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**March 24, 1988**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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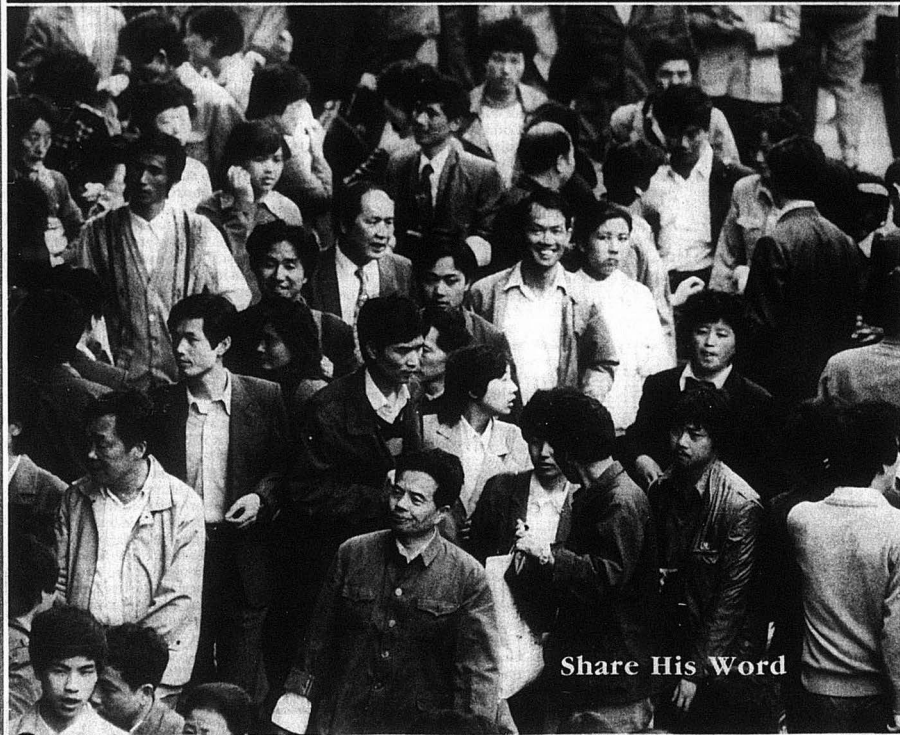
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Vital Signs

# Arkansas Baptist

March 24, 1988

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Nashville, Tennessee



Share His Word

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FMB photo / Joanna Pinneo

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*Our cooperative approach to missions is the best chance we have of sharing the gospel with the world's 5 billion people. Cooperative Program Day is April 17.*

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## IT'S UPLIFTING

### 47 Accept Christ At Food Center

LILONGWE, Malawi (BP)—Through a Southern Baptist relief program promising to keep nearly 11,000 Malawians fed, 435 people have professed faith in Jesus.

Jim Parker, of Memphis, Tenn., and a team of Malawian Baptists led 47 people to accept Christ one day at a distribution center where expected food was delayed in coming. Several of the new Christians asked the Baptists to start a Baptist church in their village.

Malawi has been plagued by destructive insects in the north, drought in some areas, too much rain in others and more than 300,000 displaced Mozambicans who have fled fighting in their own country.

### Brazil Baptists Commended

BRASILIA, Brazil—Brazil's President Jose Sarney commended Baptists for their work in that country when he opened the Baptist National Convention in late January, the first time the country's president has attended a Baptist convention.

Saying he is a man of "profound faith," Sarney praised Baptists for their work and their devotion to the Scriptures. Brazilian newspapers covered the event.

Joao Fison Soren, honorary National Baptist President, told the crowd, "Baptists are always dedicated to discussion and not to inquisitions and agitations against the government and . . . respect the constitutional authority of the government."

## GOOD NEWS!

### Guidelines For Christian Giving

2 Corinthians 8-9

The subject is money. The situation was a church in Corinth with a great idea about a mission project. When Paul shared the idea with other churches, they joined in the project and gave a love offering for the famine-stricken Christians in Jerusalem. The church that started the project (Corinth) had not completed their part, and one year had elapsed (8:10). Paul wrote to scold/exhort them toward completion of their project (8:11).

We need guidelines because we are often immature, or irresponsible, or undisciplined. The church at Corinth needed guidelines for giving to finish the project.

*Systematic giving provides discipline (1 Co. 16:1)*—Had they followed this, chapters 8-9 of the second epistle would not have been necessary.

*Giving is a result of the dedication of self (2 Co. 8:5)*—A young businessman told his pastor he was having trouble calculating his tithe. The pastor explained he was having "heart trouble." The man got his priorities right and grew into a faithful steward giving far beyond the one tenth.

*Giving is not based on how much we have (2 Co. 8:1-4, 12; 9:1-5)*—When Paul went to Macedonia, he found that the people were poverty-stricken. The Romans had depleted their natural resources. Corinth, on the other hand, was a commercial crossroads. Yet, these people had begged Paul to let them have a part.

*Giving proves our love (2 Co. 8:8)*—A stewardship slogan of the sixties stated in

succinctly: You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

*The attitude of giving is also important (2 Co. 9:7)*—The Greek word translated "cheerful" is also the basis for the English word "hilarious."

*Giving has a logical law of return (2 Co. 9:6)*—Sow bountifully; reap bountifully. This competes with the hedonistic philosophy of "grab all the gusto you can get."

*Giving is a matter of faith based on the promise of God (2 Co. 9:8)*—See the Phillips translation for a good paraphrase of this verse. We should not put God to a foolish test. Jesus made this promise: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Lk. 6:38).

*Giving has Christ as the supreme example (2 Co. 8:9)*—The word for "rich" means "dire poverty." King Tut's tomb contained some of the greatest riches the world has ever seen. The king's subjects were trying to make elaborate provisions for their king's afterlife. How unlike King Tut is King Jesus. He emptied himself—"made himself of no reputation"—according to Ph. 2:7.

*Giving bears a twofold result (2 Co. 9:12)*—People are helped, and God is flooded with thanksgivings. Even though some may misinterpret a stewardship testimony as bragging, the real motive is to praise God. Many thank offerings can be raised to him because of giving.

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## God's Peace

J. EVERETT SNEED

Anxiety dominates the lives of many Americans. It is woven into the very fabric of our existence. It impacts our thinking, our behavior, the goals we set, and even our spiritual fulfillment. What is the source of all of this anxiety? When there is a difference between our expectations and the reality of our life, the gap that is created produces deep anxiety. The solution lies in allowing God to provide our peace rather than the world.

Unfortunately, many well meaning Christians will say, "The non-Christian cannot know peace," or "I don't know how the non-Christian can survive the crises of life."

The truth is that there are thousands of non-Christians who have a kind of worldly peace and work through serious problems every day.

The world does offer peace. Jesus told us that it does as he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Often Christians adopt the peace of the world as their standard and maintain that the peace they are experiencing is coming from God.

The peace that is provided by the world is an exciting, well-paying job, a beautiful home, close friends, and exciting places to go on vacation. The world's peace is rooted in circumstances, outer condition and an individual's living standard.

The peace provided by the world is great as long as an individual's outer circumstances are good. But if one's outer conditions turn bad, the world's peace offers little or no solace or help.

