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**May 19, 1988**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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A Courageous Voice

# Arkansas Baptist

May 19, 1988

*Student Missions*



## Cover Story



Home Mission Board photo

## Student Missions . . . . . 8-9

The many faces of student missions are featured this week in the photographs of 73 students from Arkansas who will invest their summers in mission service.

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# IT'S UPLIFTING

## Prayer Is Key For Students

By Scott Collins

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Prayer preparation was the key for students from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who led nearly 500 people to Christ during spring break, according to Dan Crawford, director of the Spring Evangelism Practicum.

The practicum is the annual evangelistic effort in areas with few Southern Baptist churches. This year, 205 students participated in 30 states and led 194 revivals.

The student evangelists saw 472 people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ and 900 made public rededications. Both are increases over last year, but Crawford said the numbers are only one aspect of the program's success this spring.

"The comments from host pastors were extremely favorable on the biblical content of the sermons the students preached," Crawford said.

Crawford points to comments like the one from Fred Nickell of Hall Street Baptist Church in Marysville, Calif. "He preached the Word," Nickell said of student Ronald Casteel.

Mark Chamberlin, pastor of Satcove Avenue Baptist Church in Ventura, Calif., said student Rick Davis "evidenced the

doctrinal soundness I expect from one of our Southern Baptist seminaries."

Crawford credited the increase in decisions to a program in which students enlisted prayer partners. He said some students had as many as 10 partners.

Gordon and Janice Goetsch agreed prayer opened the door at Pacific Avenue Baptist Church in San Leandro, Calif. The Goetsches worked as a team with Gordon preaching and Janice leading music. During the week-long revival Goetsch said the church had a 33 percent growth in new members.

After preaching in the first service, Goetsch offered an invitation. During that time, "I said 'Lord, if anything takes place it will be in spite of me and because of you,'" Goetsch said.

When he opened his eyes, Goetsch said the "whole church was coming to the front." That night 20 people came for rededication and five made professions of faith.

Goetsch described the evangelism practicum as "crucial for students to go out and get into the heart of the people and see what God can do."

Crawford said the main lesson students learned was the importance of preparation for revivals. "That spills over in all areas of church work," he said.

"God was trying to show us that it wasn't us," Goetsch said.

## GOOD NEWS!

## Becoming Responsible

Galatians 6:4-5

Someone has described a newborn child as a frail human being with a raging appetite on one end and a total sense of irresponsibility on the other. At birth, we are dependent on others for our survival. As we grow, we learn to be responsible for ourselves. Often it takes a long time. Under the direction of God, we learn by degrees. What does it mean to be responsible?

**Owning self.**—To be responsible is to own oneself. To own oneself does not mean that he rebels against God. Rather, it means that we deliberately give ourselves to God. We find ourselves to God. We find ourselves as we give ourselves to God. Jesus said that he who loses his life will find it.

**Making decisions.**—To be responsible means that we are willing to make decisions and live with the consequences. It is impossible to escape decision making.

Even in our lack of responsible decision making, we decide to be irresponsible.

A responsible decision is one that is within the framework of the will of God. God reveals his will to us through his Word, everyday circumstances, and the Holy Spirit, who works directly with us when we seek God's will.

**Being persistent.**—Being responsible means not giving up easily. Responsible employment is staying with a difficult task until it is accomplished. Responsible marriage means working toward solutions to problems rather than quickly seeking divorce. Responsible parenthood means continuing to guide a child with gentle wisdom and love during periods of stress.

When we fail to act responsibly, we become victims of the forces around us. When we act responsibly, we can build a better world.

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# Looking for Needs

J. EVERETT SNEED

Recently the Central Association conducted a "Hunger Survey" and discovered 70 ways for Christians to minister in the greater Hot Springs area. The survey was conducted by Nathan Porter, national consultant for domestic hunger of the Home Mission Board. As Christians evaluated the physical and spiritual needs of individuals, the responsibility to minister became apparent.

The method of discovering these needs was quite simple. Eighteen volunteers from six churches visited government, private and social agencies inquiring about existing programs and how volunteers from Southern Baptist churches could assist. Such agencies as Headstart, the Community Emergency Service Organization, the Senior Activities Center, the Elementary School, the Food Stamp Office, and the Salvation Army were visited.

The volunteers discovered that approximately 4,688 Garland County residents received food stamps in 1987 at a cost of \$249,223 per month. There are approximately 700 applications for food stamps each month. The volunteers also discovered that there are more white people receiving food stamps than there are blacks.

One of the areas that has been hard hit by budget cuts is the Senior Adult Noon Day Hot Meal Program. In Garland County, there are currently 274 senior adults participating in this program. The supervisor of the program observed that the program does not have enough personnel or vehicles to deliver the meals for those who have need. In addition to the need for nutrition, many of the senior citizens need individuals with whom they can fellowship.

The nutritional needs are further underlined by the fact that the Hot Springs School District has nine schools with an enrollment of 3,700 students. In these schools, 64 percent of the students participate in the school's lunch program, where they receive either free lunches or lunches reduced in price.

Often the very young or the very old are the individuals who are experiencing the greatest need. These individuals have the least ability to change their situation.

The survey, conducted by Dr. Porter, former pastor of First Church, Arkadelphia, reveals a wide range of ways that Christians



may assist others. Among the needs are clothes closets, food banks, transportation, volunteers to assist with counseling, volunteers to assist in job training, etc. In summary Christians can use almost any kind of skill they possess to assist those in need.

Betty Files, a member of the Lakeshore Church, Hot Springs, said, "The women of my church have been looking for ways to minister to others. But we were unaware of the needs until we participated in this survey."

The people with intense need are in every community. But the question arises, "Do Christian people really have a responsibility to help those who are in need?" We, as Baptists, rightly teach that salvation is by grace through faith. But much of the time we neglect to emphasize that we are

"... created in Christ unto good works..." (Ep. 2:10).

Our master has captured this concept in one of the most vivid parables ever spoken (Mt. 25:31-46). First, we are to help with the simple things of life. He said that Christians would give a hungry man a meal, assist a stranger in obtaining housing, cheer the sick, and visit those who are in prison.

Christ also said this help is to be given without any hope of eternal merit or reward. Christians are simply to help because the need is there, and it is a natural impulse of a loving heart to help those who are hurting.

Finally, Jesus said that any true help given is given to him. When we are helping the needy, we are helping Christ. Jesus said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mt. 25:40).

Often we are unaware of the needs that surround us. A ministry survey, such as was conducted by the Central Association, will reveal needs with which Christians should become involved in their own community.

Central Association Director of Missions James Swedenburg has enlisted Dianna Lewis to serve as an associational volunteer to train individuals within that association in ministering to hurting people. Other associations should follow the example of Central Association. Every community has individuals who are hurting. We as Christians have an obligation to reach out to those who are in need.

