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**April 28, 1988**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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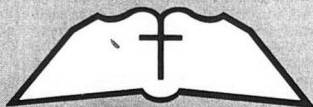
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ACTS To Be Sold

# Arkansas Baptist

April 28, 1988



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Caring In Times Of Family Crisis

## Cover Story



Caring in Times Of Family Crisis

## In Times Of Crisis . . . . . 11

The commitment of family members to sustain each other in times of crisis is the theme of the 1988 Christian Home Emphasis.

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# IT'S UPLIFTING

## Winning Souls Building Churches

CENTERVILLE, Texas (BP)—At 81, Mary Karrer of Centerville, Texas, can't find enough hours in the day to share the good news of Jesus, and most people half her age can't keep up with her.

Her latest milestone in Christian ministry was celebrated last year when she became the oldest person ever to receive the Continuing Witness Training certificate from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

CWT, which is designed to train Christians who will make a deep and long-term commitment to telling people about Christ, requires extensive memorization and application of Scripture.

Achieving the award took a special commitment on the part of Mrs. Karrer, because when she isn't helping lead First Baptist Church of Centerville and other churches of Leon Baptist Association to greater missions and soul-winning efforts, she and her husband of 55 years, Percy, are out building churches.

Last year, the couple, serving with Texas Baptist Men Retiree Builders, gave their time and labor to help construct new facilities for nine churches. Since joining Retiree Builders, the Karrers have helped provide new buildings for 23 churches,

usually at about half the normal cost.

"If we're ever going to win Texas and the world, we've got to get out and serve Christ," Mrs. Karrer said. "Sometimes the problem is that we don't know how."

"Mary used to be very quiet and shy, but I've seen her blossom into leading others," said her husband. "CWT has given her confidence to say what needs to be said for the Lord."

Putting faith and knowledge into action, the Karrers helped their new pastor begin a visitation program. Meanwhile they are helping lead the church of 278 resident members to reach a goal of \$1,450 for the 1988 Southern Baptist Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions.

First Baptist of Centerville also demonstrates its concern for worldwide missions by giving 20 percent of its undesignated offerings for missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget.

Mrs. Karrer said she believes CWT training came at a strategic time because she and her husband are eager to be a vital part of "Share Jesus Now," an effort by Texas Baptists to have trained people sharing the gospel with at least 1 million Texans in February and March of 1989.

"We're here for a reason, and that's to get out and serve the Lord," she said.

# GOOD NEWS!

## When Christians Intercede

Philemon 8-14

Christians practice intercessory prayer, but Christians need also to make intercession for friends. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." A Holy Spirit-led intercession will break down barriers. Paul practiced what he preached as he contacted Philemon on behalf of Onesimus.

*A new motive*—Paul made his request with love. It isn't always necessary to speak with an authoritative demand. Paul's request was motivated by one of our deepest emotions. "Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee" (v. 8).

"Beseech" means "to entreat, to supplicate, to implore, to ask, to pray, to beg, to solicit." Many barriers, like Jericho's walls, would come tumbling down if for love's sake we would beseech.

*A new dimension*—Onesimus was a runaway slave and a confessed thief without rights. Under ordinary circumstances he was without hope of com-

passion. Yet the aged Paul used great tact to emphasize the impact of Philemon's faith and love on the believers. Paul requested him to apply the Christian dimension of forgiveness and reconciliation by releasing his fugitive slave.

This dimension reached its zenith when Jesus told his followers to "love . . . your enemies" and assume a posture of compassion, not condemnation (Lk. 6:35-37). We, too, must practice the Christian dimension of love and forgiveness.

*A new direction*—The key word in Paul's statement about conversion in Galatians 6:15 is new—a new creature, a new heart, a new hope, a new direction. The old person, without Christ, was a waste, a misdirection. Paul made a play on words. Onesimus means "profitable or helpful" (v. 11). Because of what Christ has done, Onesimus became a productive person with purpose and meaning in his life.

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# The Road To Recovery

J. EVERETT SNEED

**[Editor's note:** The following guest editorial was written by N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.]

America is in trouble!

People do not hear that warning often. Politicians and power brokers tell us that America is on the move, that life in this country is good. Undoubtedly, some segments of our common life show positive signs. Nevertheless, the nation is at serious risk. A tragic illness is draining the vitality from America.

Consider these signs. Teenagers, mostly unmarried, are becoming pregnant at the rate of a million per year. More than 1.3 million abortions are performed each year. AIDS infects 1.5 million people every year and is projected to kill at least 179,000 by 1991. All sexually transmitted diseases are in epidemic proportions and continue to skyrocket. Increasingly, homosexuality is both practiced and approved by society. Child sexual abuse escalates. Pornography washes across every segment of American life. Sex crimes continue to increase. Communication media inundate our lives with sexual images and material that glorify promiscuity and sexual anarchy. Young and not-so-young continually hear, "If you want to and can, do it." Our society wallows in a sea of casual sex and promiscuity.

Tabulate the cost of these realities. We are paying an exorbitant price today for these moral atrocities, and we are bartering away our future. The economic loss is staggering, but the tragic costs in human terms defy calculation. It will not be enough simply to lament, although we should weep as Jesus did for Jerusalem. "Fixing the blame" will not provide a solution, although it is important to understand how such realities came to be. . . .

What we need to do is clear. The people of this nation need to recover the values central to the Judeo-Christian heritage. Until the middle of this century people in our society generally agreed that the lifelong marriage of one man and one woman was ideal. They held that sexual purity was the norm for human behavior. Baptists, Protestants of diverse expressions, Catholics and Jews shared those core convictions and valued those moral patterns of life.

It is time to get back to the shaping core.



But, how? Southern Baptists could lead the way. We pride ourselves on our size and strength and celebrate our place in the American sun. Large segments of the American people do watch us and evaluate our actions. We do have unbelievably massive resources, human and otherwise. We can lead the way to moral recovery.

We can begin with ourselves. We can give new prominence to ethical issues, moral concerns and the call to personal and social righteousness on our agenda. The biblical truth about judgment and grace beginning in the house of the Lord can apply in the twentieth century as it did in the first. This role of moral leadership is the rightful work of the pulpit and the roles as prophetic preacher and wise teacher are as biblical as those of fervent evangelist and

caring shepherd.

We Southern Baptists can combine our commitment to evangelism and missions with a renewed commitment to moral righteousness. The call to faith and the call to faithful living are full partners in biblical faith. Jesus called his people to be salt and light even as he called them to be witnesses. . . .

Southern Baptists can make a new commitment to teach our children and youth concerning Christian moral standards. Teaching the way of righteousness, coupled with exemplary living by adults, will help shape a Christian lifestyle among our young and set us on the road to moral recovery. This will pay rich dividends during the decades ahead.

By our efforts we can demonstrate to others what can be accomplished. At our initiative, others can be enlisted in the effort. Together, the religious communities in this nation can unite in action that will impact the nation for wholeness and a viable future.

Easy answers and glib responses will not solve the problems we face. Sloganeering will not get the job done. Nothing short of the marshalling of spiritual energies, moral commitment, intellectual abilities and creative capacities in the struggle with these destructive forces will do.

The nation may be on the brink of disaster, but it is not over the edge. The pages of the Bible and the witness of Christian history assure us that God's people can make a difference. Action born of conviction and urgency and carried out with intentionality, sensitivity and creativity can put our people and our nation on the road to moral recovery.

## Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 16

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BEN EARLY

## Early Reflections



### One More Chance

Our young son felt he had been treated unfairly when corrected by his mother.

Brice proclaimed very emphatically, "I'm just going to run away. I'll show you."

With this proclamation, he began to pack; a toothbrush, a quarter and a cookie. Next, he mounted his bright shiny bike and began pedaling down the street.

In about 30 minutes he had returned, stomping through the front door of our home. Brice planted his feet far apart and stood on tip toes trying to appear larger in size. He placed his hands on his hips and said, "Well, I've decided to give you one more chance." Then he disappeared to his room.

As I reflect on that amusing but tender incident, my mind recalls my heavenly Father saying to me again and again, "I'm giving you one more chance." Then in my humanism I stumble and fall in my Christian walk and once again God lifts me up. He tirelessly says, "Let me give you another chance, and we'll make it this time."

All of us ask God again and again to give us another chance. However, many of us are not willing to give those people around us another chance.

Someone stumbles and falls and instead of applying the biblical principle of endless forgiveness, we turn our backs on those who need our love and help the most.

The statement which says, "God's army is the only army which shoots its wounded," stings our ears, but we must admit it is all too true.

God's word teaches and Jesus is our model in this area of love and forgiveness. We must be willing to look at the world and those in need and say, "I don't like what you did, but I love you and so I'm going to give you another chance."

This principle works two ways, and there will come a time in our lives where we will also want to have someone give us another chance. We must be willing to give if we want to receive.

All of us deserve one more chance numerous times in our life. It's the least we can do.

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

INGATHERING: *Last of a four-part series*

## Preparing For Ingathering

by Bob Holley  
ABSC Church Training Department

The first three articles in this series have focused on the need to reclaim inactive, resident church members who make up 20.5 percent of our total SBC membership (97,081 in Arkansas). We have examined some of the causes for the "drop-out" problem and the potential for reclaiming these inactive members through the Ingathering project. In this last article in the series, we turn our attention to the preparation actions that are essential to the success of Ingathering.

Careful planning is the key to the success of any worthwhile effort, especially a project such as Ingathering. The preparation steps suggested here should guide you in your preparation for Ingathering as well as your implementation and follow-up.

**Step One:** (3-6 months before the project) (1) Secure the module, *Ingathering: Reclaiming Inactive Church Members*, and review the materials, especially the *Leader's Guide/Administrative Guide*. (2) Enlist a project director to lead the planning and preparation, someone other than the study leader who will lead the training sessions. (3)

Schedule the training sessions, at least one hour for each of the 13 sessions.

**Step Two:** (2-4 months before the project) (1) Order the resources including the members resource, *Learning to Listen and Care*, and *One in the Bond of Love*, a copy for each visitor and for each inactive member. (2) Enlist a study leader to conduct training sessions. (3) Enlist visitors to be trained. (4) Identify inactive church members.

**Step Three:** (1-4 months before the project) (1) The pastor should prepare the church to reclaim and receive reclaimed members through sermons and other appropriate means. (2) Involve the church in prayer support for the project, for those who are to be trained and those who are to be visited. (3) Inform the church about the project.

**Step Four:** Conduct the 13 training sessions to equip those selected to visit inactive members.

**Step Five:** (1) Visit inactive members, beginning after session 11. (2) Study *One in the Bond of Love* with inactive members and seek to reclaim them.

**Step Six:** Follow-up Ingathering by (1) leading visitors to continue to visit and reclaim inactive members, (2) evaluating the

project, (3) enlisting additional visitors for training and (4) repeating steps four and five.

Detailed suggestions for these planning steps may be found in the *Leaders Guide/Administrative Guide*. This piece is essential to the planning process and is available only in the module. The success of the Ingathering project will certainly be in direct proportion to the preparation made in advance.

The potential benefits to the church conducting Ingathering will certainly be worth the effort and the commitment required. In addition to reclaiming some of the 97,081 inactive, resident members in Arkansas, we just may discover some of the reasons for our losing many of these people. These understandings and insights may help us avoid much of the drop-out problem in the years ahead. We may decide that our current practice of baptizing two people in order to gain one active member really is not acceptable or necessary. Let's give it our best effort.

For additional information or assistance, contact your state Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 (376-4791).

## A SMILE OR TWO

Four Baptist preachers were on a flight to Nashville. During the flight, the pilot announced the loss of one of the plane's engines. "There is no cause to worry," the pilot reassured his passengers. "We have three good motors working."

An elderly woman stopped a stewardess and asked, "Are you sure there is no danger?" The stewardess replied, "No danger, Ma'am. Besides, we have four Baptist preachers on board."

The elderly woman thought for a moment and answered, "I would rather have four motors and three preachers than three motors and four preachers."

# Letters to the Editor

## Move Forward

I read the article in the *Arkansas Baptist* headlined "Make WMU An Agency?" and was very much distressed at Mr. Paige Patterson's comments that Woman's Missionary Union should be given agency status and a board of trustees elected by the Southern Baptist Convention on the basis that it is being "discriminatory toward women," yet Mr. Patterson believes that women should not be serving in the "pastoral ministry." Before Mr. Patterson proceeds further with this matter, I hope he has the foresight to ask the women who have worked to keep WMU an auxiliary, rather than an agency, how they feel. Also, on the subject of discrimination, we might ask Mr. Patterson just how many women are now serving on the various boards and committees of the SBC.

Women, beware. "Remember our leaders... consider their faith." This is just another attempt by the "good brethren" to take over and run things for our own good. Woman's Missionary Union has stood the test of time for 100 years as being a good and workable method of carrying out the Great Commission. Let us not forsake our past as we "Go Forward" (spoken by Annie Armstrong) into the future.

