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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

9-1-1988

September 1, 1988

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Everyone's Invited!

Arkansas Baptist

September 1, 1988

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SEASON OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS



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SEPTEMBER 18-25

Meeting Real Needs

Cover Story



Meeting Real Needs 9

Continuing theological education, like other areas of state missions ministry, meets real needs across Arkansas. The 1988 Week of Prayer for State Missions is Sept. 18-25.

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Church-starting In Mexico

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Almost 200 Southern Baptist volunteers from at least six states joined forces with Mexican Baptists Aug. 7-14 in a major church-starting effort in Mexico City.

The "Evange-Mex-88" campaign has produced 13 new churches since January in the metropolitan area, including seven formally organized Aug. 13 while the Americans were there. At least five more will be organized by the end of this year.

Baptists also have launched at least 20 mission congregations and nearly 60 "preaching centers" in formerly untouched neighborhoods. Another 25 preaching points and 100 home Bible studies are projected for 1988.

The Southern Baptist volunteers joined Mexican teams from 46 churches in the Central Baptist and Northwest Baptist associations, along with 48 Mexican volunteers from other parts of the country and a number of Southern Baptist representatives who served as preachers and interpreters. The teams spent five hours each day in door-to-door evangelism in 85 neighborhoods targeted for new congregations. They also helped organize the new churches and missions.

Preliminary reports indicate 5,400 people have made positive decisions about Christ in homes, churches and neighborhoods.

"We had three principal goals," said former missionary Ervin Haste, now a volunteer in Mexico and leader of the

church-starting effort. "The first was to proclaim the gospel. The second was to open new work and the third was to organize new churches and missions. I think to a certain extent we have accomplished that."

Haste began planning the metropolitan effort more than a year ago in close cooperation with Mexican pastors and Southern Baptist representatives in the two metro associations. They prepared a detailed Spanish-English manual for citywide evangelism and also produced a comprehensive study of Baptist life in the area with strategies for outreach leading up to the year 2000.

The national Baptist convention has adopted the "Evange-Mex" plan and already is using the evangelism manual in other cities. Convention leaders plan to try out the approach in all major Mexican cities beginning next year.

"It has caught on here," Haste said. Mike Downey, a church planting specialist for First Baptist Church in Dallas, enlisted 110 of the American volunteers in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They came from Texas, Virginia, Kansas, Missouri and Louisiana. Don Chambers, director of missions for the Panhandle Baptist Association in Oklahoma, brought another 72 volunteers from that state.

"It was wonderful," said volunteer Ann Young, a member of Monument Heights Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. "My husband and I worked in a smaller church in a barrio and it was an experience of renewal for us. The people there were just so receptive."

GOOD NEWS!

A Progressive Church

Philippians 4:1-9

The obstacles to progress which Paul pointed out to the Philippian church still plague churches today. The progressive church must:

Preserve Christian unity (vv. 2-3)—Members should work in harmony with each other because of a common motivating force—"be of the same mind in the Lord"—and a sense of fellowship in a common task—"my fellow-workers" (ASV). Here is a common call to a common task from the same Lord.

Possess Christian joy (vv. 4-7)—The realm of joy is "in the Lord;" the reach of

joy is "always," and the reason for joy is that "the Lord is at hand." The requirements for this joy are that we relinquish anxiety and submit our needs to God in earnest, thankful prayer. The results of this joy are perfect peace of God in our hearts and his guarding power over our lives.

Pursue Christian ideals (vv. 8-9)—Wholesome meditation upon things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report (v. 8) is important because "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Pr. 23:7). Thought, therefore, must inspire action. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them!" (Jn. 13:17).

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Resolve To Do More

J. EVERETT SNEED

The vast majority of us have never experienced the excruciating pain of extreme hunger. But worldwide the problem is truly awesome. In the fall of 1987 an estimated 13 million people in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and The Sudan were experiencing a food deficit. Thirty percent of all African children are chronically malnourished. Hunger continues to be a major problem on the second largest continent in the world. In our own country, it is estimated that 20 million people "may be hungry at some time each month."

Robert Parham, acting director of the Christian Life Commission of the SBC, has written a book entitled, *What Shall We Do in a Hungry World?* This book is written to undergird SBC World Hunger Day set for Oct. 9, 1988.

Dr. Parham grew up in a mission house outside of Jos, Nigeria. He observed that, by American standards, his family did not have much material comfort. They had electricity only a couple of hours each evening when the portable generators ran. But by Nigerian standards, they were enormously wealthy.

On one occasion, a Nigerian came stating that one of his children had died and another was very ill. He asked the missionary family for help. They agreed, and at dawn the next day the man returned to their home with his wife and his son. The infant was severely malnourished, and neither the mission physician nor his parents knew if the child's life could be saved, but they were determined to try.

His father purchased bottles, liquid vitamins, and powdered milk to feed the child. Parham's mother taught the child's mother how to prepare formula and feed the child until he began to gain weight. His life was saved.

Parham says that the story of the boy is an open one. All he and his parents know is that the child left their home as a healthy individual. They never saw him again. But what they do know is that they followed the pattern that was laid down by Christ as he said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mt. 25:40).

The New Testament clearly pictures the kind of change that should take place in the life of an individual who has had an experience with Christ. For example, when Zacchaeus had a personal experience with



God through Christ he said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Jesus, in his response to Zacchaeus, said, "This day is salvation come to this house for so much as he also is a son of Abraham for the son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Lk. 19:8-10).

World hunger is a reality. The biblical mandate to respond to this need is clear. But the question persists, "What shall we do as Christians for a hungry world?" The solution begins with a true change of heart. As one comes to know Christ as Savior and Lord, his attitude toward those in need should also change. Throughout his ministry, Christ emphasized that a conversion experience an individual's attitude

was to change. Paul summarized this truth well as he said, "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Ro. 12:2).

Dr. Parham's book emphasizes organizations that are taking a long range approach to solving the world's hunger problem. Among these are: Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, and Seeds.

Southern Baptists are unique in that all money that is given for world hunger goes directly to areas of need without any administrative costs. There are several ways that churches can encourage members to give consistently to meet the world hunger need. The following are a few suggestions:

(1) Some churches have pledged a definite amount in the church budget for world hunger. Other congregations, who have a Wednesday night meal, pass world hunger offering containers.

(2) Some churches encourage families to pledge a full day's wages to combat world hunger.

(3) Some churches have proposed a day of fasting for the world hunger offering. The money that would normally be spent on food would be given to the world hunger offering. This might reduce the waistlines of some of us who are overweight.

(4) Other congregations have proposed a \$10 a plate Brotherhood meal in which a light snack would be served. The profit would go to the world hunger offering.

The method of collecting money is not important. But it is urgent that we assist the starving people of the world. Let's resolve to do more in 1988 to eliminate this momentous problem.

Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 31

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Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 0004-1734) is published weekly, except Easter, Independence Day, the first week of October, and Christmas, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$6.48 per year (individual), \$5.52 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.12 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. (576-4791)

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

Because of retirements, a number of new faces are being seen in the News-magazine, at conventions, and elsewhere. God has been giving us some great leaders to replace those who have served so well so long.

The Ouachita scene is no different. We seldom see a change of administrative leadership of our state agencies and institutions. With Dr. Grant's retirement and Ben Elrod's inauguration, we are witnessing another major change. There will be no major change in direction, emphases or priorities—just a change in the person who leads.