Those desiring assistance in structuring ministries to hurting people should contact Tommy Goode, director of Christian social ministries for Arkansas. He may be contacted by phone, 501-376-4791, or write P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

## Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 19

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Mark Kelly . . . . . Managing Editor

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Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

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Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (ISSN 0004-1734) is published weekly, except Easter, Independence Day, the first week of October, and Christmas, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., Little Rock, AR. 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. (376-4791)

DON MOORE

## You'll Be Glad To Know



You may be able to help! Our 3,800 missionaries have requested 426 new missionaries for 1988-89. Let me share some of these needs. God may have already touched your heart and prepared you to meet some of these needs.

In health services, 15 doctors, three dental personnel, and 16 nurses are needed.

In business services, 19 positions need to be filled, including jobs for 12 business administrators.

Six positions are open for maintenance and construction workers.

Agriculture, social ministries and other ministries of mercy need 16 new people.

Most overwhelming of all requests is the request for 307 evangelists and church development workers, including seminary workers, music and religious education promotion and other church program ministries.

In this last category, response is slow. In 1986-87, the request was for 224 general evangelists. Only 58 of those requests were filled. How will we do this year?

The foreign mission field is no place for a person to be who has not been called to be there. The United States is no place for a person to be if God's plan is for him to be elsewhere. With many nations of the world very open to the gospel, it will be eternally tragic if the called fail to go. With many other nations closing their doors, every year of opportunity is crucial. With many unemployed, seminary-trained pastors and staff people in the states, it will be sad if these requests go unanswered. With so many unfruitful labors being carried on by soul-weary harvesters, it will be sad if many of these are not sent into the fields that are white unto harvest. It would be great to see some of our Arkansas leadership appointed at the April 11, 1989, commissioning service.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Surprised

I have not personally met John McClanahan, but having been told that he is a fair-minded Christian gentleman I must confess that I was surprised at the judgmental spirit that comes through in his recent letter to the editor printed April 28, 1988, in the *Arkansas Baptist*.

Although his complaints relate to the convention last year, it seems the timing is intended to influence as many Arkansans as possible before attending the convention in San Antonio.

I was surprised at his comments on worship. He began by putting down the choir that sang simply because they wore formal attire and seemed offended because some "people began to clap their hands, then pat their feet" and some even shouted "Praise

the Lord!" His conclusion was that this was not worship but entertainment. I ask, who is John, to suggest in such a diverse group as Southern Baptists, that such a form of worship is unacceptable?

I was further surprised when our brother accused Dr. Jerry Vines of making a "campaign speech" rather than preaching a sermon. It is sad to read of one brother judging the motives of another in regard to the annual sermon.

There is absolutely no excuse nor defense for the rude behavior of the messenger who sat behind Bro. McClanahan in the St. Louis meeting. However, I believe we would be naive to think the rude are found only among the conservative ranks. Our brother asks, "How will we be expected to act in the SBC family, if that man is elected in San An-

## Woman's Viewpoint

### The Resources Are Available

SANDRA KEMMER



There are so many ills in the world today: social, moral, spiritual. The media keeps us informed of the worst ill at the moment. We can look around our own home towns and see more than we care to. Are you doing your part to help combat these ills?

Illiteracy is a social ill. Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention, has the resources that show you step by step how to establish a program to teach non-readers how to read or how to establish a tutoring program. Inadequate housing, lack of medical care, hunger, are all social ills. Jesus went about combating these problems and he expects the same of us. Read Matthew 26:34-40.

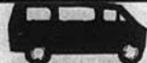
Moral ills such as pornography and gambling can be combated by your church and its mission organizations. WMU, SBC,

be patient with and sensitive to that person's needs. You can learn how to witness verbally and become a helper of people by checking into the mission organizations that your church offers.

Mission organizations such as WMU and Brotherhood are basic programs of the church, just as Sunday School, music, Church Training and the pastoral ministries are. Missions is basically telling people about Jesus.

If you are not involved in the work of our Lord already, please talk with someone who is. If you just have that desire to help, but don't know how or where to begin, talk to a WMU or Brotherhood director or pastor. The resources are available to learn how to follow Jesus' example.

Sandra Kemmer is a member of Brinkley First Church, where she is active in Woman's Missionary Union and volunteer missions.



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tonio?" I believe the Apostle Paul has an admonition adequate for brother John, me, and our fellow Baptists: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ep. 4:31-32). We will not answer for another's actions, but only our own.—Don Moseley, Sherwood

**[Editor's note:** This is the third letter we have published in response to Dr. McClanahan. All have made basically the same points, as do other letters we have in hand. We believe the matter has been sufficiently aired, and no further letters will be published.]

## Not Protestants

Many thanks for publishing Freeman McMenis' letter. We have heard far too

much lately about "The Priesthood of the Believer," which is not even a New Testament expression. It is the New Testament teaching that the Christian does not have to approach God through any human mediator. It certainly has nothing to do with present day misuse of the term to excuse or encourage slackness in handling the Word of God.

The most serious error in Bill Stephens' article (*Baptist Bulletin Service*, 4-17-88) is that "John Smythe began the first Baptist church in 1608." Mr. Stephens needs to read some history. Edward Gibbon, who certainly had no theological axe to grind, showed that there have been independent, autonomous churches, practicing essentially what present day Baptists do, since the breakup of the Eastern Empire. Going back from that point, we find mention of many such churches in the writings of the church fathers, often they are stigmatized as heretics, but they are there. It is not necessary to demonstrate a "Baptist Suc-

cession" from ordination to ordination, but the student of history can clearly see the progress of the gospel from faith to faith, and from church to church in all ages, from New Testament times to the present. The gates of hell have not prevailed against Christ's church. Baptist are not and never were "Protestants," except as they have allowed themselves to be so called in recent years.—Clay Hale, El Dorado

## Vote for Balance

The life and work of the Southern Baptist Convention has greatly changed in recent years because of the actions of the "fundamental-conservatives." The most dynamic impact has been their control of the convention's nominating committee.

Consequently, this group now has a majority on many boards, agencies, institutions, and commissions. Their goal is to dominate all areas of the SBC. Their next aim is to control the state conventions. After this, then what? The associations? The churches? To complete this takeover, this group must elect a convention president committed to this end.

How would the majority of church members, if informed and able to vote, react to this takeover? We will never know, since only a small percentage of Southern Baptists—those elected messengers—can vote.

It will take several years to restore a representative balance in the SBC, but the effort toward this end must begin now. I urge all messengers to attend the SBC meeting in San Antonio, and vote for Dr. Richard Jackson, who is committed to restoring balance in board ministries.

Unless we pull together and turn this thing around, the SBC will continue being operated more like a secular business or a political party, than as a church-related group of disciples on mission for Jesus. We are not political puppets. We are brothers and sisters in the Lord.

When appointing individuals to positions of ministry, it is not right to ignore all but a token number of "moderate-conservatives." It is not right to perpetuate this kind of political power among God's people.

To dare express these facts leaves one open to harsh responses, but you can't play hard ball and be timid. That's the way it is.

Dr. Rel Gray, a friend of mine, now in heaven, used to say, "Be sweet, stay humble and work hard." It will take this kind of approach to have a representative nominating committee and balanced boards to serve all Southern Baptists.

