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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Elrod Elected

Arkansas Baptist

July 14, 1988

NEWSMAGAZINE

No Name Mission



In This Issue

Cover Story



HMB photo

No Name Mission 6

The challenge of planting a new church in Jackson, Wyo., tested missionary Jim Clark's ingenuity.

Editor's Page 3

Speak Up

One Layman's Opinion 4

Woman's Viewpoint 4

Food & Fellowship 5

Early Reflections 5

Local & State

Elrod Elected 7

Five Couples Appointed 7

Arkansas All Over 8-9

Brooks Hays Award 9

New WMU Staffer 10

Nation

Committed to Heal 11

Routh's Widow Dies 11

Pregnancy Law Upheld 12

Dan Grant Honored 13

Exemption Stands 13

Lessons For Living 14

World

Narkis Street Rebuilds 15

Arkansas Missionary Dies 15

Outcasts and Uppercrust 16

IT'S UPLIFTING

'We Were Without Food'

SAN LORENZO, Bolivia (BP)—"We were without food," one villager said, until Baptist workers came after floods ruined about 90 percent of the crops around San Lorenzo, Bolivia, and the nearby village of San Marcos.

Since the March flood, Baptist workers have used \$5,000 in Southern Baptist hunger and disaster relief funds to help nearly 400 people get back on their feet. They hope eventually also to provide help for the people's spiritual needs.

"Many families lost parts of their houses," said villager Florencio Rojas. "This was the worst flooding I had ever seen."

"We are thankful to the Baptists for coming to help us, even though there are not any Baptist churches in our area. We just haven't had anyone to help us."

The \$5,000 donation helped Baptists purchase and distribute 220 blankets, 1,100 pounds of cooking oil, 900 pounds of rice, 440 pounds of canned tuna, 110 cans of powdered milk, numerous other foodstuffs, 110 New Testaments and 300

evangelistic tracts.

The Baptist volunteer team included two Bolivian pastors and two doctors, three Southern Baptist missionaries and a missionary from Brazil.

The doctors estimated that about 40 percent of the 150 patients they saw were suffering from malaria and other illnesses related to stagnant water.

"To see the look of hope on the faces of the people who had suffered so much was truly a blessing," said Southern Baptist missionary Glenn Frazier. "Our prayer now is that one of the church planters will be able to travel to the areas and seek to begin a preaching point."

Pray All Day

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan recently joined other world Christians in 24 hours of prayer for world evangelism. The missionaries held an around-the-clock vigil with at least one person praying during the whole period for specific needs and areas of the world. In several cities they invited missionaries from other mission groups to join them.

GOOD NEWS!

Behold the Man!

Philippians 2:5-11

In the phrase "the mind of Christ," Paul was emphasizing harmony in relationships, humility, obedience, and self-renunciation. In addition, however, Paul set forth a theological treatise on the Lord Jesus Christ. He might well have presented Christ in the words of Pilate, "Behold the man!" (Jn. 19:5).

Behold the man as pre-existent Christ (vv. 5-6)—When Jesus affirmed Peter's open declaration, "Thou art the Christ" (Mt. 16:16), Jesus publicly acclaimed his own messiahship, "Christ" being the Greek form of the Hebrew "Messiah." Fundamental to that claim is the fact of Christ's pre-existence. In his pre-existence Christ was equal with God; he possessed fully the divine essence, the same attributes, the honor of God. Nevertheless, he freely forsook this equality for the higher privilege of dying for sinful man.

Behold the man as the earthly Jesus (vv. 7-8)—The angel which appeared to Joseph foretelling the birth of the Savior concluded the message with the command, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21). The obvious play on words in the Hebrew is

lost in translation, but the word for "Jesus" is very similar to the word for "shall save." Thus Jesus' saviorhood was from before his birth linked to the mystery of his incarnation.

The earthly Jesus was not playing at being a man but was truly man. He was hungry (Mt. 4:2), tired (Mk. 4:38), and tempted (Mt. 4:3). He thirsted (Jn. 19:28); he wept (Jn. 11:35); he enjoyed social life (Jn. 2:1-2). He also died (Lk. 23:46).

Jesus, Paul insisted, took upon himself the likeness of men (v. 7). He voluntarily accepted the limitations of a physical existence climaxed by the shameful death on the cross in order to fulfill his mission as sin bearer.

Behold the man as the exalted Lord (vv. 9-11)—With the words "wherefore God . . . hath highly exalted him" (v. 9), Paul clearly established a cause-and-effect relationship between Christ's humiliating death and his exaltation. His lordship is secured by his vicarious death. His name is superior to all names, and he is worthy of worship for the angels of heaven, for the demons of hell, and for all the peoples of the earth.

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The Spoken Word

J. EVERETT SNEED



Much of the good or evil that occurs in the world starts with the spoken word. Often a thoughtless word can damage the life of another immeasurably. Conversely, great good and happiness can be sparked in a few words. Hence, the writers of the Bible warn repeatedly that we should use great care in what we say. Every Christian has a stewardship of the proper use of his speech.

Someone has said, "Talk is cheap." Another declared, "Words, words, nothing but words." Still someone else has said, "He's just a talker." These statements illustrate the common depreciation of the importance of speech. Yet, the importance of speech cannot be overemphasized. Every cause, both noble and dastardly, has been communicated either through the spoken or written word.

Speech is the facility which differentiates man from animals. It is a sign of personality. An individual's character is revealed by his speech. Jesus declared, "... out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Lk. 6:45).

James, the half brother of our Lord, says the tongue is an instrument which ignites a raging fire (Ja. 3:5-6). The picture was a scene which the residents of Palestine knew well. In the dry season, dead grass, low thorn bushes and shrubs were easily ignited by a single spark. Once the fire raged, it would spread like a wave and there was little chance of stopping it.

Harmful words may be spoken unintentionally or they may be hurled out like a deadly dart with the intention of destroying another. The rabbi said, "Life and death are in the hands of the tongue."

Unintentional harm provided by something we say is the most difficult to avoid. Words spoken in jest may be taken seriously. Or, one person's experience or thoughts of the moment may be entirely different from those of the speaker. Christians should never use jokes or jest to convey a harmful message to another. If a misunderstanding develops over an unintentional word, a Christian has the responsibility to correct it.

One of the most vicious things which a person can do to another is the use of malicious gossip. Such tactics can destroy the reputation and the good name of another when he is not present to defend himself. It is deadly because there are few

activities which the average person finds more delightful than engaging in spicy gossip. For many, involvement in gossip, particularly concerning some distinguished person, is one of the most fascinating activities of life. Christians need to remember that gossip is condemned throughout the Bible as a vicious and heinous sin.

There are some who will viciously try to destroy another because of a disagreement on a theological or political matter. Such individuals have convinced themselves that their own interpretation is always correct. This was the attitude of the Pharisees in the New Testament era.

An individual can be correct in his interpretation and yet be wrong in his attitude. Most of the teachings of the Pharisees were completely correct. Yet they received the

harsh words every spoken by our Lord because of their ungodly attitude.

