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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

4-14-1988

April 14, 1988

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Lottie Lagging Badly

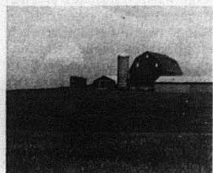
Arkansas Baptist

April 14, 1988

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Our Stewardship



God has placed upon mankind's shoulders the stewardship of the soil and water. Living up to that charge is the focus of Soil and Water Stewardship Week (p. 4).

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IT'S UPLIFTING

New Hope Decides To Grow

New Hope Baptist Church of Jonesboro has increased from an attendance in Sunday School of 20 to 50 in 18 months. On March 13, the church had a special dedication day for their improved facilities and revitalized church. Harold Ray, director of missions for Mt. Zion Association, and Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director for Arkansas Baptists, were speakers for the afternoon service.

In 1976, New Hope began an open community church. Membership was made up of rural farm people. But the church suffered decline as fewer people were needed to farm the land.

However, in the 1970's new homes began to spring up in the rural fringe area

of the church field. The population increased fourfold in 10 years.

Eighteen months ago, Pastor Don Vuncannon began to discuss growth plans with the members of New Hope. Counsel was sought from Mt. Zion Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The church decided to grow. New Sunday school workers and classes were added. The sanctuary was remodeled, and the parking lot enlarged. Educational space was renovated, and a vestibule enclosed. R.A.'s and G.A.'s were started. A visitation program was initiated. Trim on the building was painted, and the grounds landscaped.

The church is now making double or triple payments on its loan from the state convention. Membership continues to climb. However, pastor and people say this is just the beginning of their growth.

GOOD NEWS!

When Christians Are Friends

Philomion 1-3

One cannot be a barrier builder and a friend at the same time. The two terms are diametrically opposed. Paul gave Philomion a description of the characteristics of a friend. An individual who uses these characteristics as a model for his way of life will break down barriers. Paul used four terms that typify friendship: beloved, brother, fellow-worker, and fellow-soldier.

Beloved: a barrier breaker. "Beloved" is taken from a Greek word, *agape*, meaning "dearly, well to love." God used this same word when describing his relationship to his Son. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17).

Paul used the term "beloved" about 30 times in the New Testament. He called the Corinthians his "beloved brethren" (1 Co. 15:58). He called Timothy his "beloved son" (2 Ti. 1:2). He referred to Christians as those who are "beloved of God" (Ro. 1:7).

A person who loves breaks down barriers. The Living Bible has an excellent paraphrase of "the love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13. Love is described as patient, kind, never jealous, envious, boastful, or proud. Love is never haughty, selfish, or rude. Isn't that a great formula to break down barriers?

Brother: a barrier breaker. Brotherhood is more than putting up with one another. In 1 John 1:6-7; 2:9-16, we learn that our

relationship with our brother and our relationship with God are interrelated. If we build barriers and lock out our brother, we are also out of fellowship with God.

Fellow-worker: a barrier breaker. The apostle Paul challenged the Corinthian Christians to work together with the Lord (2 Co. 6:1). We, too, are to be "laborers together with God" (1 Co. 3:9). Today our nation confronts an alarming problem of providing welfare to the needy without harboring the lazy and unproductive segment of society that refuses to work. The church also faces a similar dilemma; members refuse to be productive. When we willingly work side by side, the barriers are broken, and productivity results.

Fellow-soldier: a barrier breaker. Soldiers are trained to recognize and employ tactics to overcome the enemy. Discipline and dedication are prerequisites for the demands of a good soldier. Paul admonished young Timothy to "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Ti. 2:3). James pointed out that Christians are to "resist the devil, and he will flee" (Ja. 4:7). We are in a continual warfare against powers and rulers of the darkness of this world (Eph. 6:12). Satan's maneuver is always to divide and conquer. If we build barriers instead of bridges to our fellow soldiers, we play into the enemy's hands. We must break down barriers before we can enjoy victory.

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A Dramatic Problem

J. EVERETT SNEED

Beginning with this issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, our second class nonprofit postage will increase approximately \$700 per week. (See related article, p. 13) This will amount to more than \$34,000 annually. All classes of postage are experiencing significant increases, but second class nonprofit mailers are among the hardest hit. The staff of the *Newsmagazine* believes that we can hold our subscription rate at the present level by increasing the advertising that the *Newsmagazine* will carry.

The post office maintains that second class nonprofit mailers will experience a 19-20 percent increase. But Baptist state papers that have figured their postage say that the increase is 25-27 percent.

The process by which the second class nonprofit postage is figured is extremely difficult. For example there is one cost for the advertising pages that are carried within a publication. Another for the editorial and still another for the news pages. In addition, the post office has one rate for the mail that is delivered within the home county and another rate for mail that is sent beyond. In addition, there is a weight charge and a per piece charge on the mailing. This complicated procedure makes it quite difficult to determine the actual percent of increase.

Nonprofit mailers have already been hit hard with postal increases across the years. In 1971, the *Newsmagazine* had budgeted \$14,000 for second class postage. Our actual expenditures that year were a little more than \$9,000. This year, the ABN has budgeted \$147,000 for second class postage. This represents an increase of more than 1,500 percent in this time period or an average increase of approximately \$7,800 per year.

The new postal increase will raise our weekly costs from \$3,000 to approximately \$3,700 to \$3,800 per week. This means that the ABN must find an additional \$35,000 in order to live within its already hard-hit budget.

The question arises why second class postage has escalated so rapidly. Early in the 1970's, the post office was changed from a federal agency to a quasi-independent organization. Along with the change, Americans were promised a great improvement in the postal system through the reorganization plan that had been adopted.



The plan had noble objectives. Among these were better administration, more business-like procedures, and quicker and more dependable mail service. Some progress has been made, but the new approach has increased postal costs until the very life of many publications is threatened. The reason for the postal increases is the result of a mandate that the post office live within its budget, without any federal allocations.

The most important questions are: Will this postal increase be passed on to the churches? If not, how will the *Newsmagazine* live within its budget? It is the hope and belief of the staff and board of your Baptist state paper that we will not have to increase our subscription costs. Since we believe the *Newsmagazine* is a must for every Baptist family, cost must be

kept at a level where churches and individuals can afford it. Baptists differ from most other denominations in that each church is self-governing. Since each congregation is autonomous and yet needs to cooperate with others, information becomes essential. The ABN is the only practical way to tie all of our churches together.

The *Newsmagazine* has only a few sources of income. The major portion of our budget comes from subscriptions. In the past, the Cooperative Program had been our second main source. The ABSC Executive Board has been generous with the *Newsmagazine*. The amount of finances received by each entity of Arkansas Baptists is controlled by a formula. If one entity receives additional income, others must receive decreases.