All of our work has benefited from the quality leadership Dr. Grant has provided. We have all learned from him. His unquestioned integrity, his fairness, his concern for one and all, his clear commitment to Christ and Christian principles, these are a few of the things that have made him an outstanding leader in Arkansas. These qualities, joined with his attitude and ability, have resulted in him being recognized as one of America's truly outstanding educational leaders. In retirement, this record will likely become an international reality as he leads Southern Baptist schools across the nation to be involved as Christian witnesses in the educational processes of other nations. We are blessed to have had such a fine leader.

Ben Elrod will come to the helm of Ouachita on the wave of many good things that are already happening. We have equal confidence in the character and ability he possesses. We expect the blessing of God and the favor of Baptists to continue upon the work we started more than 100 years ago.

When good leaders of Christian character are secured, there is no need for frequent leadership changes. The trustees of our agencies and institutions bear this burden of responsibility. They have been doing a good job. We are grateful for their sincere efforts. We owe them our continued prayers and support.

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



Woman's Viewpoint

Christmas for the First Time

CHARLOTTE HOLLINGSWORTH

"I am 26 years old and I have just experienced my first Christmas. I loved getting my present while sitting on Santa's lap" (China). "In my country a woman couldn't drive a van or lead men" (Saudi Arabia). "What happens to your babies when they die?" (Bangladesh) "You must be rich. You have two coats" (China). "In my country there is much race discrimination. You have no chance if you are Chinese." (Malaysia).

Statements made by international students flash through my mind as I wait for Karen at National Student Ministries to answer the telephone. Liberty Baptist Association is ready to commit to its fifth year of Friendship International House.

One Christmas, an Iranian mother shared how God answered her prayer and healed her son. She



promised God she would help the poor. She wraps her money in a tissue, goes into town, bends and places the money on the walk and trusts Allah.

I chuckle remembering the students' jokes about Americans and their sales. During a funeral home tour and explanation of Christian funerals with coffin selections, a student leaned over and whispered, "They have two for one sales here too?"

Another year, Joe, an American student, came limping into the house stating, "They started World War III, and we lost." There were students from nine countries in my

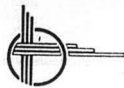
yard that New Year's Eve shooting fireworks.

I stand here remembering clear instructions on how to hunt a tiger or catch a python at night using a flashlight.

"Hello, Karen, L.B.A. can accept 15 students for two weeks of Christmas vacation. Introducing international students to the Christmas story and Christian love for the first time is a life-changing experience."

"I am the first Christian in my family. I do not know if I can ever go home again" (Malaysia). "I want to go back to my country so I can tell people about Jesus. I found him here" (Taiwan).

Charlotte Hollingsworth is social services coordinator at a nursing home in Camden, where she is a member of Cullen-dale First Church. She is also Friendship International House director for Liberty Baptist Association.



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Letters to the Editor

A Desperate Need

I have read and heard quite a lot regarding the film "The Last Temptation of Christ" and agree Christians should attempt to prevent its release. However, I believe that we should look at Matthew 5:13 where Jesus says, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Rather than experiencing "persecution," is God allowing us to be "trodden under foot of men" because for too long we have attended ungodly movies or worse yet, brought them into our homes by way of video cassette or television?

Galatians 6:7-8 states that God is not mocked and that we reap what we sow. Usually we reap more than we sow and later than we sow. Could it be that Christians have for years "sown to the flesh" by participating in ungodly films in one way or another, and now God is allowing us to reap gross corruption?

During the recent dry spell, we were asked to pray for rain. 2 Chronicles 6:26-27 and 7:13-14 indicate that sometimes a lack of rain can be traced to sin in the lives of God's people. They, not the unsaved, are called on to repent and turn from sin to obedience to God before he will heal the land.

I believe the drought, the film, and many other things we could mention signal a desperate need for revival among God's people, a revival most of us have never seen.

I am thankful that God is able to work all things, even bad things, together for the good of those who love him and who are called according to his purpose.—Mrs. Jean Griffin, Mabelvale

Study Encouraged

Please allow me once again to encourage Arkansas Baptist pastors, church staff members, and other interested people to enroll in the upcoming graduate-level seminary classes that will be offered in Little Rock this coming fall and spring.

Personally, I have benefitted tremendously from the commitment of our state and national conventions to bring these classes to Arkansas. I began my seminary studies six years ago in Little Rock. I finally graduated with my master's degree this summer from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. And, I will begin work on the doctor of ministry program offered in Little Rock by Midwestern Seminary in Kan-

sas City this fall. By the time I finish, I will have done most of my class work in Little Rock during the fall and spring semesters of Monday classes—a convenient schedule for a full-time pastor like myself. And I have had the unique privilege of studying under professors from all six of our Southern Baptist seminaries, local pastors, staff members, and state denominational leaders.

Accredited Southern Baptist Convention seminary training is available here at home in Arkansas. It's amazing to me that so few pastors and other church staff members take advantage of it. Contact Lehman Webb at the Baptist Building for information about the pastors' level classes and Dan Rainbolt, director of Doctor of Ministry Studies, at Midwestern Seminary (5001 North Oak Street Trafficway, Kansas City, MO) for information about the Little Rock doctoral classes.—Rick Hyde, Murfreesboro

Stop Lack of Faith

When Christians rise in anger, threatening and hostile, the people who are the object of the anger are immediately alienated and put on the defensive. Those are the very people to whom we should be witnessing. The entire New Testament teaches that we should love our enemies, and pray for the lost.

The only time Christ demonstrated anger to people, he was angry with "church" people for misusing the Temple. His attitude toward his persecutors was expressed in his words, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." At least one of those persecutors, as a result, was convicted of the true identity of the Son of God.

The bitter protests against "The Last Temptation of Christ" have provided much valuable publicity for the film, thereby helping to assure its box office success. But more importantly, these protests seem to be presenting an image of Christ as a helpless historical figure who must be defended with all our efforts. Isn't he the living Lord, the risen Savior who conquered death and the grave? Surely he can defeat one small film.

When we battle Satan in our human strength, we are assured defeat. God, however, is unbeatable. Shouldn't we have faith enough to let him handle things, and to give our support in his way? If the effort and energy being expended on petitions and protests were instead spent in fervent prayer, the defeat of this film could be assured.

Christians should pray for those respon-

sible for this film, and that God's will would be done in regard to its distribution. Such efforts, done quietly and sincerely, would surely lead to a miracle which would demonstrate to the world the true Christ. Wouldn't it be great if even one of those persons responsible for the film could be convicted, as was the centurion at the cross?

Let's stop showing the world our lack of faith, our anger, our readiness to fight, our human strengths, and demonstrate instead those spiritual qualities and characteristics taught by the Lord and the strength provided to us by the Holy Spirit.—Jim Little, Heber Springs

July Cooperative Program Report

Received	\$1,220,219.87
Budget	\$1,072,525.00
Over	\$147,698.87

Year-to-date	
Over	\$19,236.49

Same time last year	
Under	\$119,517.54

Can you believe it? Yes, praise the Lord, God is blessing Arkansas Baptists. These blessings are reflected in the Cooperative Program receipts that exceeded budget requirements in July by \$147,698.

These blessings are also reflected in the fact that our Cooperative Program receipts through July exceed the budget requirements by \$19,236. Finally, these blessings are reflected in the fact that receipts for the first seven months of July exceed 1987 receipts for the same period by 6.24 percent.

Thank you, God, for your many blessings.—Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director



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DANIEL R. GRANT

One Layman's Opinion



Good Roots

Ben Elrod is a "natural" to lead Ouachita Baptist University in the years ahead. He is a natural—root and branch. It is difficult to think of anyone better suited to lead Ouachita on behalf of Arkansas Baptists, as Ouachita moves toward the year 2000.