For most Christians, our speech can be perplexing. On one occasion, we may praise God and say those things which will further the work of the kingdom. On another occasion, we may say those things which are contrary to the furtherance of the kingdom.

The speech of an individual is an excellent insight into his real nature. We say the things that we think and feel. While all of us must deal with our adamic nature, there are a few steps which should prove helpful to each of us.

We should ask God to assist us in controlling our speech. Only through God's help can our speech be what it should be.

Second, we should be certain that when we speak we won't hurt another person. It is essential that we treat others as we desire to be treated.

We should also be certain we know all the facts when we speak. Someone has said, "The only mental exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions."

We should never engage in vicious gossip. Communication of negative facts concerning another should be done only with the intent of helping that individual or to protect others. Sharing gossip simply for the fun of gossiping is sin.

We should be quick to set the record straight if we have unintentionally brought harm or hurt to another by a word we have spoken.

Finally, we should always pray that God will assist us to speak words which will be a blessing to others. The words we speak will often help or harm others greatly. Only through God's help can we have the proper stewardship of our speech.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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DANIEL R. GRANT

One Layman's Opinion



Dear M/M Office

It is amazing how well some computers have come to know me and my personal qualities in such great detail. Seldom do I receive mail addressed so impersonally to "Occupant" or "Resident." For national companies to single me out by name, whether to invite me to take a free vacation trip to their Florida condominium, or to tell me the wonderful news that I may have already won a million dollars, is just downright impressive!

Not long ago one of those national computers wrote me a letter making it crystal clear that it knew me like an open book. It told me about a four-day conference in a luxurious resort hotel for only \$1,000, that was designed especially for people like me. Then, demonstrating that the computer really had me in mind, it spelled out the kinds of people referred to as "successful people whose entire lives are propelled by the need to explore new paths, push back the roadblocks of today's certitudes, to be trailblazers." As if that were not enough to identify me clearly, the personal letter from the national computer added, "inquisitive people," those who move with the "possibility thinkers," the "persistent ones who break through with giant strides!" It was such a shame that they went to all that trouble for me because, as it turned out, I had an unavoidable conflict at the time of the conference and the \$1,000 was not in Ouachita's budget.

Not all computers know me that well. Recently I received a letter addressed: M/M President's Office, Obu, Arkadelphia, Ark. I opened it and the same address was typed, along with the personalized salutation, "Dear M/M Office."

Computers may well inherit the earth, but they still have a way to go before it will happen. It is more likely that bright, hard-working people who learn most effectively to make computers their servants—extensions of their eyes, ears, hands, feet, and voice—will inherit the earth. And not only will they have to know me very well; they will have to care.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Woman's Viewpoint

Time Goes Quickly By

LUE ROSS

I have recently been reminded about how quickly time goes by. I received a letter about a class reunion. It said, and I quote, "Is it possible that 30 years have lapsed since we were seniors at Marshall High School, and planning our class trip, the class day activities, baccalaureate services, and commencement exercises? Well, according to the calendar this is a fact, and hopefully we have all spent these years fulfilling those goals and aspirations we deemed important in 1958!"

"Life seems so very short, and passes by so quickly; let's all make a concentrated effort to turn back 30 years and relive some of the best times of our youth!"



I wonder how many of us have really fulfilled those goals that were important in high school. Setting those goals and aiming at achieving them was important to us then.

As we grow older, our goals and values change. We go off to college or to work to fulfill those dreams and goals.

Next we spent a good portion of our time trying to find the "person of our dreams." Hopefully as we do this we hold fast to the Christian upbringing we

had as children.

After our mates have been chosen, we begin thinking about a family. I was blessed with two fine Christian boys. Time quickly passed, and now they are both grown and gone from home. It's quiet around the house again. Now I am patiently waiting to become a grandmother.

Life does seem so very short, and as you know we can't turn back the clock 30 years, so now we must spend our time using it today for the glory of God.

We should all strive to replace missed opportunities with a goal to make the future as fruitful as possible.

Lue Ross is a teacher in the Pulaski County School System, the mother of two sons, and a member of Geyer Springs First Church.

Weekday Early Education Workshop

July 28-29

Conference fee:
\$12 per person

Registration and
fee deadline:
Friday, July 22



Park Hill
Baptist Church

201 East C
North Little Rock

Special Interest Conferences

Rainy day ideas, art, science and nature, developing a good self-image, books and storytelling, helping preschoolers deal with crises, using the Bible with preschoolers, music, licensing requirements

Leadership conferences for WEE directors and age-group conferences for teachers of infants, toddlers, and 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds will be offered.

Workshop will apply to the 10 hours of training required by the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Ten hours of training will be provided during the WEE Workshop.

For more information, contact Pat Ratton or Tommy Goode, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; 376-4791. Sponsored by the ABSC Sunday School and Missions Departments.

Food & Fellowship

Food Pantry

VIRGINIA KIRK & JANE PURTLE

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink" (Mt. 25-35).

A church food pantry is an outreach to the physical and spiritual needs of people in a community. By maintaining a store of food which is available to needy people, the church reaches out in an organized and systematic way to fulfill Christ's command.

In a certain community, a single woman was trying to reconstruct her life after a divorce and other difficulties. She had a job but no money for food. For a month or two, the food pantry sponsored by local churches was a lifeline for her. As her life became more stable, she began to visit the church saying, "I know there are people here who care." In a few months she became a member of the church and a part of its ministry by herself contributing to the stores in the pantry. Unlike this woman, however, most of the people who are helped through a food pantry never attend the services of the church. They experience God's love as they come inside the church, are greeted with kind words and given food they need.

Maintaining a food pantry is a big job. If several churches in a town cooperate, the work and expense can be shared. Efforts can be coordinated and the distribution system is less likely to be abused. There should be a committee to oversee the operation, to enlist volunteers, and to establish policies.

The distribution should be coordinated with local social service agencies which can screen applicants, especially those who ask for repeated help from the pantry. Emergency help on a one-time basis should be available to any person; otherwise applicants should have their need verified by a social service agency or a cooperating church. Some churches may have members or friends who have temporary or ongoing needs that the pantry can serve.

In an emergency such as a tornado, flood, fire, etc., a food pantry is especially helpful. Individuals and organizations want to help with emergency food needs; the pantry can serve as a clearing house for distributing food to the victims of the catastrophe.

The pantry should maintain records on the individuals and families it helps, including the number of children, their ages, and special needs. Working from a standard "shopping list" of basic items, the pantry staff can add supplementary items as needed—such as baby food, milk, or diapers for infants.

What should a pantry stock and how should food be secured? Staple items such as canned goods, flour, sugar, shortening, powdered milk, cereal, pasta, and peanut butter are the basics. These can be procured through food drives and organizations within the church taking responsibility for certain months or items. If one church takes major responsibility for housing and staffing the pantry, other churches can take responsibility for stocking food. Individuals and groups will contribute money from time to time. These funds will be useful for buying more perishable items such as crackers, cereal, dried fruit, mixes, etc.