All too often Christians will maintain that the world's peace is Christian peace. For example, Christians may say, "I wanted a certain promotion and I got it," or, "I wanted a million dollars by age forty and I'm on schedule." This kind of thinking is exactly the same as permeates the world. It is a peace that is based on outer circumstance not on an inner reality or presence.

It is easy for a Christian to allow the world's standards for peace to be adopted. There not only is continually the pressure to conform to the standards of the world but there is a continual warfare within the life of a Christian. The apostle Paul said, "The flesh lusteth against the spirit, and



the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so ye cannot do the things that you would."

Paul is emphasizing that in the act of salvation a Christian receives a new spiritual nature. But this does not eliminate an individual's fleshly or carnal nature. Hence, there is a continual warfare within the life of a Christian. Almost without thinking, a Christian can adopt the standards of the world.

There are both practical and spiritual considerations which can assist a Christian in eliminating the world's standards for peace. First, a great deal of anxiety results from wrong expectations. An individual's expectations must always be evaluated by the standards of God's Word. If an individual's goals are to become wealthy, popular, or famous, when analyzed by

God's Word, he will discover that these are expectations of the flesh and are self-aggrandizing.

Second, expectations may be unrealistic. For example, it would be unrealistic for most individuals to expect to run a three minute mile or to become a multi-millionaire. Such expectations, for most individuals, will result in bitter disappointment.

Again, an individual needs to consider what he can do to improve his situation. An individual who does not strive to put forth his best effort under the direction of God will never have peace and joy. God intends for us to be at our best. Peace is the absence of inner conflict. If an individual does not strive to do his best in the place of service God has given him, he cannot know peace.

Further, it is essential that one match his personal God-given aptitudes with his place of service or employment. In order to discover one's proper life's vocation, one must analyze his abilities and seek God's leadership through prayer.

When difficulties arise, it is absolutely essential that an individual turn his problem over to God. This may, on the surface, appear to be a cliché. But as one places his faith in God, thanks God for his peace, and gives his burden to God, inner peace can become a reality.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an individual can change his standards from those of outer circumstance to the inner abiding presence of God through Christ. We, like the apostle Paul, can learn to be content regardless of outer circumstance. Such a change is not easy. But Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Ph. 4:13).

## Arkansas Baptist News Magazine

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 Mark Kelly . . . . . Managing Editor  
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BEN EARLY

## Early Reflections



## Good Morning!

It had been a difficult week in the new work area of the Northern Plains Baptist

Convention, as director of R.E. it seemed as if Sunday Schools were being started and organized too slowly. No one really had grasped the vision of what Church Training could do for their work. I ached as I watched my BSU directors struggle with finances for their work and family.

As Sunday morning arrived, I was less than enthusiastic about going to Sunday School and church in our junior high school cafeteria.

As we arrived, we were greeted in a friendly, loving way by our small church family. However, I was enjoying my pity party too much to be uplifted.

After the Sunday School opening, we made our way to various tables across the cafeteria. We climbed over the benches and sat at the large, cold tables.

Our Sunday School teacher called on Maggie, a large black woman, to lead us in prayer. As Maggie began, she said, "Good morning, Lord, we're so glad you're here."

All of a sudden, I no longer felt empty. I realized I was in the presence of Jesus. As Maggie continued to communicate with Jesus, I opened my eyes, for I felt surely he had entered the room and sat down by her.

We need to learn to make God as real as Maggie did on that dreary day in my life. Perhaps our churches would be more powerful in today's world if we would pray constantly and then believe.

Prayer is one of the greatest untapped resources in the world today. We will never fully reach our potential without it.

We need to spend time praising the Lord, thanking and complimenting him, always counting the great blessings we have. We also need to spend time confessing our sins to our heavenly Father, one by one, seeking forgiveness and guidance. And we need to ask for the needs in our life and for others.

Never again will I forget to keep my eyes upon Jesus and my heart in an attitude of prayer, and I try to begin every day with a sincere "Good morning, Lord. I'm so glad you're here."

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

## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY

## Share His Word: Give

On Cooperative Program Day, April 17, 1988, the program theme, "Share His Word: Give," will remind us that a Southern Baptist church is able to distribute the Word of God in over 110 countries and all 50 states as they give through the Cooperative Program.

Many advances have been made through Bold Mission Thrust. For example the number of home and foreign missionaries has increased from 5,192 in 1976 to 7,522 in 1987. These missionaries, assisted by several thousands of short-term volunteers, report dramatic increases in responses to the presentation of the gospel. Statistics of baptisms abroad offer continued reason to celebrate the work we support through the Cooperative Program. These baptisms represent more than double the number in 1975. Gifts through the Cooperative Program (state and SBC) have grown from \$183,187,768 in 1976, to \$325,436,882 in 1986.

For these and many other reasons, Southern Baptist churches will be celebrating progress in mission advance and support on Cooperative Program Day.

Cooperative Program Day is a time for Southern Baptists to reflect upon past accomplishments, to understand present needs, and to prepare for future challenges. Cooperative Program Day is a time for personalizing one's commitments to the mission of Christ through the church. Cooperative Program Day is a time to create excitement and enthusiasm for opportunity of partnership in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Extensive suggestions for observing this special event may be found in the booklet, "Lay Involvement in Cooperative Program Day." This planning guide is prepared jointly by the Woman's Missionary Union, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Stewardship Commission. A copy of this planning booklet can be found in the March issue of *The Baptist Program*. Additional copies may be obtained free from most state stewardship offices or from the Brotherhood Commission.

Other materials such as Cooperative Program Day posters and leaflets may be secured from most state stewardship offices. Several Cooperative Program films such as "Like a Mighty River" and "More Than Money" are also available on a free loan basis from all state stewardship offices.

## Today's Issues

## Join Us!

BOB PARKER

Next August, the Lord willing, my wife and I will have been married for 40 years. We met the summer before at Siloam Springs. I was a student at Ouachita College (now University) and she was with a Church Training summer field work team.

Thelma has finally persuaded me into going to a Marriage Enrichment Retreat, April 7-8, at Horseshoe Bend. It will be for ministers and their mates. This will also be Church Training sponsored. Having been a



pastor for many years, a denominational worker for a few less and married a long time, I really don't need to go—but to satisfy her, we're going!

Seriously, all couples need anything that would enrich their marriage and with a growing number of homes breaking up, we

need all the undergirding possible to help ourselves and others.

Who knows? As one couple I recently read about, we may live to be married 75 years! The husband was asked for the secret of their long marriage. He replied, "I suspect it was because my work took me away from home a lot and because of our loss of hearing."

It still isn't too late to register. Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Sunday Only?

There are reports of no baptisms in many churches; total baptisms have been down for several years; and the Sunday School enrollment has increased very little in our Southern Baptist Convention.

A very large number of our churches and missions could not accommodate all of their resident members if all members were to attend at the same time.

With these negative facts in mind, it is time that our Southern Baptist churches and missions consider implementing Saturday and Sunday Bible study, praise, and worship. When this action begins, Sunday School and praise and worship attendance will increase along with baptisms and budget receipts.

How many pastors would love to preach the Word to more of their resident members every week? Those Southern Baptist churches and missions that have scheduled two Easter worship services would have a real need for Saturday and Sunday Bible study, praise, and worship.