Ben Elrod has strong Arkansas roots, nurtured in the soil of Rison. He has strong Arkansas Baptist and Southern Baptist roots, nurtured in Arkansas Baptist churches, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has strong Ouachita roots, not only from receiving his bachelor's degree there, but from serving as vice-president for development. There is abundant evidence of his skill as an administrator both at Ouachita and, for five years, as president of Georgetown College. Most recently his leadership as president of the Independent Colleges of Arkansas has brought him new respect from leaders higher education. Arkansas Baptists are fortunate to have a man of such experience and dedication to lead their university.

We need to remember one word of caution intrinsic in that word, "natural." All of these qualifications are to no avail without a strong sense of God's call, and without a commitment by all of us to pray for Ben Elrod and to make sacrificial commitments of our time, talents, and resources to support his leadership.

President Elrod would be the first to point out that he is a human and by no means perfect. If he did not, I would remind him of the story his first grade teacher, Miss Ione Gray, tells about young Ben and his response to the first distribution of report cards to his class there in Rison. Ben had received A's in every subject except one, in which he received a C. She says she can still see him standing red-faced and with his lower jaw extended, asking "... and just what is department?"

In this layman's opinion, Ben Elrod is a "natural" for Ouachita, but he will need the support of all of us. His "department" has improved so much in the last 50 years, I am pledging my full support to him.

Daniel R. Grant is president emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University.

COVENANT MARRIAGE: *Second of Seven Articles*

God's Plan for Marriage

by Rick M. Smith

Scripture often uses marriage to symbolize the relationship God has with his people. Jesus is pictured as the bridegroom returning to receive his bride—the church. Hosea's response to the adulterous behavior of Gomer is a picture of the unconditional love of God for Israel. When Paul wrote to the Ephesians describing the roles of husbands and wives, he constantly drew the analogy between that relationship and the relationship of Christ and his church. Knowing that our marriage is a reflection of the kind of relationship God has with his people not only helps us to understand marriage as a covenant relationship, but also motivates us to respond as marriage partners so as to reflect the characteristics of God's love and commitment to us. As we make this comparison, some common characteristics emerge. One is that covenants are the fruit of a loving, faithful relationship. God established his covenant with those who loved him and kept his commands. It was out of this commitment that he provided for and blessed his people. As we daily express acts of love, care and commitment to our partner, we develop a covenant marriage.

Another characteristic is that covenant partners take responsibility for their actions. Even though Israel often wanted to blame God when things went wrong, God created each of them with a free will to make individual choices that placed the responsibility of certain circumstances solely upon them. We might like to blame our partner when things go wrong in our marriage, but covenant partners take ownership of their emotions and actions and are therefore responsible for the consequences they produce. Covenants are based on freedom of choice. We are not robots with God sitting at the control console pushing all the buttons. He created us as free agents. Likewise, we cannot seek to control, limit, or assume responsibility for the behavior of our mate. Covenant partners allow freedom for each to respond in the uniqueness in which God created them.

Covenants are rooted in actions, not feelings. This characteristic relates to the commitment God makes to us. Even though we may disappoint and grieve him with our actions, his love is always constant. There may be times in our marriage when we don't feel in love with our mate, but that should not change our commitment of love and faithfulness to our covenant relationship.

When these and other covenant characteristics are realized in a marriage, the relationship will take on certain qualities which also reflect God's commitment to his people. These qualities include the permanence of marriage, the sacrifices of marriage, the relational aspects of marriage, and growth in marriage as an intentional effort. Covenant marriages expressing these characteristics and qualities provide for each partner the promises of unconditional love, forgiveness, comfort, and hope as they live out covenant responsibilities.

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

A SMILE OR TWO

Bravery—A Boston salesman was visiting a client in Texas and had to listen to him boast about the heroes of the Alamo who, alone, held off whole armies.

"I don't believe you ever had anyone that brave come from Boston," challenged the Texan.

"Didn't you ever hear of Paul Revere?" asked the salesman.

"Paul Revere?" said the Texan. "Oh, yes. Isn't he the one who ran for help?"

Praise—The college coach's teams had won handily—and he was savoring every word of praise coming from the college president. Then he asked the president, "Would you like me as much if we didn't win?"

"I'd like you as much," replied the president, "I'd just miss having you around."

—Salesmanship

SWBTS photo / Sherylyn Ceballos



Texas Pastor George Besch watches as Southwestern Seminary students Ray Johnson, Mike Stimpson and Glenn Chappelle make unleavened bread.

Everyone's Invited!

Texas Church Invites 5,000 Seminary Students

by Scott Collins

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

SAGINAW, Texas—The members of Saginaw North Baptist Church have invited every student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary—all 5,000 of them—to supper.

And in the past year more than 40 students have accepted the offer.

The invitation was made by members of the church and their pastor, George Besch, a doctoral student at Southwestern. The purpose is to teach students to learn to serve the Lord's Supper.

Besch said the teaching program started when the church voted to "offer to all students" the opportunity to bake unleavened bread, prepare the supper, learn the mechanics of conducting the Lord's Supper and then to lead the supper.

Besch works with four of five students at a time, teaching them how to make unleavened bread and prepare the supper. Members of the church become the students' congregation, and Besch demonstrates how to serve the supper.

The idea grew out of Besch's own experiences as a student when he had difficulty fulfilling class assignments which required him to perform pastoral skills.

The church works closely with Gerald Marsh, professor of pastoral ministry. Marsh

requires students to gain experience in such skills as serving the Lord's Supper, baptism, conducting worship services and pastoral visitation.

Besch said the skill which students perform give them the opportunity to work within a local church. "There's no substitute for the church doing the work of ministry," he said.

But the program also offers more than practical skill.

"We want them to know somebody loves and cares about them," Besch said. "And as a church we want to take part in the student's training."

Besch said the church asks for two things in return. One is "to see what we're doing in the lives of young ministers."

The second thing the church asks is that students pass on the lessons learned during the three hours spent working with Besch and the church.

Eventually Besch plans to expand the program to include baptismal skills and visitation to terminally ill patients.

Besch says his aim is to teach both the church and students how they can serve each other.

"All we've done is encourage the students and give them an audience," Besch said. "And we want them to come because they are a blessing to us."

Classifieds

For Sale—Small Wurlitzer organ. 225-4455. 9/1

Kamp Paddle Trails—Youth camp, retreat, and conference center, near Siloam Springs, on Illinois River. Dorm-housing for 25 to 100 campers. For reservations, call 918-723-3546 or write Rt. 1 Box 210, Watts, OK 74964. 9/1

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

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NEW WORK

'A Full-Fledged Church'

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

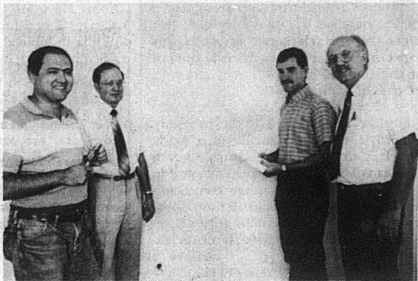
Developing a new congregation is always exciting. It is exciting for those who are sponsoring the new work as well as for those involved in the new congregation. This excitement is evident in the membership of First Church, Lowell, which will be the primary sponsor of a new work at nearby Bethel Heights. The associate sponsors of the new congregation are Open Door Church, Rogers, and the Monte Ne Church.

Two Southern Baptist strategies are being employed in the development of the new work. These are the use of a Praxis team and the Macedonian Mission Plan. The Praxis team is a cooperative effort between local churches (or an association), the state convention, the Home Mission Board and a seminary to develop new congregations.