The pantry should be open at least a few hours most weekdays. Some seniors may find this a good service project for their group. Sunday School classes can take certain times of the month or year. In the summer, high school youth groups can help out. Anyone who serves as a volunteer should have a short orientation session so he will understand the policies and ministry of the pantry.

If a church wishes to set up a pantry, we suggest praying for guidance about the project, then checking out the need with local social service agencies and other groups to coordinate efforts. If a need exists, a committee should be appointed to bring recommendations to the church about physical space and management. The entire church should make a commitment to the ministry.

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



BEN EARLY

Early Reflections



A Lesson Learned

Serving in a new work area is an experience of a lifetime. My life has been

enriched and changed because God sent me to Colorado for three and a half years and the Northern Plains Convention for eight and a half years.

In North Dakota during the severe winters, you put your clothes on in several layers to keep warm, to protect you from the elements. Many churches have a large area where you can hang these many garments when you come inside. Conversation is usually good and abundant while removing or putting on the several layers of clothes.

A family from Texas had joined the little North Dakota Baptist church and Mrs. Jones never let a moment pass when she didn't sing the praises of the Lone Star State. Everything was always bigger, better, and of course warmer in Texas.

For awhile the North Dakota people listened patiently and minded their northern manners. However, the constant criticism of their state and church began to wear very, very thin.

After church on a cold February morning, a group of ladies were in the cloak room putting on layer after layer of clothes to foil Old Man Winter's wrath.

Mrs. Jones began with, "In Texas, you don't have to do this. In Texas you can enjoy a worship service without worrying about a blizzard or your car not starting. In Texas . . . In Texas . . ." the same song went on verse after verse.

Finally, a large Norwegian lady had all she could handle. She fairly well shouted, "If Texas is so great, why don't you go back there?"

People are proud of their background and culture, and if we are to reach them for the Lord, we must learn not to change their cultural roots to make us more comfortable but to change their souls.

Everyone has one basic need, and that is to have their sins forgiven. We must realize that wherever God sends us, the place should become home. We must learn to enjoy where we live, not gazing back but looking to the future and letting Christ be the tie that binds our lives together.

Ben Early is director of public relations for Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge.

No Name Mission

By Bill Bangham
SBC Home Mission Board

JACKSON, Wyo. (BP)—Innovative advertising, free counseling, an old church building parked on a back lot until just the right moment, and four years of patient hard work have combined to plant a new church in Jackson, Wyo.

With Grand Tetons as backdrop, Yellowstone National Park and the National Elk Reserve as neighbors, and ski runs carving the slopes above the town, Jackson is a winter-summer playground paradise.

And "the hardest place I've ever served," said Jim Clark, church planter with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Ten percent of the population is Mormon, 70 percent is unchurched, "and they like it that way," he said. "(People) are here for anything but a relationship with the Lord."

No stranger to challenge, Clark flew small planes on a circuit in Alaska for 17 years, serving Eskimos above the Arctic Circle. But Jackson has tested his ingenuity.

When Clark came to town, he ran an ad in a local newspaper, the Jackson Hole Guide, that read: "Someday No Name Baptist Mission May Change Its Name," and gave a number to call.

And people called.

Some asked just what is a mission? Others wanted to know what in particular is a No Name Mission? Still others suggested a name change might be an excellent idea.

Clark was delighted to talk with them all. He and his wife, Linda, were in town a year, holding services in their home on No Name Street, before the mission saw its first member. But six came with the second year.

In the years that followed, it has been a gain-one-lose-one operation. Until last year. Since last summer they've tripled their membership. And the church has stabilized at 26 resident members with a total membership of 33.

But that's not all. Last year No Name Mission constituted as a church and changed its name. It's now Jackson Hole Baptist Church.

And the old church building given it two years ago, parked on the back side of a



Jim and Linda Clark

parking lot until the church got property to put it on, has been moved on site. Fourteen churches from six states supplied 107 volunteers to help renovate it.

Jackson Hole Baptist Church moved into its new facilities Jan. 24 and dedicated the building May 1.

Since January, Clark has baptized eight new members. That's more baptisms in the past three months than in the preceding three years.

Change came about through what Clark terms non-threatening ways of getting into the community. Innovative newspaper advertising is one example.

And with Clark's graduate degree in

psychology and an internship in counseling for drug abuse and use of dangerous substances, free counseling is another. "This is not religious counseling," he said. "It's secular."

He doesn't charge, and he advertises in the paper, but most clients come through referral. "From satisfied customers."

He and his wife are involved in a community council on battered women. And she maintains a hospitality ministry in their home.

"People will come and eat," said Clark. "Our grocery bill gets pretty high at times."

Clark considers his church planting efforts in Jackson unusual. "This is no more like any conventional ministry than if I were to go back to Alaska and fly the circuit again," he said.

Conventional methods of church planting don't work in Jackson he maintained. He cited the experience of an Alabama church that came to do backyard Bible clubs. The visitors distributed fliers and visited in two neighborhoods—150 homes in one, 200 in the other—and had no response.

But the Clarks' unconventional methods of personal involvement do generate responses.

"People here are antagonistic toward Southern Baptists," said Clark. But "we tell 'em, 'I'm Southern Baptist. Linda's Southern Baptist. You like us. . . ' I don't think it's sneaky, but it is subliminal."

Clark's vision for the future is to plant a strong church in Jackson, a mother church from which other churches can be planted down the western flank of Wyoming.



75th Anniversary August 14

All former members and friends
are invited to the
75th Anniversary Celebration
of Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Worship services will begin at 10 a.m. ABSC Executive Director Don Moore will bring the morning message. Lunch and an afternoon service will follow.

Walnut Street Baptist Church

Jonesboro, Ark.

Dr. C.A. Johnson, Pastor

Elrod Elected

Ben M. Elrod of North Little Rock has been elected president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Dr. Elrod, president of the Independent Colleges of Arkansas, was elected Thursday, June 30, in a special meeting of the OBU board of trustees in Little Rock. OBU Board Chairman William H. "Buddy" Sutton said Elrod was the first recommendation of the presidential search committee and was unanimously elected.

He succeeds Daniel R. Grant, who is retiring Aug. 31 after 18 years at the helm of Arkansas' Baptists' oldest institution of higher education.

Elrod, a 1952 OBU graduate and former university administrator, called election to lead his alma mater "the ultimate honor."

"The call of alma mater is a call to come home," he said. "It evokes all kinds of good feelings, just as going home has done through the years."

He also said he hoped to build on the "solid foundation" left by Grant's tenure.

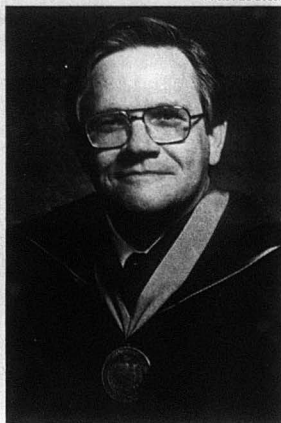
"Ouachita has been a healthy blend of quality and compassion. I hope to help make it even better."

