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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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**February 25, 1988**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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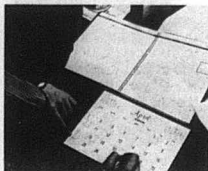
# Arkansas Baptist

February 25, 1988



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ABN photo / Millie Gill

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*Churches drift aimlessly along, unless they have a clear vision of where they are going and make concrete plans to get there.*

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## IT'S UPLIFTING

### Baptisms Top 200,000

by **Erich Bridges**

SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—For the first time, overseas churches related to Southern Baptist missions have baptized more than 200,000 people in one year.

Baptisms for 1987 totaled 203,824 among nearly 37,000 Baptist churches and mission congregations in 112 countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work.

"It took us 135 years to see the first yearly report of 100,000 baptisms," said R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "We have passed the 200,000 mark after only seven more years." Annual overseas baptisms first surpassed 100,000 in 1981.

Baptisms overseas last year topped the previous year's total by 10 percent, averaging 558 per day. Despite the increase, and the 17 percent jump recorded in 1986, baptism growth must still average at least 11 percent every year until the end of this century to meet Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust campaign goals.

The ratio of baptisms to overseas church members was one for every 10.5 members in 1987, compared to 1-to-43.5 among Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

National Baptists and missionaries started 1,070 churches during the year, an average of almost three per day. That brought the overseas church count to 17,769, a 6.4 percent jump over 1986. Mission congregations or preaching points increased by 338 to a total of 18,872.

The numbers show missionaries and their co-workers "are focusing on our primary purpose" — evangelism that results in new churches, Parks said.

Overseas Baptist church members grew by about 113,000 to nearly 2.15 million, a 5.6 percent rise, and Sunday school enrollment topped 1.5 million, a 10.1 percent increase.

Meanwhile, the number of national pastors rose by almost 15 percent to 16,680. Even more significant for the future, the number of current and potential Baptist leaders participating in some type of theological training soared by 40 percent to nearly 29,000.

## GOOD NEWS!

### Discipline for Redemption

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Who is Paul talking about? Many think it was the man mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5 who was practicing incest with his father's wife. The church's problem was its arrogant attitude toward the sin.

Paul had recommended severe discipline (1 Co. 5:5); but for the purpose of redemption. In 2 Corinthians 2:6, Paul declared that the punishment was sufficient. It was time to forgive.

First, notice (v. 5) that the man had grieved (something you do to loved ones) the whole body. This is consistent with Paul's teaching of the unity of the body (1 Co. 12:12-27).

Second, notice that the ultimate purpose was not the ruin of the man but his redemption (vv. 6-7). In disciplining children, it is important for them to know they are not being rejected as persons. This does not mean parents should spank and apologize. It does mean to distinguish between an acceptable person and unacceptable behavior. Paul had desired the salvation of this man. Now he was about to be ruined by rejection.

Third, consider that the discipline was to be performed in the attitude of love (v. 8). It may be disastrous to say to a child, "Daddy does not love you when you act this way." We should say, "I love you, but I will not accept this kind of behavior."

Fourth, notice that forgiveness is coupled with comforting (v. 7). "Forgive" also could be translated "show grace to." "Comfort" could mean "be an advocate for." It is extremely difficult for an ostracized Christian to make a comeback. He needs someone to go to bat for him.

The church had moved from conceit to rigidity. They were now in danger of self-righteousness. Paul declared that their attitude could give Satan an opportunity to take advantage of them (v. 11). How clever are Satan's designs! He lures a church member to sin in order to hurt the body of Christ. The body expels the member. Then Satan tries to hurt the body again by causing it to become self-righteous, hardened and uncompassionate, all for a good cause, so that it does not compromise with the world again.

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# A Shameful Blight

J. EVERETT SNEED

Many political issues capture the interest and attention of the national news media. Often extremely important legislation which effects the moral fiber of our nation goes virtually unnoticed. One such area is pornography legislation. Some argue that any attempt to legislate morality is wrong. We believe that pornography will destroy the moral fiber of a nation and that Christians have an obligation to stand for that which is right.

The principle piece of pornography legislation which was introduced during the legislative session of 1987 was HR1786. Hearings have been held on this legislation, which would eliminate dial-a-porn. It is widely known that the principle users of the dial-a-porn services are teenagers. The detrimental effect of this filth would be difficult to exaggerate.

Dial-a-porn calls in many areas of the country are paid by credit card. The cost varies, but in many areas 15 minutes costs \$40 for live, sexually explicit conversation. The New York Bell Telephone System takes in about \$9.75 million per year on the charges the companies collect from dial-a-porn operators. Obviously the reason such operations continue to exist is because of the big money that is taken in.

The major legislation related to pornography which will be discussed during the 1988 legislative session is a bill advocated by President Reagan on the Child Pornography and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1987. The sponsors of this legislation have not yet been announced. The bill was drafted for the president by the Department of Justice and was previewed with the leaders of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography and other groups.

Some argue that each adult should have the right to choose or reject pornography. Obscene or salacious material, they insist, affects only the user. This, however, is totally untrue. No one lives alone. The actions of each person effect the lives of others.

Pornography promotes lust. It is lust for money on the part of the producer and sexual lust on the part of the consumer. Uncontrolled lust can result in rape, incest and murder.

Unfortunately young people are one of the major consumers of pornography. They assume that since it is not widely challenged or opposed by the people they consider heroes, it must be acceptable for the



"sophisticated" or the "in" crowd.

Sin of all types is terrifying in its effect. No one becomes a great sinner all at once. At first a person will regard sin with fear. When he sins, he will feel remorse, but if he continues he can do the most shameful acts with no feeling of regret at all.

Paul stated this truth as he said, "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts" (Ep. 4:18).

So called "soft porn" may be enough to satisfy the lustful desires of an individual at first. As he becomes more and more involved with pornography, he must have more explicit, more immoral and more degrading materials to satisfy his lustful desires. This fact is well illustrated by what is happening to *Playboy* magazine. This

publication has now become too tame for the "hard core" appetite. Circulation has declined from 7 million plus in 1970 to about 3.5 million today. The publication's corporate profits declined from 19.3 million in 1981 to a projected 2.5 million in 1987. Obviously the porn appetites are desiring more "hard core" material. So the porn market has moved to those publications and videos which provide it.

The devastating effect of sexual immorality is well illustrated in the Scripture through the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. The ultimate result of pornography is destruction. James the half brother of our Lord said, "Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it has finished bringeth forth death" (Ja. 1:15).

The most important question for Christians is, "How can we stop pornography?" First, we must make it known that we oppose pornography. This means that we will not support stores, movie houses or any other place that sells or promotes pornography. Such action will have a cleansing effect.

Second, we should support such legislation as will stop or inhibit the distribution of pornography. With legislation currently in committee, this is a good time to let our congressmen and senators know that we oppose pornography and desire them to assist us in ridding our society of this evil.

Above all, Christians must again become sensitive to the negative impact of pornography. As Christians speak out, this evil can be eliminated. Let's join hands and hearts to rid our society of this shameful blight.

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VOLUME 87

NUMBER 8

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BEN EARLY

## Early Relections

Publish  
The Good

As I sat in the doctor's office impatiently waiting for my appointment my attention

was caught by a high school student who parked his Scout right in front of the main entrance.

He quickly ran inside and signed the waiting list and went back to his vehicle. I watched as he took a wheelchair from the back seat and came to the passenger side.

As he opened the passenger door, I noticed how his whole demeanor changed. All of a sudden he no longer moved as a youth in a great hurry but now he moved slowly more direct as if to say, "I have the most precious cargo in the world."