The pastor and each church and mission can pre-determine their requirement for

Saturday and Sunday on the following statistics: (1) seating capacity of the sanctuary; (2) total number of resident members; (3) average Sunday School attendance; and (4) total number of resident members who are "crowded out" and cannot be seated in the sanctuary.

For most pastors and their staff, who now have two Lord's day morning praise and worship services, they will find their time devoted to preaching more relaxing with less anxiety on Saturday and Sunday.

Scriptures (NIV): Mark 7:8; Acts 14:5-6; Matthew 18:20; Matthew 26:55; Mark 14:49; Luke 9:23; Luke 21:37,38; Luke 24:53; John 4:24; Acts 2:46-37; Acts 5:42; Acts 16:5; Acts 17:11; Acts 17:17; Acts 19:9; 2 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 5:29 and Hebrews 13:7 tell us the New Testament believers never limited Bible study, praise, and worship to Sunday only. Surely, the same Holy Spirit dwells within us today. Sunday only—tradition of men? (Mk. 7:8).

The undersigned has been a Southern Baptist for more than 50 years.—Louis E. (Ed) Burgess, Las Vegas, Nev.

### Do Not Be Deceived

The Lord has grown tired of this nation pretending to his faith while following after sin. He has grown weary of waiting for his people to stop bickering among themselves and truly be the salt and light they were called to be. He has pronounced judgement on this nation, and on his people. Do not be deceived. We have mocked his name too long, and now retribution is coming upon the land.

Do you feel the tremors of war? Do you notice the higher price of ever scarcer grain? Do you watch in fear as the nation's treasury fails? Do you dread the cost of sin heaped upon our heads? Then repent! Turn from sin, and forsake Satan's deceptions to worship God in truth and commitment. Repent while he still hears us!

Do not be deceived! Judgement is coming, and is nigh upon us! His own people have failed him. Will any of us rise to stand in the breach? Or are all turned away? The challenge, and the cost, are ever before us. Face God now in repentance, or we will face him in fiery judgment! People of God, repent!—Amos D. Angel, Arkadelphia

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# Vital Signs

## Good News, Bad News In 1987 Arkansas Statistics

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Arkansas Baptists fared better than the national convention in several areas during 1987, but enrollments in most ongoing ministry programs actually suffered slight losses.

Churches cooperating with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention made a stronger showing than the Southern Baptist Convention at large in the percentage of new church starts and increase in total membership. They also posted a larger increase in total gifts to missions.

According to statistics recently released by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Arkansas Baptist churches reported a net increase of nine new congregations during the past year. That brought the total to 1,283, an increase of 0.71 percent. Southern Baptists as a whole reported a 0.5 percent gain.

Arkansas Baptists also showed a net gain of 5,987 in total membership during 1986, an increase of 1.26 percent, compared to 0.7 percent for the national denomination.

Arkansas churches even posted a better increase in gifts to missions during 1987. The \$22.1 million figure was 4.93 percent higher than 1986, an increase of slightly more than \$1 million. Total gifts to missions in the SBC rose by 4.3 percent.

However, that increase in Arkansas missions giving simply reflected a corresponding increase in undesignated receipts. Although total receipts in the churches declined 0.86 percent, perhaps reflecting completion of a large number of special designated giving projects, undesignated receipts climbed 4.86 percent, according to Arkansas Baptist State Convention figures. Undesignated church receipts totaled \$100,082,845 in 1987, an increase of more than \$4.6 million over 1986.

And while undesignated receipts and total missions giving increased nearly 5 percent each, gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's unified giving plan—the Cooperative Program—increased only 3.3 percent over 1986, the smallest dollar increase since 1970. That would seem to indicate that, while more money is being given to mission concerns, it is increasingly being directed into channels other than the Cooperative Program.

Most churches base their contributions on a percentage of their undesignated receipts. While Cooperative Program receipts have increased along with undesignated receipts, the percentage

Arkansas churches have been giving to cooperative missions has remained the same. Churches are being challenged to increase their percentage commitment by a statewide emphasis called "Missions Advance 87-89."

### Baptisms and additions

During the past year, Southern Baptists experienced a major decrease in the number of baptisms, down 6.8 percent to 338,495. Except for 1978, that figure was the lowest for the convention since 1949.

By comparison, Arkansas Baptists experienced a decline of 0.38 percent in baptisms. The 1987 figure of 11,910 was 45 less than 1986, and nearly 20 percent of those baptisms came from the 20 churches which led the state in baptisms during the year. Those congregations—1.5 percent of the churches in the state—baptized a total of 2,363 persons. In 1987, 238 Arkansas churches (18.7 percent) baptized no one.

A marked decrease also was noted in other additions to Arkansas churches. The report indicated 16,495 additions other than baptisms, 556 fewer than 1986, a decline of 3.26 percent.

And gains for the year barely offset losses. Total membership in Arkansas Baptist churches increased 5,987, or 1.26 percent compared to the SBC's 0.7 percent. That means that, while they gained 28,405 new members, Arkansas Baptist churches lost 22,418 members. In other words, the average Arkansas Baptist church had to take in almost five members to show a net gain of one.

The majority of members lost, as well as those added through means other than baptism, are accounted for by transfers of membership between Baptist churches.

Total membership in 1987 increased to 479,555. Resident membership in Arkansas Baptist Churches now stands at 321,304, an increase of 1.05 percent over 1986.

### Ministry programs

Most of the ministry programs of Arkansas Baptist churches suffered slight enrollment losses during the past year.

The one bright spot appeared to be church music, which showed a comparatively healthy 2.08 percent enrollment increase to 52,043. Southern Baptist church music programs showed an overall increase of 0.8 percent in 1987.

Like their SBC counterparts, other programs did not fare so well.

Brotherhood enrollment stands at 11,882, a decline of 2.71 percent, compared to an SBC increase of only 0.7 percent.

Woman's Missionary Union enrollment declined 0.19 percent to 27,976, compared to an SBC increase of 1.4 percent.

Church Training enrollment declined 0.42 percent to 77,978, compared to an SBC loss so slight it calculated as 0.0 percent.

Sunday School enrollment declined 0.64 percent to 256,155, compared to a slight SBC loss of 0.0 percent. Several Arkansas Baptist churches made significant purges of their Sunday School rolls during 1987. Had they not, Arkansas Sunday School statistics would have shown a slight increase, rather than a decrease.

"Sunday School enrollment remains a high priority for the Executive Board staff," observed Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "A priority goal for 1989 will place emphasis on starting new units of study. This will result in an enrollment increase. In addition, a statewide pastor and staff Sunday School conference will highlight the role of the pastor in Sunday School growth."

The decline in other church program enrollments also is a "major concern," Sheffield continued. He explained that future programming will place priority on projects and activities designed to result in enrollment increases.

The increase in the number of churches should come as no surprise, according to Sheffield, since the last four years have seen a renewed emphasis on starting new churches. Nineteen new missions were launched in Arkansas during 1987.

SBC Bold Mission Thrust goals call for 50,000 churches in the nation by A.D. 2000, a 34 percent increase. Arkansas will respond to this challenge with a 29.4 percent increase—375 churches—as part of the "Church Arkansas" emphasis, Sheffield said.