The seminary provides students, who receive training or orientation on the starting of new churches. They serve on the field for a period of 10 weeks. The local sponsor provides room and board for the seminary students while they are working in the local area. The Home Mission Board provides a small stipend and the state convention provides transportation to and from the seminary.

The "Macedonian Plan" involves three churches in supporting one mission for three years. One church, near the new work, will serve as the primary sponsor. This church will hold the membership of the new congregation and serve as the guiding, nurturing body for the new work. Two other churches will become associate sponsors. The associate will provide prayer support, financial assistance, and often provide people to assist in the mission project. The Macedonian Plan calls for a three year commitment.

The primary responsibility of the Praxis teams are to develop areas for new works. Emilio Lartigue and Andy Williams, students at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, were the Praxis team that served in the Bethel Heights area. James H. Wallis, pastor of First Church, Lowell, said, "These young men have done an excellent work in the Bethel Heights community and



Left to right, Lartigue, Ramsey, Wallis, and Williams

I have no doubt that a new work will develop from their efforts."

Plans for the Praxis team dates back six or seven months according to Jack Ramsey, church planter strategist field consultant. First Church, Lowell, applied to the state convention for a Praxis team and the project was underway. Wallis said, "I became convinced that we needed a congregation in the Bethel Heights area as result of a survey that was done by Jack Ramsey a few years ago."

The new work will have the potential of drawing people from Lowell to Springdale since there is no Southern Baptist Church in this area. The first thing the Praxis team did was to choose a primary area in which they would conduct a religious census during the 10 weeks of their service. In the

In Arkansas, every Praxis team has resulted in the development of a new work by the end of the first year.

limited area of their focus, they found 190 home units which would represent approximately 600 people. There were about 60 homes where families indicated interest in attending a local home Bible fellowship. This represents approximately 180 prospects.

The Praxis team conducted two home fellowship Bible studies because the area is divided by Highway 71. One Bible study was conducted on Tuesday evening in the home of a family who are members of First Church, Lowell, and another was conducted on Thursday evening in the home of a member of another Baptist church. Although the attendance in the home fellowship Bible studies was not as good

as hoped, everyone believes a new work will materialize.

Wallis indicated that he and the pastors of the associate sponsoring churches have definite plans which are expected to bring a new work into existence. The approach they have developed includes enlisting one or two families from each church to be involved in the development of the new work. When the missions is launched, services will be held in the community building in Bethel Heights, which is well suited for the needs of a congregation, since originally it was a church building.

Each prospect will be mailed a letter of invitation, and announcements will be made in the local newspapers and on the radio station. Wallis will preach in the morning service and an afternoon Sunday School will be conducted and an evening service of some type will be held.

A location for a permanent building will be secured. When there is a solid nucleus of members (25 to 30) a pastor will be called and construction on the new facility will begin. A tentative site for the new church has already been discussed.

Ramsey observed that the Praxis teams have been highly successful in starting new works. Nationwide there has been an 80 to 85 percent rate of success in developing new works within the first year after a Praxis team has worked in a location. In Arkansas, every Praxis team has resulted in the development of a new work by the end of the first year.

Development of new works is a major priority in Arkansas and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Arkansas has a goal of starting 25 new works this year. Floyd Tidsworth, Jr., church extension director, said, "Not only are we on track for reaching our 1988 goal of starting 25 new works but the ones that are being developed this year are stronger than the ones that have been developed in the past."

Arkansas' goal is to start 45 new congregations in 1989. In order to facilitate the beginning of new congregations, there are a number of free resources available either from the state or the Southern Baptist Convention. Among these are \$100 of free Sunday School literature, \$75 free Church Training literature and a \$50 certificate from the Baptist Book Store, 25 free hymn books and 200 free offering envelopes.

In addition, the Arkansas Convention through its mission department assists in the purchase of a new mission site, construction of a building and pastoral aid. In each of these areas, assistance is based on need and the availability of money.

Wallis said, "This has been an exciting venture for our congregation. I have a personal goal of bringing this new work to a full-fledged church by 1990."

STATE MISSIONS

Meeting Real Needs

by Mark Kelly
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Programs succeed when they meet real needs.

That's how Johnnie Darr explains the success of Seminary Extension in Buckner Association. It meets real needs.

Buckner Association is composed of 33 churches sprinkled across the rolling hills of west-central Arkansas near Mansfield, south of Fort Smith. The churches are mostly small congregations in the open country. They are by no means wealthy; their pastors are largely bivocational. With resources at a premium and pastors struggling to both earn their bread and lead their flocks, Director of Missions Darr has his hands full.

But in spite of limited resources, geographic isolation, and jam-packed schedules, more than 100 pastors and laypeople have received continuing theological education in the 23 years Buckner Association has promoted Seminary Extension.

Darr, who has led the association since 1981, says people have responded because the program touches them where they live. "Every program, if it is going to be successful, has got to be geared to meet needs," Darr insists. "It must address the situation in the churches."

And Seminary Extension is ideally suited to the churches of Buckner Association, Darr believes. Local classes are more accessible to those who would find it almost impossible to drive to Little Rock, much less relocate to seminary. Flexible class schedules mean they can adapt to needs that arise suddenly. The low cost—less than \$30 a semester—fits the bivocational's pocketbook. And the informal classroom setting suits the down-to-earth temperament of folks in Buckner Association.

The classes meet weekly, usually in the association office, but many times in one of the centrally located churches. The four to eight persons enrolled often find Saturday mornings most convenient, but if another time works better, that's all right, too. The classes are taught by Darr or one of the area pastors who has the proper credentials. Course topics focus on biblical studies and practical ministry skills.

Darr's "students" are quick to identify the benefits of the program, the ways it meets their needs.

Charles Scantling, pastor of Rock Creek Church near Mansfield, appreciates the practical help he has found in Seminary Extension classes. At age 57, Scantling, an electrician, has been preaching for eight

"When I realized this was available, I jumped right on it," says Scantling. "It's helped me preach better sermons. It's helped me have a better understanding of the Bible and God's will. It's made me a better soul-winner."

Gary Leming, 39, has earned his diploma in biblical studies through the program. Formerly a member of the Evening Shade Church, Leming joined Calvary Church near Mansfield when it was reactivated in 1983. He has directed the congregation's Sunday School and Church Training programs and teaches in Sunday School.

"I enrolled to learn more about the Bi-

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



(Left to right) Garry Leming, Clyde Traylor, Charles Scantling, and Johnnie Darr.

ble," says Leming. "I felt it would help me better understand what I was trying to teach. Seminary Extension has been a great help in my church work, as well as in my personal growth."

Clyde Traylor has pastored the Denton Church near Waldron for 18 years. He says he has "practically grown up" in Seminary Extension.

"I was right out of high school when God called me to preach," recalls the 41-year-old high school teacher. "It was too late for me to enroll in college at the time, so I enrolled in Seminary Extension when it was first offered in the association. I was

still unsure about God's will for my life."

Traylor says he "took things one step at a time" and eventually enrolled in college at Fort Smith and prepared to teach high school. All along the way, he has taken Seminary Extension courses, earning his diploma in biblical studies in 1984.

"Seminary Extension has enabled me to be bivocational and teach—and to me that's a ministry, too—as well as get my biblical training and stay right here at home," he says. In addition to the biblical studies and the pastoral training he has received, Traylor also values highly the relationships he has developed with his fellow classmates and former teachers, "some of the most wonderful men I've ever had the privilege of knowing."

Seminary Extension's college-level

studies is but one facet of continuing theological education offered by Arkansas Baptists through their program of state missions, which also includes the college-level Boyce Bible School, masters-level Seminary Studies, and a doctor of ministry program.

Continuing theological education 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 will be Sept. 18-25.