Very tenderly he lifted the elderly woman from the passenger's seat into the wheelchair, unaware of anything around except his grandmother.

Lovingly he adjusted the foot rests and helped her arrange the thin bathrobe she wore. Then he slowly pushed her into the waiting room, found a chair and moved as close to her wheelchair as he could and they began chattering and laughing like two teenagers. They not only communicated with their voices but through eyes of love and gentle touches.

As I watched this beautiful scene, I remembered how just the night before I'd watched this young man fight his way down the football field, knocking anyone aside who got in the way. I had watched him tackle and jump on pile ups, giving no indications of tenderness or mercy. Yet, today he was a totally different person, a youth with a purpose, with a mission of love.

We need to talk and publish more of the good outstanding achievements of our youth. If we strove for the love and communication this grandmother and grandson achieved, there wouldn't be a generation gap.

A lot depends on our living as well as teaching Christian values in our homes and families. Could it be we've placed our values on the things of the world instead of on Christ in whom all things hold together?

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

PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS: *First of a four-part series*

## The Individual and the Body

by William H. Stephens  
Baptist Sunday School Board

The earliest Baptist church in modern history, begun in 1608, practiced sprinkling as its form of baptism. Another 40 years was to pass before Baptists discovered that immersion is the biblical mode.

If immersion was not the primary distinguishing mark of these early Baptists, what was? The answer: priesthood of believers. They believed that the church is made up only of redeemed people, that every person is created by God with the right and competence to make religious choices, and when a person is saved, he or she immediately becomes a priest answerable directly to God. This conviction led Baptists to reject infant baptism, coercion by the king or state or church hierarchy and a separated clergy.

The doctrine of priesthood of believers is the focus of the 1988 Baptist Doctrine Study to be observed April 18-22 in many churches.

Concerns have been expressed across the denomination about the tension between the individual's freedom and the believer's accountability to a church or grouping of churches. Four truths about the doctrine may clarify the issue.

First, priesthood of all believers means that every believer is completely independent and answerable directly to God for belief and practice. Individual freedom is inherent in salvation. God intends for that direct relationship to continue. The God-given right which every believer

has to seek God's will eliminates every kind of mediator save Jesus himself. In matters of conscience, discovery of personal gifts, decisions about ministries, biblical interpretation, personal lifestyle and equal voice and vote in a congregation or convention, every believer has the right to seek God's will without coercion.

Second, priesthood of all believers means that churches or groups of churches have the right to exercise their priesthoods collectively as they interpret the mind of Christ, to establish guidelines and even parameters of membership. Baptists are diametrically opposed to creeds. Even so, historically, most Baptist bodies have practiced discipline in regard to faith and practice.

This truth is axiomatic. A believer never loses his or her priesthood. If one Christian may coerce a group to accept him regardless of how he interprets God's will or God's Word, he thereby deprives every group member of his or her priesthood.

Each believer must seek the mind of Christ in every decision whether personal or corporate. All priests equally are accountable to God to decide what God wants the decision to be.

Third, priesthood of all believers is properly acted out in community and under the lordship of Christ. The individual who chooses to function independently must pay a high price for severing the relationship with the body. Occasionally, God calls a person to pay that price. Normatively, though, a priest functions within the

church, the community of priests. Christian growth, discipleship and ministry take place in association with other believers of like mind. Biblical pictures of the body of Christ, family and *koinonia* compel a church to give major priority to reconciling its differences. This calls for appropriate balance between individual freedoms and the health of the body. Every believer should be taught to seek the mind of Christ and express his or her views, then participate fully in the action decided by the body, knowing humbly that no believer alive has any more claim to know God's will for the group any other.

Fourth, priesthood of believers is fraught with all of the perils of freedom, including wrong judgment. Either the individual or the church, or both, may be wrong; each has that right. That is the nature of freedom. This right applies also to the association. A church cannot be coerced to observe the wishes of the association, but neither can the association be coerced to accept a church into its membership which has moved too far from its convictions.

Freedom is scary. In times of doctrinal disputes, we tend to want to fight the war to end all wars. The tendency to develop tight controls is part of the process of correcting deviance in doctrine and practice. Yet, the very root of priesthood of believers is freedom in Christ. The tension calls for wise, far-sighted leadership as both traditional Baptist doctrines and traditional Baptist freedom are protected.

## Reclaiming the Inactive Member

The problem of reclaiming inactive church members drew 83 participants from across the state to a seminar Feb. 8-9. The Ingathering Seminar, sponsored by the Arkansas Church Training Department, was a first for the state.

Seminar participants represented 52 churches and more than 60,000 church members, according to Church Training Director Bob Holley. Based on the most recent studies, these 52 churches would have more than 12,000 inactive church members. The Ingathering strategy is designed to reclaim inactive members by training individuals in visiting and listening skills.

For more information, contact Holley at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72209; phone 376-4791.

## OBU Committee Organizes

A Presidential Search Committee has been organized for Ouachita Baptist University.

The seven-member committee will seek

a successor to OBU President Daniel R. Grant, who will retire in August after 18 years of service.

Serving on the committee will be Chairman William H. Sutton of Little Rock, Mrs. Kathleen Burton of Little Rock, Mrs. Jo Ford of Little Rock, Tom Ashcraft of Pine Bluff, Mike Carroll of Fort Smith, Del Medlin of Cabot, and Lyn Worthen of Arkadelphia.

Correspondence to the committee may be addressed to Sutton at 2000 First Commercial Building, Little Rock, AR 72201.

## Conference Draws 100

More than 100 Arkansas Baptists participated in the second annual Renewal Fellowship Conference held Jan. 29-30 at Levy Church, North Little Rock.

The program featured testimonies about the impact of Church Renewal, also known as Lay Renewal Weekends, on congregations and workshops on skills for leading renewal events. Speakers included Glendon Grober, Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood director; Bill Bledsoe, director of the Arkansas Renewal Fellowship; Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church, Hot Springs; Jerry Moore, Hot Springs

layman; and Danny Weatherford, pastor of Palestine Church.

Four individuals were recognized for their leadership in renewal in Arkansas. Buck Wood, Bob Fisher, G.B. Hambrick, and Fred Rutledge were awarded certificates of appreciation for their combined 60 years of service to more than 500 congregations across the nation.

Bledsoe told conference participants that 24 churches already had scheduled Lay Renewal Weekends for 1988 and that he expects the number of weekends held to top 50 for the year. More than 300 persons are registered with the ABSC Brotherhood office as Lay Renewal team members.

## After 45 Years of Service

Josephine Dew, administration secretary for Central Church, Magnolia, retired Jan. 31 after 45 years of service. She was honored in services Sunday, Jan. 24.

Miss Dew began her service as secretary Jan. 1, 1943, during the last year of J.B. Luck's pastorate. She served for 33 years during the pastorate of Loyd Hunnicutt and nine years during Jon M. Stubblefield's pastorate. She had served six months with Magnolia Central's current pastor, Rich Kincl.

During the 45 years she worked for the church, the congregation grew from 733 to 2,257 members. At different periods, she had served as pastor's secretary, financial secretary, church clerk, and church treasurer, as well as administration secretary.



## Brooks Hayes Lectures

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will deliver the annual Brooks Hayes Lectures at Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock.

Stassen, author of *Journey Into Peacemaking*, will address ways the local church can become more active and effective on issues of personal and public righteousness.

Lectures will be delivered at 7:15 p.m., Friday, March 4; 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Saturday, March 5, and 10:45 a.m., Sunday, March 6. For more information, contact the church office at 661-1129.