Ultimately, it will happen. God will make us whole again.—Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

MISSIONS ADVANCE 87-89

## Testimony

When I was asked by the Committee of Ten to serve as a volunteer speaker for Missions Advance 87-89, I didn't fully realize the importance of what we were to do. I found out quickly that the future ministries of our wonderful Arkansas Baptist State Convention was at stake. Also, I found out that the dream of our ABCS sending 50 percent of all Cooperative Program funds to the Southern Baptist convention for nationwide and worldwide causes was at stake.

I deeply love our conventions (ABSC and SBC) and have been blessed by ministries provided through the Cooperative Program. My college education at Ouachita Baptist University and my seminary education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary were made possible by CP funds.

My desire to serve Christ and Arkansas Baptists has continued to be fulfilled as I have opportunities to speak as a Mission Advance 87-89 speaker. I have already spoken in five churches, and am scheduled to speak at Memorial Church in Hot Springs and at First Church, DeQueen, in the future.

Each time I have spoken, I have shared with the people the following information. (1) The Bible (Acts in particular) provides the format for all we are doing. (2) Our dream is to reach the goal of 50/50 distribution of Cooperative Program funds between the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention causes. (3) There is a real squeeze on our state convention programs because our giving from the churches has not kept pace with the increasingly high percentage going on to the SBC. (4) The answer to our needs is found in (a) teaching all church members biblical stewardship, (b) making the people aware of the needs of our state and SBC ministries and (c) learning to balance the local church's needs and wants against the need to share the gospel with lost people around the world.

In each church where I have shared the message of Mission Advance 87-89, I have been well received. Many of the people have said they simply did not know such a great need existed. There has also been a real appreciation for our goal of 50/50 distribution of CP funds. Each church must take the message and decide how they will respond, but without the proper information, our churches will operate oblivious to the crisis which faces us.

I would recommend that every church in the ABCS invite a MA 87-89 speaker to come and share the message with them. Both pastors and people will be blessed by the challenge.—L.B. Jordan, director of missions, Red River Association

DANIEL R. GRANT

## One Layman's Opinion



### Snow Job

Few things have spread faster from state to state in America than the

legalized "numbers games," better known as lotteries. It was outlawed in all states prior to 1963, for moral and other reasons. In just 25 years it spread all over New England, the West Coast, many of the northern states in between, and Virginia and Florida, making a total of 28.

The seductive arguments are almost always the same: "Everybody's gambling so we might as well legalize it and earn state revenue;" "it's a lot of fun;" "state control will keep the criminal element out;" and (a very powerful argument) "the lottery in our neighboring state is siphoning all of our money away, so why don't we approve our own lottery and keep that money at home." The problem with those arguments is that they are either blatantly erroneous or morally wrong.

It is true that the state-operated lottery movement has spread rapidly to more than one-half of the states. But AIDS also has spread fast. It makes no sense to lie down and roll over in the face of a spreading menace. It might be well to review a few facts in the face of the "lottery snow job":

(1) Illegal gambling has tripled in Connecticut since the state began a lottery more than 10 years ago.

(2) Lotteries exploit the poor. Every study has shown that lotteries are a regressive way of raising revenue, hitting those least able to spend the money.

(3) The revenue produced by lotteries is surprisingly small, almost always less than predicted by the advocates. The revenue is less than one percent of all state revenue in close to one-half of the states, and in no case more than five percent.

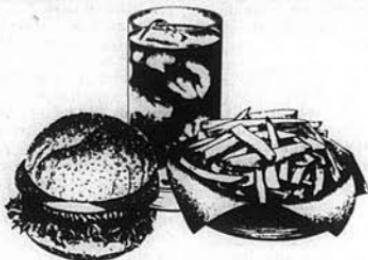
(4) Government promotion means official advocacy of the insidious philosophy of getting rich quick without work.

(5) The ultimate extension of the logic of government-run lotteries is government-run houses of prostitution or drug abuse. It is the same logic no matter how much it is camouflaged and beautified.

Is fighting the lottery effort really worth it in Arkansas? Who would dare to ask the same question about war on AIDS?

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

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LAS VEGAS

## Preparing To Witness

by J. Everett Sneed

Editor, Arkansas Baptist News magazine

The Home Mission Board, in conjunction with state conventions, is preparing for a major evangelistic thrust in conjunction with the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention to be held in Las Vegas. Evangelistic activities include the development and sponsoring of 25 new churches or church type missions, saturation scripture distribution in Las Vegas to be held June 8-10, and simultaneous revivals to be conducted June 4-11. Each messenger to the Las Vegas Convention will receive three tracts designed to assist in witnessing to lost individuals.

Churches and individuals from Arkansas are already involved in this evangelistic effort. The Boyd Margasons, Mission Service Corp volunteers, have already moved to the Las Vegas area and will serve for slightly more than two years.

Russell Miller, Mountain Home business man and deacon of First Church, Mountain Home, has spent two weeks in the area assisting in construction work and speaking to various Baptist churches and church groups. A group from First Church, El Dorado has also spent two weeks in construction work in the area.

Brotherhood secretary Glendon Grober has made new church starts in the Southern Nevada Association a priority. The Margasons are living in the Las Vegas area but are assisting churches in a radius of 180 miles. The Margasons are assisting in church construction work and are leading Bible studies designed to develop new churches or church type missions.

The spiritual needs of the area are great. Margason reports that there are 42 churches in the Southern Nevada area but most of them are in Las Vegas. The largest church in the association out of Las Vegas is Pioche which is 180 miles from Las Vegas. Most of the churches have less than 200 members and are located in small trailers or in store front type buildings.

Margason observes that the spirit of the Christian people is excellent. He said, "They are the kindest, most considerate and courteous people with whom I have ever worked."

Over three-fourths of the people in the area are completely unchurched. The majority of the people who belong to any church are Catholics or Mormons. The remainder who attend church are a mixture of mainline Protestant denominations.

Margason observed that it is not difficult to witness to the lost people of the area. He said, "The people in Nevada are not gospel hardened as the lost people in

Arkansas are. People are friendly and respond easily when you get to know them."

Currently Mrs. Margason is leading a 13-week Bible study in Henderson which is designed to start a church. It will be the first Baptist church in the town. The attendance in the Bible study is gradually increasing. The most that had ever attended the Bible study until recently was 20, but

their income by returning to the Bible Belt. But they really desire to serve in Nevada."

John McAllister along with a group of 10 volunteers from First Church, El Dorado worked in the Pioche area, 180 miles North of Las Vegas. The construction group stayed two weeks and completed the interior of the church making it possible for the congregation to hold services in the building.

The Home Mission Board has a goal of conducting 50 simultaneous revivals June

Photo / Mark Coppenger



Members of El Dorado First Church's mission team relax with members of the Pioche, Nev., church during an earlier mission trip.

in a recent meeting they had 117 present.