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LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Briefly

Ashdown First Church sponsored a Cooperative Program awareness conference Aug. 14, featuring D.L. Lowrie of Texas as speaker. Others on program were Jimmie Sheffield, Carolyn Porterfield, and Floyd Tidsworth, representatives of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Dee Oliver, a foreign missionary.

El Paso First Church will celebrate its 140th anniversary Sept. 16-18 with a revival led by J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist*, and Truitt and Mildred Langley. Ernest Anderson, who pastored the church for 15 years and has been named pastor emeritus for the three-day celebration, will provide the church history at the Sunday morning service, which will be followed by a luncheon.

Gassville Church will celebrate its 120th anniversary with homecoming activities Sept. 4 which will include a 10 a.m. service, a potluck noon meal, and an afternoon service.

Rosedale Church in Little Rock was named PACT church of the year during Home

Missions Week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Rosedale, located in a changing community, has seen Sunday School attendance increase from 65 to 98 and has organized 12 visitation teams and a food closet, as well as making a recommendation to the community, according to Pastor Aaron Carter.

Friendship Church at Marianna recently concluded a five-day Vacation Bible School that had an enrollment of 115 and an average attendance of 86. Pastor John D. Noland reported that Sunday School attendance normally averages 55 with 30 of those being children. Bible school attendance was up as a result of two vans driving about 150 miles each day.

Arkadelphia First Church mission teams have completed work in Indiana, Maine, and Brazil this summer. Working in China are Carl and Rozelle Goodson and Charles and Thannis Phillips.

Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock will observe homecoming Sept. 11 by launching a four-day revival to be led by Charles Massegee.

Lonoke Church dedicated its "Resurrection Window" June 8 as a memorial to Helen Simpson.

Hillside Church in Camden held a Vac-

ation Bible School July 18-27 that resulted in an enrollment of 140; an average attendance of 113; and a missions offering of \$415. Ten youth and four sponsors recently returned from a mission trip to Branson, Mo., where they conducted four different days camps and sang at local camp grounds. The effort resulted in four professions of faith. Greg Kirksey is pastor.

Oak Grove Church at Ashdown will celebrate its 40th anniversary Sept. 11 with a 2 p.m. service at which John McClanahan of Pine Bluff, the church's first pastor, will be speaker.

Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro ordained Randy Johnson to the preaching ministry Aug. 21.

Otter Creek First Church in Little Rock held a revival Aug. 28-31 with Wes Kent of Arlington, Texas, and Brian Kinder of Little Rock serving as leaders.

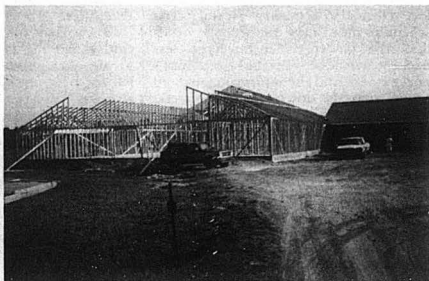
East Side Church in Fort Smith held a groundbreaking celebration Aug. 21 to mark the beginning of construction of a 1,500 seat auditorium, an administration area, music suite, and adult education space. The total project, which will include some renovation, is estimated to cost more than \$2 million.

Texarkana Calvary Church ordained

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Brookwood First Church in Little Rock celebrated its 40th anniversary Aug. 14 with a noteburning service, recognizing the early payment of a \$105,000 educational building. C.S. Maynard, who served as pastor for 23 years, was anniversary speaker. Paul Williams, chairman of the deacons, led the noteburning service in which Tom Stipes, Ralph Donbam, and Marcus Vandiver participated. Burning the note were (left to right) finance committee members Howard Bledsoe, chairman, and John Hibbs.



Members of **Immanuel Church**, Clinton, have begun construction of a 6,375 square foot building designed especially to meet the needs of the handicapped. The building, which will house an auditorium with a seating capacity of 260; nine Sunday School rooms; an office; restrooms; and utility areas, will have a covered entrance through which members may enter in inclement weather. Pastor Eulas Koone reported that building costs have not been estimated because of volunteer labor efforts. Foundation pouring and roofing have been contracted.

Robert L. McDougal to the preaching ministry Aug. 21. Bill Rambo delivered the ordination message and Vickie Burnham was guest soloist.

Pleasant Grove Church in Little Rock held a Vacation Bible School Aug. 1-5 that resulted in an enrollment of 125 and an average attendance of 100. The church held a tent revival Aug. 21-28 with Odis Chapman and Raymond Bell serving as leaders.

Osage Church at Alpena boys and girls recently conducted a fund-raising contest in which 31,092 pennies were collected for the ministries of Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

New Morrow Church at Searcy has begun construction of its first permanent building.

Rocky Point Church at Judsonia will observe its 46th anniversary Sept. 4 with services led by Global Ministries from Maumelle.

People

Clytee Harness observed his 10th anniversary of service as pastor of Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs Aug. 14 when the church honored him and his family with a fellowship and presented him with a leather office chair. Also present for



Harness



Duncan

the event were members of Twin Lakes Mission at Diamondhead, sponsored by Grand Avenue Church. In his 10 years, the church has constructed a new auditorium; Sunday School attendance has increased; and the church has maintained an active bus ministry and outreach program.

Bill G. Duncan has been named executive director and treasurer of the Alaska Baptist Convention. Duncan, who grew up in Stuttgart and attended Central College in North Little Rock, was serving the Alaska Convention as interim executive director.

Keith Douglas Brickell began serving Aug. 21 as pastor of Caddo Valley Church, Arkadelphia.

Vince Blankenship has joined the staff of First Church, Prescott, as minister of youth and music.

Homer Shirley recently observed five years of service as pastor of First Church, Siloam Springs, when the church honored

him and his wife, Pauline, with an Appreciation Day.

Jeff Julian has joined the staff of First Church, Conway, as associate pastor for college and youth ministry. A native of Texas, he is a graduate of West Texas State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Tonda, and their daughter, Megan, moved to Conway from Hillcrest Church in Dallas, Texas.

Bruce Stone Sr. resigned Sept. 3 as pastor of Shannon Church, Pochontas.

Mason W. Craig has been named pastor emeritus of First Church, McGehee, where he served as pastor for 28 years.

Neil Everett has joined the staff of Ebenezer Church in El Dorado as minister to youth. He is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University. Everett and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Matthew, Joshua, and Jonathan.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles William Bird of Camden have been approved by the Foreign Mission Board to serve in Kenya for 12 months, serving in mission administration.

Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Calvin Sutley of Arkadelphia have been approved by the Foreign Mission Board for 12 months service in Liberia, serving in religious education as advisers.

Don Settles has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Earl Church. He has been serving as pastor of First Church, Kensett.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Ten young adults were commissioned in August as outreach coordinators for Arkansas Baptist Student Union. Pictured above are (front row, from left) Robert Pinkston, OBU; James Waters, UAM; (second row) Tonya Kirkendoll, SBC; Stephanie Mefford, (UALR); Tish Strange, HSU; Lisa Welch, SAU; Stephanie Thompson, ATU; Diannne Conaway, ASU; Angela Oxford, UA; and Linda Carlisle, ASU. Outreach coordinators are recent college graduates who work for one year assisting BSUs with campus outreach.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



A four-man team spent several days on the White River near Cotter recently preparing a campsite for Baptist Young Men and Royal Ambassador groups. The camp will be kept in a primitive state for tent camping only and will offer opportunities for training in outdoor skills and campcraft. Members of the crew which cleared the site were Jim Sullivan, Ray Cooper, and Adam Sullivan of Benton Salem Church, and Lawrence Coal, a Southwestern Seminary student serving as a summer intern with the ABCS Brotherhood Department.