**Constitution**—A constitution service was held Jan. 31 for Roberson Memorial Church near Lonoke. Organized in 1981, the congregation was a mission of Immanuel Church, Carlisle. Nineteen charter members were enrolled in the service. Program personalities included W.T. Byrum, director of missions for Caroline Association; Floyd Tidsworth, Arkansas Baptist State Convention church extension director; Bill Hilburn, Caroline Association moderator; Jim Byrum, pastor of Immanuel Carlisle at the time the mission was organized; and Danny Loretz, former mission pastor. Above, Joey Phillips and John Tate, deacons at Immanuel, Carlisle, transfer the deed to Pastor James Johnson and Deacon Bobby Hart.

# Plan!

## To Make Your Dreams Come True

by Mark Kelly

Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

It's the heart of wisdom.

Witness the epigrams: "Plan for nothing, and you're sure to achieve it." "People don't plan to fail. They simply fail to plan."

No one questions the importance of planning, but then again, many of us leave life's most important matters to chance, never giving serious thought to where we are going or making plans to get there.

Consider the local church. While many larger congregations are forced to plan because of their complex ministry programs, thousands of smaller churches just live from week to week, putting one foot ahead of the other without any idea of where they are heading.

Considering that the church has been entrusted with completing Christ's work on earth, such a haphazard approach is irresponsible at best, sinful at worst.

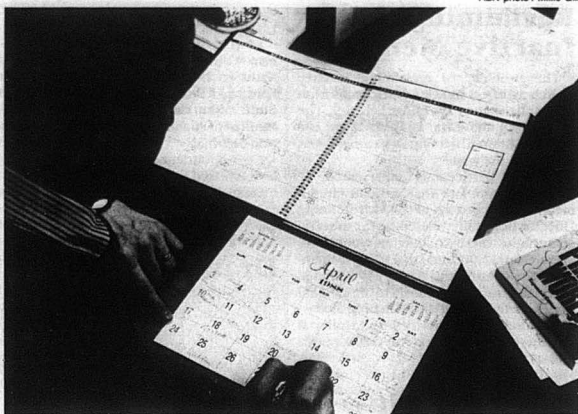
Every church must have a dream, a vision of its mission in the world, believes Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. And such a dream, coupled with some basic planning and goal setting, can create a new sense of meaning and purpose and a burst of new life for a church.

Pastors of small- and medium-sized churches will realize several benefits from basic planning and goal setting, Sheffield said.

First, pastors with little or no staff assistance face tremendous administrative pressures. In situations such as those, the pastor needs to learn to become a good planner to avoid being spread so thin that he can't get anything done at all. A pastor who becomes paralyzed by the many demands on his time will find himself unable to lead the church and can expect to burn out somewhere along the way because of the stress.

Second, planning and goal setting will help a congregation utilize its limited resources to the maximum. When time, energies, and dollars are at a premium, proper planning and goal setting will help a church invest its resources where they count the most.

Third, planning and goal setting allows a church to involve more people in the work and ministry of the church. No



church can accomplish its God-given mission by the efforts of just the pastor and staff. By involving key laypeople in planning, church leadership can touch the whole congregation and involve many more in the work of the Kingdom.

Of course, planning and goal setting is not a quick fix, Sheffield warned. Planning is hard work, and it takes time, but the end result is worth it.

Sheffield offered two suggestions for pastors who want to help their churches begin planning for the future.

First, begin by talking to the church about the need to focus attention on its priorities. A pastor might preach a series of sermons on the mission of the church, trying to help the people catch a vision of what the church is about.

Once the mission of the church has been outlined, the pastor then turns to a very basic question: How do we do it? Leading the church to answer that question starts it on the path of planning and goal setting. Such a process should begin slowly, Sheffield said, and the pastor should concentrate his energies on helping people recognize the need to plan and set goals. Once the need is established, the pastor can gather the proper resources and conduct a basic "how to plan" workshop for church leadership.

The second step, Sheffield said, is to start by planning several short-range projects.

"Project planning is where the small church starts," Sheffield said. "Instead of trying to focus on plans for several years down the road, begin by planning specific projects in the immediate future. As the church begins to see the needs around them, they will realize they can't do it all,

and they will be ready to look at long-range planning."

But the starting point should be the immediate future. "Some churches have to start with planning a monthly calendar," Sheffield said. "Then move to three- or six-month calendars. After that, try a whole year at a time."

Once a church has planned a year's events, leaders can focus their sights on setting goals for a year, he added. It should take two to four years before a congregation is ready to attempt truly long-range planning and goal setting.

Patience is crucial, Sheffield believes. "It takes time to get people dreaming," he observed. "And it takes time for the results of planning to show up."

"No church is going to go from 50 to 100 in Sunday School overnight. You must be willing to accept the need to be patient and let the results come at the appropriate time. Planning produces delayed benefits. Sometimes they come three, six, or 12 months down the road."

Sheffield recommends several resources for the church interested in beginning to plan and set goals.

—*Church Planning A Year At A Time*, by J. Truman Brown Jr., a Shared Ministry resource published by Convention Press.

—*Basic Small Church Administration*, by Thurman W. Allred, also published by Convention Press.

—*To Dream Again and Keeping The Dream Alive*, by Bob Dale, published by Broadman Press.

For further information about planning and goal setting in the local church, contact Bob Holley, ABSC, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

# New Challenges

by Don Moore  
ABSC Executive Director

New challenges contest the fiber of today's Arkansas Baptists. From the days of a running feud between the Baptists and the Church of Christ, and an occasional skirmish with the Methodists, we have come to a drastic new day. Baptism, social drinking, dancing, and "once saved, always saved" were the big distinctions of the past.



Today, Mormonism has made our Southern Baptists the focal point of their mission efforts. Willing to deceive, they masquerade as Christians, claim to believe the Bible and carefully keep from our people the weird, far-out claims of their faith. They reach about 500,000 Southern Baptists per year and register them as converts. They are building larger new facilities throughout our state.

Jehovah's Witnesses continue their zealous attempts to wrestle our people from their New Testament faith to an Old Testament perversion, and our people are like sheep before the slaughter.

The New Age Movements are receiving widespread, free propaganda through the media. Appealing to young professionals and burned out middle-agers, they have introduced spiritualist mediums and other demonic contrivances into the mainstream of our society. No Christ is in their teaching. Self is god. Developing a super-consciousness through channeling, they purport to elevate us above the common.

**It is time to wake up!** We can no longer leave our people or ourselves subject to these heretical teachings. Even the Moslem (Muslim) religion (Islam) is moving with evangelistic fervor to seize the masses. Their mission is the USA. They are the fastest growing religion in the world and pose a formidable political foe as well. Their mosques are beginning to appear even in Arkansas.

**What do I suggest?** Pastors, youth ministers, and all Sunday School teachers need to be as informed as possible about these movements. They need to have God's answers for our people. Secure reliable materials as soon as possible and incorporate this in your preaching and teaching programs. The Special Missions Ministries office of our Missions Department can help you with information and resources.

**Next**—Take some folk with you and participate in the Interfaith Witness Con-

ference when it is in your area. In April there are two. April 11-12 will be at First Church, Fayetteville; April 14 at Beech Street, Texarkana; April 15 (Friday morning) First Church, Hope; and April 15 (Friday night) Memorial, Waldo. Contact Pete Petty for more information.