Elrod served twice as development vice-president at OBU, from 1963 to 1968 and from 1970 to 1978. He was president of Oakland (Ind.) City College from 1968 to 1970, and president of Georgetown (Ky.) College from 1978 to 1983. He also has been pastor of Arkansas churches in Pine Bluff and Atkins, as well as congregations in Texas and Oklahoma.

While at OBU, Elrod directed programs that added more than \$10 million to operating and capital funds. The Independent Colleges of Arkansas organization raises funds for six private schools in the state, including Ouachita.

Elrod, 57, also is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Indiana University. He is a former OBU trustee.

Elrod and his wife, Betty, are members of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.



Ben Elrod

Five Arkansas Couples Appointed

Five couples with Arkansas connections were among 35 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 15 at the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Mark and Janie Baber will live in South Africa, where he will be working with university students.

He is Baptist Student Union director at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia. They are members of Richwoods Church in that city. Born and reared in Hot Springs, Baber is the son of Emogene Baber and the late Gipson Baber of that city. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Born in Conway, Mrs. Baber, the former Janie Hankins, is the daughter of Martha Hankins of Camden, and Bob Hankins of North Little Rock. She is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

The Babers have three children: Mark Andrew, Barrett

Hankins, and Stuart Gipson.

W. Joseph and Carol Barbour will serve as missionary associates in Zambia, where he will be pastor of an English-language church.

Born and reared in Poplar Bluff, Mo., Barbour is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo., William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

He has been pastor of Cane Creek Church in England.

Mrs. Barbour, the former Carol Pirch, is also a native of Missouri. The Barbours have four grown children.

John W. and Katherine Dammion will live in Austria, where he will be starting and developing churches.

A native of Texas, Dammion is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Born in Texarkana, Mrs. Dammion, the former Katherine Heslop, is the daughter of the late Mary Heslop. She is

also a graduate of East Texas Baptist University.

The Dammions have three children: Emily Jean, Erin Elizabeth, and John Warren Jr.

William R. and Rebecca Harper will live in the Leeward Islands, on the island of St. Martin, where he will be starting and developing churches.

The son of retired missionaries, Harper was born in Asuncion, Paraguay. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A native of Texas, Mrs. Dammion, the former Rebecca Barnett, is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco.

The Harpers have two children: Cynthia Nicole and Marcy Lynn.

Gerald and Catherine Taylor will serve as missionary associates in Senegal, where he will be pastor of an English-language church.

He is pastor of Trinity Church, El Dorado. Born near Warren, Taylor is the son of Mary A. Taylor of Junction City and the late Charles L.

Taylor. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Taylor has been pastor of First Church, White Hall; First Church, Sherwood; First Church, Stamps; First Church, Monticello; and Life Line Church, Little Rock.

Born in England, Mrs. Taylor, the former Catherine Murphree, is the daughter of Clyde C. Murphree of El Dorado and the late Florence A. Murphree. She attended Southern Arkansas University El Dorado Branch and Ouachita Baptist University.

She has been an office manager/secretary and a legal/medical secretary, both in Little Rock. More recently she was a part-time secretary at United Insurance Agency, El Dorado.

The Taylors have four grown children.

The missionaries and their families will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

J. Carl and Alice Bunch of Mount Ida were honored with a 50th wedding anniversary reception hosted by their six children July 9 in the fellowship hall of First Church, Jonesboro. The Bunch's were married May 7, 1938 at the home of her parents near Osceola. Bunch, who received the Arkansas Director of Missions of the Year Award in 1974, is serving as DOM for Caddo River Association. He also served as DOM for Mount Zion Association. They both have served as members of the ABSC Executive Board.

Lynwood Henderson began serving July 1 as director of missions for Centennial Association. A native of Arkansas County, he pastored churches for 35 years, retiring in 1986 as pastor of Calvary Church, West Memphis, where he had served for seven years.

Robert McDougal has joined the staff of Calvary Church, Texarkana, as interim music director. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sandra Fruland of Rogers has been elected as spiritual life chairperson of the Student Government Association at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jerry E. Miller Jr. of Batesville graduated May 28 from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree.

Danny Glover is serving as associate pastor of Second Church, Forrest City.

Steve Harrison of Jonesboro is serving First Church, Osceola, as summer youth director. He is a sophomore at Baylor University.

Yalonda Tillery, a student at East Texas Baptist College, is serving Bradley Church as minister of music and youth.

Mark Overman recently celebrated five years of service as minister of youth and activities at Central Church, Magnolia.

Junior Barnhill and **David Taylor** have joined the staff of Strawfloor Church, Jonesboro. Barnhill, a member, is serving as senior adult minister and Taylor, a student at Southern Baptist College, is serving as minister to youth and music.



The Bunchs

Henderson

Lynn Marrow has resigned as minister of music at Gosnell Church to enter the field of music evangelism.

Dave Daily has resigned as pastor of Mount Zion Church, Arkadelphia, following two years of service. He and his wife, Mary Catherine, are moving to New Haven, Conn., where he will pursue a master of divinity degree at Yale University.

Joe Dorman is celebrating 15 years of service this month at Springdale First Church, where he serves as minister of bus ministries.

David McCord has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Linwood Church, Moscow. He and his wife, Janet, and daughter, Leah, will move on the field July 18 following his graduation July 15 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Earnest Anderson has been named pastor emeritus of First Church, El Paso.

Glen Hurst has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Woodsprings Church, Jonesboro, where he has been serving as interim pastor.

Richard Metts has joined the staff of Berryville First Church as minister of music and youth. He and his wife, Suzy, and their daughter, Rebekah, moved there from Picayune, Miss.

Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, is in Inverness, Scotland, this month where he is exchanging pulpits and residences with Inverness Church Pastor William Freel.

Marty Gibson is serving as pastor of Bethany Church, Georgetown, coming there from Thornburg Church.

Doug Applegate has accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Church, Patterson. He will move there from serving as pastor of Tyronea First Church.

Juanita Garrett will be honored with a reception July 24 by Life Line Church in Little Rock, recognizing her 30 years of service as director of the church's kindergarten and day care.

Becky Bitley was recently recognized by Life Line Church, Little Rock, for her 25 years of service as the pastor's secretary. The church presented her and her husband, John, with an all-expenses paid vacation to DeGray Lodge.

Francis S. Chesson has resigned as pastor of First Church, Camden, effective July 24, following seven years of service. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Burgaw Church near Wilmington, N.C.