Finally, the Executive Board staff "has a great concern" about the decrease in baptisms, Sheffield noted. "Much work will be done to help the baptismless churches in 1989, including Lay Evangelism Schools, bivocational and small church conferences, and revival teams."

## A SMILE OR TWO

Secretary to boss: I know you want me to correct your spelling and punctuation, but what about your misconceptions?

The man of the hour is the husband whose wife told him to wait a minute.

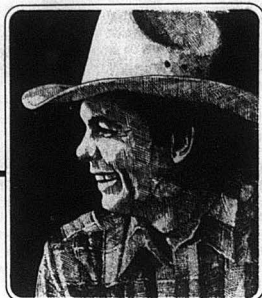
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## April Excitement

by Don Moore  
ABSC Executive Director

April is such a fabulous month! The celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, bright days of spring, bursting flowers, revival meetings—so many really interesting experiences. The help your Executive Board employees have for you in April is in that same spirit. Excitement, hope, life and freshness should come to those taking advantage of these. Some will be new. Others will be annual events.



**Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat** is scheduled for April 7-8 at Horseshoe Bend. Good marriages will be strengthened. Participants should learn how to conduct marriage enrichment events for those in their own churches. Call the Family Ministry Consultant if you have questions.

**Minister of Education Retreat** is scheduled for April 28-29 at the Holiday Inn in Hot Springs. This event, sponsored by the Church Administration consultant, should create a strong bond of fellowship between those sharing in this crucial ministry. We are pleased to provide this time of enrichment.

**Mission Friends Super Saturday** will provide great help for leaders and potential leaders for Mission Friends groups. This April 9 meeting at Calvary Church, Little Rock, should trigger some great new growth in this excellent missionary education program.

**Acteens Encounter.** Girls, make big plans for this. Those attending the Encounter at Southern Baptist College, April 8-9, will have the privilege of hearing Karen Simons as well as hearing several missionary kids. Those attending at Ouachita, April 15-16, will hear Mildred McWhorter, an unbelievable home missionary from Houston, Texas. Parents, pastors and other leaders, please get your Acteens to one of these meetings.

**Key Leader Meeting.** How can 30 people who work out of the Baptist Building communicate with over 1,275 churches in 75 counties throughout this state? You may suggest by phone or by mail. But, what if you want to try to do more than can be done in those limited ways? We can't make it to the churches and touch all of the organizational needs of these churches.

We must work through others. But what others? The people closest to the churches who already are known for having concern

and skills they are willing to share. In short, the Associational Council and the Directors of Missions.

Once each year we all gather together to try to inform and inspire one another in the most current approach to helping our churches with their ministries. Our state leadership goes all out to make this time helpful. Our directors of missions get their leaders elected and come with them to this equipping event.

If you are an associational worker, please join us at the Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, April 25-26, for another great Key Leader Meeting. You are the key!

**Youth.** These great events should interest youth and/or workers with youth this month.

**State Youth Convention—April 1,** Statehouse Convention Center. Thousands come each year for a fabulous time of fellowship and growth. The grand old man whom God has used to touch more young lives than any man I know, Dr. Chester Swor, will be the main speaker. It is always a treasured experience to hear this man. Parents, church leaders and youth workers, it takes a lot of work and effort, but you'll be doing your youth a favor to bring them under the influence of this godly man.

**Summer Youth Ministers—**You have to "hit the ground running" if you accomplish much in the short time you serve. To get the help close to you, we are coming to five college campuses between April 28 and May 3 with special conferences just for you. Call Bill Falkner (376-4791) for more information, or see *Vision* for details.

**National Youth Ministries Conferences.** Every five years this conference is held to assist youth ministers. The date is April 18-22. The place is the Stouffer Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Over 1,000 youth ministers are expected to be involved. Many of our youth ministers will not be able to go unless pastor and people make special financial provisions. Several hundred dollars will be required. Let me encourage you to invest in your youth by investing in your youth leadership and help them to attend this choice meeting.

**New Pastors-Staff-Wives.** You have just come to our state or you are in your first employed position in one of our churches. If that describes you, we can speed you along significantly in your pilgrimage. "No man is an island unto himself." That is more true of a church worker than nearly anyone else. Yet, many feel isolated and seem to "go it alone."

The churches of Arkansas formed a convention to provide for the mutual encouragement of the churches and church leaders. This orientation, held April 11, 12,

at the Baptist Building will be the finest way you can discover quickly all you have going for you in our state convention. It will speed the process of getting to know others and getting to be known.

We want all who have come into the work since April 1, 1987 to be present. We will help on the expenses, but churches will need to help too. Please let us know of your intention to be with us by telephone if you have not already corresponded with us.

**Church Growth.** Who is not interested in this? The State Growth Spiral Workshop will be at Markham Street Church in Little Rock on April 19. This could hold the key for getting many churches off high-center.

**Sunday Schools with under 150 Enrolled.** We have 10 Leadership Updates scheduled for you on April 14 and April 21. See the places and times elsewhere. New products and new ideas for more effective Sunday School work will be shared. You represent between one-third and one-half of our churches. We want to help you.

**Brotherhood-Philippines Church Planting.** We need Arkansas preachers to be sent to the Philippines between April 5-19, to help plant churches where 250 Bible study groups have been meeting. The cost is approximately \$1,350. Call Glendon Grober for more information (376-4791).

### Church Training

## Youth Ministry Conferences

It will not be long before churches turn their thoughts and plans toward concentrated ministry to and with their youth. Five conferences are planned across the state beginning on April 28 to provide helps in planning a summer youth ministry.

The conferences are designed for pastors, staff, college students, summer missionaries, volunteer youth leaders, youth committees and anyone interested in youth ministry. Each conference begins at 10 a.m. and adjourns by 3 p.m. There is no cost or registration required.

Dates and locations are as follows: Ouachita Baptist University, April 28; Southern Baptist College, April 29; UALR BSU, April 30; U of A at Monticello BSU, May 2; U of A at Fayetteville BSU, May 3. Conference content will cover areas such



Falkner

as developing a youth ministry philosophy, planning, budgeting and ideas for the summer. Attention will also be focused on the role of the summer youth minister. Youth ministry resources through the Baptist Book Store will be available for purchase at each location.

For more information, contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 (376-4791). We hope to see you there!—**Bill Falkner, associate**

Cooperative Program increased 3.3 percent, falling behind the 1987 inflation rate.

Giving to local churches remained strong in 1987 even though 65 percent of the churches reported no budget promotion program.

Fourteen percent of the churches used Planned Growth in Giving, The Forward Program or the Tithers Commitment Program. Twenty-one percent of the churches reported using "other" budget promotion programs. Basic Church Budgeting program, used by many churches, is included in the "other" category.

The good giving record of Arkansas Baptists will improve as more churches use some type of budget promotion.

The Stewardship Commission lists five budget programs in the Stewardship Catalog. Growth in Giving, the newest program, encourages members to grow in their giving. Churches that use Basic Church Budgeting, Tithers Commitment, Committed to Ministries, Growth in Giving, or The Forward Program will experience budget growth.

Guidebooks on these programs are available through your Stewardship/Annuity office at no cost.—**James A. Walker, director**

## Brotherhood

# Lay Renewal

There is a dynamic ministry exploding throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. It is called Lay Renewal. Perhaps you have not heard of it. For almost 20 years, it has been the best kept secret in the convention. That is changing daily. More and more churches are experiencing the power of God in Renewal. Other pastors and churches are seeing what God is doing through Renewal and are wanting that same thing to happen to their church.