Russell Miller observed that it is a wide open field. The need is for more workers, more facilities and money to construct additional facilities. Recently he helped with construction, led a home Bible study and spoke to pastors at an associational meeting. He said, "The churches are already full and running over. They must have additional space in order to attract new people."

Margason pointed out that land is extremely expensive. The Home Mission Board is putting money into church sites but building sites run from eight to 10 times more than they do in Arkansas. Some few churches already have building sites purchased. In these cases, the need is for money to purchase materials and volunteers to assist the churches in the erection of facilities.

Margason said, "There are many young preachers who have just finished seminary. They are excellent ministers of the gospel. Most of them could immediately double

4-11, 1989, in the South Nevada Association. Twenty-five of these are to be conducted by pastors of churches that are committed to sponsor the new work until it is financially stable. Grober has a goal of enlisting six Arkansas churches to sponsor new work.

An additional goal set by the Arkansas Brotherhood is to have Arkansas Baptists to pray personally and intensely on a daily basis for the revivals to be held in the Las Vegas area. Grober said, "We will have a list of places where new churches should be started as well as names of individuals who need to trust Christ. This will allow our Arkansas people to pray in a very specific way for the needs in Nevada."

In conclusion, Margason, Miller, McAllister and Grober all emphasized the need for volunteers to assist with construction, visitation, witnessing and finance. Grober said, "It is truly a field white unto harvest and we as Arkansas Baptists need to assist in bringing individuals to Christ."

# 1988 BSU Summer



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Chris Norris, OBU  
Naples, Italy



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New Orleans



Penny Cantley, UAM  
Connecticut  
Lisa Johnson, UAM  
Special Projects



Stephen Shults, UALR  
Chicago  
Jeff Gavin, HSU  
Arkansas

## Innovators



Becca Petty  
Arkansas



Sherry Barr  
Arkansas



Bobbi Walthers  
Arizona



Steven Walker, EACC  
Arkansas



Maurie Lynn Gray, WCC  
Arkansas

# Missionaries



Vernon Horneman, OBU  
New Orleans  
Sulyn Miles, OBU  
Chicago



Tommie Reed, SBC  
Alaska  
Steven Brawner, OBU  
Home Mission Board



Frankie Carpenter, OBU  
Arkansas  
John Frady, OBU  
Arkansas



Myra Talley, UA  
Home Mission Board  
Barry Stafford, UA  
Arkansas



Annette Kemp, SBC  
Arkansas  
Debbie Allen, SBC  
Home Mission Board



Ava Stevens, SBC  
New Orleans  
Jon Self, SBC  
Virginia



Robert Lackey, SBC  
Home Mission Board  
David Matney, SBC  
Home Mission Board



Angie Anderson, SBC  
Special Projects  
Vanessa Wilkerson, SBC  
Arkansas



Melinda Cummins, SBC  
Home Mission Board  
Selena Caplinger, ASU  
Arkansas



Candi Cain, ASU  
Rhode Island  
Michelle Shatley, ASU  
Alaska



Lori Broadway, ASU  
Chicago  
Ginger Brand, ASU  
Arkansas



Sue Simpson, ATU  
Arkansas  
Kim Parker, UA  
West Virginia



Jennifer Weathers, ASU  
Virginia  
John Gocke, UALR  
Arkansas



Tammy O'Bryant, HSU  
Home Mission Board  
Tammy Adams, HSU  
West Virginia



Lori Critchfield, UA  
New York  
Ron Moore, WCC  
Arkansas



Geri Ann Stanton, OBU  
Arkansas  
Laurie Brantley, UAM  
Arkansas



Shelby Taylor, UAPB  
Chicago  
Todd Kirk, ASU  
Construction

Not pictured: Bryan Glenn, ASU; Tooker Hudson, UAM; Lynn Lowry, UAM; Steve Tipton, OBU; James Waters, SAU/UAM; Mona Cole, ASU; Pamela Fox, ATU; Kimberly McKinley, ASU; Wayne Pierce, SBC; Bill Knox, UA; Robin Benson, UA; Becky Hall, UCA; Wayne Pierce, SBC; Linda Case, UA; Paul Graham, JBU; Kim Parker, UA; David Grange, UA.



## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

## People

**Willie Holdcraft, Damon Brown, Eric Almquist, and Robin Lynch**, all students at Robinson Junior High School in Little Rock, were members of a six-person team that won first place in the Arkansas Odyssey of the Mind (Gift of Flight) science competition. They will represent the state in the 1988 world finals June 2-4 at the University of Maryland. They are members of Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock.

**Kenneth Dewitt** of Patterson is serving as pastor of Tilton Church.

**Herbert Rowland** is serving as pastor of Fitzgerald Church, Wynne.

**Fred Seidler** has resigned as pastor of Fair Oakes Church to serve as pastor of Columbus Church, Columbus, Mont.

**David Doty** has resigned as minister of music at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, effective May 15 to join the staff of First Church, Brookhaven, Miss., as minister of music.

**James Lindsey** celebrated 15 years of service as pastor of Highland Hills Church, Texarkana, April 24.

**David Montoya** began serving May 18 as pastor of First Church, Gravette, going there from First Church, Amity. He is a graduate of Criswell Center of Biblical Studies and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Juanelle, have three daughters, Mary Beth, Sarah, and Rebecca.

## Briefly

**Sherwood First Church** held a banquet May 5 to honor volunteer workers in Sunday School, Church Training, and mission and choir organizations.

**South Side Church** in Fort Smith will observe its 40th anniversary May 22 with an 8:30 a.m. fellowship, followed by Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Charter members and special guests will be recognized in the 10:50 a.m. worship service in which Pastor John W. Horne will be the speaker.

**McGehee First Church** celebrated payment of its building indebtedness with a noteburning service May 1. Former Pastor Mason Craig was guest speaker.

**Wynne Church** licensed Shawn Wright to the preaching ministry May 1. Wright, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jiles Wright of Parkin, is a junior at Parkin High School.

**Mena First Church** ordained E.J. Hughes to the deacon ministry May 1.

**Ebenezer Church** at El Dorado was host for a concert by the senior adult choir from Central Church in Marshall, Texas, May 11. They will be host May 25 for a musical to be presented by the youth from West Side Church in El Dorado.

**Booneville First Church** held a church-wide reception May 1 honoring Gina Godfrey, who left May 2 for orientation prior to a one-year term missions assignment to Hong Kong where she will be an English teacher in a refugee camp.

**Ward First Church** held a spring revival April 17-22 that resulted in three professions of faith. Harry Black was evangelist, and Gary Ellis directed music.

**Millcreek Church** at Hot Springs recently closed a revival that resulted in 10 bap-

tisms and 18 other decisions. David Montoya and Brent Roach were leaders.

**Jessieville Church** recently closed a revival that resulted in 14 professions of faith. Jay Dennis was evangelist, and Clarence Hill directed music.

**Earle Church** recently purchased a 25-passenger bus and men of the church donated their labor to construct a garage. Women of the church prepared and served a dinner-on-the-grounds for the volunteer workers.