Also, in the same issue, another side of the coin appeared in Mr. Don Moore's column. Thank you, Mr. Moore, for your respectful recognition and appreciation of WMU and its leaders, past and present. You were a tremendous influence at our annual meeting, and I was glad I had the privilege of being there to hear you as you challenged us to new awareness of our heritage. It is with men like you who have recognized the worth of WMU "as is" that WMU has been able to achieve this century of celebration.

We must move forward into the future, mission-minded pastors, laymen, and WMU, all working side-by-side, so that the world may know Christ and his great love.—Alice J. McHann, Blytheville

## All In The Family?

I almost wrote this letter after the SBC in St. Louis. Recent events now impel me to write.

I have gone to SBC meetings since the 1950's. I remember when foreign mission night was the biggest gathering. Sadly, today we admit the largest attendance is election time. We are naive if we fail to see "politicizing" there.

Something happened during the conven-

tion sermon last June that I can't forget. President Rogers introduced Preacher Vines: "We've had business. Now we'll worship."

Worship began with a multi-voiced choir, wearing evening gowns and tuxedos. They sang two numbers. People began to clap their hands, then pat their feet. I thought, "worship" or "entertainment"? As the choir finished, some people jumped to their feet, lifted their hands, shouting "Praise the Lord!"

Then came the sermon. I listened carefully. There was intermittent clapping, cheering, raucous laughter, and loud "Amen's!" I began to feel that this was not a worship service, but a political rally. Rather than preaching a sermon, the speaker was making a campaign speech.

"Sermon" over, a man behind me slapped my shoulder: "Whad'chu think of that, brother?"

Turning, I saw that he was an older person. "I agree with 90 percent of what he said," I replied, "but I didn't like the way he rang his bell."

"Well," the man said, "I guess you shu'da stayed home this morning!"

Sir," I responded, "I'm a part of this family."

His reply was terse: "Well, why don't you act like it?"

He spoke harsh words. They hurt. Walking out, I was largely oblivious to the crowd. In my heart, I was crying. How are we supposed "to act" in worship with the SBC today?

Now it's official. The preacher is running for the presidency of our convention. The announcement was made only a few days ago, but I think my hunch was right. His initial campaign speech was made last June in St. Louis. How will we be expected "to act" in the SBC family, if that man is elected in San Antonio?—John H. McClanahan, Pine Bluff

## Gift of Love

It has been nearly two years since many churches in Arkansas joined in prayer support for my 15 year-old son, Jerry Cloud. He was in severe heart failure and had only a short time to live. Jerry had been flown to Houston, Texas, and was waiting for a suitable donor heart for a transplant. The doctors were working hard to keep him stable until a donor was found.

At the same time in Denver, Colo., the family of 19 year-old Larry Howard was anxiously gathered in an ICU waiting room. An accident victim, Larry lay in a

hospital bed on a breathing machine, but without any brain activity due to severe head injuries.

The family made a decision. They chose to give the gift of life and sight to others... to bring hope to other parents... to make something positive come from a negative situation. Several family's across the nation benefited from the families' decision through the donation of his liver, kidneys, cornea, and tissues. Jerry has been living with Larry's heart for 22 months, an active, abundant, and grateful life!

Organ and tissue donation is now an option for families facing the loss of a loved one.

Sunday, April 24, began National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I would like to encourage families to talk about this issue before it might become a viable option; and to encourage people to sign their driver's license donor card.

If you would like some information sent to you or if you are interested in having someone come to your church to speak about this important topic, that could be arranged. You may call me at 753-9032 or Bobby Cumberland, executive director of the Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency, at 224-2623.—Bitsy Cound, North Little Rock

## Next President

On behalf of many Arkansas Baptists, I would like to publicly thank the Ouachita Baptist University Presidential Search Committee for agreeing to serve. We should all be praying for these fine people as they make this decision that will greatly influence the Kingdom of God.

As we encourage the search committee in their task, it appears to me that there are several important characteristics that should be exhibited by the man they choose to recommend.

First, above all, he should be evangelical. May the Lord bless those who have worked hard over the years to keep the gospel one of the focal points at OBU. Much has remained to be desired, however, concerning Ouachita's spiritual atmosphere. We need to begin producing graduates who are either Christians or who have had the gospel presented to them many times throughout their college careers.

Second, their recommended individual should be a disciple-maker. Again, we need to continue the fine work already done at OBU in this area. A required class on "the deeper life" should be a part of the required curriculum. MasterLife is already of-

ferred but not generally required.

Third, the man selected needs to be an administrator. Dr. Daniel Grant has "done us proud" with his administrative abilities and accomplishments. Let us continue this emphasis.

Fourth, the next president of OBU needs to be an educator. Without a continued emphasis on quality education, we will be just spinning our wheels in our work through OBU.

In conclusion, I believe that Christian education should mean producing, as

much as possible, strong disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. The search committee should steer Ouachita in a direction in which the Kingdom of God will be fulfilled and Bold Mission Thrust goals attained. This can only be done by the selection of a leader who is deeply spiritual while still intensely scholastic. We do not need to sacrifice emphasis on the Holy Spirit's control of the man for his intellectual or political abilities.—**Warren Watkins, Blytheville**

it was not over Toy's failure to cooperate—it was doctrinal.

Second, I know of no inerrantist who would suggest that inerrancy defines our convention. We would agree on "our rich heritage of soul competency and freedom." Unfortunately, a few in our denomination think that loyalty to the organization is preferable to faithfulness to God's Word. The charge of Pharisaism must in actuality be leveled at those who have rejected God's revelation for manmade traditions, for which Jesus actually did rebuke the Pharisees (Mk. 7:13).

Finally, to insist that inerrancy is not a scriptural doctrine because it does not appear in Scripture is tantamount to folly. One would be forced to reject both "theology" and "the Trinity" on the same grounds. Yet, Jesus said, "Scripture cannot be broken," even when defending a rather obscure passage in the Old Testament.

Unlike the other writer, I can gladly sign my name. I am thankful that God in his mercy has lashed me to the cross.—**Stan May, Melbourne**

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Mailing address and phone number of the writer should be included. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. Letters must be marked "for publication." Only original letters will be considered.

## Classifieds

**Summer Camp Facilities**—330 beds. Meals prepared in the Ozark foothills. Cedar Glade Baptist Camp, Imboden, Ark., 501-869-2255 4/28

**Needed**—Bivocational music minister at Union Valley Church, Beebe. Send resume to P.O. Box 488, Beebe, AR 72012. 4/28

**Petit Jean Mountain**—House sleeps 10. \$50 for 2 persons, \$7.50 each additional. 501-727-5206 5/5

**Camp Facility Available**—Located on lower south fork of Little Red River, a part of Greer's Ferry Lake, at Clinton, Ark. Accommodations for 125 people. Call 224-1890 for more information. 4/28

**For Sale**—Sharp SF-7100 copier. Only 12,000. \$785. 501-234-7361. 4/28

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.

## Jobs Exchange

**Nurse**—Nurse aide with therapy experience, will live in 4½ days a week. Good references, reasonable wages. Call weekends. Christine Cox, 734-2575 4/28

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 Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Placement of a notice in the Jobs Exchange does not constitute an endorsement by the ABN.

## Lashed to the Cross

I am writing to respond to the letter in your March 10 issue concerning inerrancy. I have waited to write because I thought that many more qualified men would answer. However, I wish to address the unnamed Baptist.

First, this person has suggested that our convention has been one created by a unity of purpose rather than doctrine. This is false. We have always been a people of the Book. Others practice evangelism and missions in much the same manner as we do (even Jehovah's Witnesses), yet we do not cooperate with them. When Southern Seminary President Boyce with tears put C.H. Toy on the train from the seminary,

## Today's Issues

### Top of the List

BOB PARKER



"I don't like for one who protects me not to be a Christian." Later that week, this unique approach of the host pastor bore fruit during revival services.

All people, beginning at home, need our witness, both by the Word and by the life we live before them. Our prayers are needed also.

All law enforcement people especially need and deserve the prayers of God's people. Whether serving our towns, counties, state, nation, or internationally in the armed forces, many of these risk their lives for us daily while dealing with lawless people.

Some of these are made lawless by greed while involved in illegal drug traf-

fic. Many others are made lawless, temporarily or permanently, as a result of using legal drugs such as alcohol in beverages and prescriptions.

If you have a prayer list, by all means, pray daily for these who guard our lives and for those, including every voting citizen, who make or do not make laws which cause or prevent lawlessness. Law enforcement personnel should be near the top of a prayer list.

If you are aware of any of these being lost, you might sincerely and prayerfully consider using the approach used by the pastor mentioned earlier in this article. Let them personally know of your gratitude for what they are doing in protecting lives and property. Assure them also of your prayers for them and their families.

Few, if any, would disagree that law enforcement, like many other professions, is a special calling. Aren't you glad that there are those who respond to become "ministers of God" (Ro. 13) that way also? We would all be much more vulnerable to lawlessness otherwise.

**Bob Parker** is director of the ABCS Christian Life Council.

# Life After Death

## Students Build Thriving Church Out Of Dead One

by Breena Kent Paine

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Out of a dead church, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary students have built a thriving ministry. Their motto is "a small church with a big ministry."

Victory Baptist Church, led by seminary students in the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood on the edge of New Orleans' French Quarter, has seen more than 100 professions of faith in the past year. With special ministries for youth and children, classes in English as a second language and outreach Bible studies, the doors stay open seven days a week.

Victory Baptist has not always been so victorious, however. In past years, it ministered to a small Anglo congregation that dwindled and eventually dissolved as its members moved away and lapsed in their attendance.

Originally, the church was to sell its 100-year-old-plus building. But the Spanish congregation of Grace Baptist Church in New Orleans stepped in to take the property and fill the ministry void.

"When I found out they didn't have a pastor, I asked to move my congregation there," said Pastor Jorge Zayasbazan. "Also, I wanted to start an English congregation."

So the Miami, Fla., native and another seminary student, Lonnie Nelson, from Pensacola, Fla., opened the doors of Victory Baptist again in January of 1987; this

time with services in Spanish and English and a dream to minister to the community as never before.

Three members of the original congregation remained, and Zayasbazan brought eight members from Grace's Spanish congregation. A year later, there is a combined membership of 45 people, and about 75 attend services each Sunday. About 20 children attend services for them on Wednesday nights, and as many as 50 youth attend services on Tuesday nights.

"The influence of the church goes beyond the doors of the church," said Zayasbazan. In a largely Catholic neighborhood, many still "recognize me as their pastor, even though they don't come to church. So, in a way, I've become a chaplain in the neighborhood. . . . We're sowing seeds that in the long run will show growth."

As pastor of Victory Baptist, Zayasbazan ministers in unique ways, such as going to the post office to translate for a woman who cannot speak English, helping someone who cannot read fill out his application for food stamps or giving someone a ride to the bus station at midnight.

"People are hungry for the gospel," said the bilingual pastor. While visiting in the home of one Spanish-speaking couple, he presented the gospel to them: "When I asked if they wanted to receive the Lord, they both stood up and said, 'Yes.' At 11 p.m. the following night, there he was with a sister and a friend, wanting me to share the

gospel with them."

Another girl from the neighborhood, named Tiffany, had leukemia. "When she came out of the hospital, the first place she went was to children's church," said Zayasbazan. "I think it was a touching experience for all involved."

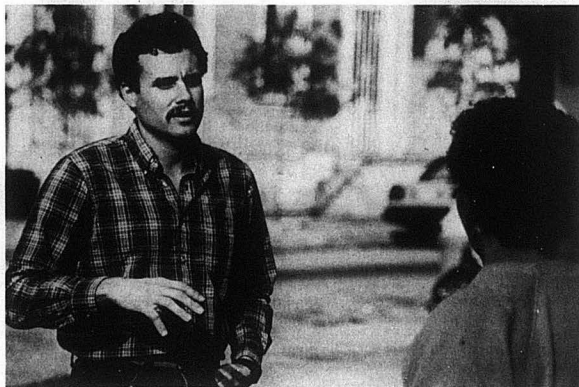
Zayasbazan, who lives on the second floor of the church, said, "I have the opportunity to be there when they need me; when they need to talk or when they need food."

The neighborhood people are "respective as far as religion goes, and very protective of me and my family. We don't have to worry about our car being stolen," said Zayasbazan. "We have no fears. I don't think it's the ghetto" it has been called before.

A historical district with families and homes dating as far back as the 1800's, Faubourg Marigny also is a neighborhood of contrast. Some homes hide lavish gardens once enjoyed by the best of Creole society; other homes reveal the poverty of their occupants. "One of my neighbors doesn't have electricity; the other drives a Mercedes," said Zayasbazan.

Throughout the past year, people from more than 20 nationalities have attended services at Victory church. Zayasbazan hopes eventually to hold services in several languages to minister to the variety of cultures in the neighborhood.