Renewal came to the SBC in the early sixties through the cooperative efforts of the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Department. They are still sharing the ministry and its rewards today. It is unique in that only lay people are involved. It is a family ministry with the adults, children and youth all having an important function in the Renewal Weekends.

Church Renewal and Lay Renewal are the same thing, however Church Renewal is a more descriptive term since it is for the church as a whole. It is a journey that is carefully planned and proven to be effective through years of testing by the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Department. Churches who embark on this journey can definitely expect things to happen. God has never disappointed. Souls are saved and fellowship with the Lord is renewed as well as fellowship with each other. Wounds are healed and new friendships are established.

Renewal is growing in a great way in Arkansas. The Arkansas Renewal Fellowship has been formed and is directing the efforts of Renewal in the state. Our fellowship is one of the first in the nation and is serving as the model for other states as they become aware of the need for organization of this fine ministry. Currently, there are over 300 people in the state listed as Lay Renewal team members. These team members are directed by 11 active coordinators and several more are being trained to direct the weekends.

At the recent Renewal Fellowship Conference held at Levy Church in North Little Rock, over 100 lay people gathered to learn how to minister in Renewal more effectively. Many of them have been involved for years but were still anxious to hear from the leaders concerning ways to improve their ministry. A plea was made by our state Brotherhood Director, Glendon Grober, for a team to go to Alaska to conduct a Lay Renewal Weekend. Twenty-eight people signed up to go at their own expense to tell about the Lord Jesus Christ and what he has done in their lives.

God is blessing Renewal in Arkansas and all around the world.—**Bill Bledsoe, director, Arkansas Renewal Fellowship**

## Stewardship/Annuity

# Undesignated Giving Up

Church members gave more through their churches last year. Undesignated giving, budget gifts to local churches, increased 5.07 percent over 1986. Translated in-to dollars, Arkansas Baptists placed 4,429,156 more dollars in the offering plates. The 5.07 percent increase outpaced the 4.4 percent inflation rate.

While gifts to local churches stayed ahead of inflation, gifts through the



## YEAR OF THE LAITY IN EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

### Is Your Association Ready to . . .

- Train Christians to be soul winners
- Win the lost to Christ
- Increase awareness of the lost
- Locate and cultivate the lost in your area
- Increase the potential for revival?

### Get Ready Now!

Conduct an ASSOCIATIONAL LAY EVANGELISM SCHOOL in 1988 to certify pastors/key lay leaders to teach LES. In preparation . . .

- Set a date for the school
- Select the host church to conduct the LES
- Enlist every pastor and other key lay leaders in your association for training
- Get a commitment from each church to conduct a Lay Evangelism School in the spring of 1988.

**1988 Goal:** Conduct 600 associational Lay Evangelism Schools

**1989 Goal:** Conduct 20,000 local church Lay Evangelism Schools

**1989 Year of the Laity Goal:**  
Win 500,000 lost to Christ



For further information, contact your state director of Evangelism or the Personal Evangelism Department • Home Mission Board, SBC • 1350 Spring Street, NW • Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

## Church Media

### Regional Clinic

A Church Media Library Clinic will be held at DeGray State Park Lodge April 29-30. The clinic, a Baptist Sunday School



Freese



Hill

Board project, will provide two conferences: "The Learning Team" and "How to Administer and Promote a Church Media Library."

Barbara Freese and Glynn Hill will lead the two conferences, Freese leading "The Learning Team" and Hill "How to Administer. . ." Freese and Hill are consultants in the Church Media Library Department of the Sunday School Board.

"The Learning Team" will assist leaders to discover ways to increase learning experiences in the church by developing a team approach that includes the learner, the library and the leader. "How to Administer. . ." will provide assistance related to organization, operation, selection, promotion, etc.

The Regional Clinic will begin at 2 p.m. Friday, April 29, and adjourn at noon, Saturday, April 30. Participants must pre-register by contacting the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or the BSSB Church Media Library Department. Registrants need to contact DeGray Lodge directly to reserve their lodging rooms. There is a \$15 registration fee which covers the cost of material, dinner and breaks.

Contact the Church Training Department for additional information.—Gerald Jackson, associate

## Senior Adults

### Senior Adult Celebration

Senior adults from across Arkansas are already making plans to be at this year's Senior Adult Celebration, May 23-25. This

is a three-day "Mini Chautauqua" for senior adults and leaders of Senior Adult Ministry. "Achieving Wholeness in Later Life" will be this year's theme.

Bob Norman, pastor of the Clearview Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., will be the inspirational speaker for this year's celebration. He is a



Norman

frequent and popular speaker among senior adults. He returns to speak for this event by popular demand.

W. L. "Bill" Howse, consultant in Senior Adult Ministry at the Sunday School Board, will lead the leadership conferences and speak to the entire group during the conference. The celebration begins with a banquet at 6:30 on Monday evening and will adjourn by 10:30 Wednesday morning. The registration is \$20, which includes the banquet. Housing is available on campus, \$3.50 per person, per night (double occupancy) or \$5.50 per night for a single.

Make your reservation now for the best Senior Adult Celebration yet. For reservations or information, write or call Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—Bob Holley, director

## Church Administration

### Two Important Events

Two Church Administration events are offered during the coming weeks that will be of interest to pastors, deacons and



Beal



Sheffield

church staff members.

**Minister of Education Retreat.** On Thursday and Friday, April 28-29, ministers of education will hold their annual retreat at DeGray State Park Lodge at Arkadelphia. This retreat provides an opportunity for fellowship and personal and professional growth for the ministers of education and other education al staff members in our state. Will Beal, consultant in the Church Administration Department in Nashville, will be the principle leader of the retreat.

Topics for the retreat will include "Working Smarter," "Discovering Our Styles of Influence," and "Dealing with Expectations." The retreat begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday and will adjourn at noon on Friday. Registration is \$20 and lodging will be \$24.15 per person (double occupancy) or \$49.95 for a single. Spouses are welcome

## Reach/Teach Retreat

is scheduled for children's Sunday School workers



Where: Camp Paron

When: April 15-16, 1988

Cost: \$17.50 per person (includes two meals and overnight accommodations)

Purpose: To update children's workers on age group work

To challenge and help workers sharpen skills needed to reach and teach children in Sunday School work

To offer ideas relating to the child and his family

Faculty: Conferences will be led by Baptist Sunday School Board personnel

and are encouraged to attend. The theme of this year's retreat is "Personal Growth and Dynamics."

**Pastor-Deacon Conference.** "Called to Share Ministry" will be the theme of the annual Pastor Deacon Conference to be held May 6-7 at Calvary Church, Little Rock. Bob Sheffield, deacon ministry consultant in the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board, will speak and lead conferences for pastors and deacons. Conferences will deal with skills in deacons ministry, witnessing and leadership. Conferences will also be offered for wives of pastors and deacons. Calvary Church is located at 1901 N. Pierce, just off Cantrell Road in Little Rock. Registration is not required and a continental breakfast will be served on Saturday morning.—**Bob Holley, director**

#### Church Music

## Young Musicians Camp

Are your Young Musicians asking about camp yet? Do you know what to tell them? Here is the information you need now!