Ken Shaddox was ordained to the preaching ministry June 26 at First Church, Sherwood. Shaddox, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Bob Shaddox of Little Rock, is a May graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ray W. Terrell died June 19 at age 79 in a Smackover nursing home. His funeral services were held July 2 at First Church, Smackover, where he was a member. Survivors include his wife, Nora Frances Martin Terrell of Smackover; one daughter, Mrs. Don Moore of Little Rock; two sisters, Allene Terrell of McNeil and Murtis Murphy of Mountain View; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to First Church, Smackover.

Gary Martin has resigned as pastor of Temple Church, Waldron, to serve as pastor of Bethany Church, North Little Rock.

Mark Cook has resigned as pastor of Bates Church, Waldron.

Randy Cunningham has resigned as pastor of Abbott Church, Mansfield.

Briefly

North Park Church in Van Buren recently ordained Larry Meadows, Les Gatlin, Larry Spiller, and Tom Forrester to the deacon ministry. Those participating were Pastor Murl Walker, Mike Jones, Dale Owen, George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, Lance Spiller, Wayne Davis, and Charles Williams.

Woodland Church at Clarksville recently ordained Richard Kent Snyder to the

preaching ministry and James E. Patterson and Herman Houston to the deacon ministry. Those participating were Walter Nowotny, Pastor Homer Haltom, Mrs. Jim Martin, Sam Howell, Harold Pitts, Kenneth Dennis, Jim Martin, JoAnn Snyder, Mrs. Avol Patterson, and George Domeser, director of missions for Clear Creek Association.

Jacksonville First Church ordained Jerry Jones to the deacon ministry June 19.

Fordeyce First Church summer mission team has returned from New Orleans, where they worked with the Rachel Sims Mission.

Rogers First Church ordained Phil Schoeppe to the deacon ministry June 26.

Bryant First Southern Church mission team has returned from work in Michigan and Canada.

Des Arc First Church will sponsor a youth emphasis week July 18-21 that will feature Dennis Lee, ventriloquist and musician from Dallas.

North Little Rock Park Hill Church 39-member mission team left July 9 for a week long music/mission encounter with Dovercourt Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

North Arkansas Association 30-member mission team, representing six churches, is in Columbus, Ohio, July 8-16 to assist the Lake Seneca Baptist Assembly. L.B. Atchison, director of missions, reports the group will be involved in construction work and assisting with vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs.

Indian Springs Church at Bryant celebrated Victory Sunday of a Challenge to Build program June 26, reporting total commitments of \$178,424. Pastor Benny Grant also reported that during the past year the church has begun 10 new Sunday School classes, added two new staff members and launched a Brotherhood program, a senior adult ministry, childrens missions education programs, a Church Training program, and children's worship. He reported that the average Sunday School attendance had increased from 75 to 220, the youth department had grown from four to an average of attendance of 45-50, the church had purchased two parcels of land and paid cash, that 258 persons had joined by letter and there had been 37 baptisms.

Life Line Church in Little Rock has been involved in a mission project this spring and summer with the Calvary Church in Laurel, Mont., by providing materials and

constructing library shelving and mobile storage cabinets. A group of men from the church will transport the cabinets to Laurel in late July. There have been some 30 men involved in working on this project. The church also will be sending a group of youth to work in the inner city missions of Houston, Texas directed by home missionary Mildred McWhorter. Jim Agee, youth minister, will direct the work.

Grand Avenue Church in Fort Smith youth will be in Gary, Ind., Aug. 7-13 on a summer mission assignment with Wicker Avenue Church.

Northvale Church in Harrison recently voted to make improvements to the youth building and to pave a parking lot.

Brinkley First Church has purchased 50 Bibles for mission work in Belize through funds given at its vacation Bible school.

Rover Church will celebrate its 100th birthday July 17 with services beginning at 10 a.m. Former pastor Bill Kite will be guest speaker. A potluck meal will be served at noon.

Victory Church in Conway held a vacation Bible school June 13-17 with an enrollment of 46 and an average attendance of 36.

Petit Jean Mountain First Church, organized in 1987 and with a current membership of 36, broke ground June 19 for construction of its first building. A Texas team is assisting with construction, according to Pastor V.L. Harris Jr. Participants in the groundbreaking were Lester Allen, Royal Ambassador leader; Roy Brannon, a deacon; Pastor Harris; C.L. Harris, a deacon and land donor; and Doyle Laxton and Bob Adkins, deacons.

Conway Second Church mission team, made up of 60 youth and 15 adults, will be in Germantown, Md., July 24-31 to assist the Home Mission Board in starting Southern Baptist work. They will be assisting a team from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with backyard Bible clubs, a mission vacation Bible school, canvassing, and concerts.

Woodson Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary July 17, according to Don Hook, interim pastor. Al Cullum, a former pastor, will be speaker. A noon meal will be served and the afternoon program will include singing, testimonies, and reminiscences by former pastors and members. There will be no evening service.

Marmaduke First Church will conclude its centennial observance with a July 24 service which will feature former pastor Jack Porter as speaker. The special observance will feature old-fashioned dress and a noon potluck meal. A 1:30 p.m. service

will include special music, recognition of former pastors and visitors, and judging of men's beards grown especially for the centennial. The church, organized July 25, 1888, has a current membership of 475. Curtis B. Smith Sr. is pastor. Some of the first pastors included J.A. Foster, J.M. Lawrence, J.S. Hayden, J.W. Allen, and J. Faulkner. Lora Graham is the member of longest standing, having joined Aug. 31, 1924, and C.A. Atnip, age 94, is the oldest member.



Hingson (left) and White

Brooks Hays Award

Robert A. Hingson of Pittsburgh, Pa., has received the 1988 Brooks Hays Memorial Christian Citizenship Award. The award was presented by Pastor Billy White during a June 26 ceremony at Second Baptist Church in Little Rock.

Dr. Hingson is the developer of the jet inoculator, which administers injections at a rate of 1,000 per hour. His principal interest over the last 35 years has been the Brother's Brother Foundation, which he continues to serve as medical director. The foundation has worked in 75 countries, providing lifesaving vaccines to 14 million people and distributing pharmaceutical and medical supplies, as well as vegetable seeds, garden tools and books.

Hingson currently is helping to launch an enormous drive sponsored by Rotary International against polio and other childhood diseases.

New WMU State Staffer

Frances Usrey has been elected by the Arkansas WMU Executive Board to serve as Girls in Action—Mission Friends director. Miss Usrey started her new assignment on June 1.

Miss Usrey was born in Camden, Ark., but she and her family moved to Cleveland, Miss., when she was 13. Later her family moved to Grenada, Miss., where she graduated from high school.



Miss Usrey holds the bachelor of science degree with a major in home economics from Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss., and a master of arts in religious education with concentration in communications from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Usrey's secular work experience includes work in a print shop, teaching home economics in the public schools of Shreveport, La., and market management for the sale of microwaves.

Usrey's church work includes activities coordinator for singles and work with a puppet team. She also completed a mission education apprenticeship the summer before graduating from seminary. While in seminary Miss Usrey worked with the Radio and Television Commission as an assistant to the director of television operations for ACTS.