As a new plant may grow from the remnant of a dead tree, so a new ministry has sprouted in Faubourg Marigny. And, as Zayasbazan said, "The church's success is owed to seminary students who have offered their time voluntarily and sacrificially."



Pastor Jorge Zayasbazan

Photos / Breena Kent Paine



A Faubourg Marigny resident

# LOCAL & STATE

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**Jerry Kausler** will begin serving April 24 as pastor of First Church, Marked Tree, going there from Cord Church, where he has served as pastor for more than eight years. He is married to the former Shirley Clay of Rivervale. They have one son, David, a freshman at Arkansas State University.

**Mark Williams** of Hope is serving Highland Heights Church in Benton as youth director. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University, doing his practice teaching at Benton High School.

**Scott King** has resigned as youth director at Emmanuel Church, Conway.

**Jeff Holland** has joined the staff of Emmanuel Church, Conway, as music director.

**Buford Francis** has resigned as both minister of music at Holland Church and as director of Faulkner Association Cold Springs Camp.

**Doyle and Marie Lumpkin** of Little Rock will leave May 21 for an overseas assignment as volunteers with the Foreign Mission Board. They will serve the East Bavarian Church of West Germany, which ministers to Army personnel and American civilians with the U.S. government. They recently returned from a more than five months assignment with the Home Mission Board, in which he served as interim pastor of a mission at Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

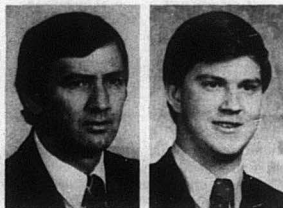
**David Jackson** resigned April 3 as minister of youth and music at Central Church, Bald Knob, to serve in the same position at Pickles Gap Church, Conway.

**Klois Hargis** has accepted a call by Hamburg First Church to join the staff as associate pastor, effective in mid-May. He will move there from First Church, Tillar.

**Jackie Fendley** has resigned as pastor of Lake Ouachita Church at Mount Ida to serve as pastor of First Church, Mountain View.

**Charles Thomasson** is serving Norman Church as minister of youth and music. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

**James A. Byler** has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Spring Valley Church at Springdale. The Byler's have two children, Jimmy, and Kasci.



Kausler

Williams

**John Smedley** resigned as pastor of Sonora Church April 3, following three years of service. He will remain in the Springdale area.

**Gary Harrell** has resigned as pastor of discipleship and family ministries at University Church, Fayetteville.

**Mitch Odom** resigned as pastor of Salem Church, Nunley, April 17 to serve as pastor of First Church, Parks.

**Jimmy Shults**, a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Advance Task Force, was guest speaker April 10 at

Shepherd Hill Church, Pine Bluff. Shults is a member of Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff.

**Carter Day** celebrated his seventh year of service March 27 as pastor of Barnett Memorial Church, Little Rock, when the church presented him with new dictating equipment and honored him with a fellowship supper.

**Melvin Hampton** of Paintsville, Ky., has been named as the new director of financial development at Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky. He is the son of John G. and Ivy Hampton of Bearden, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Hampton has pastored churches in Arkansas and Indiana. He and his wife, Jeanette, have four children.

**Ronald Burks** is serving as pastor of Elliott Church, Camden, coming there from more than four years of service as pastor of Linwood Church in Moscow. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Burks and his wife, Jamie, have two children, April, and Matthew.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



*The Calvary Church, North Little Rock, held a reception for Dr. and Mrs. John Maddox at the conclusion of his 11 months as interim pastor. In addition to the presentation of a plaque to the Maddoxes, the congregation is taking a mission offering for a mission cause, the Mias Baptist Seminary in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as designated by the Maddox's. The seminary is a part of a school founded by Dr. Maddox's parents. Pictured left to right are Dr. Maddox, Mrs. Maddox, and chairman of deacons Clarence Bowen.*



## Briefly

**Prairie Grove First Church** broke ground April 3 for a multi-purpose building.

**Dermott Church** began a Lay Evangelism School April 17 with Paul McClung, associate in the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, serving as leader.

**East Side Church** in Osceola concluded an attendance program April 3 that began Feb. 14. Average attendance was 95. The church will observe its 19th homecoming June 5. Wayne Moore is pastor.

**Woodland Heights Church** at Conway had 150 in attendance despite a downpour of rain when it broke ground April 17 for the first phase a building program. This will be the first church to be constructed in the western section of Conway in 96 years. Conway Sawyer, director of the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. Participants in the groundbreaking include state Sen. and Mrs. Stan Russ; Mayor and Mrs. David Kinley; Lee Lawson, director of missions for Faulkner Association; architect Keith

Miller; Roy Chatham, minister of education and music; and committee and sub-committee members.

**Shepherd Hill Church** at Pine Bluff is holding a spring revival April 24-29. Revival team members are Don Phillips, evangelist; David Cox, music director; and Sharon Phillips, pianist.

**Jacksonville First Church** recently presented Scripture memorization achievement certificates to Mark Burgess, Jamey Cox, Jennifer Dickerson, Alina Garcia, Heather Houston, Jennifer Kinder, Lara Milner, Chris Ruby, Kelly Shewmaker, and Heather Stricklin.

**El Dorado First Church** mission team recently returned from Houston, Texas, where they assisted home missionary Mildred McWhorter with the work at three inner-city mission centers which she directs. El Dorado team members were Karen Mason, Katsy McAlister, Cliff Garner, Janis Camp, Tracy Watson, John McAlister, Cindy Bradley, Sharon Coppenger, Marie Walker, and John McAdams.

**Northvale Church** in Harrison will have a youth revival April 22-24. David Janies, director of Baptist Student Union work for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will be speaker. Music will be directed by Gary Wheeler, the church's minister of music. S.D. Hacker is pastor.

**Newark Southern Church** broke ground April 10 for a new sanctuary which will have a seating capacity of 319, according to Pastor Manuel Macks. Members of the building committee are Leonard Bunch, chairman, Gary Edwards, Robert Hicks, Danny Brustrom, Freddie Barber, and Jim McWay. Sub-committee members are Louise Bunch, Una Dell Edwards, and Diane McClure.

**Bakers Creek Church** at Russellville held its spring revival March 6-9 with Ed Hinkson, associate in the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, serving as evangelist. There were two professions of faith and six additions by letter.

**New Hope Church** at Dardanelle ordained Jimmy George to the deacon ministry April 10.

**Sang Avenue Church** held a church growth conference April 6-10. Cliff Palmer of Springdale was conference leader.

**Lincoln First Church** recently closed a youth revival that resulted in 37 professions of faith. Ken Freeman was evangelist.

**Chapel Hill Church** at DeQueen will break ground April 24 at 1:30 p.m. for a new auditorium, according to Pastor Tommy Payne.

**Ridgeway Church** at Nashville held a Lay Renewal Weekend April 8-10 that resulted in 28 decisions, six of which were for baptism and two were additions by letter, according to Pastor Jerry Hill. Wayne Parker of Dierks was coordinator.

**Nettleton Church** at Jonesboro voted April 6 to enter Phase One of a building program which will provide additional education space.

**Pine Bluff Immanuel Church** has launched new ministries that include Baptist Young Womens groups to be coordinated by Cindy Coggins and Beth Perry, and; a single adult choir; and ladies chorus.

**Cabin Creek Church** at Lamar honored Pastor Jerry Holcomb April 10 with a party, celebrating both his birthday and the fifth anniversary of his service as pastor.

**Caraway First, New Hope, Black Oak, Rivervale, and Milligan Ridge churches** participated in an area-wide crusade in Caraway April 3-11 in which local pastors, Paul Kirkindall of Blytheville, and Moody Adams of Baker, La., served as evangelists. There were 34 professions of faith and 42 re-dedications.

**Newport First Church** held its spring revival April 3-10. Jon Cauley of Louisville, Ky., served as evangelist. Leslie Willis of Little Rock led the music. Pastor Gene Crawley reported 13 professions of faith.



*Beck Spur Church, Forrest City, dedicated a new family life center and celebrated its 49th anniversary April 3. The congregation also set an all-time attendance record of 276. The 12,000 square foot, \$175,000 facility houses 14 classrooms, a parlor, an informal meeting area, a commercial kitchen, a "propbet's room," and a fellowship hall with full-size basketball court, according to Pastor Joe Craft. W.O. Vaughn, emeritus pastor of Little Rock Immanuel Church, preached the dedicatory message. Robert Tucker, director of missions for Tri-County Association, led the prayer of dedication. The church began a revival April 4-8, led by Charles Richie of Hammond, Ind.*

## Tent-Making Discussed

Forty persons participated in a first-ever seminar on a university campus for the SBC Foreign Mission Board's Laity Abroad emphasis March 31.

Arranged by the Foreign Mission Board and sponsored by the Baptist Student Union of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, the seminar dealt with tent-making as a foreign mission method.

The Laity Abroad emphasis seeks to involve Baptists who are living or traveling overseas in lifestyle ministry and evangelism. More than 150,000 Baptists reportedly live and work abroad, 465 in 36 countries which are closed to traditional missionary presences. The Foreign Mission Board currently is studying innovative ways to reach 77 such countries with the gospel through the use of lay people. Seventy percent of the world's population resides in closed countries.

The Foreign Mission Board strategy identifies available jobs in fields such as education, business, or medicine. A qualified layperson is then referred to the employment agency and contact is maintained after placement to assist the volunteer.

The seminar offered workshops which focused on specific opportunities for overseas lay service: education, led by Tom Turner of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia; agriculture, Lehman Fowler of Brinkley; banking, John Hampton of Booneville; and military, Leroy Sisk of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

## Correction

The April 14 *Arkansas Baptist* incorrectly reported that an addition had been made to the staff of El Dorado First Church. Carl Toth actually is serving on the staff of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas. Tracy Watson continues to serve as youth minister at El Dorado First. The ABN regrets the error.

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*Go Hand in Hand*



## Third Street Dedicates

Third Street Church in Arkadelphia dedicated a \$450,000, 694-seat sanctuary on April 10. The afternoon program featured remarks and a dedicatory prayer from Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, as well as comments from Arkadelphia Mayor James Williams and Bessie Blackmon, widow of Third Street's late pastor, George Truett Blackmon. Red River Director of Missions L.B. Jordan delivered the invocation, and Third Street Pastor Gary Turner brought the dedicatory message in the absence of W.O. Vaught, emeritus pastor of Little Rock's Immanuel Church. Little Rock newscaster B.J. Sams gave his testimony during the evening service. Special music was provided by "Sounds of Praise" from Hope.

Third Street was organized in 1951 with 50 charter members. When Turner accepted the pastorate in 1981, membership was 27. In the six ensuing years, membership climbed to 677. The congregation sponsors a mission at Dalark, broadcasts services on two radio stations, and supports a tape ministry and a nursing home ministry.

## MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING



Arkansas  
Baptist  
Family and  
Child Care  
Services

Arkansas Baptist Home for Children

Little Rock • Monticello • Fayetteville  
Jonesboro • Harrison • Hope



# In Times Of Crisis

Pozy Menhinick and her family, from Charlotte, N.C., stretch out regularly on a cold, metal table at a local clinic and allow the blood to seep slowly from their veins into a syringe.

The task is hardly an enjoyable one for Mrs. Menhinick, her husband, Ed, or their three children, Mark, 23; Eric, 21; and Kim, 18—especially Eric, who is not at all comfortable with the sight of a large needle meant for him.

But the members of the Menhinick family love each other, and the procedure of removing blood from their bodies is a necessary one in helping to eventually solve a rare blood complement disease from which Mrs. Menhinick suffers.

This family's commitment toward one another exemplifies the 1988 Southern Baptist Christian Home Emphasis theme of "Caring in Times of Family Crisis." The annual emphasis, which begins on Mother's Day in May and concludes on Father's Day in June, is sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department.

The meaning of the Christian Home Emphasis theme goes a step further, as do the Menhinicks, than caring within the family unit to a full-scale illustration of the Christian principle of caring for others during times of need. The Menhinicks are members of University Hills Church in Charlotte, N.C. Their family is steadfast in their commitment to help not only themselves, but others, including those who already have or someday might inherit this disease. Their Christian caring is proven by their relentless trips to the clinic.

All churches have a responsibility to help families care for other families in times of crisis. This year's Christian Home Emphasis theme provides an opportunity for families to learn how to deliver more than a pie when someone is hurting. It provides parents with an opportunity to teach their children how to express concern. Families and churches will either be careless, carefree, or careful in their response.

Families in crisis are at a turning point. They have an opportunity to start again. The pain they feel may be the pain of birth—new birth. Sometimes growth won't occur until a change, conflict, or crisis takes place. While some families avoid owning up to certain crises, the effect may lead to decay.

In our hectic, fast-paced culture crisis has become a way of life. Calendars have become slaves. Our schedules have set us up for patterns of crisis just waiting to happen. How you and your family responds to other families when confronted with a crisis is crucial to their well being.