The date is June 27-30, from noon Monday until noon Thursday. We camp in dorms on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. The cost is \$37.50, which includes the \$5 registration fee. The camp packet, containing general information and registration forms, will be mailed to every full-time music minister about the first of April. Anyone else desiring this information could call our office (376-4791) to request this packet.

Young Musicians Camp offers a rewarding week for children who have completed grades 4-6. Five hundred campers are divided into four large choirs and each choir learns an entire musical that is presented at the end of camp. The daily schedule includes rehearsals, music activity class, instrumental emphasis class, recreation time and worship. The Peanut Olympics have become an exciting part of camp, and the two talent shows are real displays of up-and-coming musicians. Swimming is a popular recreational activity.

I think your Young Musicians would love music camp. Give them that opportunity this year! And, uh... you come, too!—**Peggy Pearson, associate/office manager**



*Pearson*

#### Sunday School

## Children's Workers' Retreat

April 15-16 is a special date that needs to be on your calendar if you teach children, grades 1-6, in Sunday School. The Children's Workers' Reach/Teach retreat will include conferences for younger children, middle children, older children and division directors.

The purpose of the retreat is to update children's workers on age-group work; to challenge and help workers sharpen skills needed to reach and teach children in Sunday School; and to offer ideas for relating to the child and his family.

This conference, which will be held at Camp Paron, will begin Friday, April 15, at 6 p.m. with a dinner, a feature presentation and age-group session. The retreat will continue at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning with a general feature, skillshops, and special interest conferences. It will end at noon.

The skillshops will include: Teaching the Bible Through Music, Teaching the Bible Through Drama, Teaching the Bible Through Creative Writing, and Helping Children Develop Bible Skills.

Special interest conferences will include:



*Edwards*

Guiding Children's Behavior in Sunday School, The Child and Salvation, How to Study the Bible, and Ideas for Reaching Children and Their Families. All conferences will be led by Baptist Sunday School Board personnel.

Cost for the retreat will for \$17.50 per person. This cost includes 2 meals and overnight accommodations. Reservations are necessary and can be made by contacting the Sunday School department. Reservation will close on April 7.—**Jackie Edwards, associate**

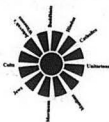
#### Administration

## Legal Awareness Seminar

Ouachita Baptist University, through the Center for Christian Ministries, will sponsor a "Legal Awareness Seminar" on April 5-6. Dr. Bud Fray, director of the center, has led in the planning of this seminar, and he has indicated that there could be well over 100 people in attendance.

Dr. Arthur Walker, executive director for the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will speak during the seminar. In addition, W. H. "Buddy" Sutton, Thomas Thrash, and Otis Turner will make presentations to the group. Mr. Sutton is a senior partner with Friday, Eldredge & Clark. Mr. Thrash is an attorney with the Rose Law Firm, and Otis Turner is an Arkadelphia attorney.

The seminar begins with registration on



## Conference on witnessing to other faiths

Learn what these groups believe and how to witness to them.

**April 11-12, 1988**

**Washington-Madison Association**

First Church, Fayetteville

Monday, 7-9:15 p.m. Tuesday, 7-9:15 p.m.

**April 14-15, 1988**

**Southwest Association**

Memorial, Waldo

First, Hope

Beech St., Texarkana

Thursday, 7-9:15 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. - 12

Friday, 7-9:15 p.m.

Sponsored by the associations, ABSC Missions Dept., and SBC Home Mission Board

# HELPLINE

Tuesday, April 5, at 1 p.m. and the program begins at 1:30 p.m. The seminar concludes on Wednesday with a noon luncheon. There is no cost for the seminar.

In addition, OBU will host the noon luncheon on Wednesday. Participants will need to make their own motel arrangements. A special feature will include the OBU Singers in concert on Tuesday evening, 7 p.m.

For more information, write Dr. Bud Fray, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.—**Jimmie Sheffield**, associate executive director

## Church Training MasterLife Workshop

Dr. and Mrs. Ron Heddle of Salisbury, N.C., will be the two co-leaders of a MasterLife Workshop to be held on the Ouachita campus May 16-20. Dr. Heddle is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Salisbury and an experienced MasterLife leader.

The MasterLife Workshop is required for certification as a leader of MasterLife in a church. A person may also become a certified MasterLife leader by participating in a 26-week MasterLife group in a church. The workshop is planned primarily for pastors and staff members. Spouses are also welcome and encouraged to attend.

The workshop will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday and conclude by 11:30 a.m. on Friday. Participants should be committed to attend each session. The workshop fee is \$82.50 (\$72.50 for an accompanying spouse). Housing on campus is \$3.50 per night, per person (double occupancy) or \$5.50 per night for a single. Participants provide their own linens, towels, etc.

For additional information, call or write Robert Holley, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 557, Little Rock, AR 72203 (376-4791). Reservations should be made by May 2.—**Bob Holley**, director



Holley

## Houseparents needed:

- Arkansas Baptist Home for Children
- Needs couples to minister to the needs of boys and girls
- Prefer middle-aged couples with the experience of rearing their own children
- Individual family life cottage for each age group
- Excellent staff quarters in cottage that will accommodate couples only
- Questions and interest should be addressed to **Charlie Belknap**, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone (501) 367-5358
- Couples desiring to serve 2 or 3 years as a mission project will be considered
- **Current need:** houseparents for teenage boys



## One Out Of A Hundred



*Every baby church deserves a loving mother  
to nurture it into healthy youth.*

**Church Arkansas  
Needed In 1989:  
45 New Congregations  
100 New Sponsors**

*Will you encourage your church to be*

☆☆☆☆☆ *One Out Of A Hundred?* ☆☆☆☆☆

## Church Arkansas Sponsor

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Place we want to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please suggest a mission we can consider.

\_\_\_\_\_ We want to join with two other churches in the  
Macedonian Mission Plan

Clip and mail the completed form to: Church Extension, Arkansas  
Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.



Quality  
Van Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices  
to churches, (501) 268-4490, 1500 E. Race,  
Searcy 72143. Larry Carson, owner

# Next Month in Arkansas: April

April 1, State Youth Convention, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (CT)  
April 5-19, Church Planting Crusade, Pbilippines (Bbd)  
April 7-8, Minister-Mate Marriage Enrichment Retreat (CT)  
April 8-9, Acteens Encounter, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (WMU)  
April 9, Mission Friends Super Saturday, Little Rock Calvary Church (WMU)  
April 10, Associational Music Tournaments, latest date for tournament completions (M)  
April 11-12, Interfaith Witness Conference, Fayetteville First Church (Mn)  
April 11-12, New Pastor/Staff Orientation, Baptist Building, Little Rock (Ad)  
April 14, Small Sunday School

Leadership Updates, Little Rock Nalls Memorial Church, Payneaway Corners Chapel Church, Hatfield Church, Swifton Church, Fayetteville Sang Avenue Church (SS)  
April 14-15, Interfaith Witness Conference, Southwest Association (Mn)  
April 15-16, Acteens Encounter, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (WMU)  
April 15-16, Reach/Teach Retreat, Camp Paron (SS)  
April 18-22, National Youth Ministers Conference, Stouffer Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. (CT)  
April 19, State Growth Spiral Workshop, Little Rock Markham Street Church (SS)  
April 21, Small Sunday School Leadership Updates, Paragould Oak Grove Church, Barling First Church, Camden Second Church, Wynne