**Dumas First Church** recently closed a revival that resulted in 17 professions of faith, 13 baptisms, six additions by letter, and 50 rededications, according to Pastor Carter Tucker. Mike Coker was evangelist.

**Pine Grove Church** at Pocahontas will ordain Pastor Howard Huddle to the preaching ministry May 15.

**Hopewell Church** at Corning ordained Pastor Bobby Crabb to the preaching ministry May 1.

**Twelve Corners Church** at Garfield recently installed its first baptistry and seven have been baptized since installation. The church also is experiencing membership growth in Sunday School.

## ATTENTION:

## Ministers and Church and Denominational Employees

**Are you retiring soon?** The Annuity Funding Rate for all Annuity Board retirement plans changes to 8.5% August 1, 1988.

This affects everyone who retires after June 30, 1988.

Call toll-free 1-800-262-0511 for more information.

Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention  
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P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone (501) 367-5358
- Couples desiring to serve 2 or 3 years as a mission project will be considered

**Shepherd Hill Church** at Pine Bluff will begin "Summer Care" June 6, a day camp program for grades one through six.

**Pine Bluff Immanuel Church** mission team will be in Indiana Aug. 14-19 to assist the Hardinburg Church with backyard Bible clubs and construction work on the church's auditorium.

**Bald Knob Central Church** ordained Keith W. Keys to the deacon ministry May 1. Pastor Jim Box preached the ordination message and Fred Keys of Monroe, La., the candidates father, led the prayer of dedication.

**Keo Church** launched a Royal Ambassador program in April with Mark Eakin elected as director. Nine were present for the Crusader chapter for boys grades one-six, according to Pastor Elvis W. Smith.

**Hot Springs Second Church** held an adult choir banquet April 28 at which Charles Fager and Ed Veteto were presented the first annual Praise Award, given to the person or persons exemplifying the Christian in worship. Dawn Jackson was elected

as the Adult Choir Member of the Year. The three were presented plaques which will be hung in the church's McClung Music Suite.

**Searcy First Church** 11-member mission team recently returned from a mission trip to Honduras where they assisted missionaries Russell and Vickie Fox in a construction project at Camp Bagope.

**Lakeside Church** in Hot Springs children and pre-school choirs presented the musical "Get On Board" May 15.

**Dardanelle First Church** ordained Ken-ny Lowman to the ministry May 14.

**Red River Association** first ASSISTeam conference recently was held at Marlbrook Church with five churches participating. Dennis Jones, pastor of the host church, was speaker, and Doug Quillin of Center Point Church was in charge of special music. L. B. Jordan is director of missions.

**Mountain Home First Church** held a Bible conference April 24-29 led by Major W. Ian Thomas.

**Camp Counselors**—Counselors needed for youth camp near Siloam Springs. Must be college-age or young teachers. Dates: June 12 - July 16. Base salary \$400, plus room and board. College credit may be earned. Call Katherine Pickle, director, at 918-723-3546, or write Kamp Paddle Trails, Rt. 1 Box 210, Watts, OK 74964. 5/26

Notices of employment sought or available will be posted for three consecutive weeks without charge for members of Arkansas Baptist churches. Church staff positions will not be included. Send name, address, telephone number, and statement of qualifications, experience, and type of employment sought or available to "Jobs Exchange," Arkansas Baptist News magazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Placement of a notice in the Jobs Exchange does not constitute an endorsement by the ABN.

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**Top Honors**

FORT WORTH, Texas—Three Arkansas affiliates of the American Christian Television System (ACTS) accepted awards April 22 at the Third Annual ACTS Awards.

More than 1,000 people attended the ceremonies, which were held at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. For the first time, the program was telecast live on ACTS.

Nineteen recipients were selected from more than 360 affiliates. Recipients were recognized for outstanding achievements in local programming, promotion, community service, and management.

ACTS of Jonesboro received the award for best Bible study program for "Press On." The program was produced by David Jackson and covers the weekly Southern Baptist Sunday School lesson.

Little Rock ACTS received the best weekly series award for "Just Kids," a children's program pro-

duced by Linda Bennett. ACTS of Arkansas received special honors for achievement in promotion. The award was based on the unusual level of cooperation shown by Arkansas affiliates as they work on joint projects such as the coverage of the 1987 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting in Fort Smith.

**Multi-Family Housing**

Washington-Madison Association will sponsor a multi-family housing ministry awareness conference on Thursday, June 2, at First Church, Fayetteville.

The conference is designed to help churches understand the potential and opportunities for ministry in multi-family housing units. The conference is targeted toward pastors, church staff members, deacon chairmen, and leaders in local church or associational Sunday School, Church

Training, Missions Development, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood.

The conference will begin with a meal at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude at 9:15 p.m.. Meal reservations must be made with the associational office by May 27.

**Cadet Names Sought**

The Baptist Student Union of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., will provide assistance to new cadets scheduled to report in June.

The BSU will meet a cadet's plane, provide transportation and lodging, and help the cadet report to the Academy at the required time, according to Director Dwain Gregory.

For more information, contact Gregory at: Baptist Student Union, 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919; telephone 303-599-9094.

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## PEACE COMMITTEE

## 'Not A Costly Failure'

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee is not a costly failure, chairman Charles Fuller said after the group's May 2-4 meeting in Atlanta.

"Some have said the Peace Committee met with costly failure," said Fuller, who has chaired the 22-member group since it was created during the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC and charged with seeking resolution to the problems besetting the 14.7-million member denomination.

"I don't think the Peace Committee has failed," Fuller added. "I think many Southern Baptists have chosen to ignore the convention's action on our recommendations. It is anyone's right to disagree with convention action and it is anyone's right to ignore the requests made in our recommendations, but they must assume the responsibility for the effect of their actions."

Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., said for the past year "the committee as a group and certainly I as chairman have kept faith with our commitment not to be a watchdog committee of

the denomination."

Fuller said he has made "general, 'if the shoe fits' remarks, hoping people would make themselves accountable."

However, since "there have been violations on the part of those on both ends of our controversial spectrum, and because of the accumulation and acceleration of this activity," Fuller said he plans to speak out more specifically about the violations, probably through Baptist Press "in the next few weeks."

During the May 2-4 meeting, the only one allowed the Peace Committee between the 1987 annual meeting and the 1988 convention, much of the time was spent in hearing reports from 19 agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While the reports were conducted in "executive session," Fuller characterized them as a "mixture of blessing and distress. We witnessed some definite claims for encouragement in the reconciliation process and we witnessed some reasons for censure. . . . We are by no means home free, but I am convinced some real efforts are being made for reconciliation in that realm of Southern Baptist life."

## SBC Like 'Wild Animals,' Says Hobbs

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—On the eve of its 1988 annual meeting, the Southern Baptist Convention is like "wild animals devouring one another," the oldest living former SBC president said.

Herschel H. Hobbs, 80, who was president 1962-63, in a statement given to Baptist Press titled "Whither, Southern Baptists," noted the 1988 annual meeting, scheduled June 14-16, in San Antonio, Texas, "is the 10th since we became embroiled in controversy."