Miss Usrey says that her ultimate goal is to have Mission Friends (an organization for children birth through five) and Girls in Action (an organization for girls first grade through sixth grade) in every church in Arkansas. Miss Usrey said, "I have a real love for children and believe that it is essential that they acquire a heart for missions while they are young so that they will be committed to world wide missions when they become adults."

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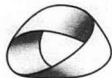
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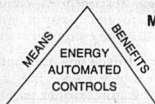
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JERRY VINES

Committed to Heal

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Jerry Vines, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a statement of commitment to Southern Baptists.

In issuing the statement Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., told Baptist Press he intends to periodically issue statements of purpose and "proposals for reconciliation."

He added he is aware such statements from the SBC president have not been done before, but noted he believes the time has come to begin to heal some of the hurts of the SBC, which has been torn by strife for nearly a decade.

In the statement, Vines asks Baptists to renew their commitment to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget, to reach out to one another and to prepare for the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., where evangelistic activities will precede the convention.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Vines writes. "Already, I am aware of the tremendous prayer support on my behalf over the length and breadth of our convention.

"I commit myself to the Lord and to you. "My convictions concerning the Bible

are widely known. My desire is that the spirit with which I hold and share these convictions will become equally well known."

Vines continues: "In the coming weeks and months, I will be periodically sharing with you statements and proposals for reconciliation. Many have expressed to me the desire that I may be used of God to heal hurts in our fellowship. I am committed to do what one man can do.

"I sincerely ask you to join me in some additional commitments.

"First, let us all renew our commitment to voluntary giving to missions through our Cooperative Program.

"Second, let us all begin to reach out to one another in 'speech, always with grace, seasoned with salt' (Colossians 4:6).

"Third, let us prepare to involve ourselves in the exciting witnessing opportunities next year in Las Vegas and commit ourselves again to personal witnessing in our 'Jerusalem.'

"No man can bring about healing. The Bible says, 'I am the Lord that healeth thee,' (Exodus 15:26). But I do commit myself to be one of the many 'beloved physicians' working under the direction of the Great Physician."

Porter Routh's Widow Dies

NASHVILLE (BP)—Ruth Purtle Routh, wife of the late Southern Baptist executive Porter W. Routh, died June 26 in Nashville following an extended illness. She was 74.

Mrs. Routh was born in Sulphur, Okla., in 1913. She graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee in the early 1930s and was named an OBU distinguished alumna in 1982.

She and her husband were married for more than 52 years prior to his death Nov. 7, 1987. He was executive secretary (now president) and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee from 1951 to 1979 and was editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, Oklahoma Baptists' weekly newsjournal, and worked on the staff of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mrs. Routh was a home economics teacher in Oklahoma before her children were born. She traveled around the world with her husband several times, visiting Southern Baptist mission fields.

She is survived by five children: son Charles of Seattle; daughters Betsy Routh Green of Wichita, Kan.; Dorothy Routh of Tallahassee, Fla.; Susan Routh of Nashville; and Lelia Routh Cothen of Cheverly, Md.; seven grandchildren; and a sister, Frances Graves of Midwest City, Okla.

Four Financial Freedom Seminars



Dr. John D. Morgan, Pastor
Sagemont Baptist Church,
Houston
Author, "Financial
Freedom"

July 18

**First Baptist Church
Rogers**
9:30 a.m.

**First Baptist Church
Harrison**
7:00 p.m.

*A ministry of the
Stewardship/Annuity
Department, ABSC*

July 19

**Matthews Memorial
Baptist Church**
Pine Bluff
7:00 p.m.

July 20

**First Baptist Church
West Memphis**
9:30 a.m.

Teen Pregnancy Law Upheld

by Stan Haste

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 29 that a 1981 federal law providing tax dollars to religious and other organizations to fight teen-age pregnancy and abortion does not violate the First Amendment to the Constitution.

In a 5-4 decision handed down on the last day of the current term, the narrow high court majority ruled the Adolescent Family Life Act has a secular purpose, does not have a primary effect of advancing religion and does not excessively entangle church and state.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the majority, said the activities challenged five years ago in a lawsuit filed by individual taxpayers, clergy and the American Jewish Congress are not "inherently religious" and are thus constitutionally permissible.

The suit focused on provisions of the law that require groups receiving grants to include religious organizations in fighting teen pregnancy and abortion.

Despite this mandatory participation by religious organizations, the court majority ruled, "there is nothing inherently religious about these activities."

Besides the American Jewish Congress' opposition to the law, numerous other religious groups joined the case in support of the challenge. Among them was the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, whose general counsel, Oliver S. Thomas, had asked the justices to strike down the provisions in the law mandating participation by religious groups at taxpayer expense. Religious organizations that fight teen pregnancy ought to do so with their own funds, Thomas argued.

But Rehnquist held the challenged provisions "reflect at most Congress' considered judgment that religious organizations can help solve the problems to which the AFLA is addressed. . . . Nothing in our previous cases prevents Congress from making such a judgment or from recognizing the important part that religion or religious organizations may play in resolving certain secular problems."

Although the law may have the effect of advancing religion, Rehnquist said, "the effect is at most incidental and remote."

"We note in addition that this court has never held that religious institutions are disabled by the First Amendment from participating in publicly sponsored social welfare programs," he wrote further. Rehnquist likened the kind of financial assistance provided to religious groups under the law to previously approved aid to church colleges.

The high court majority also rejected the

view that implementation of the law excessively entangles church and state, writing that there is "no reason to fear" undue governmental intrusion into the day-to-day operations of religious groups receiving tax monies under the law.

While upholding the law's constitutionality, Rehnquist ordered the case back to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for a further determination on whether the law is being implemented in a manner consistent with the First Amendment ban on an establishment of religion. The chief justice acknowledged the record in the case "contains evidence of specific incidents of impermissible behavior" by numerous religious organizations that have received benefits under the law.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Harry A. Blackmun chided the court for upholding the law "notwithstanding the fact that government funds are paying for religious organizations to teach and counsel impressionable adolescents on a highly sensitive subject of considerable religious significance, often on the premises of a church or parochial school."

Blackmun also warned religious organizations risk losing their identity by accepting government money. "Religion plays an important role to many in our society," he wrote. "By enlisting its aid in combatting certain social ills, while imposing the restrictions required by the First Amendment on the use of public funds to promote religion, we risk secularizing and demeaning the sacred enterprise. . . . The First Amendment protects not only the state from being captured by the church, but also protects the church from being corrupted by the state and adopted for its purposes."

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Dan Grant Honored

Named Outstanding Educator of 1988

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Education Commission named Daniel R. Grant outstanding educator of the year, elected an assistant director and named two special workgroups during its annual meeting in Greenville, S.C.

Grant, retiring president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., was named recipient of the 1988 Charles D. Johnson Outstanding Educator Award. The award, which was established by the commission five years ago, is given each year to a person who has made significant contributions to Southern Baptist higher education.

The award was presented to Grant during the annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools immediately following the annual meeting of the commission.