Church, Highfill Church (SS)  
April 22-23, State Handbell Festival, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (M)  
April 25-26, Key Leader Meeting, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)  
April 28, Church Building Conference, Little Rock Markham Street Church (SS)  
April 28, Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)  
April 28-29, Minister of Education Retreat, Holiday Inn, Hot Springs (CT)  
April 29, Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (CT)  
April 30, Area Summer Youth Ministers Conference, UALR Baptist Student Center, Little Rock (CT)  
April 29-30, RA Congress, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (Bbd)

## 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 16, Church Planting Conference, Camp Paron (Mn)  
May 16-20, MasterLife/MasterBuilder

Workshops, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia (CT)  
May 19-22, Campers on Mission Spring Rally, Petit 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 20-23, Youth Mission Emphasis, Siloam Springs Assembly (WMU)  
June 20-24, Arkansas Baptist Assembly, Siloam Springs (SS)  
June 20-24, RA Man and Boy Camp, Camp Paron (Bbd)  
June 24-25, RA Man and Boy Camp,

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

Abbreviations: Ad - Administration; Bbd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; Mn - Missions; SS - Sunday School; S/A - Stewardship/Annuity; Stu - Student; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

# Trustees Name President

## Drummond Elected Southeastern's Fourth President

by Al Shackleford

Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Lewis A. Drummond of Louisville, Ky., was elected March 14 as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary by the board of trustees. Drummond, 61, will become the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary's fourth president April 1.

He will succeed W. Randall Lolley, who resigned in November 1987 after the conservative majority of trustees voted in October to change the school's faculty-selection process to ensure that only people who avow biblical inerrancy would be named to the faculty. Lolley has been Southeastern president for 14 years.

Drummond is administrative director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism and professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

His election as Southeastern president was recommended unanimously by the trustees' 12-member executive committee, which was the search committee. After a one-hour dialogue with the trustees March 14, Drummond was elected by a 20-6 vote with one abstention. The dialogue was held in an open session, after trustees defeated a motion to go into executive session.

Drummond told the trustees he hopes all facets of the seminary "can come together in unanimity and get on with the task of equipping ministers of the gospel." Amid

ting the path to that goal may be rough and rocky, he added: "I would trust God to use me here to bring about reconciliation.

"I would hope to build confidence with the faculty. We are not in heaven, but we are not in hell either."

Drummond told the trustees he supports academic freedom with academic responsibility: "I am really committed to both. This is where this institution has always been."

Concerning his biblical beliefs, Drummond responded, "I believe in the inerrancy of the Scriptures theologically; that the Bible is truth without any mixture of error and is truth in all realms of reality."

The new president said his first task would be to fill faculty and staff vacancies. Morris Ashcraft has resigned as dean but will continue to teach. Three presidential assistants also have resigned: Jerry Niswonger, student development; W. Robert Spinks, financial development; and Rodney V. Byard, communications.

Concerning his recommendation of faculty to the trustees, Drummond said these people will have to have academic qualifications and would have to adhere to biblical beliefs that have been approved by the trustees.

Drummond is a native of Dixon, Ill. He joined Southern Seminary as Billy Graham Professor in 1973 and was appointed director of the Billy Graham Center in 1981. He taught at Spurgeon's Theological College in London from 1968 to 1973, holding the chair of evangelism and practical theology, the first full professorship of evangelism in Europe.

He is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and earned a doctor of philosophy degree from King's College of the University of London. He has done post-doctoral study at Oxford University in Oxford, England, and Spurgeon's College.

After the election, the trustees were given a statement signed by eight of the trustees, stating: "The seminary's outstanding heritage is being jeopardized by the current effort to shift radically the theological foundation of the school toward Fundamentalism and the belief in biblical inerrancy. We will not endorse such an erosion of the school's historic character.

"One day, we believe Southeastern will return to the highest standards of theological education. We pledge ourselves to pray and to work for that day."

In related actions, trustees voted 21-4

that Drummond's salary and benefits would be the same as the current president. Lolley is reported to receive a \$71,040 salary, plus \$17,015 in benefits and residence in a seminary-owned house.

A recommendation from the search committee asked Drummond to request Lolley to preside at the May graduation. It was approved unanimously after an amendment included the July graduation.

In honor of the outgoing president, the trustees voted to name the women's dormitory the Randall and Lou Lolley Hall.

## Classifieds

**Buses**—New and used Champion buses. Call American Transcoach, Inc., 1-800-367-4845 3/31

**Passion Play**—See the Great Passion Play and stay at Keller's Country Dorm (for groups of 12 or more), Eureka Springs, Ark. Air conditioning, pool, \$8 tickets, lodging and meals, all for \$22 each! Call 501-253-8418 today! 3/24

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 95 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

**Work Wanted**—31-year-old male seeking job helping with elderly persons. Please call 389-6416. 3/24

**Will Relocate**—Father of four looking for work as mechanic or truck driver. Hard worker. Willing to relocate in Ozark area. Richard Loger, P.O. Box 218, Marble, MN 55764; phone 218-247-7484. 3/24

**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

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.



"Country Church Picnic"

## A Memory To Keep

Choose from our free catalog or order "Country Church Picnic" now. 1,000 prints only, signed and numbered. 9 1/2" x 14". 100% rag paper. Pen and ink with watercolor and French pastel. \$18.50 post paid. Please remit to: Peggy Ann Prints, P.O. Box 3950, Batesville, AR 72503 or call 501-793-4063.

## Convention Uniform

### *The Meaning of the Cross*

by Marvin E. James, Second Church, Clarksville

**Basic passage:** Matthew 27:11-17, 20-22, 35, 45-50

**Focal passage:** Matthew 27:20-22, 45-50

**Central truth:** Every person must decide what the cross will mean to him.

In all human history, no event is more significant than the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Awesome and dreadful as it was, he went to the cross willingly. Every man, woman, or child must decide what the cross means to him personally. That decision will mean life or death to him.

Pilate tried to face the cross by following career goals. When he asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews, he hoped for a negative answer. This would have given weight to his realization that Jesus was an innocent man. He was obviously hopeful of dismissing the charges the Jews had brought against Jesus, unfounded, then he would not have to make a decision. When the crowd was incited by the Jewish leaders, he pathetically tried to exonerate himself from personal guilt by publically washing his hands of the whole thing. How many public leaders try to escape making a decision about living the Christway, through the same method?

To the Jews, the cross meant an end to their loss of power, and the increasing popularity of Jesus, because he did not meet their idea of a king. To some of the soldiers, it meant a new garment, when they divided his garments by lot. To the followers of Jesus, it seemed an end to all their hopes and dreams of a new life.

The supernatural darkness for three hours just intensified the desolation and aloneness of Jesus, "as he who knew no sin, was made to be sin for all men." Even the terrible cry to the Father fell on deaf ears for the most part. Matthew records one soldier being moved to compassion. The cries were not for pain, for he had already committed himself to suffer the terrible pain and humiliation at Gethsemane. Now he must suffer the wrath and turning away of the Father, along with the injustice of having man's sin heaped upon him. Sin explains the Father's forsaking him. It was God's way of dealing with sin, to wash it away with his own son's blood.