Our final source of income is through advertising. Currently, we are in the process of obtaining individuals who will sell advertising for the *Newsmagazine*. If this process is successful, we will increase the *Newsmagazine* from 16- to 24-page issues. We will have slightly more space for news content, but our advertising will be considerably more than it is currently. If this project is successful, as we believe it will be, we will be able to hold our subscription rates at the present level.

We also believe that the new postal rate increases will make the use of the *Newsmagazine* for church newsletters an even better buy. We would request that congregations do two things for the *Newsmagazine*: (1) consider the possibility of using the *Newsmagazine* for their weekly mailing; and (2) pray for the staff of the *Newsmagazine* as we attempt to deal with this new and dramatic financial problem.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 14

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor

Mark Kelly Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Lyndon Finney, Little Rock, president; Jimmy Anderson, Leachville; Joanne Caldwell, Texarkana; Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron; Bert Thomas, Searcy; Lane Strother, Mountain Home; Phelan Boone, El Dorado; Harold Gately, Fayetteville; and Don Heuer, Batesville.

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



A wonderful group of ladies gathered for the WMU Annual Meeting. Even though the meeting started the morning record amounts of snow fell across North Central and Northwest Arkansas, we registered 1,256 in attendance. This is more than we average in attendance at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Congratulations and appreciation is in order for these dedicated ladies.

History was in the making. It was 100 years ago this spring that the WMU-SBC was organized. Arkansas was represented in that meeting of 32 women. With these 1,256 in attendance to start the second century, what may be accomplished in the second century can only be imagined. Large organizations and old organizations (100 years is not really old for an organization) tend to lose their vitality and vision. Complicity sets in. The backward look arrests the momentum that should thrust them forward to greater achievements. I honestly do not believe WMU will fall into that pattern. Their leadership, both past and present, are too committed to the Great Commission to bog down in preoccupation with the organization.

The challenge is too great to back off from aggressive pursuit of their objectives. When 45 percent of our churches have no WMU, I think they will find plenty to do. When 42 percent of our churches take no state missions offering and 32 percent of them take no home missions offering, it is apparent to me that these ladies will keep pressing on. As long as there is one church which does not receive the Lottie Moon foreign mission offering, there will be work for them to do. There were 21 percent of our churches that did not take this offering last year.

One can hardly keep from wondering where we would be in mission work had we not had WMU these 100 years. Out of gratitude for all they have done and out of respect for all that needs to be done, it seems to me that we all need to give them additional encouragement and support.

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

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

Taking The Long Look

God created the heavens and the earth. As a capstone to his creative work, he created man and placed him in his creation to take care of it on his behalf. From the beginning, man has been in a stewardship responsibility toward the earth. Man has never been the owner, only a steward.

Privilege always involves responsibility. The measure of our stewardship in the present will determine the happiness and prosperity of future generations. We are prone to take the "short" look, but God demands that we take the "long" look. We must act in such a way that future generations will be able to enjoy the blessings of God as we have enjoyed them.

Among the blessings we have enjoyed are land, water, and air. Without these gifts, life is not possible. The quality of these elements determines the quality of life. We cannot continue to pollute the land, sea, and air as we have in the past and expect life to continue to be healthy and meaningful.

The words of Jeremiah must be heard again today: "I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things, but you defiled it" (Je. 2:7).

The National Association of Conservation Districts sponsors an annual Soil and Water Stewardship Week to remind people about man's responsibility to care for his environment. Material is available from local conservation districts or from NACD, League City, TX 77573.

INGATHERING: *Second of a four-part series*

'What If...'

by **Bob Holley**
ABSC Church Training Department

I have often said that "What if" is never a good question to ask when looking back. However, it may be a very good question when considering the possibilities and challenges of the future. In the first article in this series on reclaiming inactive members, we raised the question, "What if we were able to reclaim only one out of 10 of our inactive, resident members in Arkansas?" It was pointed out that we have 97,081 inactive, resident members in Arkansas. This is based on the 1987 Uniform Church Letter and the best available research indicating that 20.5 percent of our resident members are inactive.

What if we could reclaim one out of 10 of these inactive members to the same level of commitment and involvement as our present, active members? Before we can project the

potential results of such an accomplishment, we must make some assumptions. Assuming that:

(1) All of our baptisms are the result of the witness and ministry of our active, resident members.

(2) 90 percent of our attendance in Sunday School and worship are active, resident members.

(3) 90 percent of our total giving is by our active, resident members.

(4) 90 percent of all Cooperative Program giving is from our active, resident members.

If we should reclaim one out of 10 of our inactive, resident members to the same level of commitment and involvement as our present, active members, we could expect to see:

(1) An increase of 251 baptisms per year.

(2) An increase of 2,620 in average attendance in Sunday School and worship attendance.

(3) An increase of \$2,493,210 in total con-

tributions through our churches.

(4) An increase of \$247,051 in Cooperative Program giving by the churches of our state convention.

These are only projections, but think about the possibilities, the potential for your church. More important, think of the lives that will be enriched and renewed in their relationship to the Lord and to their churches.

Ingathering will help churches identify some of the major resources for members becoming inactive. We will examine those reasons in the next article in this series, along with steps necessary for implementing Ingathering in a church.

In the meantime, you may want to determine the number of inactive, resident members in your church and the percentage of your total membership represented by this group.

Food & Fellowship

Sunday Lunch

VIRGINIA KIRK & JANE PURTLE



Not too long ago, Sunday lunch at home, after church, was a part of the way of life in Arkansas. The table was set with the good china and silver. Much preparation went on the day before. Sometimes guests were invited, often the preacher and his family.

Does anyone do this anymore? Is this something that we should be doing? Perhaps you would like to start the tradition of serving a Sunday dinner in your home. Saturdays and Sundays are busy, so occasionally this meal may need to be something simple like a "breakfast lunch"—eggs, ham or bacon, biscuits or waffles.

Other times you will want an easy but "special" menu, one suitable for guests. We are suggesting three simple menus with recipes for the main dishes: (1) Italian crockpot steak, buttered noodles (or rice or potatoes), green beans, tossed salad, ice cream and cookies; (2) crockpot chicken cooked with potatoes, buttered green peas, carrot and celery strips, chocolate cake; (3) ham-potato salad (previously made and refrigerated), fresh broccoli, corn on the cob, fresh fruit.

Italian crockpot steak

2 lb. round steak, cut into pieces	1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
flour, salt, pepper	(or 1 teaspoon each oregano,
oil	basil, marjoram)
1 med. onion, sliced	1 teaspoon salt
15 oz. tomato sauce	1 teaspoon sugar

Salt, pepper, and flour steak. Brown in oil. Drain off fat. Place meat in crockpot with onions on top. Mix seasonings with tomato sauce and pour over meat. Cover. Cook on low setting eight or more hours. Add a small amount of water if necessary. Serve with noodles or spaghetti. Serves six.