Bringing Missions Home

Students Get To Experience Missions First-Hand

by Deborah Aronson

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. (BP)—It's a cool, windy Saturday night on the campus of Southern Baptist College. The air smells of rain as three students walked toward town.

One bears a large wooden cross; the others carry Bibles.

These men take the Word of God seriously when it said take up your cross.

The students belong to a new organization on campus called Collegiate Baptist Young Men.

CBYM is not only new to Southern Baptist College, but across the country.

The small Baptist school located outside the town of Walnut Ridge is the first college in Arkansas, and one of the first in the nation, to adopt the program inaugurated last fall by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

While CBYM is designed as a church-based organization, several colleges and universities have adopted it as a campus mission organization for men, most in relationship with their Baptist Student Union. This is true at Southern.

According to Jackie Burton, BSU director at the college, the men wanted a program to help them become more involved in missions. The women on campus have had their own missions-oriented program, Campus Baptist Young Women, for several years and the men were constantly asking to attend the women's meetings.

"We would have some meetings the men were allowed to come to," she said. "They felt left out because they did not have anything to do."

When Burton heard about Collegiate Baptist Young Men, she started to plan to organize a unit at Southern.

Sept. 13, 1987, marked the official beginning of the young men's mission organization at the college. Since then, the program has gained momentum.

Fourteen charter members quickly grew to 21 regular members.

According to Mark Cliner, president of the new organization and a senior religious education major, the program isn't just for ministerial students.

"CBYM opens up an outlet for non-ministerial students to become involved in mission activities," he said.

He feels that several activities started through the program have brought the men closer to the concept of missions. One is the literal act of carrying a cross to Walnut Ridge and witnessing to people met on the way.

John Self, president of Southern's BSU, said that the cross serves as a good door

opener. And Brian MacFarland, a freshman from Old Joe, said that carrying the cross is a good way to share with others and plant seeds.

"They see the cross and ask, 'Why?' " he said. "What better presentation of the gospel is there other than the cross? It shows where you stand."

Southern's Collegiate Baptist Young Men is also starting a prison ministry. It's still in the beginning stages, but according to Cliner, will be a weekend ministry in Walnut Ridge.

And the men have been leading home Bible studies in the neighborhoods surrounding the school.

The men work with campus BSU and are also involved in ministries already started at Southern. They include puppet ministries and visitation of the elderly.

"CBYM has made a big difference on campus," said Russell Smith, a freshman from Colorado. "Many people have been touched, if not changed, by the program." "CBYM created a more missions-minded and evangelistic outlook of the young men on campus," said Self.

"The emphasis is on missions awareness," said Burton. "This allows the men to know about missions more intelligently."

"Unless they know about it, they won't get involved," she said.

One other advantage, according to Burton, is that the new organization is strengthening the interest in the school's summer missions program.

This fits because, according to Self, Baptist Young Men concentrates more on the actual act of doing missions, rather than just learning about it.

In another effort to strengthen missions on campus, once a month the men's and women's organizations have a joint meeting and invite a missionary to speak.

Cliner is excited about the fact that they're making history on campus, about the way CBYM has directed the prayers of the men.

CBYM is a way of bringing missions home," he said. "It provides a way to know what to pray for."

"You don't graduate from college and become a missionary," he continues. "CBYM allow those who, somewhere in their heart feel they are being called into some type of mission work, a chance to see what it is all about."

Deborah Aronson is associate editor of *Charity and Children*, a publication of the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes in Thomasville.

Jamboree!

Arkansas' first annual Junior High Jamboree resulted in 61 Christian commitments, according to Steering Committee Chairman Randy Brantley of Central Church, Jonesboro.

Brantley said 10 of the 61 students made professions of faith and one committed to full-time Christian service.

"For it being a first time event and ground that we haven't charted before, we felt like it came off real well," Brantley said. He added that a second event is already planned for Aug. 3-5, 1989, again at Southern Baptist college in Walnut Ridge.

This year's event centered around the theme, "Follow the Leader: Lessons in Discipleship." The program featured workshops on personal discipleship and topics such as teen suicide, rock music, drug abuse, and sexuality.

Registration for the event reached 281.

PROGRAM GUESTS

Fartha Robertson, Peru
 Alana Greenwold, Brazil
 Sue Tatum, Yazoo City, MS
 Winona Cobb, Amarillo, TX
 Tommy Goode, ABCS
 Ginny Blaylock, Jonesboro

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Correction

The Aug. 25 *Arkansas Baptist* should have reported that Charles Cockman has resigned as minister of music at Nall's Memorial Church in Little Rock, effective Aug. 28. Ray Edmonson is pastor of the church.

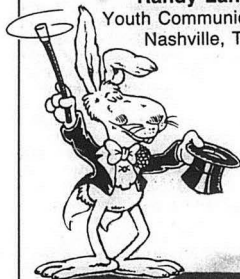
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VINES URGES

'Increase Giving'

by **Marv Knox**
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist churches should increase their gifts to the denomination's ministry budget so they can reach the world for Christ, convention President Jerry Vines urged.

Vines called for stronger support for the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention budget that supports 19 SBC organizations that conduct missionary, evangelistic and educational endeavors worldwide.

"Because of the mandate of our Lord, the lostness of mankind and the remarkable opening of doors throughout the world, Southern Baptists have every reason to significantly increase support to missions through the Cooperative Program," Vines said.

"Our church has steadily increased its gifts to the Cooperative Program in the last several years. As a congregation, we are a long way from where we should be and, by God's grace, not where we shall be."

Challenging churches to heightened commitment, Vines said: "Many of our churches are giving significantly to Southern Baptist causes through the Cooperative Program. The time has come for all of us to follow their commendable example.

"I am going to ask our church to increase its Cooperative Program gift by 20 percent over last year. I urge all my pastor brethren to join me in leading their congregations to increase Cooperative Program gifts significantly. Let us come together with our financial resources in a concern for a lost world."

In an interview, Vines told Baptist Press:

"I put out this particular statement on cooperation at this particular time because Southern Baptists have in the past, and continue to, come together in this way. I have been and am a very strong believer in the basic concept of the Cooperative Program — the finest method ever devised by which churches can come together to support matters of mutual concern and interest.

"I anticipate increasing support for missions through the Cooperative Program. As Southern Baptists see the convention continuing to move in a strong Bible-believing direction, they will increasingly support our work."

Vines said some of his critics have incorrectly reported his church's Cooperative Program giving. They claim First Baptist contributes 2.7 percent, or about \$200,000, of its \$7.4 million budget.

"These figures have appeared in articles without first being verified," he said.

"Our budget is \$19 million," he added, noting the higher figure was based on the church's total receipts. These include income from such items as the dining hall, parking lot rental and tape sales, which are not properly included in the church budget.

The church's current budget allocates \$250,000 to the Cooperative Program, and Vines' requested 20 percent increase would raise that amount to \$300,000.

A \$300,000 allocation would be 5.08 percent of a \$5.9 million budget. "But it's still a bit difficult to give the percentage," Vines said. He noted the church has a "cash only" policy for construction of buildings; those funds, as well as savings held for future construction, appear in the budget.

CP Still Lagging Behind Inflation

NASHVILLE (BP)—Receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention's national ministry budget more than doubled the U.S. inflation rate in July. But its year-to-date total still lags behind the pace of inflation.

The Cooperative Program received \$11,650,278 in July, an 8.09 percent gain over July of 1987, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. The program supports 19 SBC organizations, including a worldwide network of missionary, educational and evangelistic endeavors.