**East Arkansas music**—How is it? I'm sure it is good, but as with everything else, it can be better. March 12, all Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leaders in East Arkansas are invited to share in a rich growth experience just for them. Since most of our churches must use unpaid volunteers, or those who make their living some other way but receive small compensation from the church position, we are anxious to give them as much reinforcement as we can. They can't make many of our meetings, but they can make this Saturday meeting. Your church deserves the best you can give. This meeting at First Church, Hughes, will help you do your best.

**Speaking of music**—Peggy Pearson is getting ready for the thrilling Young Musicians Festivals scheduled in March. For grades 4-6, these groups from over the state will have regional festivals at Fordyce, Forrest City, Texarkana, Harrison, and Russellville. They will perform for judges who will help them see how to improve their work. They will combine in a thrilling mass choir experience that will bless them. Deadline for registration is March 14. The festivals are March 26. We owe it to our young people to highly regard and encourage them in areas of godly music.

**Still more musical goodies await us!** The rapidly growing ministry of handbells finds its climatic expression at the State Handbell Festival at Ouachita, April 22-23. All of our handbell choirs are invited to participate, but only those who register by April 11 can be adjudicated. Guest director, Donald Allured of Birmingham, Alabama, will assist. A Directors' Forum will be held on Saturday morning.

**Huntsville, Hope, Paris, Warren, Mountain View, Jonesboro, Little Rock and Wynne**—What do they all have in common? This isn't trivia. These are the cities that will host this year's District Bible Drills and Speakers Tournaments. While many no longer view these tournaments as a need or as a legitimate tool for teaching and magnifying the Word of God, "You'll Be Glad To Know" that scores of adults and children and youth go on being blessed in the same wonderful way they always have been. God bless the many adults who

have the courage and commitment to invest their lives in these children. The children love it when there is an adult so committed.

**Recreation is a ministry and a tool.** A Mini-Rec Lab will be held at Park Hill Church on March 4-5. Church staff with recreational responsibilities as well as volunteer church recreation workers can benefit from the "rec-lab." This is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board as well as the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

**High School Baptist Young Men**—this is the name of the new Brotherhood organization for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. They used to be identified as RA's with their age group called Ambassadors. All churches who have work with this age group, or who desire to start work with this age group, are invited to a State HSBYM basketball tournament March 11, 12, at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. Call the Brotherhood Department for more information and registration.

**Prayer**—Registration has closed for the National CWT Seminar scheduled for March 7-10. However, we can support this event in prayer. They will be training with First Church, Ozark.

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## Christian Life Council Annual CCF Meeting

The Christian Life Council is liaison between the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The two work cooperatively in dealing with three major problems in our society: drugs, gambling and obscenity.

This year's annual meeting will be held Monday, March 28, at the Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in southwest Little Rock.

There are 200 ministers and lay people from all over Arkansas serving on the foundation's board of directors. Many of these are members of our Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches. If you are interested in attending this meeting, make note of this date and even if not a board member, plan to attend.

Details as to who the speaker will be, etc. will be publicized at a later date. If you are not a member of the board, write John Finn at 8300 Geyer Springs Rd., Little Rock, 72209 or call 568-0448.—Robert A. Parker, director

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## Church Training

### Leader Training Seminar

Does your church have an adequate number of trained, volunteer leaders? Does your nominating committee function effectively in discovering and enlisting leaders? Are you making the most of available resources for training leaders?

If your answer to any of these is "No", the Leader Training Seminar on March 28-29, may be the solution to your need. The seminar



Crowe

will be led by Jimmy Crowe, consultant in the Leadership Development Section of the Church Training Department at the Sunday School Board and Robert Holley, director of the State Church Training Department. Crowe is the author of *The Leader Training Handbook*. Holley is author of the *Potential Leader Training Guide*.

The seminar will be held at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. Sessions will meet 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. on Monday and 8:30 a.m.—noon and 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday. Topics will include "Discovering, Enlisting and Training Potential Leaders," "Helping the Nominating Committee Function," "LIFE as a Leadership Resource," "The Biblical Model for Leadership," and "How to Get the Most From the Church Study Course."

The registration fee for the seminar is \$10 which covers materials and breaks. For additional information contact Robert Holley, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—**Bolley Holley, director**

## Church Music

### Music Tournaments

Development and encouragement of young talent is a never ending process. There is never a time that a music director can cease developing young talent and just rely on what they have done in the past, the job is never finished.

Associational and State Music Tournaments provide opportunities for junior and senior high youth to develop their talent by receiving constructive comments and listening to other youth from their association and across the state as they too

share their musical skills.

In a day and time when the youth are so distracted by the world, we should use every means possible to encourage the use of their talents for the glory of God. The tournaments can be one of those tools that displays to them that they are not alone in using their talent to glorify God.

Each association is responsible for scheduling a tournament. You may contact your associational office or associational music director for information.

The State Music Tournament/Ensemble Jubilee is May 7, Olivet Church, Little Rock, for those who qualify through their associational tournament.—**Glen Ennes, associate**

## Church Training

### District Drills and Tournaments

Here's a riddle for you. What has hundreds of legs, sweaty palms, and a great memory? No, this is not some monstrous apparition from "Friday the 13th, part 92" nor is it the party animal for the New Age Movement.

Actually, I have just described, at least in part, several hundred older children and youth who will be participating in the District Bible Drills and Youth Speakers' Tournaments to be conducted across the state during the week of March 21. These children and youth will be demonstrating their skills in Bible usage, Scripture memory and communication as they are judged on such items as time and accuracy.

The drills and tournaments will be conducted in eight locations and is open to those participants who have qualified on the church and associational levels. The drills begin at 7:15 p.m. in each location. However, participants should arrive by 6:30 and judges by 6:00.

The dates and locations of the District Tournaments are as follows:

District	Date	Location
Northwest	3/21	First, Huntsville
Southwest	3/21	First, Hope
West Central	3/22	First, Paris
Southeast	3/22	First, Warren
North Central	3/24	First, Mountain View
Northeast	3/24	Central, Jonesboro

Central	3/25	Olivet, Little Rock
East Central	3/25	Wynne, Wynne

You are invited to attend one of the tournaments near you. This is also an excellent opportunity to view Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament as a possibility for your church in the future. For more information on this exciting Church Training event, contact the State Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, 72203 or call 376-4791.—**Bill Faulkner, associate**

## Church Training

### State Youth Convention Nears

Friday, April 1, marks the date of the State Youth Convention at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. On that day, several thousand youth will gather for this annual event. Sessions begin at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. The theme "Are You a World Changer?" will be shared throughout the day through inspiring messages, exciting music, and many other special features.



Swor

Our guest speaker is Dr. Chester Swor of

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Jackson, Miss. Dr. Swor has touched the lives of at least three generations of youth in his 80 years of life. Although his ministry has covered many years, Dr. Swor's message to youth is just as meaningful and timely as ever. You'll not want to miss this opportunity to expose your youth to one of God's true "living legends".

Another exciting feature will be the exciting music of Jim Woodward and Jeri Graham from Shawnee, Okla. These talented Christian musicians uniquely communicate through a combination of music, drama, and mime with the end result being exciting and genuine worship. The evening session will feature their presentation of "Gospel," a tremendous musical celebration of the good news through a very unique and creative worship experience.

Other features will include the State Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, music from Ouachita and Southern Baptist College, challenging testimonies,

and much more!

You'll not want to miss this great day. Contact the Church Training Department, ABCS for more information.—**Bill Faulkner, associate**

#### Administration

## CP Sunday April 17

"Sharing by Giving," the theme for the 1988 Cooperative Program Sunday, will remind all Southern Baptists of our Bold Mission Thrust goal to share the gospel with everyone in the world by the year 2000.

