open the front door, one gunman rammed a pistol through a window screen and fired, narrowly missing Bartels, who had backed up against a wall to hide.

Mrs. Bartels hid their only child, Chandra, 7, in a bathroom, while Bartels moved trunks and heavy furniture against doors. At one point, Mrs. Bartels flipped on a light, and as her husband ran to shut it off, one of the gunmen fired and hit the closet where he had been standing.

While Bartels continued barricading doors, the gunmen tried to force open another door. Two women walking down the street heard Bartels yelling and summoned the police at a nearby house. The men left in a car when they heard police sirens.

When Mrs. Bartels explained to their daughter that the gunmen wanted money, the girl said, "They ought to just count on Jesus."