"Dr. Grant was chosen to receive this award because he has demonstrated an unique commitment to Christian higher education," said Arthur Walker, executive director of the commission. "Twenty-five years after his summa cum laude graduation, he returned to his alma mater to become its 12th president."

Walker called Grant a colleague, a Christian statesman and a denominational servant. He praised Grant for his career as a political science professor who gained national recognition as an authority on urban and metropolitan government, cited

his contributions to his local church and the denomination, his leadership as a college president and his involvement as vice chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of the Baptist World Alliance.

In other action, the commission unanimously elected Timothy J. Fields as assistant director of the commission effective July 1.

Commission members also named a special workgroup to study ways to enhance the agency's placement registry, which provides names of potential faculty and staff to Southern Baptist schools and colleges. A second workgroup was named to study the commission's case statement, which provides the basis for the agency's relationship with and support of 70 Southern Baptist educational institutions.

Commission members approved a budget of \$564,900 for 1988-89. It includes \$496,000 from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget. Commissioners also authorized an expenditure of \$15,000 for desktop publishing equipment to be drawn from reserve funds.

All three officers of the commission were re-elected to a second term. They are Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, chairman; D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., vice chairman; and William R. Cotton, a layman from Hastings, Fla., secretary.

Court Lets Exemption Stand

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand an Illinois law exempting religious daycare centers from state regulation.

Although the action sets no binding precedent, 33 states have similar statutory exemptions for daycare facilities owned and operated by churches and other religious institutions.

In its brief order June 27, the high court stated the challenge to the Illinois law presented no "substantial federal question." The action's effect was to leave in place a decision last January of the Illinois Supreme Court upholding the exemption's constitutionality.

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²²God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."^s

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Convention Uniform

Complaints

by Randel Everett, First Church, Benton

Basic passage: Exodus 15:22-17:7

Focal passage: Exodus 16:1-2

Central truth: Moses trusted the Lord in spite of the grumbling of his people.

After the miraculous redemption of the children of Israel from captivity, Moses and the people sang that "the Lord shall reign forever and ever." Miriam answered, "the Lord is highly exalted; the horse and rider he has hurled into the sea." It was not expected that the children of Israel would sing their way to the Promised Land.

However, within three days, they were grumbling against Moses because the water was bitter at Marah. In the wilderness of sin they would complain about the absence of food. They longed for the "good old days" when things were better in Egypt (hardly). At Rephidim, once again they would quarrel because of the lack of water.

Poor Moses! Now that he was rid of the Egyptians he was stuck with the Hebrews! Yet, every leader must learn to deal with criticism because it comes with the turf. When God leads, Satan opposes. We can learn some important lessons about handling complaints from the experience of Moses.

Consider the source. When criticism comes from those whose lives give evidence of walking with the Lord, listen to what they are saying. However, the sons of Israel were preoccupied with their own selfishness, and were not interested in seeking the Lord.

Are the complaints valid? Leaders can become insensitive to others and to the Lord. Determine whether the motivation for leadership is selfish or from the Lord.

Don't take criticism personally. It has been said, "when people criticize you, don't worry about it. If they knew the whole story they probably would not." However, "when people praise you, don't think about it, if they knew the whole story they probably would not." Moses realized that the Israelites were actually mad at the Lord. He wisely took the criticism to God and waited for further instruction.

Don't let criticism deter you. Moses was interested in pleasing God, not the people. If he had listened to them they would have never left Egypt. When you are doing God's will, his way, at his time, don't let grumbling of others stop you.

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Life and Work

Enduring Love

by Ross Woodbury, Lakeshore Drive Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Hosea 3:1; 11:1-4,8-9

Focal passage: Hosea 11:1-4

Central truth: God's love for man endures beyond man's painful rejection of that love.

The light switch in the pastor's office of a former church was both bewildering and inspiring. It didn't want to turn off! If you passed by casually and flipped it off while "on the run," nine times out of 10 it would pop back on. You had to stop and very intentionally push the switch off. I began to admire its resiliency; it refused to be easily snuffed out.

How much greater is the enduring quality of God's love for man! It even outlasts painful rejection. God initiated love toward Israel even when Israel was a "youth." He called Israel, not when she was self-reliant but when she was hopelessly dependent. What rejection did his love endure?

It endured the rejection of rebellion (v. 2a). No sooner had the bonds of slavery been broken than the nation began moving away from God's continuing call for fellowship. God experienced that especially painful type of rebellion wherein the child repeatedly runs to the parent's side in time of danger but repeatedly drifts away from a caring relationship when the crisis is over.

His love further endured the rejection of idolatry (v. 2b). Young Israel rejected God's initiatives; that hurt enough. But then his people took initiatives of their own toward other gods. It was the kind of painful rejection wherein the rebellious one says, "not only do I not want fellowship with you, I want fellowship with the one(s) who will hurt you the most."

The rejection of insensitivity was additionally endured (vv.3-4). It's the kind of pain experienced when someone you love, once he gets "on his feet," not only fails to acknowledge his appreciation but actually forgets that you indeed were a key player.

How true, then, is Paul's conclusion about love in I Corinthians 13, "love never fails." Israel would suffer punishment. She would "reap the whirlwind" of her own making. But God would not give her up. Knowing the enduring nature of God's love, will we take advantage of it? Heaven forbid. We will be conformed by it.

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Bible Book

A Personality Inventory

by Dalton Barnes, Alma First Church

Basic passage: Matthew 18:2-4,9-10, 21-22; 19:3-9

Focal passage: Matthew 18:2-4; 19:3-9

Central truth: The way we see ourselves will determine how we see the things around us.

The lack of understanding about the importance of personalities is seen in the question, "Who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" It seems that many who should know better are still asking the same question. Too much attempt toward personal greatness is still a hindrance to the kingdom work. It is helpful to be reminded that Jesus directed the minds of his followers toward the behavior of little children. That is the place to look if we are to find insight into the area of greatness.

The goals of personal gain, power, winning for our side, and ambition are not prerequisites for entry into the kingdom. All these are to be replaced by humility, dependence upon the help of others, and trust in our fellow Christians. These are, as Jesus saw them in the child, opposite traits from the self-seeking person. Anyone who sees himself as being deserving of a high position is a poor candidate for entering into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:9-10 is a lesson about the degree to which one should go in order to avoid any hindrance to entering the kingdom of heaven. They seem like harsh and extreme measures. They are no more harsh than the alternative to going to heaven. Staying out of hell is a very serious objective and should hold a high priority.

This brings us to the lesson on marriage and divorce. It seems the Pharisees came up with another question that had nothing except wrong answers from their point of view. It should be noted that Jesus replied by placing the emphasis upon the characteristics of a good marriage and not upon the grounds for a divorce. He clearly calls our attention to the fact that divorce is the result of a failure in relationships, not a flaw in the plan of God. Divorce is the necessity of a later adjustment when human behavior finds it is in constant conflict with the spouse.