Too many families believe a crisis isn't a crisis until it happens to you and yours. As long as it's somebody else's, it doesn't matter. But let crisis come home and you understand what care from other Christian families means.

Christian families understand the "rat race" has given them skills the human race desperately needs. If families are to give care in crisis times there are some basic elements to consider.

**Concern** is primary. Without real concern for the sanctity of life and the dignity of family life there will not be any real care during crises that come. The biblical message is full of encouragement for us to be concerned (Ga. 6:2; 1 Ti. 5:8). The life and ministry of Jesus are characterized by a deep concern for persons. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, restored sight to the blind, raised the dead, relieved those with emotional needs, and reached people in their deepest spiritual crises.

**Communication** follows concern. It is indispensable if crises are going to be recognized and care given. The power and potential of the supportive word of encouragement really can make a difference when your family is being impacted. Communications may be in verbal or written forms, but also includes a touch, a smile, a look of understanding. These can be tools that denote care and help bring relief or

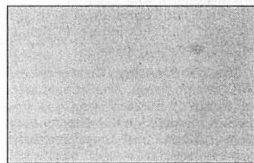
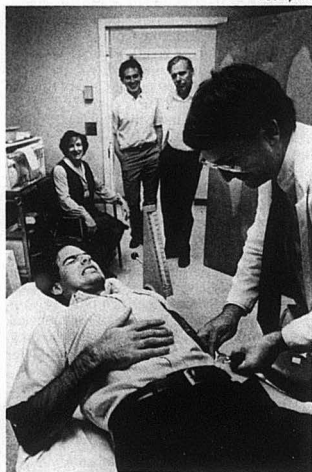
healing. The biblical message is one of God communicating care for humans. He did this through prophets, kings, and disciples, and he can do it through you and your family.

Also necessary to caring, like the Menhinicks, is the *commitment* to respond. True caring in times of family crisis requires commitment to the fact that other families having been created in the image of God, are worth our time and effort.

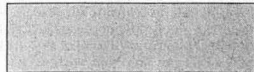
Crisis does not recognize boundaries. They occur in the lives of the rich as well as the poor; the lonely as well as the popular; the stranger as well as the family member. Crisis to a teen may be as simple as being turned down for a date or having "nothing to wear." It can also be as complex as drug addiction or sexual promiscuity. Crises can involve health, finances, or family relationships. They can creep into existence or happen in a catastrophic instant.

Through *Caring in Times of Family Crisis: A Church Planning Guide for Christian Home Emphasis* and accompanying Church Training Equipping Center module and Convention Press book, churches and families can learn how to respond with concern, appropriate communication, and commitment. This Christian Home Emphasis literature provides the resources for families to touch lives of other families and grow strong churches.

*(Expanded and adapted by Gary Hask, manager of the Family Enrichment Section, Family Ministry Department, Sunday School Board, from an article by Terry Lackey.)*



Dr. Stewart Tucker of the Nalle Clinic in Charlotte, N.C., takes blood from Eric Menhinick (on table), who is donating to aid in the research of a rare blood complement deficiency from which his mother, Pozy Menhinick (back left), suffers. Eric's entire family, including his brother, Mark (back middle), father, Ed (back right), and sister, Kim (not shown), donate blood for the research project being studied jointly by the Nalle Clinic and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.



## With Special Pleasure

by Don Moore  
ABSC Executive Director

Our investigation tells us that this once-a-month program piece and "Vision" are the main sources of information for the leaders of our churches. We are grateful to know that this is so. Since the state convention exists to aid the churches in their ministry at home and abroad, it is with special pleasure we invite you to lead your churches to be involved in the following activities during the month of May. Since both the purpose, programs and personnel are committed to being used of God to help you and your church, I know he will bless your involvement.



**The first Baptist Men's Congress** will be held May 20-21 at Parkway Place Church, Little Rock! No, it isn't a conference just of "First Baptist" men. It is simply the first of many annual congresses. Three tremendously exciting laymen have been enlisted to speak. With Glendon Grober in charge, I have a feeling that those who come will be ready to climb any mountain God may place before them when they leave. The pastors should be sure to come so they can join the missions ministries and commitment of their men. Resurrect your Brotherhood! Come to the Baptist Men's Congress!

**Church Planting Conference,** May 16-17, Camp Paron. This annual meeting, made up of mission sponsors, mission pastors, associational missions development officers, and those interested in possibly starting a new work, will be designed to provide the latest and best of new work methods. We are ever learning and improving our skills at this point. Our purpose is to "Church Arkansas" with healthy churches. Often, the destiny of a church for good or bad is set by the way it is handled in its early stages. Yes, everyone involved in church planting needs the help this conference offers.

**Senior adults**—Two great events await you in May.

(1) The Senior Adult Celebration at Ouachita, May 23-25, will be a choice fellowship and inspiration time for you. Training will be available for leaders. The price, the place, the people are all "right" for a meaningful experience! Bob Holley (376-4791) can help you with details.

(2) Golden Age Evangelism Conferences for Senior Adults will be held May 9, at Barcelona Road, Hot Springs Village, and May 10, at First Church, Hardy. I know, you love to eat and make trips mostly. But I also know you have a burden to reach the lost. Though you may have given up on ever being able to share Christ in an effective way, we still believe you can. We want to help you reach folk no one else may touch. Let us help you at one of these conferences! Paul McClung (376-4791) can help you with more information.

**Quality! Excellence!** These are not just words for the market place and the advertising agent. They are words for the church!

Discipleship quality is being improved in Southern Baptist life more through MasterLife than by any other means in use today. Should you learn this ministry at Ouachita at the MasterLife Workshop, May 16-20?

Sunday School quality—What could do more for our Sunday School than effective weekly workers meetings. Four conferences will be conducted by our staff May 9-10 to help you improve the quality of your Sunday School through these weekly meetings. East Side, Fort Smith and Parkway Place, Little Rock are the sites for the May 9 conferences. The May 10 conferences are at El Dorado, Second and West Memphis, First.

Pastor-Deacon relationship quality—What could improvement in this area do to help you and your church's ministry? Wouldn't that be great! What are your approaches to increasing quality in this area? Perhaps our conference at Calvary Church in Little Rock, May 6-7, could be used of God to trigger a more pleasant and productive relationship.

Church building quality is a concern of most churches. For some it means new space. For others it means renovation. We can't pay your bills to have it done, but we can provide free professional consultation. Both quality construction and quality usage will be considered if you get Ed Hinkson of the Sunday School Department and Harold Smith of the SBC Church Architecture Department to come by your place May 23-27. Because of the time and distance, they will need to schedule their stops carefully. The earlier you call, the more likely you are to get them.

These are all areas that need attention for improvement. The things we are providing are sure to help.

**Camping**—That time of year has arrived again. Our Campers on Mission will lose

no time. Their spring meeting is scheduled for May 19-22 at Petit Jean State Park. Campers who desire to use their camping experience as a witness are welcomed to become a part of this fellowship and ministry. Call Pette Petty (376-4791) for more information.

GA Mother-Daughter Camp will take place at Camp Paron, May 20-21. This camp of 1-6 grade girls and their mothers provides for meaningful relationships as well as good missions inspiration.

**State Music Tournament/Ensemble Jubilee**—May 7 at Olivet Church, Little Rock. Youth, grades 7-12 are involved. Vocal solos, song leading, keyboard, band/orchestra instrumental solos, vocal and instrumental ensembles will be featured. For registration call Glen Ennes immediately.

**Summer Youth Worker Conferences** will be held May 2 at the U of A, Monticello, BSU, and May 3 at the U of A, Fayetteville, BSU. Both volunteer and paid youth workers should benefit from this training.

**VBS/Backyard Bible Clubs**—These God-blessed ministries have been used to bring many to Christ. Excellent tools for starting new churches, reaching people not ordinarily reached, these tools remain basic means for ministering to children during school vacation time. Jackie Edwards and a competent staff of workers will be prepared to train you to train others in your church and association. Levy Church in North Little Rock is the place. May 7 is the date.



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Sunday School

## Backyard Bible Club

It's almost summer! Time to be thinking of summer activities for folks in your church. If one of those activities includes a week of Backyard Bible Clubs or a week of touring with a youth mission group, we've made plans to help you.

An all day clinic will be held at Levy Church, North Little Rock, Saturday, May 7, 1988. The conference begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude at 4 p.m.

The materials published by the Baptist Sunday School Board for Backyard Bible Clubs and Mission/VBS will be the content for the clinic. Conferences will be offered for general officers, and those people who will be teaching the material for youth, children, and preschool.

For more information, call or write the Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. See you at the clinic!—Jackie Edwards, associate



Edwards

May 20-21. The Friday evening program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Laymen will be sharing with laymen what God can do through them. The one exception is Dr. James Smith, once an Arkansas pastor, now president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission. Smith will be the initial speaker on Friday evening.

Two Arkansas men will share their missionary experiences. Dr. Tom Turner of Ouachita will tell of his personal involvement in China. Dr. Hoyte Pyie of Little Rock Internal Medicine Clinic will relate his experiences in Brazil's Amazon Valley.

Fred Roach, president and executive officer of Centennial Homes, Inc., a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser Company, will speak both Friday evening and Saturday morning. He is the author of *Let's Talk*, an active Baptist deacon, a Lay Renewal coordinator and a past president of Texas Baptist Men. He is a much sought after public speaker that Arkansas Baptist Men need to hear.

Saturday morning, our first Arkansas Baptist Men's State Prayer Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Parkway Place Church. The time will be spent in praying for specific needs in Arkansas, our nation and our world. These needs will be presented one by one and group prayer time will follow. Needs presentations will include Church Arkansas by Floyd Tidsworth; Nail Benders for Jesus by Frank Allan; Arkansas lay involvement in China by John Hampton; church construction by Russell Miller; the Nevada challenge by John McAlister; disaster relief by Ed Lauderdale; cars for furloughing missionaries by missionary Don Redman; and Lay Renewal by Bill Bledsoe. Other information will be shared on Arkansas in Africa, partnership project overseas and the Cotter Camp.

Fred Roach will give the closing challenge, affirming that you can make a difference.—Glendon Grober, Brotherhood director

fundamentals of music, to make friends across the state who share the common bond of music. Need I go on? Have you wanted any one of these for your youth?

The date is July 25-29. The place is Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia. Senior high choir director is Don Wright from Bella Vista, and junior high choir director is Larry Grayson from Ashdown. Leading our band will be Glynn Stewart of Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, and Larry Hore of Charleston will lead as pastor for the week. Your minister of music has the registration form and details. If not, just give us a call at 376-4791.

The Music Happenin' of the Summer for Youth... be there or be square!—Peggy Pearson, associate/office manager

Single Adults

## First National Convention

Southern Baptists have designated 1987-88 as a special year for single adults through the Family Ministry Program.

"Growing Together: Singles and Churches" has been the theme for the year and has been promoted at the annual Labor Day Weekend Conferences and Baptist Single Adult Day in 1987.

Baptist single adults will gather in Nashville, Tenn., May 27-30, 1988, for "Single Challenge '88," the first national Baptist Single Adult Convention. The convention begins at 1 p.m. Friday, May 27, and adjourns at 1 p.m. Monday, May 30. Major convention sessions will be at the Convention Center in downtown Nashville. Sunday afternoon, May 29, and Monday, May 30, will be Baptist Single Adult Day at Opryland U.S.A.

"Single Challenge '88" will feature creative worship, fellowship, Christian entertainment, Bible study fellowships, and a host of other outstanding events. Dr. Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, will join other outstanding speakers and leaders, including Harold Ivan Smith, Dan Yeary, Clyde Besson, Jim Towns, Britton and Bobby Wood.

Musicians and entertainers include Cynthia Clawson and Ragan Courtney, David Garrard, Bob Bailey, New Song, Angie Lewis, George Fields.

Contact the Church Training Department for additional information about registration and the program for "Single Challenge '88."—Gerald Jackson, associate

Brotherhood

## Baptist Men's Congress

You can make a difference. The first Arkansas Baptist Men's Congress will emphasize the value of each Baptist man's contribution to building God's kingdom.

The Congress will be held at Parkway Place Church in Little Rock. The dates are

## Part-Time

Part-time relief houseparents for Little Rock area Emergency Shelter for Children. Approximately 8 days a month. Salary, benefits (insurance and vacation), and supervision. Contact:

David Perry, 376-4791,

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Music Arkansas

## For Youth Only!

Yes, it's true. Music Arkansas is putting on a new face. We have some of the keenest minds at work even now, putting together a youth music camp without equal. This new look uniquely and especially involves music, which makes Music Arkansas uniquely different from any camp you'll consider for your youth this summer.