"Oh, beloved Southern Baptists," Hobbs wrote, "in this controversy we are our own worst enemies. What all outside forces of evil could not do, we are doing to ourselves. As Paul said in Galatians 5:15, we are like wild animals devouring one another."

"We deny the very oneness and peace for which Jesus prayed. Our differences can be resolved, not in strife, but in Christian love. Not in mass votes, but in individual hearts."

Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, added: "God has never changed his purpose. But he has often changed his people. Already the words of the 'handwriting on the wall' are being written."

"If we do not end this controversy and get on with the work God has entrusted to us, he will turn to another people. God forbid."

"It is possible, but not probable, that by continuing this infighting we might have down our faith to a razor's edge of agreement. But what a tragedy should we do so and go forth to proclaim it—only to find that no longer is anyone listening to us."

## Baker Recommended

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has been recommended as pastor of First Baptist Church of Pineville, La., announced Sarah Frances Anders, chair of the church's pastor search committee.

Baker, born near Frierison, La., and his wife, Wanda, are scheduled to meet with deacons and wives May 13 and other church leaders and members May 14. He will preach during both worship services May 15.

## Gregory Declines

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Texas Baptist convention President Joel Gregory has declined a

nomination to serve on the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, became involved in controversy in late March when a Texas member of the Southern Baptist Committee on Nominations said his nominations of Texans to serve on Southern Baptist Convention boards were treated unfairly because of convention politics.

## Lolley Refuses

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)—W. Randall Lolley has declined to be a candidate for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, he told Baptist Press during interviews May 2 and 3.

Lolley, former president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and

newly elected pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., originally was announced as a candidate early this spring. The election will be during the SBC annual meeting.

## Robinson To Be Nominated

EULESS, Texas (BP)—Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

Evangelist Freddie Gage of Euless, Texas, made the announcement of Robinson's plans, calling Robinson "one of the greatest friends vocational evangelists have ever had."

Robinson will be nominated by Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas.

## A SMILE OR TWO

A fourth-grade choir was asked to make up a set of rules to govern their weekly practice time. Their six "Choir Commandments" would benefit even many adult choirs.

## Choir Commandments

1. Always raise your hand before talking.
2. Don't run in the church.
3. Keep your hands to yourself.
4. Sit in your chair.
5. Keep your feet on the floor.
6. Don't sing funny.

## Reagan Declines

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP)—President Ronald Reagan will not address the Southern Baptist Convention in San Antonio, Texas, June 16 because of a schedule conflict, announced Tom Elliff, chairman of the SBC Order of Business Committee.

The White House informed SBC President Adrian P. Rogers that Reagan could not accept the invitation to speak because he will be on a trip to Canada at that time, said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla.

The communication from Reagan's office came several days before reports circulated that Reagan allegedly consults astrology charts and advisers before making decisions, Elliff told Baptist Press.

Reagan had been invited to speak at noon June 16, the final day of the SBC annual meeting. The Thursday morning session will adjourn at 11:50 a.m., Elliff said.

## Annuity Funding Rate Drops

DALLAS (BP)—Effective Aug. 1, the annuity funding rate for retirement plans administered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will decrease from 9 to 8.5 percent, board President Darold H. Morgan announced.

The annuity funding rate is the rate a retiree's annuity will be credited throughout his or her lifetime.

Participants in Annuity Board retirement plans must retire by June 30 to get the 9 percent rate, Morgan said.

Members who are eligible for retirement may request retirement applications by calling the board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511.

Retirement applications must be received by the board in June, Morgan said.

## Moral Education Encouraged

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—American public schools should be more involved in moral education, according to a report released by a national organization that focuses on curriculum development, supervision and instructional procedures.

In its report, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development called on educators to strengthen the moral education presented to students.

Moral education is not the "latest education fad but a very old concept," said Kevin Ryan, Boston University professor of education who chaired the panel that prepared the report. American schools were founded for moral reasons and offered moral education until the 1960s, he said, noting since then teachers have "stepped back" from their role as moral educators.

The report notes mounting public concern about a substantial long-term increase in adolescent emotional problems, including rising rates of teen-age homicide, suicide and out-of-wedlock births. Public opinion polls also indicate a vast majority of Americans favor the teaching of morals and moral behavior by public schools.

Describing moral education as "whatever schools do to influence how students think, feel and act regarding issues of right and wrong," the report suggests such education will help students to become "morally mature." It defines a morally mature person as someone who respects human dignity; cares about the welfare of others; integrates individual interests and social responsibilities; demonstrates integrity; reflects on moral choices; and seeks peaceful resolution of conflict.

The report offers several recommendations and points to possible controversies surrounding moral education.

It recognizes potential tensions over whether the religious bases of moral behavior can and should be taught in public schools; how and by whom moral education should be taught; whether a school's curriculum and programs should reflect, teach about and encourage understanding of varied ethnic heritages or focus only on a set of core values on which there is apparent agreement; and whether the goal of moral education should be to socialize students into a set of central values or to develop morally autonomous individuals.

## A Courageous Voice

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—T.B. Maston, the "conscience of Southern Baptists" and a pioneer in Christian ethics, died May 1 at the age of 90.

Maston was professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he taught for 41 years, from 1922 to 1963.

During his tenure at Southwestern, Maston led the racial desegregation movement among Southern Baptists, writing about the subject as early as 1927. He published two books in 1959 that urged Baptists to integrate.

Maston also was a pioneer in the study of Christian ethics among Southern Baptists and wrote 23 books on that subject as well as Christian development. He had two books published in 1987.

In 1943 he established the department of Christian social ethics at Southwestern. He also was responsible



Maston

for developing the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Maston was born Nov. 26, 1897, in Jefferson County, Tenn. He was a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.; Southwestern; Texas Christian University in Fort Worth; and Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

He married Essie Mae McDonald June 11, 1921, and they had two sons, Thomas McDonald, who died last November, and Harold Eugene of New York.

For 61 years, the Mastons cared for their eldest son, Tom, who was born with cerebral palsy.

He is survived by his wife and son, Harold, who is a professor at New York University.

Funeral services for Maston were to be May 4 at Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth, where he was a member for more than 65 years.

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# Sparks Fly

## Mass Mailing Publishes Appeal, Provokes Response

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

AMARILLO, Texas (BP)—A mailing to more than 34,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention was sent out in early May by W. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas.

The packet includes a 10-minute taped message from Moore, a brochure produced by Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention and a return card.

In his cover letter, Moore notes the upcoming annual meeting of the SBC, June 14-16 in San Antonio, Texas: "For me, this meeting may be the most important for missions and evangelism in our history. So much is at stake."

In an interview with Baptist Press, Moore said: "The bottom-line purpose of this (the mailing) is to try to convince Southern Baptist people that it is important that we turn this convention around and come back to historic Baptist principles and practices. That includes accepting one another in diversity and getting away from this power struggle that says, 'If you don't agree with me, you have no place in the power structure.'"