Note: According to your time schedule, start steak when you retire and let it cook at night, until lunch time, or start it early Sunday morning.

Crockpot chicken

4 med. unpeeled potatoes, quartered	4 to 6 oz. Italian dressing
1 chicken, cut up	(low calorie if desired)

Place potatoes in crockpot. Layer chicken pieces on top. Cover with Italian dressing. Start on high and turn down after 30 minutes. Cook for six to eight hours on low. Serves five.

Meat-potato salad

5 med. cooked potatoes, diced	1/2 cup sweet relish
2 hard-cooked eggs, diced	1 teaspoon celery seed
1/4 cup cheese, diced	1 1/2 to 2 cups leftover ham or
2 tablespoons onion, minced	turkey ham, diced
salt and pepper to taste	1/3 cup mayonnaise

Mix all ingredients with mayonnaise. Refrigerate overnight. Serves six.

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

Passion Play

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BEN EARLY

Early Reflections



Never Alone

My mother had taken an awesome responsibility when she decided she

would have her mother come and live with my father and her, instead of putting her in a rest home.

At first everything went fairly well, but, as days turned into months, the situation became increasingly more difficult. Grandma grew weaker each day, and mother had become increasingly worn.

One day, Grandmother had become increasingly restless. One problem followed another. Finally, mother was able to get Grandma into bed and turned exhausted to try and sleep. Mother tossed and turned. Minutes slowly ticked away. Finally, around 1:30, mother dozed off.

Sometime later, mother said she was aroused by someone seeming to stand in the room. Heart pounding, she slowly opened her eyes. In front of her, above the window, was the silhouette of an angel. The wings were there. She couldn't detect any facial features, but it was beautiful. Not a word was said, and mother says she never knew how long she stared at the angel. It could have been minutes, but all of a sudden it disappeared. Peace and rest came after the angel at the window.

The next morning, the angel was fresh on her mind, but there were many questions. However, in the days and months that followed, the angel experience would never leave her thoughts. At times, it seemed to give her new strength.

I cannot explain the angel at my mother's window, but I believe these things do happen, though rarely. I believe God used this experience as a way of reminding my mother that he cares and that her daily strength would come from him. I feel God also was letting my mother know she was not alone. After all, mother had voiced a prayer each day for strength to face one day at a time.

At times in this busy world, we forget all about God's wondrous care for his children. Yet we need constantly to remember he has promised never to leave us alone. He knows when we need rest and refreshment, and at these instances God is there to give us new strength, and even to carry the entire load if we will let Him.

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

February Cooperative Program Report

Received	\$964,149.31
Budget	\$1,072,525.00
Under	\$108,248.63
Year-to-date	
Over	\$173,957.30
Same time last year	
Over	\$129,223.77

January and February CP receipts exceeded the same period in 1986 by 6.07 percent. February reached only 89.91 percent of budget needs. Projections for the year indicate we will reach only 98 percent of budget. What can make the difference? Prayer and faithfulness in giving!—Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director

Today's Issues

Beer Is Not Funny

BOB PARKER

Bill Bidwell is owner of the former St. Louis Cardinals of the National Football League. He has moved the team to Tempe, Ariz.

Unlike games played in the brewery-owned Busch Stadium in St. Louis, the Arizona-based team will play in a stadium where beer will be banned, for the sake of the "security and comfort of the fans." Those were the words of Bidwell as quoted by the



Associated Press on Jan. 28, 1988. The Dallas Cowboys also ban beer sales to their fans.

Folks, beer is not a "soft drink." It is an alcoholic beverage which has no

warning on the labels, even though the 2 million plus teenage alcoholics got that way in large measure drinking beer.

Apparently, there are people like Bidwell who don't find beer something to joke about in commercials or on T-shirts featuring a dog. By the way, if animals were given beer or other alcoholic beverages to drink, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would probably prosecute.

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IN THE FRENCH QUARTER

Planting Seeds

by **Breana Kent Paine**
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Lary Burton was handing out gospel tracts in New Orleans' French Quarter when he noticed a girl, about two blocks away, walking toward him.

"I looked at her, and she caught my eye, and I kept looking at her," said Burton. I could tell she was a street person.

"When she got to me, she said, 'Do you want something?'"

"I said, Yes, I want something. I want you to take this tract, and I want you to read it.' Moments later, he looked back. She was sitting on a curb, oblivious to the crowd around her, reading the tract.

"That's when I saw the importance of the tract ministry," said Burton, who knows most of the tracts he hands out end up on the street. "Twenty may be thrown in a corner, but one is read. That one plants the seed. And that's what we're called to do."

But passing out tracts is only one of the ways Burton "plants seeds" in the Quarter. Often, he will sit on a park bench in Jackson Square and strike up a conversation with a stranger. Many of the people he talks to do not have a place to stay or food to eat. Burton will direct them to one of the Baptist centers nearby that can meet their needs.

"I talk to runaways, prostitutes, regular people who because of their circumstance don't have a place to stay, tourists, people who work in the Quarter," he explained. "I stop by and visit some of them while they're working, just to let them know they're thought about."

A doctor of theology student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Burton finds unique ways of establishing relationships with locals in the city's historic

Photo / Breana Kent Paine



district.

For instance, Burton made friends with a bookstore owner in the Quarter by coming into his store every week to read a book until he finished it.

"It was a year before he even approached the subject of religion," Burton said. The store owner, who was dissatisfied with his own religion, discussed with Burton the differences between their churches. Soon afterwards, the store owner called him because he wanted to talk. That evening, he accepted Christ.

"People in the Quarter need the Lord just as much as anybody does before they get saved," said Burton, who tries to go to the Quarter every week to share Christ.

"Ministerial students who come to the seminary and don't get active in the local church and in their witnessing life while they're here because they have to study will find it hard when they get out in their churches after graduation to get out of their study to witness," said Burton, who is minister of music at Elysian Fields Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Lary Burton (left) witnesses in New Orleans' French Quarter every week.

Burton feels his studies have enriched his ability to minister. The seminary "has supplied me with a lot of resources which I would not have known were available had I not come to seminary," he said.

A contract teacher in New Orleans' School of Christian Training and an assistant to Jimmy Dukes, assistant professor of New Testament, he said, "Since I want to be a teacher, I've been able to look at the examples of the professors, and to gain insight from them, not only in the vast amount of knowledge they have, but in teaching techniques as well."

But most of all, Burton is glad "there are plenty of opportunities to minister in the city."