Consider these opportunities: to sing in a choir of 75 (give or take a few), to catch a vision of what their own choir can be, to equip youth to be more functional worshippers and worship leaders, to learn the

## Family Ministry

# 'In Times Of Family Crisis'

Christian Home Emphasis is a planned special emphasis devoted to identifying and meeting the needs of families. This special emphasis begins on Mother's Day (May 8) and extends through Father's Day (June 19).

"Caring In Times Of Family Crisis" is the theme for the 1988 Christian Home Emphasis. Resources are available to assist churches plan a variety of projects and emphases to enrich family life. Christian Home Week sets the stage for the entire six-week emphasis. Mother's Day, Children's Day, and Father's Day are special days. Age-graded resources are available for churches that provide special studies on family life.

*Caring In Times Of Family Crisis, A Planning Guide to Christian Home Emphasis* is a planning resource available from the Baptist Book Store. Additional planning helps are in the Family Ministry Plan Book 1987-88. The plan book is available from the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Church organizations will feature a special emphasis on family enrichment during Christian Home Emphasis. Al-



Jackson

though the emphasis is suggested for May 8 through June 19, 1988, it can be held anytime convenient to a church's need and churches can still plan an effective emphasis for a later date.

Contact the Church Training Department and/or your association's Family Ministry director for additional information. Information about the 1989 Christian Home Emphasis will be in the Family Ministry Plan Book 1988-89. This plan book will be included in the May 1988 issue of *Baptist Program*.—Gerald Jackson, associate.

## Stewardship/Annuity Retirement Planning

Pastors and staff members planning to retire this year should start asking questions and seeking information. Those anticipating a benefit from the Annuity Board should notify the Board four to six months in advance of the retirement date.

If one is not sure of the exact date, the Annuity Board will provide estimates of benefits based on some suggested dates by the participant. Benefits can be calculated on more than one projected date.

Estimates are prepared by the Annuity Board and a letter, along with the necessary application forms, will be mailed to the participant requesting the information.

One may receive a single life benefit,

with spousal consent, a joint life benefit or a single sum settlement. Several other options are available upon request from the Annuity Board.

Benefits from the Annuity Board are paid at month end. The checks are mailed the day before the last working day of the month.

Ministers facing retirement within a few months should also check with their Social Security office for an estimate of benefits.

A supplement to Medicare is available through the Annuity Board's insurance programs.

Contact your annuity representative or call the Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511 for further information and materials on retirement planning.—James A. Walker, Annuity representative

## Church Music A First!

It's a first. Music camp for folks 55 and up. There'll be something for everyone, even those non-musicians that might want to come along for the ride.

SummerSing will be held on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University July 25-29. The cost is \$60, which includes registration fee, room, meals and insurance.

Your minister of music has the registration form and details; or you can call us at 376-4791.

You'll thrill to learn a musical under the baton of Martha Moore Clancy from Shreveport, La. You'll worship together with the pastor, Les Frazer from First Church, Lamar, and the worship music director, Carbon Sims of Ouachita. You'll choose classes from quite a list: music classes, ukelele band, Bible study, handbells, storytelling, choirmen, rhythm band and song leading, to name a few.

The camp is limited to 300 participants, so register early!—Peggy Pearson, associate/office manager



Pearson

## Sunday School

# Weekly Workers Meeting Workshops

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

May 9

Little Rock, Parkway Place  
Fort Smith, East Side

May 10

West Memphis, First  
El Dorado, Second

- ☆ How To Start A Weekly Workers Meeting ☆
- ☆ How To Build Your Weekly Workers Meeting Attendance ☆
- ☆ How To Lead Good Age Group Meetings ☆
- ☆ What You Should Do In A Weekly Workers Meeting ☆
- ☆ How To Use Your Curriculum Materials In Planning ☆

Five conference for General Officers  
and Workers with Preschoolers, Children, Youth, and Adults

Conferences led by BSSB Personnel and State Workers

Bring your curriculum materials

(Note: The above places and dates represent some changes from those printed in the State pocket diary.)



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## Next Month in Arkansas: May

May 2, Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, UAM Baptist Student Center, Monticello (CT)  
May 2-3, Chaplaincy Awareness Conference, Camp Paron (Mn)  
May 3, Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, U of A Baptist Student Center, Fayetteville (CT)  
May 6-7, Pastor-Deacon Conference, Little Rock Calvary Church (CT)  
May 7, State Music Tournament and Ensemble Jubilee, Little Rock Olivet Church (M)  
May 7, Backyard Bible Club/Mission Vacation Bible School Clinic, North Little Rock Levy Church (SS)

May 9, Weekly Workers' Meeting Workshops, Fort Smith East Side Church, Little Rock Parkway Place Church (SS)  
May 9, Golden Age Evangelism Conference, Hot Springs Village Barcelona Road Church (Ev)  
May 10, Weekly Workers' Meeting Workshops, El Dorado Second Church, West Memphis First Church (SS)  
May 10, Golden Age Evangelism Conference, Hardy First Church (Ev)  
May 15, Day of Prayer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine  
May 16-17, Church Planting Conference, Camp Paron (Mn)

May 16-20, MasterLife Workshop, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)  
May 19-22, Campers on Mission Spring Rally, Pettit Jean State Park (Mn)  
May 20-21, GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)  
May 20-21, Baptist Men's Congress, Little Rock Parkway Place Church (Bbd)  
May 23-25, Senior Adult Celebration, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)  
May 23-27, Church Building Tour (SS)

## June

June 3-4, GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Siloam Springs Assembly (WMU)  
June 4, State Disaster Relief Meeting, Mountain Home (Bbd)  
June 17-18, GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Camp Paron (WMU)  
June 20-24, Super Summer Arkansas, Ouachita Baptist University,

Arkadelphia (Ev)  
June 20-24, Youth Missions Emphasis, Siloam Springs Assembly (WMU)  
June 20-24, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs (SS)  
June 20-24, RA Camp, Camp Paron (Bbd)  
June 24-25, Man and Boy Camp,

Camp Paron (Bbd)  
June 27-30, Young Musicians Camp, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)  
June 27-July 1, Youth Missions Emphasis, Siloam Springs Assembly (WMU)  
June 27-July 1, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs (SS)

## July

July 11-15, Youth Missions Emphasis, Siloam Springs Assembly (WMU)  
July 18, Christian Money Management Conferences, Rogers First Church, Harrison First Church (SA)  
July 19, Christian Money Management Conference, Pine Bluff Matthew Memorial Church (SA)  
July 20, Christian Money Manage-

ment Conference, West Memphis First Church (SA)  
July 21-23, State High School Baptist Young Men Primitive Camp, Cotter (Bbd)  
July 25-29, Music Arkansas, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)

July 25-29, SummerSing, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)  
July 28-29, Weekday Early Education Workshop, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (SS)  
July 30, Brotherhood Director/Baptist Men's President Luncheon, Sherwood First Church (Bbd)

## August

August 5-6, Pastor-Director Retreat (CT)  
August 11, Small Sunday School Leadership Updates, Arkadelphia Cedar Grove Church, Heber Springs South Side Church, Benton Mt. Vernon Church, Wilmar Church, Flippin First Church (SS)  
August 12-13, DiscipleYouth Workshop, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)  
August 12-13, Children's Choir Leader Workshop, Little Rock Im-

manuel Church (M)  
August 15, Area Growth Spiral Workshops, Paragould East Side Church, Conway Second Church (SS)  
August 16, Area Growth Spiral Workshops, Alma First Church, Harrison Eagle Heights Church (SS)  
August 19-20, Small Sunday School Workshop, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs (SS)  
August 19-20, Associational WMU Officers Retreat, Camp Paron (WMU)

August 19-20, Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Retreat, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (M)  
August 26-27, Associational Church Training Leadership Training, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (CT)  
August 29, IMPACT 88, Magnolia Central Church (WMU)  
August 29-31, State Conference on Aging (CT)  
August 30, IMPACT 88, Fordyce First Church (WMU)



## Tentative 1989 Arkansas Baptist State Convention Diary

### January

- 3-6 Make Your Will Month
- 3-6 "At Home Week", Baptist Building, Little Rock
- 5-6 Staff Retreat, DeGray Lodge, DeGray
- 8 Soul Winning Commitment Day
- 8 Christian Will Sunday
- 9 SBC, Spring Registration
- 10 OBU, Spring Registration
- 12 National Baptist State Joint Committee
- 14 RA Counselors Fellowship, Little Rock
- 15 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 20 Baptist Building Banquet, Immanuel, Little Rock
- 22 Baptist Men's Day
- 23-24 St. Church Media Library Conference
- 26 BSU State Advisory Committee
- 28 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Little Rock
- 30 Baptist Doctrine Study Preview
- 30-31 State Evangelism Conference, First, Little Rock
- 31 New BSU Directors Orientation

### February

- National Baptist Regional Associates Clinic, Baptist Building
- National Baptist Annual Review Workshop, Baptist Building
- 1-3 BSU Directors Conference
- 3-4 Arkansas Lay Renewal Workshop, Little Rock
- 5 Associational Hymn Sing
- 5 Baptist World Alliance Sunday
- 6 State VBS Clinic, Immanuel Church, Little Rock
- 6-7 ASSIST Team Training, First, North Little Rock
- 11 Bible Teaching Gathering, Ouachita, Arkadelphia
- 12 Race Relations Sunday
- 12-18 Focus on WMU Week
- 13-17 Church Building Tour
- 17-18 Summer Missions Committee
- 17-18 SBC, Homecoming
- 18 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Arkadelphia
- 19 Seminaries, College, & School Day
- 19-22 Home Mission Study
- 20-21 State Pastoral Ministries Conference
- 24-25 State Single Adult Conference
- 24-25 Volunteer/Part Time Music Leaders, Camp Paron
- 26 Volunteers in Mission Day
- 27-3/3 Christian Focus Week
- 28 Direction 2000 Planning Meeting

### March

- "Church Arkansas" Meeting, Texarkana
- 1-3 DOM Retreat, DeGray Lodge
- 2 Recognition Banquet for DOM's
- 3-4 State Church Recreation Conference
- 4-12 Mt. Zion State Enrollment Training
- 5-12 Week of Prayer for Home Missions
- 6-10 SBC, Spring Break
- 10-11 HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, Little Rock
- 11 Youth Choir Festival, Geyer Springs First, Little Rock
- 12 Home Missions Day in Sunday School
- 12-19 Youth Week
- 13 Music in Evangelism Conference, First Church, Paris
- 13-14 Pastor's Retreat
- 13-17 District Bible Drills, Speakers' Tournaments
- 17-27 OBU Spring Break
- 18 Volunteer/Part Time Workshop, First Church, Murfreesboro
- 18 Associational Baptist Youth Night
- 21-22 State WMU Annual Meeting, First Church, Rogers
- 24 State Youth Convention
- 26 Start-a-Church Sunday
- 30-31 Minister/Mate Marriage Retreat
- 31-4/2 Leadership Training Conference, Camp Paron

### April

- 1 Young Musicians Choir Festivals, Park Hill, North Little Rock, Southside, Pine Bluff; First Church, Jonesboro; Central, Magnolia
- 3-4, 6-7 Interfaith Witness Conferences
- 8 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Monticello
- 9 Latest Date for Associational Tournaments
- 10-12 Foreign Mission Board Meetings, Excelsior, Little Rock
- 11 FMB Appointment Service, Convention Center, Little Rock
- 13-14 Here's Hope-Associational Steering Committee, Camp Paron
- 15 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Fayetteville
- 16 Cooperative Program Day
- 17-18 New Pastor/Staff Orientation
- 17-21 Baptist Doctrine Study Week
- 20-21 Minister of Youth Conference
- 20-21 Minister of Education Retreat
- 21-22 Tiger Traks Weekend
- 21-22 Handbell Choir Festival, First Baptist, Little Rock
- 23 Life Commitment Sunday
- 24-25 Key Leader Meeting, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock
- 25-28 Area Summer Youth Ministry Conference
- 28-29 Acteens Encounter, Park Hill, North Little Rock
- 28-29 Church Building Conference, Markham Street, Little Rock
- 28-29 RA Congress, Ouachita, Arkadelphia
- 29-5/2 National Church Secretary's Conference, Nashville, Tenn.