In the tape, Moore asks persons to "pray without ceasing that this will be the year that we begin mending our broken fellowship" and encourages them to "go to the Southern Baptist Convention . . . Attend the meetings. Listen to the issues. Make up your own mind about what is going on within our convention."

Moore adds: "I truly believe that our worldwide mission efforts are at stake. This matter weighs heavy on my heart. The idea that Southern Baptist missions are in jeopardy causes me both anger and grief."

The brochure refers to Paul Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College; and W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, and president of the SBC, 1968-70.

It claims Pressler is behind the SBC takeover and "seems to care less about missions than he does about getting his people elected at the Southern Baptist Convention." It says Patterson's school "stands to gain a great deal from the controversy because Patterson has billed the Criswell school as the 'conservative alternative' to our Southern Baptist seminaries."

"The P-P strategy is to divide Southern Baptists. They have created suspicion and hatred among Southern Baptist brothers and sisters," the brochure alleges.

It also accuses Pressler and Patterson with "ties to a scary cult," the reconstructionist movement, and with "political connections with Coors beer President Joseph

Coors.

Of SBC politics, it adds: "Already we have seen the attempt to fire an agency head, the resignations of an editor and seminary president. Dozens of others have been threatened, had their reputations damaged and their names slandered."

The brochure tells readers: "Pray about this matter every day. Our witness as the largest missions organization in the world is suffering. . . . Go to the Southern Baptist Convention and let your voice be heard before it is too late."

## 'Conservatives' Respond To Charges

DALLAS (BP)—Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson say they are grieved by the mass mailing distributed in early May by W. Winfred Moore, a "moderate" Southern Baptist leader.

Baptist Press contacted both Pressler and Patterson for their response to the mailing.

Patterson told Baptist Press: "I was personally deeply hurt and experienced a measure of sorrow that anyone would put out false information like this. I would characterize it as an unfortunate, hurtful misrepresentation, apparently born out of a willingness to do almost anything to reverse the conservative resurgence."

Pressler said: "The issue in the Southern Baptist Convention is whether we are going to have the Bible taught in our institutions from a context that is without error. Individuals who support the teaching of 'errancy' in our schools have tried for a long time to divert attention from this real issue.

"In this most unfortunate mailing, we have seen an effort to divert attention from the basic issue and to defame individuals. Such is not honoring to the Lord Jesus Christ."

Pressler and Patterson took exception to charges in the brochure which linked them to the reconstructionist movement. They also objected to being linked to Joseph Coors, president of Coors Brewery, and dismissed allegations that Patterson was involved in the controversy to help Criswell College.

[Editor's note: Persons desiring full texts of the press releases regarding the mass mailing by Winfred Moore and the response by Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson may obtain them by writing to the *Arkansas Baptist*, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included.]

AT HOME

## Couple Found Dead

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Norman Godfrey, 52, Brotherhood Commission first vice president, and his wife, Nancy, 53, were found dead at their home in Memphis, Tenn., May 5.

Lt. Don Hollie, a Memphis police investigating officer, said: "Both were found in bed apparently dead of gunshot wounds. Each was shot one time with a rifle wound on the floor by the bed. There was no apparent forced entry."

Preliminary investigations indicate Mrs. Godfrey, who had psychiatric problems, shot her husband while he slept, then took her own life, said police. A final medical examiner's report is pending.

The Godfreys were discovered by Commission President James H. Smith, and their son Richard when Godfrey failed to report to work.

The Godfreys are survived by three children: daughter Cynthia Ann Epley of Chattanooga, Tenn., sons William Timothy and Richard Norman of Memphis; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held Monday, May 9, at First Baptist Church of Memphis.

## Classifieds

**Pews**—Approximately 1,000 lineal feet, various lengths, 15 years old. Buyer must remove. \$3.00 a foot. Contact Jim Selfert, Mary Mother of the Church, St. Louis, MO. 314-894-1373. 6/9

**Kindergarten**—Pulaski Heights Baptist Kindergarten/Dayschool is now accepting applications for enrollment for summer and fall. Contact the school at 666-7591. 5/19

**Bus**—1956 Scenic Cruiser GMC bus, 47 passenger, good condition, good tires, rest room, air conditioner, looks great. \$12,000. 501-751-4523. 5/19

**Carpenter**—Carpenter with 15 years experience in all phases of construction seeking work in Little Rock area. Call Steve Long, 568-0964. 5/19

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.

## Convention Uniform

### *Spiritual Fatigue*

by Greg Kirksey, Hillside Church, Camden

Basic passage: Hebrews 12:1-13

Focal passage: Hebrews 12:1-3

**Central truth:** The examples of Jesus and our spiritual forefathers stimulate us to persevere during life difficulties.

Our fast-paced lifestyle has brought many people to the point of physical exhaustion. But there is another form of exhaustion which is just as debilitating and that is spiritual fatigue, a deep and abiding weariness of the spirit. On such occasions there is a natural tendency to give up and quit. This is precisely the problem addressed in today's text. The first readers of Hebrews were suffering from spiritual exhaustion brought on by the difficulties of a life of faith in the pioneer days of Christianity. They were tempted to give up.

The writer seeks to encourage the spiritually weary by citing the examples of the faithful forefathers (He. 11) who faced similar trying times and yet persevered. Their key word in chapter 12 is "endure." The word means "to bear up under trial." We find here some keys to keep us going.

The first key is to consider the crowd, the "cloud of witnesses," found in chapter 11. These were ordinary men and women who were winners due to faith. We learn from them that this race we are asked to run is not new. We have a tendency to think no one has it as hard as we do during times of great weariness. But we learn others have had it hard also and they did not quit. One of the keys to develop endurance in our walk with God is to get to know the godly men and women of the Bible who ran and won in the race of life.

A second key to endurance is to consider the course, the "race set before us." The kind of event one participates in determines the kind of preparation. A marathon runner does not prepare by running 40 yard sprints. And one reason many suffer from spiritual exhaustion is improper preparation. The Christian life becomes more difficult when we insist on holding on to some of life's baggage.

The final key of endurance is to consider Christ himself. We are to "fix our eyes on Jesus." When life gets hard we must shift our focus off ourselves and fix eyes on the "author" of our faith, Jesus Christ. He is our power supply. He is the reason we cannot quit.

This lesson is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series, Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## Life and Work

### *Security of God's Love*

by Hilton Lane, Fairfield Bay Church, Fairfield Bay

Basic passage: Romans 8:28-39

Focal passage: Romans 8:28,31-39

**Central truth:** God's love provides the Christians with complete security.

People today are obsessed with security. They want adequate insurance. They try to make wise financial investments. They put dead bolt locks on their homes and businesses and install the latest security alarm technology.

The Christian, however, finds his security in God. God and God alone is the basis for our security. In his commentary on Romans, Charles Williams lists five links in the chain of God's eternal purpose: (1) God's foreknowledge (Ro. 8:29a); (2) God's foreordination (Ro. 8:29b); (3) God's call (Ro. 8:30); (4) God's justification (Ro. 8:30); and (5) God's glorification (Ro. 8:30). Our security is thus God initiated and God sustained.