Divorce, like self promotion and bad influence, requires self-evaluation to see if there is a need for a change of direction in the way we see ourselves and those around us.

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Narkis Street Breaks Ground

by Betty Smith
SBC Foreign Mission Board

JERUSALEM (BP)—The first shovels of earth were turned June 18 to celebrate a long-awaited building permit for Narkis Street Baptist Church in Jerusalem.

In a simple ceremony, the congregation signaled the start of construction of a new auditorium replacing a 50-year-old building destroyed by arson in October 1982. The church waited five and one-half years for permission to rebuild from the Jerusalem municipality and an Israeli planning committee.

"Whoever lit the match in that early morning hour started us on a journey, a

spiritual pilgrimage." Southern Baptist representative Pat Hoaldrige told 350 people gathered on Baptist property.

"All this has come upon us for the glory of God," he said. "We are not just building a building. We are building ourselves individually and as a body. We are servants of the Lord and stewards of the property he has provided."

Hoaldrige, who has been pastor since September, called upon the congregation

to enter a period of fasting and prayer to prepare for any further opposition from extremist religious groups in the city. He challenged the congregation "to stand boldly on this city corner and to commit the whole building project to the Lord."

The congregation hopes to move as quickly as possible into the actual construction, Hoaldrige said. Work will begin simultaneously on the addition of a second floor to Baptist House and the excavation for the foundation of the new auditorium.

The church has two-thirds of the funds needed, he estimated.

Arkansas Missionary Dies

KISUMU, Kenya (BP)—Carl R. Hall, a Southern Baptist missionary for nearly 18 years, died of a heart attack July 2 in Kenya. He was 51.

With his wife, Geraldine, Hall started several churches among the Maasai people of Kenya, a nomadic group of herdsman whom he taught to farm. He also had been the director of Baptist social ministries in Nairobi, Kenya, and most recently had begun working in Kisumu on Lake Victoria.

Hall became known among missionaries for his creativity and capability to carry a job to completion. One example was his ministry in an area near the Tanzania border. There he demonstrated farming techniques to the Maasai people, who had never eaten food from farms. He worked with local officials get people started on their own small farms.

Hall grew up in Heber Springs, Ark. In

his freshman year at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., he met the former Geraldine Wright of McCrory, Ark., whom he married two years later.

Before missionary appointment he worked for the Arkansas Department of Public Welfare as a caseworker and supervisor. He also was a director of Royal Ambassador camps for Southern Baptists boys in Tennessee.

Hall received the bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita, the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the master of science in social work degree from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work in Nashville.

In addition to his wife, survivors include his two children, Byron, 24, in Arkadelphia, and Duane, 18; and his mother, Lena B. Hall, in Arkadelphia.

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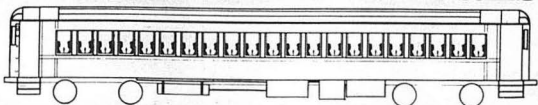
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WORLD

Outcasts and Uppercrust

by Ken Camp

Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (BP)—Through agriculture, advocacy and aerobics, Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers Chip and Jean Kingery are reaching both India's "untouchable" outcasts and its high caste uppercrust with the gospel.

Alongside two Indian couples in Bangalore, the Kingerys direct an international ministry dedicated to sharing Christ through word and deed with the people of southern Asia. The ministry's current focus is the state of Karnataka in southern India. The Kingerys see their primary task not as development, but as transformation.

"We try to follow the example of Jesus who met people at the level of their needs," said Kingery. "Development is not the bait at the end of the stick. It is not a tool that is used to evangelize, but rather a process of evangelism from the very beginning. In a natural way, through our relationships, we are able to work Christ into our conversations."

The Kingerys combine social ministries with evangelism through activities such as hands-on agricultural training for Sri Lankan refugees in southern India, daycare and nutritional training at the Adi Karnataka Colony village and a women's exercise class/Bible study in Bangalore.

They also work as liaisons between the poor and local Asian agencies, and they serve as co-laborers with other organizations such as the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, where they are rural development consultants.

"Our approach is very indigenous, very low-key, very Indian. We see ourselves not as providers but as encouragers, teammates and helpmates," said Kingery. "We try to teach self-respect. Part of that process involves unlearning some unhealthy conceptions about Christians."

"The people have been exploited too many times. Too often groups—even well-meaning ones—have come in, preached and left. Or else they have come in, fixed a roof, taken pictures and left."

Because the Kingerys are able to obtain visas for only six months at a time, they must divide their attention between their three-room flat in Bangalore and their home office in Cedar Hill, Texas.

However, during their six-month stays in India, they have established a rapport with the Indian people by living on a simple level among them. Both of their children—Keturah, age two, and Noah, eight months—were born in India.

"We work side-by-side with the people. We live in a neighborhood with Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus," said Mrs. Kingery. "Our two-year-old daughter speaks words

from four Indian languages."

Because they have gained acceptance in their community, the Kingerys are able to share Christ in a natural setting, even among the outcasts of Indian society—lepers and their families. Three days each week, the Kingerys and their Asian associates work in the Adi Karnataka Colony, visiting in the homes of the outcasts.

"One person at the A.K. colony said, 'The Hindus tell me if my shadow falls on them, they are cursed. But you hold our children, you come to us, you drink tea with us,'" Kingery recalled.

Kingery first felt a calling into Asian missions when, as a student at the University of Richmond (Va.) he was a Baptist Student Union summer missionary to Bangladesh. He later worked for UNICEF, as an intern with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and as Asian director for World Hunger Relief Inc., in Waco, Texas.

Mrs. Kingery entered missions after being chairperson of the fashion marketing department at Northwood Institute in Cedar Hill. Drawing upon that experience, she worked with Pratima Aruldos, director of the Christian Student Center in Bangalore, to develop a six-week study course: "Fit for Him: A Look at Inner and Outer Beauty."

Three times a week, Mrs. Kingery directs aerobics classes in which she leads women from Bangalore—including a number of high-caste Brahmans—in exercises and discussion of assignments from the "Fit for Him" workbook. Woven throughout the diet suggestions and fashion tips in the workbook are Scripture verses, biblical principles and Bible study assignments.

"I started the first class in November," Mrs. Kingery said. "So far, more than 50 women have taken the course. It has been a great outreach to internationals from Germany, Australia and New Zealand, as well as to the Indian women."

She estimated that 70 percent of the women in the exercise/Bible class are Hindu. Although most of the participants are from the middle and upper classes of Bangalore, "Fit for Him" has cut across lines of class and caste.

"Women who didn't mix on the street would come together and mix in the class."

Although presenting the gospel in a predominantly Hindu culture is slow and difficult, the Kingerys are beginning to see progress. One of their Asian associates, Pushpa Kumar, was visiting the Adi Karnataka outcast colony when a 23-year-old man asked her what Easter meant.

"After Pushpa shared the Easter story," Kingery recalled, "the man said, 'I want to build a chapel in this village to the living God you have told me about.'"

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