### May

- "Church Arkansas" Meeting, Fayetteville
- 1-2 Chaplaincy Awareness Conference
- 1-2 "Parenting-Minister's Home" Conference
- 5-6 State Pastor/Deacon Conference
- 6 Mission VBS/YBC Clinic, Levy, North Little Rock
- 6 OBU-Commencement
- 6 State Tournament/Ensemble Jubilee, Life Line, Little Rock
- 7-14 Christian Home Week
- 7 Senior Adult Day
- 7 Associational Hymn Sing
- 7 Baptist Senior Adult Day
- 8-9 OBU-Final Exams
- 12 Golden Age Evangelism Conference, First, Hot Springs
- 12 SBC, Spring Commencement
- 13 Youth Leaders Christian Life
- 15 Day of Prayer for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*
- 15-16 Church Planting Conference, Camp Paron
- 15-16 Pastor/Staff Sunday School, Little Rock
- 15-19 MasterLife Workshop
- 18-21 Campers on Mission Rally
- 19-20 GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Camp Paron
- 19-20 DiscipleYouth Conference
- 22 Adult Choir Festivals, Southside, Fort Smith; First, Benton; Beech Street, Texarkana
- 22-24 Senior Adult Celebration
- 23 Adult Choir Festivals, First, Harrison; First, Cabot; First, Warren
- 25 Adult Choir Festival, East Side, Paragould
- 26-27 Baptist Men's Congress, Little Rock
- 30-6/2 Student Summer Missionary Orientation

### June

- 1-2 Student Summer Missionary Supervisor Meeting
- 3 Disaster Relief Meeting, Little Rock
- 5 OBU, First Summer Term Begins
- 9-10 GA Mother-Daughter Camp, Camp Paron
- 11-15 Southern Baptist Convention, Las Vegas
- 16 OBU-Early Academic Orientation
- 19-23 Super Summer, Ouachita, Arkadelphia
- 19-23 RA Camp, Camp Paron
- 19-23 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly
- 23-24 Man and Boy Camp, Camp Paron
- 25 Annuity Board Sunday
- 26-28 GA Mini-Camp, Camp Paron

26-29 Young Musicians Camp, Ouachita, Arkadelphia  
26-30 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly  
28-30 GA Mini-Camp, Camp Paron

## July

1-7 WMU Conference, Ridgecrest, NC  
3-7 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly  
6 National Baptist State Joint Committee  
10 OBU, Second Summer Term Begins  
10-11 Student-Missionary Mid-Summer Meeting  
10-12 Family Enrichment Leadership Conference  
10-14 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly  
10-14 Church Building Tour  
12-15 National Acteens Conference, San Antonio, TX  
14 OBU-Early Academic Orientation  
17-21 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly  
17-21 National Baptist Boys Camp, Camp Paron  
20-22 HSBYM & Pioneer Camp, Cotter  
22-28 WMU Conference, Glorieta, NM  
24-28 National Baptist Girls Camp, Camp Paron  
24-28 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs Assembly  
24-28 Senior Adult SummerSing, Ouachita, Arkadelphia  
24-28 Music Arkansas for Youth, Ouachita, Arkadelphia  
28-29 State BSU Advisory Committee  
29 Brotherhood/Baptist Men's President's Meeting, Little Rock  
31-8/4 National Baptist Young Ladies Camp, Camp Paron

## August

3-4 Weekday Early Education Workshop, Little Rock  
4-5 Pastor/Director Retreat  
5 OBU-Early Academic Orientation  
6 On-to-College Day  
6 Day of Prayer for World Peace  
6 Associational Hymn Sing  
7-11 MasterLife Workshop  
8 DOM Meeting, Baptist Building, Little Rock  
10-11 Baptist Men's Golf Tournament  
13 Language Missions Day  
17 Associational Clerks Workshop, Baptist Building, Little Rock  
18-19 Volunteer/Part Time Music Leaders, Southern, Walnut Ridge  
18-19 Associational WMU Officers Retreat, Camp Paron, Paron  
21 Special Worker Institute, Little Rock  
21 SBC, Freshman Orientation  
21 Area Children's Choir Leaders, First Church, Arkadelphia  
22 Advanced Growth Spiral Workshop, Little Rock  
22 Area Children's Choir Leaders, First, Monticello  
22-23 SBC, Fall Registration  
25-26 Associational CT Leadership Conference  
25-26 Baptist Bookstore Reading Session  
26-28 New Student Orientation  
28 IMPACT 89, Grand Avenue, Fort Smith  
28 Area Children's Choir Leaders, Wynne  
29 Area Children's Choir Leaders, First Church, Springdale  
29 OBU-Fall Registration  
29-30 IMPACT 89, Immanuel, Fayetteville  
31 IMPACT 89, First Church, Harrison

## September

Foundation Month  
"Church Arkansas" Meeting, Little Rock  
2 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Jonesboro  
7 IMPACT 89, Central Church, North Little Rock  
7-10 Campers on Mission Rally  
8 Furloughing Missionaries Orientation, Baptist Building  
9 Baptist Youth Day  
9-17 Benton County Sunday School Enlargement Campaign  
10 Baptist Foundation Sunday  
10 Single Adult Day  
11 IMPACT 89, Trinity, Texarkana  
12-13 IMPACT 89, First Church, El Dorado  
13 SBC, Founders Day  
14 IMPACT 89, Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff  
15-16 State Council Retreat  
17-24 Season of Prayer for State Missions  
18 Bivocational and Small Church Workshop, Murfreesboro

18 Music in Evangelism Conference, Fisher Street, Jonesboro  
18-22 Senior Adult Chautauqua, Glorieta, NM  
19 Bivocational, Small Church Workshop, Second, Monticello  
21 Bivocational, Small Church Workshop, Pine Tree  
21-23 Adult Camp Craft Workshop, Spring Lake  
22-23 CPA Retreat, Petit Jean Mountain  
22-23 State Sunday School Convention  
24-10/1 Sunday School Preparation Week  
25 Youth Choir Leadership Conference, Immanuel, Little Rock  
25 IMPACT 89, First Church, West Memphis  
26-27 IMPACT 89, First Church, Jonesboro  
28-29 Large Church Evangelism Conference, DeGray Lodge  
29-30 NE Arkansas Small Sunday School, Southern, Walnut Ridge

## October

Cooperative Program Month  
1 Share Hope, Start-A-Class  
2-5 National CWT Seminar, South Highland, Little Rock  
6-7 Church Recreators Retreat  
6-8 BSU State Convention  
7 Volunteer/Part Time Music Leaders, First Church, Smackover  
7-8 Language Leadership Retreat, Lake Nixon, Little Rock  
8 World Hunger Day  
9-13 Annual Associational Meetings  
9-13 Senior Adult Chautauqua, Ridgecrest, NC  
13-14 Tri-State Camp-0-Rec, Memphis, TN  
14 State Keyboard Clinic, Calvary, Little Rock  
14 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Russellville  
16-20 Annual Associational Meetings  
19-20 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Paron  
19-20 Music Men/Singing Women, Ouachita, Arkadelphia  
20-21 Baptist Women Retreat, Camp Paron  
21 SBC Family and Friends Day  
23-26 Building Witnessing Relationships Seminar  
24 State Church Training Convention  
26-28 OBU-Tiger Tunes  
28 Volunteer/Part Time Workshop, Lakeview, Cave Springs  
28 Mission Friends Super Saturday, Calvary, Little Rock  
30 Early Bird Assoc. VBS Director Planning, Baptist Building

## November

"Church Arkansas" Meeting, Jonesboro  
3-5 International Retreat, Camp Paron  
4 Youth Leaders Christian Life Workshop, Forrest City  
5-11 Royal Ambassador Week  
6 ABSC Pre-Convention Meetings  
7-8 Arkansas Baptist State Convention, First, Little Rock  
7-10 Arkansas Missionary Baptist Convention  
10 SBC, Miss SBC Pageant  
12 American Bible Society Day  
13-17 General Missionary Baptist Convention  
18 OBU Homecoming  
18 Hunger Ingathering, Little Rock  
21-23 Consolidated Missionary Baptist Convention  
22-26 Thanksgiving Recs  
26 Family & Child Care Thanksgiving Offering  
27 Associational Church Training "M" Night  
27-12/1 Church Building Tour  
30 State January Bible Study, Baptist Building, Little Rock

## December

3 Associational Carol Sing  
3-10 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions  
4-5 Tax Seminar, Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock  
4-5 Career Assessment  
5 Tax Seminar, Grand Avenue, Fort Smith  
6 Tax Seminar, First Church, Jonesboro  
7-8 Evangelism Workshop, Camp Paron  
9 Laity Abroad Luncheon  
10 Foreign Missions Day in Sunday School  
11-12 New Trustee Orientation, Little Rock  
18-29 All State Band/Choir, Convention Center, Hot Springs  
28-29 Youth Evangelism Conf., Convention Center, Hot Springs  
31 Student Day at Christmas



# ACTS To Be Sold

## Package Totals More Than \$34 Million

by Al Shackelford  
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission have voted to transfer operation of the ACTS television network to a new Texas for-profit corporation, Friends of ACTS Inc.

At their regular meeting April 12, commission trustees approved in principle a memorandum of agreement for the sale and authorized their executive committee to negotiate the definitive agreement, with final approval by the full trustee board.

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the commission since 1980, told trustees he will resign his position and manage ACTS for the new corporation "if this transfer is accomplished and if I am asked."

In a statement to the trustees, Allen said: "I am convinced that ACTS is the key to assisting the churches in reaching the nation with the gospel and must continue to function effectively. For that reason, I believe it is vital that the network be managed by someone who thoroughly understands its purpose and operation."

Under the provisions of the memorandum of agreement, at closing on or before Sept. 15, the RTVC would receive \$10 million for equipment, program films and videotapes, licenses, satellite contracts and property on which the Dallas-Fort Worth satellite uplink is located and \$1 million for production of programs for ACTS. In addition the RTVC will receive:

— A \$23 million note, payable at \$2 million annually plus interest, for use in production of programs for ACTS.

— A 3 percent override of Friends of ACTS "gross receipts" for 30 years.

— Five hours per day of air time on ACTS without charge for 30 years for telecasting programs produced and placed by the RTVC.

The initial \$10 million payment will be used by the commission to pay off a loan which was made to it by a California bank in 1986. Trustees were told the current balance of that loan is \$8,901,502.

Under the proposal, Friends of ACTS would conduct a private stock placement to raise funds to affect the transfer.

"When the funds are raised," Allen said, "the Radio-TV Commission will be able to return to its principle task of producing radio and television programs to assist local churches in bringing people to God through Christ."

Allen said he hopes the final agreement and an appraisal of the value of ACTS and

the equipment involved will all be completed by mid-May.

ACTS has struggled financially since it was launched during the 1984 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. When the Executive Committee approved the application for the \$10 million loan with a 10-year payback, it was pointed out ACTS "had been confronted with large expenditures" to start the network.

At that time, it also was noted ACTS would "require long-term, ongoing expenses beyond those which can be supported by the Cooperative Program allocation."

In addition to large costs to keep the network operating, ACTS has not been successful in various fund-raising efforts. At one point, ACTS had spent \$600,000 more on fund-raising efforts than had been raised.

Trustees spent nearly six hours April 11 discussing the proposal in an informal "workshop" session and then approved it unanimously during their meeting April 12. In addition to approving in principle the transfer of ACTS to Friends of ACTS, the motion as passed requested "that full communication to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and all interested publics within the Southern Baptist Convention be conducted with candor and sensitivity."

During discussion of the proposal, trustees were assured Friends of ACTS will

honor contracts which the RTVC has with local ACTS boards. These contracts allow the local boards to use the network to air up to 25 hours of programming per week. This time will not be counted against the 35 hours per week that Friends of ACTS will allot to the RTVC.

Allen told trustees the ACTS network had reached a plateau in its growth due to the current climate in the cable industry. The major cable companies prefer not to use a network channel owned by a single denomination, he said.

Representatives of Friends of ACTS said they would organize a board with multi-denominational representation that would be committed to operating in line with ACTS' original stated purposes. Chip Atkins Jr. of San Antonio is the founder of Friends of ACTS.

The new organization has contracted for a transponder on Galaxy III satellite, and ACTS will begin transmitting on the new satellite May 1.

In other action, commission trustees approved its response to the Southern Baptist Peace Committee, noting, "We are committed to the Baptist Faith and Message and continue to secure our personnel who work in ministry opportunities with the commission with this in mind."

Harold T. Brundidge, an attorney from Martin, Tenn., was elected chairman of trustees. Other officers elected were First Vice Chairman Michael S. Hamlet, a pastor from North Spartanburg, S.C.; Second Vice Chairman Russell Lawson, a banker from Oklahoma City; and Recording Secretary LaVerne Butler, a pastor from Louisville, Ky.

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# 'Guarded Optimism'

by J. Everett Sneed

Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

"It was something of a shock to me to learn that the trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission have voted to transfer the operation of the ACTS Television Network to a private for-profit corporation," declared Mike Huckabee one of the five regional representatives of the National ACTS Affiliates. Huckabee first learned that the sales agreement had taken place when a local newspaper called him for his reaction.

Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president of the Radio and Television Commission said, "The Friends of ACTS see the local church involvement as one of the great strengths of the Network. They propose to honor all contracts with the local ACTS Boards and the ACTS Councils. The result should be enhancement of the local emphasis and access that makes ACTS so effective."

Huckabee, pastor of the First Beech Street Church, Texarkana, said, "I view the new relationship with guarded optimism. It may be something that will help the local ACTS affiliate in reaching their goal of carrying the gospel. In the past we have had a good solid vehicle for communicating the gospel."