July receipts brought the budget's year-to-date total to slightly more than \$11.9

million at the end of 10 months of the 1987-88 fiscal year, Bennett said. That amount is 2.78 percent ahead of the previous fiscal year's 10-month total. The current inflation rate is about 4 percent.

The 1987-88 Cooperative Program allocation budget requires \$11.7 million per month to reach its \$140 million overall goal and \$11 million per month to reach the first phase of its \$132 million basic operating budget. After 10 months, the program has averaged almost \$11.2 million in monthly receipts. Those receipts put it on track to reach the basic operating goal but to fall \$5.7 million below the overall goal.

Convention Uniform

When Suffering Comes

by Jim Box, Central Church, Bald Knob

Basic passage: Job 1:3-10

Focal passage: Job 1:1-3,8-10,20-21;
2:4-6,9-10

Central truth: Trust God when suffering comes.

Job had no knowledge of a special plot by Satan against him, nor of God's permission to let Satan try Job, nor of God's high opinion of his servant.

Job's character plays an important role in the story of suffering. Job was a "perfect" man, outwardly righteous and free from willful transgressions of God's laws.

Job was an "upright" man, righteous and just in his dealings with his fellow man. He was a God-fearing man who revered the Lord and feared to disobey him. He was an evil-eschewing man; one who hated evil and loved righteousness.

Job's testing was two-fold. Satan questioned the purity of Job's motives and charged him with self-centeredness. Would Job worship God when the material profits were removed? Satan could take Job's possessions but not his life.

Job lost his animals and servants as Satan set out to do his mischief. But the most tragic and severest blow was a storm that took the lives of Job's children. Satan was allowed to use a great wind, common in that land, to bring the final part of the first testing to Job. The calamities struck and Job received the heart-crushing reports.

Job prepared to worship God. His faith saw beyond circumstances. This was total dependence on and submission to the divine will without understanding it.

The second series of testing was a renewed plot of Satan. God permitted Satan to make a more personal attack and smite Job's body with a terrible case of boils from his feet to the top of his head. Satan also spared Job's wife so he could use her to discourage Job. She had no way of knowing the limitation God had put upon Satan and his effort against Job. She urged Job to take the personal relief in death as more important than God's services.

Job lost his business, his wealth, his family (except his wife), and his health. It was almost instant suffering. Christians must realize that God is completely sovereign in his dealings with his people and will never permit anything to come to the life of an obedient Christian that is not for his or her good and God's glory.

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Life and Work

My Promise to Tithe

by Tom Harris, Park Place Church, Hot Springs

Basic passage: Genesis 28

Focal passage: Genesis 28:12-17,20-22

Central truth: Because of gratitude for God and for God's many provisions, the Christian should happily tithe back to God.

We find Jacob, the son of Isaac, leaving his home because in Genesis 27 he had been very deceptive.

(I) The vision (dream) of God. (A) What he saw (vv. 12-15). The language is so picturesque in verses 12 and 23. Many family Bibles have this scene painted for all to ponder. Jacob saw how near heaven really is and he saw how the angels were ever ministering to the occupants of earth. Jacob saw the most important part of the vision, the Lord himself. God told Jacob who he was and then gave him many promises. (1) I will give you the land promised to your father and your grandfather. (2) You will have divine presence (v. 15) (note Mt. 28:20). (3) There will be divine protection. (4) There will be divine guidance. (5) There will be divine faithfulness (note Jn. 1:5). All that Jacob was promised, David learned as a fact (check Ps. 23). (B) What he said about what he saw (v. 16-17). Jacob names his holy place Bethel (v. 19). Every Christian should have a place he sees as his Bethel, a place where God seems more real. For some it will be a garden or a prayer closet and for most it will be the church. Our Bethel should remind us of: (1) providential care; (2) religious privilege; and (3) religious obligations.

(II) The personal promise to tithe. Jacob made a vow to God. Webster says a vow is a solemn promise where one binds himself to a service. Jacob was so full of gratitude that God would be with him and would give him his daily bread and needs and would again bring him home safely, that he promised a personal promise to tithe all that he would ever receive. Christians need to meditate on who gave them their everlasting salvation from hell; who supplied them the air, the strength, and health to make money for daily bread; and who protected them this week from the evil one and his human servants of evil. And upon this meditation, gratitude should compel every Christian to enthusiastically promise the tithe to God as a small token of thankfulness.

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Bible Book

The Betrayal of Christ

by Captain Lovell, First Church, Harrisburg

Basic passage: Matthew 26:14-29

Focal passage: Matthew 26:25

Central truth: Jesus knows those who are for real.

When Jesus chose the Twelve (Mt. 10:1-14), it appeared at that time that each one had a place in the kingdom. The question sometimes arises as to why Jesus chose Judas. There is absolutely no evidence in the Scripture that Judas was ever a believer. He was a follower of Jesus in name only, never giving his heart to Christ. He never carried out any of the instructions Jesus gave the Twelve when he called them. John 12:1-6 indicates that Judas had business ability, but it was never dedicated to Jesus. When Judas heard Jesus state that he was going to die (Mt. 26:1-1), another business deal occurred to him. How could he salvage something from this death—even, perhaps, 30 pieces of silver?

The feast of unleavened bread was at hand, and Jesus declared to his disciples that one of them would betray him. As each searched his heart for guilt, Jesus gave a clue: "He that dipeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me," (Mt. 26:25). At this moment, Judas' hand was in the dish. "Master," Judas asked, "is it I?" The term "Master" revealed Judas' feeling about Jesus, since it means teacher, but not Lord. Simon Peter asked, "Who is it?" (Jr. 13:24-26) "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread after I have dipped it," Jesus answered, and having dipped, he gave the bread to Judas.

After Judas' departure, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with the other eleven. After supper, Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas led the chief priest and soldiers and where Judas planted the betrayal kiss. In full realization of this terrible deed, he threw away the coins and went out and hanged himself (Ac. 1:18). Could Judas have been saved? Truly, Jesus is merciful, and Judas was never refused mercy. He never asked for it.

Betrayal always carries the burden of guilt with it, and Judas experienced this. When Peter betrayed Christ, he felt guilt and went out and wept bitterly (Lk. 22:62). Likewise, in this day, many times we go astray (Ro. 3:23) and are found guilty. We must repent to find the forgiveness which will remove the guilt.

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Curious About Christ

by Art Toalston
SBC Foreign Missions Board

NAZARETH, Israel (BP)—The Arab businessman proudly shows visitors his well-lit, orderly shop. Ceiling fans prevent the Middle Eastern heat from making several women workers swelter in their traditional Muslim garb. A sort of Arabic Muzak almost makes the workday festive.

Although he is intent on a first-class operation, his entrepreneurial spirit is shaped by an otherworldly quest: to know God in his fullness.

"First of all, I am a Moslem," he says. For several months, however, he has been reading through the Koran; the Jewish Torah, the first five books of the Bible; and the New Testament, "to see the difference between the three religions."

The New Testament—his first ever—was given to him by Ray Register, a Southern Baptist representative in Israel since 1966.

The Arab, in his late 30s, has been keeping a notebook of his findings. All three religions strive "to respect God," he says.

"Judaism came to the Jews only." In Christianity, "Jesus has come to clean the hearts of human beings." When a person studies Christ's teachings, he concludes, "He (Christ) has spoken to your heart."

For example, "Islam teaches to give a part of your wealth to man, to the poor, but Christ said, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.' He never limited the amount. The relationship with God in Christianity is unlimited," the Arab explains.

The Arab plans to continue his quest. He reports: "I say to my friends, 'You eat three times in a day to fill your stomach. And you go to school 12 years or more to fill your mind. But you must fill your heart.'"