Cooperative Program Sunday presents a wonderful opportunity to introduce the Cooperative Program to those who have lit-



tle or no understanding of how Southern Baptist cooperate in mission support. This emphasis will also reinforce the commitment of individuals and the congregation to the Cooperative Program method of mission support.

Suggested activities for the day include:  
—Missions emphasis in morning and evening worship services.

—Special missions emphasis in Church Training concerning Cooperative Program Support.

—Special tracts and promotion materials distributed to the congregation.

A "Leadership Guide" is available from the state office to guide the planning, preparation, and implementation of this special emphasis. Write to: Jimmie Sheffield, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

Every church should have received a packet of Cooperative Program materials. These materials can be used for Cooperative Program Day. Send your orders to the above address as soon as possible.

If your church calendar will not permit Cooperative Program Day to be scheduled on April 17, consider finding another Sunday for the emphasis. Use a team of church leaders including the pastor, the church stewardship chairperson, the WMU director, and the Brotherhood director to plan the activities for the day.

The Cooperative Program needs a broader base of support than in the past. One way to help at this point is the planning and implementation of Cooperative Program Day. Try it. You will find it to be a blessing!—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

#### Woman's Missionary Union

## Springtime Mission Events

Spring is always a refreshing time. Soon the grass will become green again, tulips will bloom and gardens will be planted with anticipation of a bountiful harvest. This refreshing season of the year is also blossoming with many mission opportunities.

Men, women, boys and girls can anticipate an exciting time as they participate in the 1988 church-wide Home Mission Study, "A Church for Everyone." Age-level books and teaching guides are available through the Baptist Bookstore. Planning helps and publicity ideas for this study are included in the JFM Dimension and the Home Mission Study Planning Kit.

The arrival of March welcomes the first day of spring, but more importantly encourages everyone to pray and give to the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions. March 6-13, 1988, is the designated Week of Prayer for Home Missions. A

prayer guide is available to pray daily for home missions. Offering envelopes, prayer guides, and posters are available through the state WMU office.

The month of March also extends an invitation to everyone to participate in once in a lifetime celebration. Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union will celebrate 100 years of missions education. This weekend celebration will take place March 18-19, 1988, during the WMU Annual Meeting. Immanuel Church in Little Rock will host this inspirational event which will focus on "A Century to Celebrate—A Future to Fulfill." Men and women will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Don Moore, Bill O'Brien, Graydon and Betty Hardeston, Jerry and Margie Gray, Joyce Mitchell, and Christine Gregory. Friday night will feature Gas singing and sharing about their organization. The Saturday session will highlight Acteens with the introduction of the first Arkansas Ac-

teens Advisory Panel. Plan now to attend this once in a lifetime weekend celebration.

The month of April will bring showers of blessings to Arkansas Acteens who attend the 1988 Acteens Encounter. Southern Baptist College is the site of the April 8-9 Encounter, while Ouachita Baptist University will host the April 15-16 Encounter. These missions-filled weekend events will give teenage girls in grades 7-12 an opportunity to meet missionaries and MKs, learn more about the Acteens organization, and meet new friends. The guest speakers for these events are Karen Simons, WMU, SBC consultant, at Southern Baptist College; and Mildred McWhorter, home missionary in Texas, at OBU.

Plan now to participate in these springtime mission events. For additional information contact the WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.—**Angela Lowe, Acteens director**

#### Church Music

## Hughes Music Workshop

Volunteer/part-time music leaders and accompanists play an extremely important role in the life of our churches in Arkansas. Due to the fact that most are bivocational and unable to attend the overnight retreats at Camp Paron and SBC we are planning more one-day (Saturday) area workshops. For the leaders and accompanists in the East-Central part of the state a workshop will be held March 12 at First Church, Hughes from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (lunch provided). Write or call, 376-4791, Church Music Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Registration deadline, Feb. 29.—**Glen Ennes, associate**

Church Administration

## Minister of Education Retreat

Ministers of education and other educational staff members will have opportunity for fellowship and personal growth at the annual Minister of Education Retreat on April 28-29. Will Beal, consultant in the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead sessions on such topics as "Working Smarter," "Discovering Our Styles of Influence," and "Dealing With Expectations."



Beal

Ministers of education have found this retreat to be a good opportunity for fellowship and personal refreshment and renewal. This event can meet some of your needs as you share time with your fellow ministers of education.

For additional information or reservations, contact Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.—**Bob Holley, director**

Annuity/Stewardship

## Church Budget Development

Fourteen Associational Church Budget Development Seminars are scheduled for 1988. The seminars are jointly sponsored by the Annuity/Stewardship and Cooperative Program Departments under the leadership of Jimmie Sheffield and James Walker.

The seminars are designed to encourage stewardship growth in churches. Each seminar will provide ideas and suggestions for improving the budgeting process in churches and creating awareness of need for greater mission support. Special attention will be given to providing better compensation and benefits for pastors and staff members.

Seminars are planned for all associations during 1988-1990. The 1988 seminars are scheduled for the following associations: Mt. Zion, May 2; Trinity, May 3; Red River, May 5; Concord, May 9; Central, May 26; Harmony, June 6; Pulaski, July 11; Southwest, Aug. 2; Bartholomew, Aug. 8; White River, Aug. 18; Benton County, Aug. 23; Arkansas Valley, Sept. 8; Garland County, Sept. 12.—**James A. Walker, director**

## Brotherhood: Year of the Laity

The Year of the Laity begins in 1988. You and your church need to be gearing up for this now.

There are four specific activities that are basic to meaningful involvement of lay persons in our churches.

As I write, I would hope that these paragraphs will serve not only as a reminder to be involved, but as a list of specific prayer requests for your personal quiet time.

Lay Evangelism Schools are being held all over Arkansas. Over 35 associations will be preparing pastors and laymen to return to their churches and lead Lay Evangelism Schools. We must always remember that the most rapid growth of the numbers of Christians and churches has come when the laity was witnessing in the work place.

Spiritual preparation for launching the Year of the Laity is indispensable. You and your church or association should con-

sider one of these: (1) a prayer for spiritual awakening seminar, (2) a praying men seminar, or (3) a prayer lay retreat.

The priesthood of the believer is a basic New Testament doctrine that Baptists have held tenaciously. Unfortunately we may have held it more than we have practiced it. The priesthood of the believer is not a doctrine primarily for professors and pastors but for the people in the pew. The Church Training Baptist doctrine study "Doctrine of the Priesthood of the Believer" is absolutely indispensable to a strong base for the Year of the Laity. We ought to set a record for the number of churches that do this biblical study.

Lay Renewal Weekends are an integral part of the Year of the Laity. The Southern Baptist Convention has indicated them as the first activity to begin in the chronogram of 1988-1989.

How God has been bless-

ing Lay Renewals in Arkansas! Pastor Mike Huckabee shares a thrilling testimony of what Lay Renewal meant to Beech Street First Church in Texarkana. Similar reports have come from the pastors of First, Pocahontas; Southside, Pine Bluff; First, Murfreesboro; and many others. Recently First Church, Dallas, set the date for their Lay Renewal weekend. In that decision they followed some Arkansas churches like First Church, Arkadelphia; First Church, Gillham; First Church, Paragould; First Church, Stuttgart; Calvary Church, Hope; and Southside Church, Lead Hill.