Huckabee indicated that there are many questions that remained unanswered for him. Because of this he was not ready to give a wholesale endorsement until he had more information. Information was to be given to the national ACTS affiliate members in a meeting scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 21-22. On Thursday night the regional representatives were to meet with Radio and Television Commission personnel and on Friday all ACTS affiliates were invited to attend a workshop.

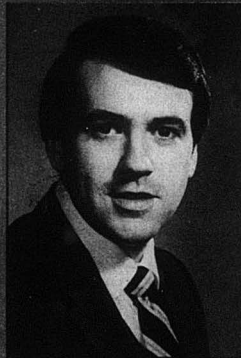
Huckabee feels positive about the possibility of Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Commission, becoming the head of the new corporation. He believes that if Dr. Allen heads up the new entity that the affiliates would have far more confidence in the newly formed corporation. He observed that most of the affiliate members hold Dr. Allen in high regard. He said, "The basic purpose for which ACTS was established was so that local Baptist churches could communicate the gospel in an effective way to the unchurched individuals of their community. We have confidence that this basic purpose would continue to be carried out if Dr. Allen is head of the new corporation. Unless some key individual from the Radio and Television Commission was involved with the new corporation, it is probable that the af-

filiate members would have considerable anxiety."

The idea of moving ACTS from a single denominationally owned entity will likely make it more palatable to cable operators, Huckabee observed. It will also remove it from denominational control and denominational restraints which will strengthen it financially and enable the new corporation to have better programming.

The new relationship, however, raises some important questions: Will ACTS lose its distinctively Christian identity? Could

**'I am cautiously optimistic regarding the sale of ACTS. The local element has kept it from being tied to any personality. It has made it possible to communicate the gospel effectively to unchurched individuals and to emphasize the necessity for individuals to be involved in a local church. It is my prayer that this good relationship will continue in the future.'**



Huckabee

the programming become such that the 360 ACTS boards tied to the ACTS Network would be uncomfortable with it? The answer to these questions is unknown at the present time and will determine the response of many of the affiliates.

Huckabee further observed that he would feel more comfortable with the new corporation if the majority of the trustees were required to be active Southern Baptist church members by charter. Executive vice president McCartney said that Chip Atkins Jr., founder of the Friends of ACTS, is a Roman Catholic. "But he has been attending a Southern Baptist Church in San Antonio regularly and has recently made a profession of faith," he said.

In the past local affiliates had the right to preempt programs only at certain time periods and only to broadcast their own programs. McCartney said that it was his understanding that this relationship is to be continued between the local affiliates and the new for profit corporation. Huckabee feels that it is possible that the new corporation could develop programming that would be unacceptable theologically or morally to local Southern Baptist churches. For this reason he feels that local affiliates should have the right to preempt any program that failed to measure up to local church standards.

The problem is not that other mainline denominations will be using ACTS. There are already seven such denominations that use the ACTS Network. Huckabee said that many Southern Baptist churches would have problems if a cult such as the Mormons were given time on the network in order to make it acceptable in the Salt Lake City area. He said, "Our fears may be unwarranted. I guess our real problem is that the transfer was made by the trustees without any involvement by the local affiliates."

Huckabee observed that the development of ACTS took place over a long period of time. The first announcement that the formation of ACTS was under consideration was made in February 1981. The Network went on the air in 1984. ACTS has now been on the air for approximately four years. Seemingly, in a matter of weeks the most important action ever taken by ACTS has been completed. Did the trustees think through all of the ramifications of this new relationship?

Huckabee concluded by again restating, "I am cautiously optimistic regarding the sale of ACTS. The local element has kept it from being tied to any personality. It has made it possible to communicate the gospel effectively to unchurched individuals and to emphasize the necessity for individuals to be involved in a local church. It is my prayer that this good relationship will continue in the future."

## SBC NOMINATIONS

## Process Violated?

by Marv Knox

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Committee on Nominations violated the convention's peace process by politicizing the selection of denominational trustees, a member of the committee has charged.

But the committee's chairman has refuted the allegation, citing theology — not politics—as the standard for trustee nominations.

The committee met in Nashville March 17-18 to nominate people to fill trustee vacancies for Southern Baptist boards, seminaries, commissions and committees. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will vote on those nominations when they convene in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

The nominating committee "violated the very spirit of the (SBC) Peace Committee report," said Raymond T. Boswell, an insurance executive from Shreveport, La.

Boswell said the Peace Committee report was violated because a conservative political litmus test was applied to several potential nominees. The question was asked about some of them, "Have they been in the struggle with us since 1979?" he said.

"So the decision was not whether you believe the whole Bible and whether you believe in the inspiration of Scripture," he said of the nomination process. "The issue rests on whether or not you have been in the struggle with them since 1979."

Such questioning of identity and involvement runs "against the very statement in the Peace Committee report in which they say, 'It is the unanimous conclusion of the Peace Committee that fairness in the appointment process would contribute to peace,'" Boswell said.

"Throughout the conclusions and recommendations of the Peace Committee, this kind of thing touches organized political activity and political strategies developed by a group with central control," he added. "Those were a part of the Peace Committee recommendations, and they (the Committee on Nominations) have violated the very spirit of the Peace Committee report."

Nominating committee Chairman Joseph T. Knott III, an attorney from Raleigh, N.C., said that charge is untrue, mainly because the issue is theology and not politics.

"I did not think it was a political criterion that was being laid down," Knott said. "My reading of the committee was that people were very much concerned about church membership, baptisms, Cooperative Program, the stand on the Peace Committee report, the Bible and its

total trustworthiness—lots of interest in a person theologically. The only motivation I have as I read that committee was theological."

Convention politics was not part of the consideration, because politics is not part of the controversy, he added: "I don't believe there has been political involvement. I believe the whole controversy has been theological and not political. . . . The idea of a political struggle—I disagree with that whole concept.

"By politics, I mean people banding together for a political purpose so that one group of people will gain political advantage over another group for the furthering of the winning team's careers. That's not what I see going on. I don't see this as a career-enhancing sort of activity.

"I see it purely as an issue that's being debated, a theological issue that has nothing to do with the term 'politics' as it is generally used. I see it as purely service to Christ."

Boswell, however, cited two primary evidences of what he called political activity: the questioning of potential nominees' involvement in the conservative cause within the SBC and the involvement in the nomination process of conservative leaders who are not members of the nominating committee.

He cited his own experience as an example of the first type of activity. He and his Louisiana colleague on the committee, Monroe pastor Benny R. Thompson, presented alternate slates of nominees for most Louisiana trustee vacancies.

The duo had a "good meeting" prior to the Nashville session and agreed they "just come from different points of view with regard to people serving as trustees of our agencies and institutions," Boswell said. "We agreed that I would present my slate, and he would present his, and together we would present those we could agree on.

"When I had presented mine, and my counterpart had presented his, . . . I was asked first, 'What do your people believe about the Bible?' . . . Then my counterpart was asked, 'Have those you nominated been in the struggle with us since 1979?'"

## Floridians Bumped From List

by Greg Warner and Jack Brymer  
Florida Baptist Witness

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—One Florida member of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations abandoned a "prayerful agreement" to nominate four Floridians to SBC trustee posts in favor of four nominees approved by conservative leaders, his colleague has reported.

After agreeing in January to a slate of Floridians to serve as new SBC trustees, Gene Whiddon of Fort Lauderdale broke his agreement with Jacksonville evangelist James Ponder, the other Floridian on the committee, and offered an alternate slate to the committee when it met in Nashville March 17-18.

Whiddon did not consult Ponder, who arrived late for the meeting after finishing a revival in Columbus, Ga., Ponder said.

According to several committee members, Whiddon told the committee the first slate was not acceptable to his pastor, O.S. Hawkins of First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale.

Among people deemed unacceptable was outgoing state convention President Bill Coffman, who was replaced as a trustee nominee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary by another former president, Max Cadenhead of Naples.

Whiddon also replaced two Florida laymen from the agreed list with other

nominees, Ponder said. The committee voted to accept those three replacements, but rejected one other Whiddon recommendation in favor of the original nominee.

All four Floridians eligible for re-election as trustees were approved. A ninth Floridian from the original list was elected without challenge from Whiddon.

The first sign of disagreement between the two Floridians on the Committee on Nominations came from Whiddon, who through his secretary released a statement about the committee's work to the Florida Baptist Witness April 1. "It is unfortunate that the two Florida representatives did not come to an agreement on the nominees for the various trustee vacancies," the statement said in part.

Ponder, however, said the two reached an agreement, and Whiddon broke it. "We prayerfully agreed to nominate the four from Florida eligible for re-election and agreed upon nominees for the four open positions and two at large positions who were very representative," he said when contacted by the Witness, newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention.

The original slate of nominations was signed by Ponder and Whiddon and sent as requested to committee Chairman Joseph Knott III of Raleigh, N.C., in January.

# Signs of Harmony

by David Wilkinson

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—In back-to-back votes, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees added a conservative New Testament professor to the seminary's faculty and awarded tenure to a theology professor who has been a target of conservatives in the denomination's theological controversies.

The actions were hailed by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt as evidence of "a new spirit", reflecting the trustees' support of the seminary's efforts to be "an agent of reconciliation" in the troubled denomination.

In the final session of their April 11-13 annual meeting, trustees voted unanimously to add David S. Dockery, professor of theology and New Testament at Criswell College in Dallas, as assistant professor of New Testament. Dockery was awarded a contract without tenure, effective with the completion of his doctoral studies.

Asked to provide background on the search process, Honeycutt told trustees he had given the faculty search committee "an unprecedented directive." Any recommendation had to be consistent with his announced commitment to add to the School of Theology "someone who would represent the view of the more conservative" segment of the denomination, he said.

In contrast to Dockery's election, which

required less than two minutes of discussion, the vote on tenure for theology Professor Molly Marshall-Green followed nearly two hours of discussion about her theological views.

The vote of support—45 for, seven against and three abstentions—came after Honeycutt issued a personal appeal on her behalf, urging trustees to approve tenure as an indication of their willingness to "reach out in both directions." Marshall-Green, 38, is the first female professor of theology to be awarded tenure in any of the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries.

For several years some critics have charged Marshall-Green with espousing "universalism," a doctrine that all people come under God's grace and will receive salvation. The criticism stemmed from Marshall-Green's 1983 doctoral dissertation at Southern Seminary.

During the meeting, primary opposition was voiced by Arkansas pastor Mark Copenhaver and Kentucky layman John Michael. Michael read an eight-point summary of statements in the dissertation that he said were "clearly in violation" of the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's governing theological statement. He said the dissertation "holds that one can be saved without knowing of, or believing in, Jesus Christ."

Copenhaver said Marshall-Green's views are in conflict with the abstract's section

dealing with the "total depravity of mankind." He told trustees, "My position is that her understanding of the Bible does not square with this document (the abstract)." Trustees "must insist" that faculty members "affirm the clear meaning of the Abstract of Principles propositionally as true," he added.

James Monroe, chairman of the trustees' academic personnel committee, read a written response from Marshall-Green to each of the eight criticisms voiced by Michael. He noted the committee had chosen unanimously to recommend tenure for Marshall-Green after meeting with her in a session "that to my knowledge in the 10 years I have served as a trustee was the most extensive and thorough interview ever held with a faculty member regarding any matter coming before this board."

The committee's conclusion was that Marshall-Green's "basic convictions and her teaching are in accordance with the Abstract of Principles and the Baptist Faith and Message," he said.

Monroe noted the dissertation "dealt in a scholarly way with the troublesome question," the fate of people who have never heard the Christian gospel.

Georgia pastor Jerry Mahan said Marshall-Green had "satisfied me on every question" during the committee's interview. Noting, "I am an inerrantist's interdentist," he said it "would be a tragedy to deny her tenure based on what I fear is our misunderstanding of a thesis she wrote five years ago."

"I am in a dilemma," said Tennessee pastor Wayne Allen, noting Honeycutt "has given outstanding leadership toward trying to listen and respond and be fair... and he's paid a great price for this. It's weighing on me that maybe some of us need to pay a price. This issue goes far beyond a professor and tenure."

## Nomination Planned

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP)—W. Randall Lolley will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC annual meeting this summer, a North Carolina pastor has announced.

John Hewitt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, said Lolley has agreed to be nominated for the post when the convention meets in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

Lolley was elected pastor of First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N.C., April 6. Previously, he was president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., for 14 years.

## Averting Rumors

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have moved to consummate the election of new seminary trustees more quickly, thereby averting future rumors that new members would not be accepted on the trustee board.

Meeting April 11-13 at the seminary campus in Louisville, Ky., they voted unanimously to hold an adjourned session of the board in San Antonio, Texas, following the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, in order to promptly elect new trustees nominated by the convention.

Because of provisions in the seminary's charter, the school's board elects new trustees at its annual meeting in April, following by 10 months the SBC annual meeting the previous June.