The assurance of our security is spelled out through a series of rhetorical questions that require affirmative answers. Since God is for us, it makes no difference who is against us (Ro. 8:31,32). The evidence that God is for us is overwhelming. He didn't spare his own Son. If God gave his supreme gift while we were his enemies, surely now, as his children, he will give us all things that we need to keep us.

Since God is for us, no one can make a charge against the Christian (Ro. 8:33,34). Our sins are against God. He does the condemning. He does the redeeming. Christ makes the intercession.

Since God is for us, no one can separate us from his love (Ro. 8:35-39). Paul lists a number of harassing and disturbing things and states that we are more than conquerors. Nothing in our experience can separate us from God's love— "... neither death, nor life..." (Ro. 8:38). Nothing in the invisible order can separate us from God's love— "... nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers..." (Ro. 8:38). Nothing in time or space can separate us from God's love— "... nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth..." (Ro. 8:38). Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love— "... nor any other creature..." (Ro. 8:38).

If salvation is God's work from start to finish, eternal security is God's work from beginning to end.

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## Bible Book

### *Jesus' Example Challenges*

by Rich L. Kincl, Central Church, Magnolia

Basic passage: Matthew 9:1-34

Focal passage: Matthew 9:2-16

**Central truth:** Jesus' example motivates us to minister to all kinds of persons and to be thankful for forgiveness of our sins.

The good news of the gospel is that sinful man can be cleansed and brought into eternal fellowship with holy God. When Jesus spoke with authority about forgiving the sins of a paralytic who was brought to him, the scribes accused him of blasphemy.

The best news that any man can receive is the word his sins are forgiven (v. 2). When the people saw that Jesus had power to forgive sins, they marvelled (v. 8). No one but God could heal disease with a word or could forgive sins, and Jesus had the divine authority to do both.

Jesus came to provide salvation for every man. To receive salvation man must acknowledge his sinfulness and turn from it. Those who consider themselves righteous see no need for repentance in their lives. They thus shut themselves out from God's salvation.

We must watch that we as believers do not become as the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day. Some of Matthew's publican friends were at the reception given in honor of Jesus at Matthew's home. They were considered notorious "sinners" who lived in violation of the Jewish ceremonial law. Jesus defied the social traditions in spending time ministering to these people.

We are called to minister to those who may not be in the mainstream of our church tradition. Jesus came to heal the sick, not the righteous. Jesus not only has the absolute power to give physical healing but moral healing as well.

Our service to Christ and others is not measured by some external form or sacrifice (v. 13). The important things in the sight of God is a right heart. Matthew invited outcasts to the feast and Jesus is continually inviting sinners to come and share in the blessings of his kingdom.

The example of Jesus challenges us to recognize we have the freedom to be different (v. 16). We are called to go to the sinners with the good news that Jesus saves from sin. Many Christians today are unhappy because sin keeps them at a distance from God.

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## WORLD

### New Homes Break Cycle

by Marty Croll  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

FENI, Bangladesh (BP)—New homes paid for by Southern Baptists could help the families of Bangladeshi fishermen and laborers pull themselves out of poverty.

Flooding during the rainy season is commonplace in Bangladesh. But last year's floods were the worst the South Asian nation has known for 40 years. Forty-six of 64 low-lying districts and more than 60 million people felt the wrath of high water.

Officials estimate about 1,200 Bangladeshis were killed. Others lost houses, crops, livestock—including fish farms in small ponds—and household items. Three-fourths of the country's standing rice crop was destroyed.

But for at least 1,000 Bangladeshi families, the floods have brought new hope for the future. With Southern Baptist relief money, these families will help build themselves new houses with tin roofs. And the houses will be maintenance-free for the first 12 to 15 years, said missionary R T Buckley of Mississippi, who directs the project in the Comilla district, where 500 of the houses will be built.

Normally, a Comilla man spends more than two months of his income every year to repair the rice-straw roof and bamboo walls of his family's home. With the new houses, families will be able to take the money normally spent for repairs and buy a cow, rent some farm land, educate their children or take part in some other enterprise to establish themselves, Buckley said.

Bangladeshis in the area work as day laborers, fishermen or peasant farmers. In the average family, five children live with their parents and possibly grandparents. Depending on how many days he is able to find work, a father could make from \$22 to \$42 every month. Of that, nearly \$10 goes to rice, about \$8 to wheat and nearly \$3 to beans. What is left buys cooking oil, mustard, vegetables, fish, soap, clothing, schooling, medicine and house repairs.

Avdul Latif, 38, is one Bangladeshi who will receive a new house built with Southern Baptist funds. A day laborer, Latif owned chickens and a goat before the floods washed them away with his house. If he is able to work every day, Latif earns the equivalent of \$22, sometimes less, every month. He uses this to support himself, his wife and his five children.

"Because of the work situation in our area, most of these people have to borrow \$50 to \$60 a year to repair their houses," Buckley said. "Generally it is borrowed from a wealthier man in the village. If that amount cannot be paid the next year, the

interest will increase. After a year or two if it can't be paid, the man stands a chance of losing his property."

Missionaries plan to see 500 houses built in the Gopalganj area, too. As in Comilla, each home will cost about \$500 to build.

"The kind of houses we're building could never be built by these people," Buckley said. The project offers missionaries a chance to show Christian love. In the area of Comilla in which Buckley is working, the people are Muslims and Hindus. There are no Christians.

### Missionaries Killed In Belize

ORANGEWALK TOWN, Belize (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries Alan and Lee Seay were killed April 29 when their car was struck head-on by an armored vehicle traveling in a British Army convoy near Orangetown, Belize. Two Belize Baptists in the car with them were injured seriously.

Initial reports indicate the steering on the army vehicle may have failed.

The Seays and their passengers, Raul and Maggy Escalante, were returning to Orangetown after a Baptist association meeting when the accident occurred. The Seays apparently were killed instantly. The Escalantes were hospitalized, he with severe bruises and she with head injuries.

The Seays, both from Spartanburg, S.C., were appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1985. They were working with a new church in Orangetown that they began about two months ago.

Seay, 48, was pastor of Jan Lee Baptist Church in Burkburnett, Texas, before missionary appointment. He also had been pastor of First Baptist Church in Byers, Texas; Vashti Baptist Church in Vashti, Texas; Orsino Baptist Church in Merritt Island, Fla.; and University Baptist Church in Lancaster, S.C.

He was a graduate of Dallas Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Seay, 45, was the former Lee Rousey. She had been a secretary in Lancaster and bookkeeper in Wichita Falls, Texas, before her appointment.

The Seays are survived by their parents, three children and a grandson. His parents are Dudley and Thelma Seay of Greenville, S.C. Her parents are Edwin and Willette Rousey of Spartanburg. Their children are Alan Seay Jr. of Petrolia, Texas; Richard Seay of Byers; and Angela Land of Canyon, Texas, and their grandson is Brandon Seay of Byers.

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