These four emphases and activities could be used of God to change our churches which someone characterized as made up of "pooped pastors and passive pews" to prayerful agencies of evangelism and discipleship through the 1990s.—**Glendon Grober, director**

## Pastor's Retreat March 21-22, 1988

### *Magnifying the Glory of the Calling*

#### Special features:

- ★ Bible studies — Tom Urry, Southwestern Seminary
- ★ Pastoral Leadership in a Dynamic Age — Bill Anderson, Clearwater, Fla.
- ★ Ministerial Ethics — Dr. Glen McGriff, Arkansas Baptist State Convention
- ★ Managing Your Life — Mike Atkinson, Management Specialist
- ★ Improving Pastor-Deacon Relations — Don Elliott, First Church, Cabot
- ★ Thrilling music — John Dresbach, First Church, Osceola

Schedule: Lunch Monday until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Cost: \$35 Place: Camp Paron

#### **A ministry of the Executive Board, Arkansas Baptist State Convention**

For information contact the ABCS Executive Board,  
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791, ext. 5101.

# Next Month in Arkansas: March

March 1, Macedonian Mission Meeting, Little Rock (Mn)  
March 3, Macedonian Mission Meeting, Fort Smith (Mn)  
March 4-5, Mini Rec Lab, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (CT)  
March 5, Youth Choir Festival, Little Rock Second Church (M)  
March 6-13, Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU)  
March 7-10, National CWT Seminar, Ozark First Church (Ev)  
March 11-12, State HSBYM Basketball Tournament, North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Bbd)  
March 12, Volunteer/Part-Time Music

Leader Retreat, Hughes First Church (M)  
March 14, Music in Evangelism Workshop, Hope Calvary Church (M)  
March 14, Homebound Workshops, Batesville First Church, Rogers First Church (SS)  
March 15, Homebound Workshops, Harrison First Church, Mountain Home First Church (SS)  
March 17, Homebound Workshops, Hot Springs Park Place Church, Little Rock Markham Street Church (SS)  
March 18-19, WMU Annual Meeting, Little Rock Immanuel Church (WMU)  
March 21, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, Huntsville First Church, Hope First Church (CT)

March 21-22, Statewide Pastors' Retreat, Camp Paron (Ad)  
March 22, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, Paris First Church, Warren First Church (CT)  
March 24, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, Mountain View First Church, Jonesboro Central Church (CT)  
March 25, District Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournaments, Little Rock Olivet Church, Wynne Church (CT)  
March 26, Mini-Resort Conference, Eureka Springs (Mn)  
March 26, Young Musicians Festivals, Fordyce First Church, Forrest City First Church, Texarkana Trinity Church, Harrison First Church, Russellville First Church (M)

## April

April 1, State Youth Convention, Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock (CT)  
April 5-19, Church Planting Crusade, Philippines (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 Nails Memorial

Church, Payneway 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, Higbyfill 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)

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

AT SOUTHEASTERN

# Nominee Selected

by Marv Knox

Baptist Press

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Lewis A. Drummond has been recommended to be the next president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Drummond, 61, is the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism and administrative director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Drummond was the unanimous choice of Southeastern's 12-member presidential search committee, which met Feb. 11-12 in St. Louis, announced Chairman Robert D. Crowley, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., and chairman of the seminary trustee board.

The search committee interviewed three "very, very serious candidates" for the presidency during the St. Louis meeting, Crowley said. In addition to Drummond, they were Charles L. Chaney, assistant to the chancellor and dean of the Courts Redford School of Theology and Church Vocations at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.

"After the interviews of all three, the committee discussed all three very carefully, had a period of prayer and conducted

an open vote," Crowley reported. "Dr. Drummond was the unanimous choice."

Crowley told Baptist Press, "The search committee wanted to move to a spirit of peace and reconciliation, and the committee felt Dr. Drummond was the person to bring this spirit."

If Drummond is elected by the full board of trustees when they meet March 14-15, his tenure will be effective April 1. Crowley said, adding Drummond currently is on sabbatical and would be available immediately.

Crowley said that Southeastern president W. Randall Lolley has been asked to stay through spring graduation ceremonies.

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. He has been pastor of churches in Alabama, Texas and Kentucky.

He is a member of the Royal Institute of Philosophy and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. He has been president of the Academy of Professors of Evangelism.

"Of the presidential search, Crowley said: "I couldn't feel better about it. The Spirit of God led us in a great way, evidenced by the fact we elected him unanimously on the first ballot. That, to me, was a real answer to prayer."

## Dean Named

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Church and community professor Larry McSwain has been named dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

A Southern Seminary faculty member since 1970, McSwain will assume the deanship Aug. 1 after completing a spring sabbatical. He will succeed G. Willis Bennett, who has been both theology dean and provost since being named to the latter position in June 1987. Bennett, dean since 1983, will continue as provost.

## More Women Requested

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A resolution urging nomination of more women as trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board won approval by about a 2-to-1 margin at the board's Feb. 10 trustee meeting. Some trustees did not vote.

The motion, introduced by Harrell Cushing of Gadsden, Ala., encouraged the Committee on Nominations "to actively seek qualified, missions-minded women" among nominees it will present at the 1988 annual meeting and also in subsequent years.

Cushing's motion said "normal attrition and lack of women nominated" has reduced to nine the number of women serving on the 85-member board. Three of these will complete their terms in June, with a fourth eligible for nomination to a customary second four-year term.

The resolution notes that through the years women "have served with distinction" on the board and cites the work of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in promoting missions for a century. "Southern Baptist missions owe a great debt of gratitude to missions-minded women who have kept missionary zeal alive in our churches through missionary education and sacrificial missions offerings even when many men exhibited little interest in missions," it says.

Statistics show WMU-sponsored home and foreign missions offerings in Southern Baptist churches have raised more than \$1 billion during the past century.

## Toll-Free Ordering


NASHVILLE (BP)—Ordering materials from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will be as simple as 1-800 after March 1.

On that date, churches and individuals will be able to dial 1-800-458-BSSB and order church literature materials and almost any other item in any Sunday School Board catalog.

Items which will be available on toll-free ordering include Vacation Bible School materials, Convention Press books and materials, January Bible Study materials, Broadman books and supplies and all dated and undated church literature items.

Some custom-made items—such as choir robes, church signs or steeples—which require technical product knowledge to order and price accurately will not be available on the toll-free number.

Churches also may use the toll-free telephone number to ask questions about orders or correct problems with literature orders received in churches.



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# Vines Endorsed

Homer Lindsay Says: 'He's My Candidate.'

by Greg Warner  
Florida Baptist Witness

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Jerry Vines will be a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention this year, according to his co-pastor at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.

Homer Lindsay Jr. made the announcement Monday, Feb. 15, during an impromptu address on the upcoming convention in San Antonio, Texas. Lindsay spoke to an afternoon session of the annual Pastors' School and Bible Conference at his church.

"You want to know who my candidate is," Lindsay said. "Let me tell you. My candidate is Jerry Vines."

The announcement was greeted with applause and cheering from the group, mostly pastors. Vines was not present, however. "He knew what I was going to do, so he left," Lindsay said.

Contacted later in the day, Vines said he has made no final decision about allowing his nomination. "Many people have asked me about it," he acknowledged, "and I've agreed to pray about it." Vines said he wants to "do God's will" in the matter.

Lindsay's address followed a message by Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, in which Patterson said he was looking forward to voting for Vines, who had introduced the conservative leader from Texas.

In December 1985 Lindsay revealed that Memphis, Tenn., pastor Adrian P. Rogers would be the candidate of conservatives at

the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention. Rogers was elected in 1986 and re-elected last year.

Unlike that announcement, which followed a meeting of 18 conservative leaders in Atlanta, Lindsay said no group has met to agree on Vines or anyone else as a candidate. "He's my candidate," Lindsay told the Florida Baptist Witness, newsjournal of Southern Baptists in the state.