Reports had circulated before this year's meeting that some trustees planned to recommend the board reject trustees elected at the 1987 SBC meeting and perhaps even attempt to "pull out" of the convention.

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said the rumors were "totally unjustified" and had been generated by a mass mailing of information taken from minutes of the trustee board's executive committee.

"As I have said on

numerous occasions, the seminary's name is not a geographical name but a denominational name," Honeycutt said. "It has never been our intention to be anything other than a cooperating Southern Baptist seminary." Although the San Antonio meeting will cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 in unbudgeted expense, he said, that meeting will be worth the cost "as an expression of good faith."

Trustees also voted to add a day to their fall retreat in October for a special meeting when the board's executive committee will bring recommendations to accelerate the election process in order to avoid the "ambiguity and uncertainty" created by current provisions.

## Convention Uniform

### *God Never Misunderstands*

by Greg Kirksey, Hillside Church, Camden

**Basic passage:** Hebrews 4:14-16; 6:19-20; 7:21-28

**Focal passage:** Hebrews 4:14-16

**Central truth:** Jesus, our High Priest, provides more than adequate representation for us before God the Father.

Many people today are crying out to be understood. They are looking for someone who will listen and not think they are crazy or judge them as a lost cause. They shudder from a fear of being misunderstood.

Jesus is presented in Hebrews as a great high priest. And the emphasis of today's text is that in Jesus we have a high priest who understands our heart. But not only does God, therefore, understand us, he never misunderstands. These words were originally addressed to a discouraged people, frustrated because they were misunderstood by the old line of priests.

Jesus never misunderstands us because of his position in heaven. He has a much better perspective from which to view our life than any human priest. Verse 14 indicates he has "passed through the Heavens" with the present result that he is in heaven.

Another reason Jesus never misunderstands is his passion. In verse 15 we are reminded he has been exposed to the same temptation and discouragement we have and, therefore, he knows from experience how we hurt. There is no better teacher than experience. It is easier to understand the pain someone is experiencing if you have experienced the same kind of hurt. Because of Jesus' position and passion he is able to clarify for the Heavenly Father every detail of our life.

The result of this excellent representation of us in Heaven is that our confession can be strengthened (v. 14). In times of frustration we are tempted to give up and quit. But because Jesus is such a great High Priest, we are encouraged and our faith strengthened. Jesus in on our side, constantly pulling for us and this gives us courage.

Another result of Jesus' priesthood is a renewed confidence in God. Knowing Christ as High Priest leads us to turn confidently to him when we are in trouble. We know he understands. We, therefore, can come to him without fear.

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## Life and Work

### *Christian Obedience*

by Hilton Lane, Fairfield Bay Church, Fairfield Bay

**Basic passage:** Romans 6

**Focal passage:** Romans 6:12-13,16-23

**Central truth:** Christian living is the result of obeying God's Word.

The reality of the new life in Christ is illustrated by the figures of baptism and slavery in Romans 6. As Christians, we are obedient in baptism and as servants.

The new life is represented in baptism (Ro. 6:1-14). Baptism pictures the death of the old person. It is a portrait of death to sin and self and being raised to a new life in Christ. New life in Christ is incompatible with a life of sin. Only immersion can depict this truth.

Baptism is symbolic of moving from the rule of sin to the rule of Christ (Ro. 6:12). Obedience to Christ is the key to whether or not sin has the "upper hand" (Ro. 6:13,14). The Christian's life should prove that he has died to sin.

The new life is depicted as slavery (Ro. 6:15-23). A slave was under the absolute power of a single master. In Romans 6:16 a person is either obedient to sin or righteousness—sin leads to death and obedience leads to life. Complete human freedom doesn't exist. Every person gives allegiance to someone. Prior to salvation one is in slavery with sin as the absolute master. Romans 6:17-18 describes this change of allegiance as God's grace at work. Again, obedience is the key. God will not change a person unless he is obedient to his word.

Generally, Christian behavior is not so much a matter of knowledge as it is a matter of obedience. Most Christians have an elementary knowledge of God's word. If God's people would only obey what they already know, that would be a major step forward. Christians daily stand in need of a reminder from God's word. It is only when God's word is hidden in our hearts that we have the power to overcome sin. Obedience has been the greater problem since the Garden of Eden.

Romans 6:19-22 focuses upon the real freedom found only in obedience to Christ. This freedom comes when one's surrender to Christ is as sincere and complete as was his surrender to sin. Before conversion, a person should be completely dedicated to sin; after conversion, a person should be completely dedicated to God.

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## Bible Book

### *Purity and Priority*

by A. Timothy Hight, First Church, Lepanto

**Basic passage:** Matthew 6:2-4,7-15, 19-21,24,33

**Focal passage:** Matthew 6:2-4,7-8, 21,24,33

**Central truth:** Our spiritual condition can be rightly measured by our motives, personal goals, and priorities.

Much of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount was to expose and correct the false religion of the Pharisees. In this passage, we see that he desired for his disciples to know that one's religious actions were of no value unless the motives behind them were pure. Also, he wanted them to understand that a personal pursuit of holiness should be the Christian's primary priority.

Instruction is given in verses 2-15 concerning two specific acts of worship: giving and prayer. In both of these religious acts, the Pharisees were motivated by a desire to be seen by others so as to demonstrate their righteousness. Jesus pointed out that neither giving nor prayer is of any value unless it results from a pure motive of pleasing God and God alone. Then, and only then is he honored, and he promises an open reward. Jesus further included a "Model Prayer." This prayer included the elements of worship, request, and recognition of human inability.

One's righteousness is further measured by his goals and priorities. The Pharisees erroneously believed, as do many today, that God shows favor through the bestowal of material prosperity. Hence, they were intent on building "earthly treasures." Clearly, only "heavenly treasure" has any eternal value. And one cannot be dedicated to building material wealth while serving God. The two are mutually exclusive (v. 24).

The foremost priority in the Christian's life is to seek to honor and please God. He gives to us the blessed assurance that when we seek first his kingdom and righteousness, everything that we have need of will be provided (v. 33).

Because we are God's children, all of our attitudes and actions should ring forth the words of the apostle Paul: "... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Ph. 3:13,14).

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# A Day To Pray And Fast

## Parks Calls For 'Unbroken Global Prayer Chain'

by Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—What difference can a day make? A world of difference, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders believe.

May 20 has been designated as a day of prayer and fasting for spreading the gospel worldwide. R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, has hopes of "saturating the world with an unbroken global prayer chain."

"Let us pray especially for those people groups who have virtually no witness and have never heard the good news of salvation," he wrote in the April issue of the board's *Commission* magazine.

More than 1,000 ethnic-linguistic people groups worldwide—some numbering in the millions—are less than 1 percent Christian, according to Foreign Mission Board research estimates. More than 2,500 people groups are less than 10 percent Christian.

More than 15 million Kurds, for example, live in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Soviet Union—countries where missionaries cannot reside—and the vast majority of Kurds have never heard the gospel.

Many other unreached people groups are in China and India, which also are closed to traditional missionary presence.

Another key prayer theme suggested by

Parks is "for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all his people who are witnessing around the world... for laborers for Christ to inundate the world."

What is fasting? Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, noted in *The Commission*: "Fasting in the Christian context is simply abstaining from food for spiritual reasons. At times it means abstinence from drinking liquids as well—a total fast for a brief period.

Summarizing the biblical record of fasting, Fish wrote: "Fasting was an expression of affliction and sorrow. Fasting was seen as a way to secure God's promised blessing. Fasting is evidence of repentance. Fasting intensifies prayer efforts. Fasting may change the mind of God. Fasting can bring release to people in spiritual bondage."

Christians must not neglect apostolic practices such as fasting if they hope "the winds of the Spirit will blow in powerful revival again," Fish noted.

One caution was sounded in *The Commission*: "Consult your physician to see if fasting is in keeping with your overall health. If you have questions concerning your medical health, any difficulty due to a diabetic condition or other medical problems, you may want to observe only a partial fast."



Joel and Rhonda Sutton

## Arkansans Appointed

Two Arkansans were among 38 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 12.

Joel and Rhonda Sutton will live in France, where he will be starting and developing churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Sutton, pastor of Falcon First Church, is a native of Hot Springs. A graduate of Southern Arkansas University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Sutton is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Sutton, church planters in Hettinger, S.D.

Mrs. Sutton, the former Rhonda Rainer, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Rainer of Magnolia. She is an assistant professor of nursing at Southern Arkansas University. Both the Suttons consider Magnolia Central Church their home church.

The Suttons have two children: Jessica Lee, born in 1983, and Christopher James, born in 1987. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in July for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

## Three Journeymen Named

Three Arkansas young adults were among 64 approved for training as missionary journeymen by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Representing 23 states, they will be assigned to work in 35 countries.

Journeymen are college graduates under age 27 who work alongside career missionaries, sharing missionary duties that can be accomplished in English and freeing missionaries to carry out more crucial assignments. Candidates will fill assignments such as school teachers, teachers of missionaries' children, coaches, music and student workers, clerical workers, and communication workers.

Kris Chowning will serve as a youth and student worker in Inverness, Scotland. Born in Phoenix, Ariz., he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Chowning of Santa Fe, N.M. and also has lived in El Dorado and North Little Rock. He expects to graduate from the University of Arkansas

at Fayetteville this year. Chowning is a member of University Church, Fayetteville.

Lea Gaines will serve as an elementary teacher in Kwanju, Korea. Born in Memphis, Tenn., she is the daughter of Lyn Jones of Hot Springs and the late Noel Gaines of Memphis. She is the stepdaughter of Steve Jones, also of Hot Springs. Most recently employed as youth minister at Jessieville Church, she expects to graduate from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia this year.

Kim Hamilton has been assigned as an elementary teacher in Macao. Born in Benton, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hamilton of New Albany, Ind. A 1987 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, she has been most recently employed as a kindergarten teacher in the Benton Public Schools. Hamilton is a member of the Highland Heights Church, Benton.

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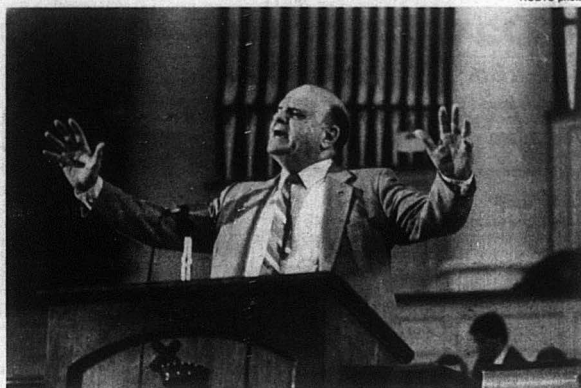
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## WORLD

NOBTS photo



FMB President Keith Parks at New Orleans Seminary

## 'Accept Responsibility'

by Breena Kent Paine

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—If all Christians took seriously their responsibility to share the gospel "as they go," they would win the world for Christ, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks told seminary students.

"Many Christians assume missionaries are responsible," Parks said during Foreign Missions Emphasis Week at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. "But the mandate of reaching the world for Christ was given to every Christian and every church. . . . All (missionaries) are a channel through which the churches fulfill that responsibility."

Even Christians who do not feel called to foreign missions should share Christ while on vacation or business trips or while living abroad, he said. One of the greatest needs is for Christians to be aware of opportunities around the world, and to know that "through prayer we can open doors and influence nations."

Southern Baptists currently have 3,874 missionaries in 113 countries. Yet about 3,000 people groups are not being reached by the Christian gospel.

"Our primary need is for preacher-type missionaries," said Parks. Countries not open to preachers will accept agriculturalists, doctors or teachers.

Seminary training is important, he stressed, noting, "Anyone with the label of missionary is expected to understand the teaching of the Bible," and seminary offers a "solid foundation."

Also, seminary is helpful in giving an "understanding and commitment to leading others to Christ," he said. "Traveling across thousands of miles of water is not going to make you a witness if you're not sharing Christ now."

Third, seminary helps a Christian understand what it means to become a Christian, and "the true nature of the simplest essence of being a Christian and being church-ed" rather than an organizational understanding of the church.

Missionaries must "depend on spiritual resources rather than material resources to do the work of the Lord, . . . and on the movement of the Spirit of God through biblical teaching," Parks said.

Once basic essentials have been shared with nationals, missionaries "get out of the way" and let them express worship in their own way, he said, adding: "As that is done, then they feel Christianity is natural for them, and not a Western religion."

"Every trained Christian leader is responsible for sharing the gospel with everyone in the world in his or her generation. I think there's a misconception that if I'm not called to be a missionary, I don't have the responsibility to share with the rest of the world."

That responsibility to other nations ought to express itself in such ways as missions education, constant prayer for the world and giving, Parks said. Ministers should always keep the challenge before their congregations for "every Christian to find his or her place in evangelizing the world."

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