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Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

J. P. Cragar of Perryville has resigned as pastor of Solgohachia Church following three years of service.

Gary Thomas is serving as pastor of Friendship Church, Conway, coming there from Central Church, Tyler, Texas. He is a graduate of Hillsdale College in Oklahoma and the University of Arkansas. Thomas and his wife, Rhonda, have three sons, Joshua, Jon Paul, and Jordan.

Roy Thompson was ordained to the preaching ministry March 20 by First Church, North Little Rock. The son of C.B. and Melba Thompson, he is a senior at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Steve Pelz has resigned as pastor of Desha First Church following four years of service to serve as pastor of Temple Church, Searcy.

Ralph Baker has joined the staff of First Church, Star City, as minister of music and youth. He is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. He and his wife, Joyce, are parents of a daughter, Stephanie.

Victor Gore has resigned as pastor of DeQueen First Church following seven years



Cragar



Thomas

of service to as pastor of First Church, Mount Vernon, Texas.

Margaret Warmack recently was chosen as Arkansas State Music Teacher of the Year. A member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, she serves as a member of the music faculty at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

Donna Bowman will serve First Church, Heber Springs, as summer youth director. She is a second-year student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Barney Larry is serving First Church, Mountain Home, as interim music director.

Marc McFarland has resigned as minister of music at First Church, Mountain Home.

Rick Erwin has resigned as pastor of South Side Church in Pine Bluff to serve

as pastor of a church in Port Arthur, Texas.

Carl Toth has joined the staff of First Church, El Dorado. A graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he and his wife, Jill, moved there from Fort Worth, Texas, where he served on the staff of Sagamore Hill Church.

Charles Hankins and **Mike Hamilton**, students at Ouachita Baptist University, recently received the H.I. Hester Award for Excellence in Religious Studies from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Van Barrett, assistant professor of physical education and baseball coach at Ouachita Baptist University, recently was presented the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Arkansas Christian Coach of the Year Award.

Lloyd Farmer is serving as pastor of Amboy Church in North Little Rock, coming there from Immanuel Church in Potsdam, N.Y. A native of Crossett, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Mid-America Seminary. Farmer and his wife, Betty, have four daughters, Rachel, Lydia, Hannah, and Julia.

Thomas A. Hinson has resigned as pastor of First Church, West Memphis, effective April 24, following more than 26 years of service. He and his wife, Jo, will be moving to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he will become vice-president for North American ministries with Evangelism Explosion International.



Harvard Avenue Church of Siloam Springs held a note-burning service March 20, celebrating being virtually debt-free on their 21,000 square foot facilities. Pastor Chuck Ward, trustee chairman Guy Strickland, former Pastor Bill Gray, Donna Brown of Bella Vista, Associate Pastor Dan Crenshaw, and charter member Jeff Ayling were program participants. Burning the note were (left to right) Ward, Lee Hendrix, a charter member, Strickland, Gray, and Henry Hall, a charter member.



Humphrey Church recently dedicated a 5,256 square foot building housing a sanctuary, educational space, and fellowship hall. The program was valued at \$122,000 material cost as a result of the volunteer labor. Participating in the dedication were (left to right) Paschal Harris, Texas Baptist Men Retirees; Earl Manning, Texas Baptist Men Volunteers; Jimmy Kretsler, church building and grounds committee; Pastor Eugene Triplett; and Jackie Ryan, building and grounds committee.

Briefly

England First Church closed a revival March 18 that resulted in three professions of faith, according to Pastor Harry Black. Mike Ruth of Houston, Texas, was evangelist. Ricky Black directed music.

Claud Road Church at Pine Bluff observed Pastor Appreciation Week March 13-20, honoring Pastor William R. Passmore who has served there since June 28, 1985.

Fordyce First Church launched two new ministries April 3 which include a children's church for three and four-year-olds, and a single adult Sunday School class taught by Kathy Wright.

Tyler Street Church in Little Rock observed Clarice Hightower Day April 10, honoring her for her recognition March 15 as 1988 Mother of the Year. The church will send Madge Sheofee and Bernice Henley in May to Richmond, Va., to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration of Woman's Missionary Union.

Wulaski Heights Church in Little Rock launched a Sunday School class for single parents April 3 as a part of its Singles Department.

El Paso Church, which is observing its 140th anniversary this year, will observe homecoming April 24. Activities that begin at 10 a.m. will include an afternoon

musical program featuring the Gospel Singers from Southern Baptist College. John D. Davey is pastor. Ellen Whittington is serving as homecoming chairman.

Zion Hill Church in North Pulaski Association ordained Shelton Bowen to the deacon ministry March 13. The church was in a revival March 20-23 that resulted in seven professions of faith, 18 rededications, two additions by letter, and one commitment to a full-time Christian vocation. Clyde Chiles was evangelist.

Forest Tower Church in Little Rock ordained Larry Moore and Loys V. Smith to the deacon ministry March 20.

Friendship Church of Conway has concluded a four-week "Reach Out and Touch" campaign which resulted in all attendance records being broken.

Mansfield Church Woman's Missionary Union had a Centennial Celebration which included a recognition service for Mission Friends, Girls' in Action, and Acteens.

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock youth are sponsoring an arts and crafts fair April 16, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is planned to assist with outreach activities.

Springdale First Church observed homecoming April 10 when special guests included former Pastor Cliff Palmer and Kevin Roberson, guest soloists.

Bingham Road Church in Little Rock will host the Evergreen Gospel Trio of Pampa, Texas, in concert April 16 at 7 p.m.

Jobs Exchange

Wanted—Church and office cleaning. Three years' experience in office cleaning, five years in church cleaning. Contact Lorene Cleaning Service, Rt. 1 Box 29, Almyra, AR 72003. 4/14

Christian Workers Wanted—Flexible part-time hours or career management openings for people seeking work or additional work. Successful company, currently expanding. Phone 847-8246 after 4:30 p.m., M-F, or anytime Saturday. 4/21

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.

Classifieds

Needed—Donation of pickup truck for daily use at Camp Paron. Tax write-off. Contact Bobby Bean, Resident Manager, Camp Paron, Paron, AR 72022; 594-5257 4/14

Church Organist Needed—Levy Baptist Church needs an organist. Salary commensurate with experience. Two weeks paid vacation. Contact the church office at 753-7347. 4/14

Stained Glass—Stained glass repairs and restorations. Quality old-fashioned service since 1960. Cathedral Glass, Box 3111, Fort Smith, AR 72913; 501-785-1279. 4/14

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. 4/14

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.

State Pastor-Deacon Conference

Friday-Saturday May 6-7, 1988

"Called To Share Ministry"

Calvary Church, Little Rock

Friday night, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday morning, 8:30-Noon

for pastors, deacons, and their wives

Program personalities



Bob Sheffield



Randel Everett



Martha Nelson

- Bob Sheffield, Consultant, Nashville, Tenn.
- Randel Everett, Pastor, First Church, Benton
- Martha Nelson, Author, Blanchard, Okla.