But Lindsay said there is "no doubt in my mind" that Vines will be the candidate of "our side" in San Antonio. He added Vines has not yet authorized anyone to nominate him, however.

Both Vines and Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, have been mentioned as possible candidates by conservatives, who have controlled the presidency since 1979.

Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church has announced he would allow his name to be nominated. He is expected to receive the support of the moderates in the convention.

"Richard Jackson is my friend," Lindsay told the pastors in Florida. "Theologically, he is one of us, but he's aligned himself with the liberals, the moderates and the wrong crowd. He deserves to be defeated."

Southern Baptists were "headed in the wrong direction" in the 1970s, Lindsay said, adding, "Now for 10 years we've been trying to get turned around."

has been director of a crisis pregnancy center in Oklahoma City since 1986. She is a graduate of Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts and Texas Woman's University.

Board President Larry Lewis noted the position was created in response to messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1984, who requested abortion alternative counseling and materials for associations, churches, and state conventions.

"Many Southern Baptists feel strongly that the critical social and moral issue of our day is the issue of abortion," Lewis said.

"More than one-and-a-half million babies are destroyed every year, any one of them with unlimited potential. We see as part of our ministry the need to minister to the unborn child whose life is under threat and to the mother with the unwanted pregnancy."

Although Lewis previously had stated it was not the agency's place to speak on the morality and ethics of the abortion issue, he does feel strongly it is the board's responsibility to minister to people who are affected by it, both born and unborn.

"The real reason baptisms are declining in the Southern Baptist Convention is because liberals are taking over the pastorates in the churches. That's why we cannot afford to lose in San Antonio, because we're still the majority. But you give these seminaries enough time, brother, and we'll be in the minority."

Turning to Patterson, Lindsay said, "I believe one of these days, Paige, they'll quit and give up. And I'll just rejoice when the day comes when they start pulling out of the Southern Baptist Convention."

## Classifieds

**For Sale**—15 passenger 1984 Ford van, approximately 75,000 miles, \$7,960. 246-4531, ext. 181. 2/25

**Sales Position**—Champion Bus distributor seeking semi-retired, sales-oriented professional to market bus line on a commission basis to churches and retirement centers. Forward resume to: Mike Preston, American TransCoach, Inc., 1606 W. Austin, Sanger, TX 76266. 2/25

**For Sale**—1975 Ford 41-passenger bus, air conditioned, 45,000 miles. If interested, please call Eudora Baptist Church, Eudora, Ark., 501-355-4691, and make an offer. 3/3

**Passion Play**—See the Great Passion Play and stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort (for groups of 12 or more)! New air conditioning, in-ground pool, \$8 tickets, lodging and meals, all for \$22 each! Call 501-253-8418 today! 2/25

**Cruise**—7-day Alaska cruise, June 22-29. Savings of \$740 or more if booked before March 15. Write or call today: Dr. Cecil Sutley, OBU, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; phone 501-246-2847. 3/3

**Church Furnishings & Carpet**—Call Rick Clatenbaugh at 417-887-7908 for: chancels and pews (in solid wood!) and flexible seating by Dumas; carpet; baptistries; steeples; light fixtures; and stained glass windows. 2/25

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

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 an space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

## Abortion Coordinator Employed

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have employed the agency's first coordinator for abortion alternatives.

Sylvia Marlene Boothe of Oklahoma City was named to the new position in the board's mission ministries division by directors during their February executive committee meeting. A former music missionary to Thailand and France, Boothe

## Convention Uniform

### Keys to Greatness

by Don Miller, First Church, Trumam

Basic passage: Matthew 20

Focal passage: Matthew 20:17-28

Central truth: God measures greatness by availability for service, not by rank or position.

This is the third time that Matthew records Jesus announcing his upcoming death (16:21; 17:22-23). The disciples heard the words, yet failed or refused to accept them at their face value. They were still clinging to the idea of a glorious earthly kingdom.

The mother of James and John worshiped (bowed) before Jesus and asked a favor. Worship and petitions are often closely associated, and herein lies the danger. Genuine worship is motivated by love and expresses praise at the recognition of who God is and what he has done. Our requests grow out of our understanding of his goodness and grace. If we confuse the two, a pagan form of worship is the results. It seeks to manipulate or "butter God up" to gain one's desires.

Her request was for her sons, that they might receive places of honor in the kingdom. Jesus addressed his reply to James and John. He stated that they did not realize what they were requesting. His reference to "the cup" and to "baptism" did not refer to the ordinances. Rather they were figurative references to his commitment to follow God's will to the cross.

Jesus asked them if they were truly ready to follow him to this end. With a casualness born of ignorance they responded that they were. Their spirits were willing, but their flesh was weak. Jesus told them that they would share his "cup" but not at his coronation (the cross). What was James' and John's cup? James was the first of the Apostles to be martyred. John appears to have been the last of them to die and to have died a natural death. Their cup was faithful, obedient service whether in life or in death.

Jesus used this occasion and the controversy which followed to teach on true kingdom greatness. Greatness before God is not measured by how much control or power one exercises, but by the loving service one renders. Humility and helping others are the standards God has created.

Verse 28 is one of Matthew's key summary statements. He told us Jesus' mission: service and restoration of lost man.

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## Life and Work

### Respect for Others

by Earl Humble, First Church, Osceola

Basic passage: Exodus 20:15; Leviticus 19:1-15; Amos 8:4-14; Ephesians 4:25-32

Focal passage: Exodus 20:15; Leviticus 19:1-15; Amos 8:4-7; Ephesians 4:28

Central truth: The Bible teaches the stewardship of truth and caring.

The principle of honesty relates to both truth-telling and the proper respect for the property of others. Honesty relates to truth as love relates to giving. Stealing and lying are so closely related that to do the one is usually to do the other. What would life be like on this planet if there was no concern to tell the truth? Fact and rumor would strike a balance in equality. Falshood would be as highly honored as truth is today. Perjury would be meaningless in court trials, and professions of love and loyalty would not be worth the paper they were written on.

God's Word condemns all mankind as sinners, and lying was said to be a universal vice. Liars are said to be shut out of heaven. Jesus is the very essence of truth. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. . ." (Jn. 14:6a). God's Word is also the highest order of truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:32).

"Thou shalt not steal," as a commandment assumes the right of the individual to own property. It also assumes the obligation of others to respect property rights.

There are many ways to steal, and the limits of this commandment go far beyond the theft of money and property. Through gossip and lying we can steal a person's reputation. Through lust, virtue is stolen. Thrones are stolen by unscrupulous and ambitious rulers.

The passage dealing with the Eighth Commandment goes far beyond prohibiting dishonesty. It calls for honest and truthful dealing with our fellowman. It also calls for helpfulness and generosity.

Paul deals with both the negative and the positive aspects of this question in Ephesians 4:28. Here not only are believers commanded to stop stealing, but "rather let him labor working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need." We conclude that to be honest in the scriptural sense includes not only respect for property and rights of others, but generosity and caring.

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## Bible Book

### The Path to Purity

by Eddie McCord, Independence Association DOM

Basic passage: Genesis 39-40

Focal passage: Genesis 39:2-3,7-12; 40:5-8,14

Central truth: When temptation comes, victory can be ours.

Joseph's desperate situation results in elevation, fruitfulness and a purposeful life.

In our lesson, we discover that Joseph's God was not localized on Mount Sinai or in distant Canon. God was right there with him in Egypt.