Register has no idea how many towns and villages in Galilee, the heavily Arab section of northern Israel, have similarly inquisitive Arabs. Driving from Israel's northern border with Lebanon back to his Nazareth home one day, he began counting. "I got to about 80 villages," he recalls. "I lost count. Arab villages alone.

"Just so many people who need to be reached for the gospel."

Not all of Israel's Arabs are Muslim. One out of five is Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic or Roman Catholic. Some are Anglican. A tiny minority are Baptist, and Register spends roughly half his workweek nurturing their churches with evangelistic and discipleship training and times of shared prayer and counsel.

The rest of his workweek is spent among Muslims. Register says it's not dangerous. These are people who invite him into their

(BP) photo / Joanna Pinneo



Register and Mustafa

homes, people quite open to telling a visitor about their faith and giving him equal time, to accepting him as a friend, not haranguing him with their suspicions of America.

Granted, Islam seems to be on the march, and even in Israel the effects of the Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution have been felt.

Khomeini, a leader of the heavily Iranian Shiite sect, is not popular among the majority of Mohammed's followers in Israel and elsewhere who are Sunni Muslims. But Muslims in the region have been buoyed by

his rise to prominence.

"They no longer see themselves as just 'a conquered people, conquered by Israel,'" Register says. "They now have a status, an identity as a people and a unity they did not have before."

Mosques, or Muslim houses of worship, and minarets, the adjacent prayer towers, are "popping up all over the landscape," he reports.

Many women now are wearing traditional garb that leaves only their faces and hands uncovered. Many men are growing beards as a sign of their religious commitment.

Under such circumstances, what hope is there for reaching Muslims with the gospel? Plenty, says Register, whose book, *Dialogue and Interfaith Witness with Muslims*, was published in 1979.

The time is ripe for Christians to expand their witness to Muslims, because Muslims are "thinking more about God than they were before," he says. And Christians have plenty to share.

Register says verses from the Koran itself counter such Muslim arguments that the Bible has superseded the Bible, that Jesus was not the Son of God, that he didn't really die on the cross.

On the latter assertion, for example, Register notes that four verses in the Koran acknowledge Jesus' death on the cross, while only one verse can be interpreted for the opposite meaning.

One Muslim leader says the Koran teaches: "Do not refuse what comes down to Abraham and the gospels. . . . Be wise." He points to his Koran and Register's Bible and says, "Here and here, it's all great."

He, like other Muslims, voices reverence for Christ. He quotes a verse from the Koran that says, "O Jesus, I will put you to death and raise you up to myself, and . . . I will make those who follow you above those who refuse to believe."

"Jesus has certain qualities that nobody else has," the Muslim leader says. "He raised the dead; he healed the lepers and the blind. God gave him certain works that he never gave to Mohammed."

But his regard for Christ does not compromise his esteem for Mohammed. "The seal of all the prophets was Mohammed, may peace be upon him," he says.

Much of Register's contact with Muslims in Israel has come via the extended family system of the Middle East. With the help of introductions supplied by longtime friend Abu Mustafa, who lives in a village near Nazareth, he has visited many members of one extended Muslim family.

Register had known Mustafa's father and visited him in a hospital before he died several years ago. Mustafa later had a dream in which his father told him: "I'm thankful to the pastor for what he has told me. Be a true friend to him because he has a true belief. He's a true friend . . . in a time of need, a time of testing, not just with words."

Register's first contact with Muslims was at the University of Virginia years ago. One Muslim from Syria "told me he prays five times a day. That convicted me as a Christian, because I didn't have a regular prayer life of my own. So I started reading the Bible and praying every day as a result."

All Muslims who venture to the United States "are coming back sooner or later" to their Middle Eastern homelands, either to live permanently or to visit family and friends, Register says.

He hopes "more Christians are opening up to the need to minister to Muslims." Pointing to ever-heightening tensions in the Middle East, he reminds, "God uses all sorts of motivations to get us awake and aware of what should be done in the world."

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Court Delays Legal Action

BANGALORE, India (BP)—The highest court in the Indian state of Karnataka has ordered a lower court to delay action indefinitely in a criminal case against Southern Baptist missionary Rebekah Naylor.

The high court's order came in response to a petition by Naylor, a hospital administrator, and her legal counsel. The petition asked the court to drop charges accusing her of breaking a law governing the operation of factories by leading Bangalore Baptist Hospital to reduce its work force.

The order for an indefinite stay prohibits criminal action until the high court can hear the petition, which could take up to three years. "Our lawyers are quite pleased with this stay order," said Naylor.

A labor reduction by 39 employees more than a year ago triggered a dispute between union workers and hospital officials. Angry workers hung an effigy of Naylor at the hospital's front gates last June and burned it in December, the same month a warrant was served for her arrest.

Naylor, a surgeon from Fort Worth, Texas, who came to Bangalore after being appointed in 1973, said of the charges: "We're not a factory. The very issue of any hospital being a factory is ridiculous."

Official Stopped In Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP)—Dale Thorne, director of Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa, and his wife, Anita, returned to their home in Cyprus Aug. 14, a week after Cypriot officials had stopped them from re-entering the country.

Officials told the Thornes their names had appeared on a "stop list" by mistake, reported John Deal, associate director under Thorne. Deal is based at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's home office in Richmond, Va.

But the Thornes were not told how the mistake occurred, Deal said.

When they were denied entry to Cyprus Aug. 7, the Thornes spent the night in the airport in Larnaca. They flew to Amman, Jordan, the next day, where they waited while appeals were made on their behalf.

The Thornes had been in the United States for five weeks of Foreign Mission Board-related business and visits with family. They have lived in Nicosia, Cyprus, since 1985; their residence visas are not due to expire until Nov. 30, 1988.

The Cyprus-based associate director, Robert Fields, wrote a letter dated Aug. 11

to the country's president, George Vassiliou, urging efforts toward "rectifying this unfortunate situation."

"We have complied with all laws and conventions of the land as we understand them," Fields wrote. "We seek only good for the country and believe that we have acted accordingly."

"The U.S. embassy has no idea why this happened," Deal added. He said appeals also were directed to a number of other officials in Cyprus.

Lottie's Church Restored

PENGLAI, China (BP)—Authorities in China's Shandong Province have completed the restoration of a historic church where famed Southern Baptist missionary Lottie Moon worked and worshipped.

China International Travel Service officials recognized the crumbling church's historical value and reportedly spent thousands of dollars refurbishing it. Located in Penglai, formerly Tengchow, the church has become one of the most popular stops on China tours sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The restoration began last year. Work crews cleaned the premises, repaired the interior and exterior walls, floor, ceiling and entrance gate, painted the building and installed new pews.

The "Little Crossroads" church was built by Southern Baptist missionary T.P. Crawford in the late 1860s and is one of the oldest Baptist structures still standing in China. During much of the next century, it played host to most of the Chinese Baptist pastors and missionaries in the region, including Moon, who lived near the church for many of her nearly 40 years in China.

The church was closed and fell into disrepair after the Japanese occupied the region in 1937.

A group of Southern Baptists visited Penglai and the church in 1985. Behind the crumbling outer wall in front of the empty sanctuary, they found a small stone monument to Moon toppled over in the trash-strewn courtyard. Their visit and others sparked renewed interest in the historic building among local Christians as well as government officials.

More than 100 Christian families, most formerly related to Baptist and Presbyterian traditions, live in Penglai. Some now worship in home meetings. But restoration of the old Baptist structure, the only church building still standing in Penglai, has raised expectations that it will once again become an active house of worship—this time for all the Christians in town.