Program highlights

Worship
Fellowship

Conference topics
Building Relationships
Witnessing
Building A Ministry Team
Resolving Conflict
Being A Deacon's Wife

No pre-registration; no fee

Momentous Occasion

Arkansas Baptist churches need to start planning now for what promises to be one of the most momentous occasions in Arkansas Baptist history.

On April 11, 1989, more than 6,000 people will gather at Little Rock to participate in a commissioning service for missionaries bound for service on foreign fields around the world.

The service will feature inspirational testimonies from the missionary candidates, revealing how God has moved in their lives to call them to service abroad. It will offer stirring music from a mass choir and orchestra, as well as a colorful parade of flags representing the countries of the world where Southern Baptist missionaries serve.

The highlight of the evening will be an inspirational mes-

sage from R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

For more information, contact: Jimmie Sheffield at 376-4791.

Tent Available

A new tent has been purchased by the state convention and is available for mission revivals, mission launches, and small revivals. The 50x50 foot lightweight tent may be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting Floyd Tidsworth Jr., P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.

Lunch Program

Non-profit private schools and non-residential daycare centers may participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child Nutrition Program, which provides reimburse-

ment for well-balanced, nutritious meals served to individuals enrolled in the Child Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, Special Milk Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

For more information regarding participation, contact: Division of Children and Family Services, Child Nutrition Programs, P.O. Box 1437, Slot 705, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 682-8861.

Resigns

Charlie Belknap, superintendent of the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello, has resigned effective April 15 after 18 years of service.

Belknap will serve as a cottage supervisor with the Spring Meadows Children's Home in Louisville, Ky., while working on a degree in social work.

Right To Life

The 1988 Arkansas Right To Life Convention will be held Saturday, April 16, at St. Vincent's Infirmary.

Focused on the theme "Turning The Tide," the convention will include a legislative session and workshops on school-based clinics, post-abortion syndrome, and teenage premarital sex.

For more information, contact Arkansas Right To Life at 374-0445.

Honored

ARKADELPHIA—The 1987 *Ouachitontan* yearbook of Ouachita Baptist University was one of six annuals given national honors at a meeting of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association on March 17.

Ouachitontan Editor Beth Morehart Shull and the annual staff also received an "All American" rating on the book.

Discover the quiet healing that God brings to every hurt...



*Heal
My
Hurts*

***A CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN with KAY ARTHUR**

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1988

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Changes Fair Or Unfair?

Disagreement Erupts Over Nominations Process

by Toby Druin
Texas Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—A Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations member has charged his recommendations for new SBC trustees were treated unfairly because of SBC politics. The chairman of that committee has responded by saying he "is sorry" the member feels that way but disagrees with his evaluation of the process.

Jimmy Towers claimed in late March 60 percent of his recommendations were disregarded by the committee because he was nominated for the committee by George Harris, who has announced he will nominate Phoenix, Ariz., pastor Richard Jackson for SBC president in June.

Towers, pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, said three of five recommendations he made were either rejected outright or through procedural changes. Towers also said the sessions of the Committee on Nominations, which met in Nashville March 17-18, were marked by questions regarding whether nominees are "committed to the changes" and "the cause" that have dominated the convention since 1979, not whether they are dedicated to "Christ, missions and evangelism."

Towers, in a prepared statement and in-

terview with the *Baptist Standard*, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal, said conversations with other committee members led him to the conclusion his nominations were unduly scrutinized and altered because of his link to Harris. Three of his five nominees "were not acceptable," he said. One was removed by the committee at large, and two were removed by procedural decisions.

One of the alterations nominates Paige Patterson, a leader in the "conservative" movement in the denomination, to the SBC Foreign Mission Board. To make room for Patterson on the FMB, Towers said, a "widely known Texas Baptist pastor" was shifted to the SBC Home Mission Board and another Texas pastor, labeled "very bad, unacceptable" by Knott, was dropped from the list of recommendations.

The *Baptist Standard* learned from another source that the "widely known Texas Baptist pastor" shifted in favor of Patterson was Texas Baptist convention President Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

The Nominating Committee chairman, Joseph T. Knott III, an attorney from Raleigh, N.C., told Baptist Press Towers "has a right to his own impressions, but I thought we (the committee) worked hard, did prayerful... diligent work. I thought

everyone was proceeding in good faith. I thought we had a good meeting."

Knott said: "As I recall, he (Towers) nominated two people from the Houston area to serve on the Southwestern (Baptist Theological Seminary) board as local members. The charter calls for local members to be from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex area. Thus, the two people were ineligible. We reshuffled his list and tried to find places for these two.

"He (Towers) also nominated his wife for a place on a board. We passed a resolution at the beginning that said no spouse of any member would be nominated. We were trying to avoid any taint of nepotism. His wife was knocked off, and she was not placed anywhere else. She certainly was not the only wife not nominated."

Knott said one of Tower's nominations was placed elsewhere and that the other man was nominated for the FMB: "But a nomination from the floor arose to substitute Paige (Patterson) for him, and that carried. It was put to a vote and it carried."

Towers "was not unique" in having some of his nominations replaced, Knott said: "I had a recommendation I made defeated."

He said of the "knocking off" of two of Towers' nominations: "One of them was his wife, and the nomination from the floor knocked off the other. I don't think there was any ruthlessness about it. If he hadn't come up with those three ineligible people, there wouldn't have been any problem at all."

Telephone Poll 'Not For SBC'

NASHVILLE (BP)—A telephone survey to determine the attitudes and opinions of Southern Baptist pastors and messengers to the denomination's recent annual meetings is not being conducted for the Southern Baptist Convention or its Executive Committee, according to Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee.

The poll, which involves about 50 questions, is being taken by Hill Research Consultants of Houston. That organization's president, David B. Hill, told Baptist Press the poll is for a "private client," which he declined to identify.

Hill apologized that some people who were called got the impression the survey was for the Southern Baptist Convention, noting the interviewers are not told who authorized the poll.

The calls are being made to pastors and messengers to recent conventions in "five or six states" that have a large number of Baptists seeking to determine their impressions of individuals and agencies of the convention, Hill said. Baptist Press

has learned calls are being received in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

The pastors were selected randomly from the directory of churches and pastors produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, but the list of former messengers was provided to Hill by the client, Hill said. The client was given instructions on how to choose at random a sample of messengers to be polled, he said.

The telephone interviewers are having an "enormously difficult time" because many of the people called are contentious and argumentative, often giving lengthy discussions of their opinions of SBC political activities, Hill noted.