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## Life and Work

### *Triumph of Christian Love*

by Earl Humble, First Church, Osceola

**Basic passage:** John 14:15; 15:1-17; 1 John 4:19-21; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 15:9-14; 1 John 4:19-21; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**Focal passage:** John 15:9-14; 1 John 4:19-21; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**Central truth:** Love is the greatest thing in the world.

There is nothing like Christian love. When Jesus and the apostles spoke of love for God and for one another, they usually employed a word expressing the highest level of commitment. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three persons in one Godhead—are said to love us, and that divine love is transferred to us and resides in our hearts.

One of the strongest evidences that we are saved is that we love God. As unconverted sinners we did not love him, but a change came when we repented and received Christ as Savior.

Another evidence that we are saved is that we love one another. Church feuds are so common that we all know about them. These feuds would be unheard of if we would let God's love dominate our lives.

John is quite blunt when he sees a lack of love in a believer's life. He calls a man a liar if he says he loves God, yet does not love his Christian brother (1 Jn. 4:20-21). This places in a bad light any church member who hates another church member. At the very best, such hatred would deprive him of the assurance of salvation.

When we read Paul's psalm of love in 1 Corinthians 13, especially verses 4-7, we see more clearly what God's love has done for us. Further, we see how far it has yet to go to permeate our lives. In these four verses we see 15 characteristics of love. These listings begin with patience and end with endurance, another form of patience. Between these two words are about all of the fruits of the Spirit.

This love does not love just the lovely, but also the unlovely, not just the holy but also the unholy, not just the worthy but also the unworthy.

When we remember how much our Lord loved us—the undeserving ones—surely we can love the brethren and have some love left over for lost people. We will never be successful soul winners until we learn to love lost people.

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## Bible Book

### *The Family Facing A Crisis*

by Eddie L. McCord, Independence Association DOM

**Basic passage:** Genesis 47:28-50

**Focal passage:** Genesis 48:20-21; 49:33; 50:15-21c, 24-26

**Central truth:** When the family faces a crisis, understanding, forgiveness, and acceptance is often the way to a solution.

This lesson brings us to the end of the patriarchal period. The divine plan is continued through the nation rather than through a family, or an individual. The last days of Jacob or Israel and the end of the Joseph story would teach us today if only we would have open hearts and receptive minds. The following crises are often faced in the family.

(1) The care of an ill and aged parent. Though the law had not been given at this time, Joseph responded to the needs of his father in the spirit of the fifth commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother" (Ex. 20:12). Moving out of the family home doesn't free children from this requirement.

He honored his fathers needs. When Joseph heard his father was sick, he immediately went to him taking his two sons (Ge. 48:1). He honored his father's faith. To the very end his faith in the God of Jacob was strong.

(2) The death of a family member. Following the blessing of his sons, Jacob "yielded up the ghost, and was gathered to his people" (Ge. 49:33). "God is not the God of the dead but of the living" (Mt. 22:32). Jacob died in faith knowing that he would be "gathered to his people," to Abraham, Isaac, and others in the presence of the Lord.

When death comes to one close to us we must do the following: We must accept the death as a fact. This doesn't mean that we should forget nor refuse to weep.

We must re-enter life more committed to carrying out God's plan. Is we are not saved then we must receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

(3) Misunderstanding and lack of trust among surviving children. Following the funeral the brothers began to suspect Joseph's motives. They could hardly believe that he had actually forgiven them. Joseph dies. The Joseph story ends. He knew that God would deliver his people and his body would be taken with them.

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## WORLD

# Hunger Crisis Escalating

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee On Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—At a time when Southern Baptist hunger donations continue to decline, the hunger crisis in several African countries continues to escalate.

During a House hearing, U.S. government and United Nations officials testified of the growing hunger crisis in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan.

"This hearing focuses on the emergency needs of Africans in the continent's most emergency-affected countries," said Charles L. Gladson, the Agency for International Development's assistant administrator for Africa. "There are no countries in Africa now where life is more tenuous for so many millions or where it is more challenging and difficult to meet short-term, life-sustaining needs. The situations in each country can be mistaken as similar; in fact, they are each very different and unique."

"At the same time, the factors driving the emergency needs of these four countries have shifted in a very significant and telling fashion. In the past, the impact of natural disasters—drought, flood, pestilence and disease—was the prime factor, the momentum behind the emergency need. The suffering of innocent men, women and children elicited an immediate humanitarian outpouring from Americans."

"Now, however, and although natural factors are still present and important in each of these countries, man-made factors predominate and drive the seemingly intractable emergency situations and ever-escalating needs."

Members of the House Select Committee on Hunger and Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa heard witnesses testify that:

— Angola, one of the wealthiest countries in Africa, is experiencing serious shortages of food and other necessities as a result of civil war and economic mismanagement. An estimated 2.7 million of the country's 8 million people are in immediate need of emergency food assistance. Estimates predict the country will require 250,000 metric tons of international food assistance for the crop year beginning April 1.

— Ethiopia, considered the poorest nation in the world, has yet to recover from the devastating famine of 1984-85. Continuing periods of drought coupled with intensifying civil strife have crippled the country. About 7 million Ethiopians are believed to be at risk, a number almost as great as during the 1984-85 famine.

— Mozambique faces a dual crisis of millions of rural people without food

because of severe civil conflict and drought and millions of urban people without food because of extremely low domestic food production. The emergency situation in Mozambique's rural areas is considered possibly the worst in Africa because the civil war makes food delivery extremely dangerous throughout the country.

By the end of 1988, more than 1 million Mozambicans will have fled to other southern African countries, observers predict.

— Sudan also is plagued by civil strife and drought. Of the 6 million people living in southern Sudan, about 1.5 million are estimated to be affected by the country's civil war. A drought in western Sudan also threatens food supplies for 1.75 million people.

## Missionaries Help Rio Flood Victims

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)—Water rose to the headlights of his van as Southern Baptist missionary Bill Moseley drove around a flooded Brazilian city helping disaster victims.

More than 70 Brazilians died and 11,000 were left homeless by flooding Feb. 19-21 in Rio de Janeiro. Deaths occurred when mudslides caused buildings to collapse.

Moseley and his 20-year-old son, Billy, placed mattresses in the van and carried two loads of injured Brazilians to a hospital. They told the pastor of a Baptist church in one of the damaged areas they could offer financial help because Southern Baptist relief funds were available. Women from the church were trying to cook for 200 people over an old stove and campfire.

The Moseleys helped firemen warn residents in hillside homes of impending mudslides and found an elderly woman unable to walk. They strapped her in a chair and carried her to safety down a slippery pathway in hard rain.

Heavy rains earlier in the month had flooded houses to a depth of four feet in one section of Rio. The first family Moseley aided after that flood was a woman named Vera, her husband and five children. The woman later became a believer for Christ and began attending the Baptist church in the area, children in tow.

Missionaries aided about 100 families through Southern Baptist hunger funds after the first flood. One man "literally beamed with joy" when he saw the New Testament included with the food gifts, Moseley said. He told Moseley his Bible had gotten soaked in the flooding.

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