The client will receive a statistical summary of the survey, Hill said, but will not be permitted to see specific responses of individuals.

He described the poll as a "very balanced" survey, adding the contract forbids the client from making any revelations that are inconsistent with the total survey.

35th Annual Arkansas Baptist State



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"A TRIBUTE TO FANNY J. CROSBY"

- BLESSED ASSURANCE
- ALL THE WAY MY SAVIOR LEADS ME
- A WONDERFUL SAVIOR
- JESUS IS TENDERLY CALLING
- I AM THINE, OH LORD
- HIDE ME, OH MY SAVIOR
- JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS
- TO THE WORK
- RESCUE THE PERISHING
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY
- CLOSE TO THEE
- PASS ME NOT
- HOLD THOU MY HAND
- TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS



- I SHALL KNOW HIM
- REDEEMED
- WILL YOU COME?
- 'TIS THE BLESSED HOUR OF PRAYER
- WILL JESUS FIND US WATCHING?
- PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!
- TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS
- THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET
- SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- SAVIOR, MORE THAN LIFE TO ME
- WELCOME FOR ME
- SPEED AWAY
- SOMEDAY THE SILVER CORD WILL BREAK

In addition to songs written by Fanny J. Crosby, three more congregational singing cassette tapes are now available in the Good Night series. Music you grew up with, a tremendous collection! Our newest cassette, "My God and I", features that old Baptist favorite "Jesus Took My Burden".

"Wonderful Words of Life"

- TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE
- WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE
- SONG OF WONDERFUL LOVE
(Wonderful, Wonderful)
- EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING
- WE HAVE AN ANCHOR
- AM I NEARER TO HEAVEN TODAY

- WILL THERE BE ANY STARS
- FROM THE CROSS TO THE CROWN
- I'LL LIVE IN GLORY
- I'LL LIVE ON
- UPON THE BANKS OF JORDAN STOOD
(All Parts Sung By Ray Walker.)
- THERE IS A FOUNTAIN

- GLORY FOR ME
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- JESUS IS ALL THE WORLD TO ME
- WHERE THE ROSES NEVER FADE
- SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY
- HEAVEN
- WHISPERING HOPE

"It Is No Secret What God Can Do"

- IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO
- THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD
- TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD
- WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN
- I WANT TO KNOW
- BECAUSE HE LIVES

- AMAZING GRACE
- HE SET ME FREE
- BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC
- THIS OLD HOUSE
- PEACE IN THE VALLEY
- HOW GREAT THOU ART

- WHERE COULD I GO?
- JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
- HE'LL UNDERSTAND AND SAY
"WELL DONE"
- PRECIOUS MEMORIES
- WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

"My God And I"

- HE
- DO YOU KNOW THE SONG
- THE END OF THE WAY
- THE LAST MILE OF THE WAY
- THANK GOD FOR JESUS, HE'S MINE
- JESUS TOOK MY BURDEN

- MY GOD IS REAL
- HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
- SING AND BE HAPPY
- I'LL BE SOMEWHERE LISTENING
- I LOVE THE LORD
- MY GOD AND I
- I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS

- PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- THE HALF HAS NEVER YET
BEEN TOLD
- SING OH SING HIS PRAISES
- OH I WANT TO SEE HIM

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Postage Problems

Dramatic Increases Will 'Kick In Hard'

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—A new across-the-board postal rate increase could dramatically affect non-profit publications, including state Baptist newspapers.

The rate increase, which is to take effect April 3, was recommended by the Postal Rate Commission and unanimously approved by the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors.

Although the Postal Rate Commission's rate increase report indicated second-class non-profit rates would go up 18 percent, editors of Baptist newspapers said the actual increases will be greater.

Presnell H. Wood, editor of the *Baptist Standard*, newjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said the rate change will increase his publication's mailing costs by 24 percent, pushing those costs to \$22,000 each week. Wood—whose publication has the largest circulation of any state newspaper in the Southern Baptist Convention—said this most recent

increase contributes to an overall mailing cost increase of almost 100 percent in less than two years.

For Jack E. Brymer Sr., editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness*, newjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention, the rate change will mean a 28 percent increase, or an additional \$61,100 annually.

Brymer said he has been unable to get any answers from the Postal Board of Governors as to why the increase for his publication is 10 percent higher than the figure that had been publicized.

Although his publication's actual mailing costs are much lower than those of the other two newspapers, Michael B. McCullough, editor of *The Nevada Baptist*, newjournal of the Nevada Baptist Convention, estimated the postal rate increase will double the amount of Cooperative Program budget funds needed to help offset the cost of printing and mailing his publication.

"Since I have been editor, I have tried hard to reduce the cost of printing and

thereby lower the percentage of Cooperative Program funds we use," McCullough said. "But the increase in rates has been a long, gradual climb, and this new change is going to kick in hard."

Both Brymer and Wood predicted the postal rate increase will force them to raise their subscription rates, which in turn will cost them readers. Brymer said he most likely will ask his publication's governing commission to approve a subscription increase in July. Wood said he plans to wait until the beginning of 1989 to implement higher charges.

"This is another example of insensitivity to the needs of second-class non-profit publications," Wood said. "It's not just Baptist publications but all other religious publications, as well as the publications of charitable, philanthropic and other organizations."

A SMILE OR TWO

I don't mind paying for my own mistakes. What bothers me is when the folks in Washington start putting theirs on my account!

As long as enthusiasm holds out, so will new opportunities.

'The First Freedom'

FORT WORTH — The role of Baptists in establishing the unique religious freedoms offered American citizens will be the focus of a one hour special on the NBC television network.

The program, "The First Freedom," was produced by the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission and is scheduled on most NBC stations at 1 p.m. EDT, Sunday, April 17.

Narrated by television journalist Jack Reynolds, the special features news footage and interviews with noted historians, religious leaders, politicians and legal experts to examine America's unparalleled system of religious freedom. Current challenges to the doctrine of religious liberty will be examined in the program. James T. Draper Jr., former

president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be among the religious leaders interviewed.

"First Freedom" is one of four programs produced by U.S. faith groups under the title, "The Promise of America."

Nurses Set Day Of Prayer

BIRMINGHAM—Baptist Nursing Fellowship leaders have joined other Christian nursing organizations to observe May 6, "National Nurses Day," as a day of prayer.

The day of prayer will focus on two major areas of concern in the nursing profession: the decline in number of nursing students and the decline in the number of people employed as nurses.

Both factors will contribute significantly to a predicted shortage of nurses by the year 2000, said June Whitlow, executive director of Baptist

Nursing Fellowship.

In addition to these two concerns, Whitlow called the nurses to pray for more nursing opportunities in foreign countries.

Pastors have been asked to recognize nurses in their congregations Sunday, May 1, to launch the week spotlighting nurses and their work. Nurses are being encouraged to pray individually and in groups.

Chafin Accepts Pastorate

LOUISVILLE—Kenneth L. Chafin has accepted the call as pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

Chafin, 61, has been Carl E. Bates professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1984. He succeeds Jon Stubblefield, who resigned the 6,300-member church in February to become pastor of First Baptist Church in Shreveport, La.



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Convention Uniform

Commitment

by Greg Kirksey, Hillside Church, Camden

Basic passage: Hebrews 1:1-5; 2:1-5,9-10

Focal passage: Hebrews 2:1-3

Central truth: The supreme revelation of God is in Christ.

One of the major threats to Christianity is the tendency of Christians to drift away from the very foundation upon which God erected it. Man has, since the very beginning, been tempted to try to improve on God's plan by substituting their own alternative. Today's text points out the supremacy of God's plan for man's redemption in Christ and the danger of drifting away from it.

The splendor of the first century Christians' faith was fading and they were losing their fervor for Christ. They, therefore, became vulnerable to those who offered a little more "exciting" alternative. But the author of Hebrews begins the letter by stating seven facts about the Son of God which points to his greatness and superiority. It is impossible to improve on God's revelation in Christ.

The first thing we must do then is to make a firm commitment to Christ. The phrase "give the more earnest heed" (He. 1:2) means to exercise extreme care, to cling tightly to what God has said, to make a firm commitment. We are often guilty of being too casual about the greatest story ever told. The consequence of such a casual approach is that we "slip" away from God's plan and, before we know it, the gospel we hold to is not the gospel at all but a cheap substitute. No matter how serious a man is or how sincere his faith, it does him no good if he has embraced a defective gospel.

The second thing we must do then, following our commitment to the gospel, is to care for it. In verse three there is a warning about "neglect." This word means "to lose care for." Many husbands and wives drift apart emotionally following their commitment because they quit taking care of themselves physically. They may ignore their weight or become careless with their appearance and the result is often disastrous. Likewise, following our commitment to Christ, we are often guilty of becoming careless with our faith, not keeping it up. We must cherish our life with Christ.

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Life and Work

A Special Gift

by Hilton Lane, Fairfield Bay Church, Fairfield Bay

Basic passage: Romans 3:21-4:25

Focal passage: Romans 3:21-26; 4:16,22-25

Central truth: A new standing is available to all through faith in Christ.

A new standing before God is available through faith in Jesus Christ. This position is made possible by God's love in action (Ro. 3:21-26). In Romans 3:21-23 his love is shown through his righteousness. This righteousness is not passive but actually creative goodness at work. Just as Jews and Gentiles are all sinners alike (Ro. 3:23), they are all saved alike (Ro. 3:22).

The basis for God's righteousness is his grace (Ro. 3:24,25a). This grace is both undeserved and unearned. "Justify" literally means "make righteous." Thus, acquittal and redemption occur in the salvation process. Redemption brings deliverance from the slavery of sin.

The purpose of God's righteousness is to forgive sin and reconcile people to himself (Ro. 3:25b-26). Jesus becomes the true mercy seat. Christ's death was God's means of dealing with sin from the beginning (Re. 13:8). Mankind's sin didn't catch God off guard.

Romans 3:27-4:25 focuses upon righteousness by faith for all. Apparently, some of the Jewish Christians felt superior to the Gentile Christians. The law of faith excludes boasting (Ro. 3:27). The law shows us our sin and faith provides us the answer for our sin (Ro. 3:28-31). The law is the schoolmaster that brings us to Christ.

In Romans chapter 4, Abraham is described as the father of the justified. He is judged to be righteous on the basis of his trust, not his works (Ro. 4:1-12).

Faith is the subject here just as it is in Hebrews 11. It has always been faith in God that saves. The cross was just as central in the salvation of Old Testament people as New Testament and post New Testament people. They looked forward to the death of Christ and we look backward to the death of Christ.

The Christian's new standing before God is a special gift. It is provided by a gracious God to "whosoever will." No one can work enough to earn this gift. No one is good enough to deserve it. This gift is freely given and freely received. It is indeed a special gift.

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Bible Book

Preparing For Service

by A. Timothy Hight, First Church, Lepanto

Basic passage: Matthew 3:13-17; 4:2-10,17

Focal passage: Matthew 3:13-17; 4:8-11

Central truth: Obedience may bring temptation, but victory is always possible.

Before Jesus could begin his public ministry, it was necessary to demonstrate his complete obedience to the will of God, and that he was qualified to die as the Savior of the world. Both were accomplished in his baptism and temptation experiences.

Some might argue that Jesus did not need to be baptized for he was not a sinner. No one, however, is baptized because he is a sinner, but because he has been saved and desires to be obedient to God's will. Jesus, too, was demonstrating that he came to do his Father's will (Jn. 5:30). His baptism also sets for us a tremendous example. The very cornerstone of our faith willingly and joyfully submitted to this rite. Also, Jesus' baptism identified him as the Savior. He alone would be responsible to satisfy God's requirement for sin.

When the baptism was complete, divine approval was expressed both visually and vocally. God let us know of his joy that resulted from the obedience of his Son.

Jesus, being fully obedient, found himself confronted by the Devil. In this experience, he proved his suitability as the Savior, because he was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (He. 4:15). We should observe carefully how our Lord dealt with the adversary. Jesus had fasted and prayed for 40 days and nights. Though physically weak, he was at a height of spiritual fitness.

In each instance, he faced Satan armed with the Word. No other weapon is so powerful against the tempter (He. 4:12). Jesus did not fear going battle with Satan because he was well prepared. By his authority Satan was forced to flee.

A proud preacher once exclaimed, "I'm not afraid of the Devil." One of his wise deacons stood up and replied, "Maybe so, but is he afraid of you?" The obedient Christian may find himself often in the midst of temptation. If, however, he has been fervent in prayer and is armed with the Word, he may boldly proclaim, "Get thee hence!"

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Lagging Badly

SBC-Wide Offering Shortfall Will Hurt Missions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Contributions to the 1987 Lottie Moon offering for Southern Baptist foreign missions had reached less than 80 percent of the goal of \$75 million by late March.

Receipts at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board totaled \$59.7 million by March 28, about \$4.1 million less than the amount last year at the same point.

The annual church offering, which helps support more than 3,800 missionaries in 112 countries, is received by most Southern Baptist churches during the Christmas season. The mission board receives Lottie Moon funds for months afterward.

The 1986 offering totaled \$69.4 million, more than \$5 million below the goal of \$75 million. The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which promotes the offering, decided not to raise the 1987 goal after consulting with mission officials.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks expressed "deep concern" about the pace of receipts for the offering, which was

intended to finance almost half of the total 1988 mission budget of \$167.8 million.

"It doesn't look good," Parks said. "It's coming in slower than it has in years past. This creates some serious implications for our budget. I pray and hope that somehow the end result would be better than it now appears to be. This is going to have a serious impact on missions unless such does happen."

For the last several years, board finance officials have issued a projection of the final Lottie Moon total based on a survey of selected states, but they will not do so this year. The data in hand so far, they said, is not clear enough to make an accurate forecast.

The data does reveal, however, that the downturn in giving extends beyond southwestern states strapped in recent years by the oil-related recession and includes several traditionally strong mission-supporting states with relatively healthy economies.

Missionary Notes

Alice Alexander, mother of Max N. Alexander, missionary to Thailand, died March 1 in Jonesboro. Missionary Alexander and his wife, Betty, are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Lake City and grew up in Jonesboro. The former Betty Nickell, she was born in Hazel Valley and also lived in Fayetteville. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1961, they may be addressed at P.O. Box 832, Bangkok 10501, Thailand.

Craig and Melissa Bird, missionaries to Kenya, have completed language study and may be addressed at P.O. Box 39974, Nairobi, Kenya. He considers Camden his hometown, and she is a Texas native. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1986.

Robert and Kathy Diaz, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are the parents of Kristi Katherine, born Feb. 10. They may be addressed at Calle 16 #196-B, Colonia Garcia Gineres, Merida, Yucatan, 97070 Mexico. He is a Texas native. The former Kathy Haggood, she was born in Little Rock and lived in Pine Bluff. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

Harrison and June Pike, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 1043, 66.000 Belem, PA, Brazil). He is a Texas native. She is the former June Summers of Fort Smith. They were appointed in 1956.

Larry and Janet Murphy, missionaries to Togo, have completed language study in France and arrived on their field of service (address: BP 111, Sokode, Togo). He considers Bentonville his hometown. The former Janet Harris, she considers Little Rock her hometown. They were appointed in 1986.

Tucker and Sandy Smith, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). He was born in Morrilton. She is a Texas native. They were appointed in 1987.

Lisa Zeigler, journeyman to Zambia, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as a student worker (address: P.O. Box 320196, Lusaka, Zambia). She is a native of Yellville. She was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in February.

Chaplaincy Awareness Conference

May 2-3, 1988
Camp Paron

Featured Speaker:

Glen D. McGriff, Director,
Ministry of Crisis Support
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Dr. McGriff will present five sessions on the topic, "Identity: A Therapeutic Approach." His experience includes 25 years in pastoral ministry and various denominational positions at both the associational and state convention levels.

All endorsed chaplains, volunteer chaplains, and interested persons are invited to attend this excellent conference.

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Registration: May 2, 4-6 p.m. Adjourns: May 3, 4:15 p.m.

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WORLD

GAZA

'White Knuckles Time'

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GAZA (BP)—Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza have been unharmed during three months of violence, but say it has been a "white knuckles time" of tension.

The Palestinian uprising has ranged from rock-throwing mobs and strikes to armed combat, leaving more than 100 dead, hundreds injured and thousands imprisoned. Curfews and tight security measures have been in effect for weeks. Conflict has centered in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, but also has affected Jerusalem and other parts of Israel.

Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza have avoided life-threatening situations so far, but must restrict their movements in public during curfews and more trouble-prone days, reports Dona Fitzgerald of Waco, Texas, chairman for the organization of Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza. Conditions are safer than one would infer from news reports, she said.

Workers assigned to Gaza include 19 career workers with 19 children, plus a journeyman and four volunteers. Forty-three career workers, two journeymen and seven volunteers serve in Israel, where overall conditions have been more peaceful.

Ray Register of Charlotte, N.C., Southern Baptist representative serving in the Nazareth area to the north in Israel, reported conditions there are normal. But workers have had to curtail activities and use caution in West Bank area contacts.

In Gaza, "We're still having some days of total strike when the workers do not get out of their houses. We just kind of watch the situation and go out when it's safe. When it's not safe or when they're having a total strike, we stay in," Fitzgerald said.

Classes continue most days at the School of Allied Health Sciences for nurses' training in Gaza, where several Southern Baptist representatives work. During more unsettled times, many of the 60 students have been staying on campus. That has meant more time for Southern Baptist workers to talk with the students, which has been very positive, Fitzgerald said.

"We probably have the best opportunity and the best relationship that we have had with them in some time, because they realize that we really do care for them. The fact that we stay there even when there are problems makes them realize that we do have a concern for them," she said. Student contacts these days, she said, "are more profitable now than they've ever been."

Such results have encouraged Southern Baptist workers in Gaza despite tension

over general conditions. "We feel very fortunate to still be in Gaza. We have plans made in case conditions should change, but we don't have any immediate plans of leaving at all," Fitzgerald said.

"We've been trying to tell our friends and our families that the (Foreign Mission) Board has given us full backing to leave if it's necessary, but that the initiative to leave is ours. If things get too bad, we can leave. But with the current situation, there is no need to."

Worship services and Bible studies several times a week have continued most days at the single Baptist church in Gaza, attended by 60-70 members. The Center of Culture and Light, a library and reading room in Gaza, has been closed for several months because stores and other businesses in the area are closed.

Overseas phone service to and from Gaza has been eliminated, but calls between Gaza and Israel still are possible. A message relay system has been devised for relatives and others needing to contact the Gaza personnel. Though many stores in the territory have been closed, food and fuel remain available.

"The overall mood is still very positive" among the Southern Baptist workers, said representative Harriet Lawrence, of Birmingham, Ala., who serves in Gaza. "There's a 'hang in there' attitude and a real commitment to staying."

Workers have been leaving Gaza and visiting Baptist Village to get away from the stressful conditions for short periods. The village is a Southern Baptist-operated farm and conference center at Petah Tiqva, about 60 miles north of Gaza.

Dennis and Nita Murray, Southern Baptist representatives from El Dorado, Ark., based at Ashkelon, have been driving to Gaza once a week during March for a Bible study with the Gaza personnel. Mrs. Murray reported having no problems entering or leaving the territory through a border checkpoint. Still, she said, "It's a tense situation. You can feel the tension in the city and with the people."

Lawrence said several workers who were in Lebanon earlier had shared suggestions on coping with the high-stress times, based on their experiences. Lawrence, mother of two children ages 6 and 8, said the children seem to fare well as long as they sense their parents are coping well. It has been difficult for some children to maintain normal school schedules, she said.

Volunteer Martha Holeman of Minden, La., has been leading four children in school studies; her husband, Joe, is a maintenance worker at the nursing school.

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