The path to purity may be found through:

(1) Trust in God (Ge. 39:9b). His deep faith in the Lord is indicated again and again. Note such phrases as "the Lord was with Joseph (Ge. 39:3). "His master saw that the Lord was with him." "The Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand" (Ge. 39:3). His faith kept him emotionally stable through out his whole experience. It made him strong in Potiphar's household.

(2) A clear understanding (Ge. 39:8-9). Joseph very quickly told Potiphar's wife where he stood. There was no debating the question. He will not sin against Potiphar, who had been good to him, nor would he commit "this great wickedness and sin against God." He saw sin as an offense against God. We often encourage our youth to remain pure because of the danger of some disease. But, this reason for purity falls far short of the majesty of Joseph's reason, and his is the only one that will really hold us on the path to purity.

(3) Avoiding the source of temptation (Ge. 39:10-12).

Joseph had probably made up his mind beforehand that he would not let such a thing happen. Even after Joseph refused her advances, she kept the pressure up. But Joseph would not talk to her and finally he ran from her presence. His exit was quick; not to another room, but outside.

One should avoid placing himself in a situation where he would be tempted. If one finds himself there, it is not cowardice to flee. Potiphar's wife is quick to get her revenge. She said to her husband, "The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me." Next we find Joseph in prison with the king's chief baker and chief butler.

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## 'How Shall They Hear?'

### First Missionary To Deaf Receives Overseas Assignment

by Pat Cole

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Lin Wilson will communicate the Good News in Trinidad and Tobago without uttering a word.

Wilson is the first person the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has assigned specifically to work with the deaf. She will leave Feb. 29 to serve a two-year special assignment to the Caribbean nation.

Her selection fulfills a call to missions she first sensed at age 12 while growing up in Columbia, Miss. In Trinidad and Tobago, Wilson, 33, will work in a nation where sign language has been used by deaf people for only about 12 years. Lack of space in the schools has put many children on a waiting list.

"In many cases they (the deaf in Trinidad and Tobago) are illiterate and cannot sign," said Wilson. "They have no way to communicate. So I expect to have a holistic ministry."

When Wilson entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., many of her friends discouraged her from pursuing her goal of deaf ministry overseas. They advised her to pursue something more realistic, but Lewis Cobbs, director of the Foreign Mission Board's personnel selection department, encouraged her.

"He said the board had requests in the past (for deaf ministers), but nobody responded to them," recalled Wilson, who graduated from Southern Seminary in December. "He told me not to give up."

Wilson was a music therapist before enrolling in seminary. She has a bachelor's degree in music therapy from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., and a master's degree in psychology from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

At one time she "ran" from the missionary call she received as a child, but she now believes God used her experience to lead her into overseas deaf ministry.

"Without my background in music

therapy and psychology, I doubt I would have ever been going (to the mission field as a deaf minister)," said Wilson. "I would have never realized their potential. I would have probably been too paternalistic."

Wilson first became interested in deaf ministry while working with the deaf at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss. However, her skills in deaf ministry and sign language were honed while she was a seminary student working with the deaf at Louisville's Lyndon Baptist Church.

"The deaf at Lyndon taught me sign language, and I think that's the best way to learn the language is from the deaf themselves," she said, noting the deaf have their own nuances of sign language that aren't included in textbooks.

Her call to deaf ministry and foreign missions was reinforced during a 1985 medical missions trip to Honduras. Using money she had won from a local history-writing contest, Wilson paid her way to the Central American nation to assist Southern Baptist physicians who were conducting short-term medical clinics. "Before I went, I prayed God would show me if there was a need for a deaf ministry (in foreign countries)," she said.

While working at the clinic, she attempted to talk with a little girl who wouldn't respond to her. Wilson asked the girl's mother why the little girl wouldn't talk, and the mother replied that her daughter was deaf. "I knew then there was definitely a need for a deaf ministry," she said.

In her experience in deaf ministry, Wilson said, she has found hearing people are reluctant to become involved in deaf work. Some, she noted, think the deaf are mentally retarded. "That's a misconception that people have, but deaf people are just as brilliant as hearing people, and they need the same Savior as hearing people," she emphasized.

She stressed deaf ministry must be led and sustained by the deaf themselves. "I

think they need to be enabled to lead themselves instead of being dependent on a hearing person," she said.

Wilson cited a crucial need to expand deaf ministry with children. "Deaf ministry to children is one of the most critical needs because generally they don't have a Sunday school," she said.

Bill Damon, the Foreign Mission Board's associate area director for Brazil and the Caribbean, said deaf people in developing nations frequently are viewed as outcasts of society. "They are often ostracized, and sometimes their families are ashamed of them," he explained.

Some existing deaf ministry exists in Trinidad and Tobago, but he said other duties prohibited the career missionaries from devoting sufficient time to the ministry.

Wilson said she hopes she will have a lasting imprint on deaf ministry in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I want to train enough people, both hearing and deaf, so that when I leave the ministry will continue and grow," she said.

### Missionary Notes

**Harrison and June Pike**, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 950, 20.001 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil). He is a native of Texarkana and she is the former June Summers of Fort Smith. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.

**Fred and Bettye Spanna**, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 221, 50000 Recife PE, Brazil). He is a native of Levy. The former Bettye Brawner, she was born in Colt and lived in Wynne while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1962.

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### A SMILE OR TWO

A fellow from the hill country stopped in front of an abstract painting in an exhibition of local talent.

"What's that?" he inquired. "It's supposed to be a cowboy and his horse," said the exhibitor.

"Well," he said, "Why ain't it?"

Has your wife changed very much since you married her? Yes, she's changed my friends, my habits, and my hours.



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## WORLD

# Global Cooperation

by Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

DALLAS (BP)—A 20th century milestone in world missions was reached by leaders of 29 denominations and Christian organizations during a Feb. 9-11 meeting in Dallas.

They decided to put their computers to better use, to cooperate in sharing information about 1.3 billion people around the world who have never had opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ sufficiently to accept or reject it. The missions leaders also grappled with the fact the vast majority of their missionaries cannot go where most of the unevangelized people live.

"This is a historic moment in cooperation in evangelical research," said Samuel Wilson, senior research associate for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization.

In the past, missions agencies sometimes concealed their plans from one another, competing to be the first to launch work in various countries or regions, said Wilson, who also directs the Zwemmer Institute of Muslim Studies in Pasadena, Calif. "Now there is a totally different kind of spirit, a healthy spirit that says, 'We will share information and we will cooperate with one another,'" he noted.

Clark Scanlon, director of research and planning at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., said he envisions a day when "Christian missionary organizations are not just sending more and more missionaries to fewer and fewer countries that are more and more highly evangelized, but they are taking a portion of their forces and beginning to concentrate on those places where the light is dim."

China, India, the Soviet Union and Islamic nations of the Middle East are among 53 countries that have closed their doors to most foreign missionaries.

Ed Dayton, vice president of World Vision International in Pasadena, predicted "subnetworks" would emerge from the meeting, new relationships among the various organizations focusing on ways to help one another. Dayton described the subnetworks as an "undercurrent that is not necessarily going to be very apparent, but which will have a major impact on the task of world evangelization."

Among denominational representatives in the meeting were Southern Baptists, Conservative Baptists, Assemblies of God, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Church of the Nazarene and Mennonites.

In addition to World Vision, other Christian organizations represented were Wycliffe Bible Translators, Youth With a Mission, Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter-

Varsity Christian Fellowship, Navigators and three international radio ministries, Trans World, Far East and HCJB.

Wilson commended Southern Baptists for making a unique contribution to the emerging spirit of cooperation, initially by calling a meeting of missions-oriented groups last September.

In the subsequent February meeting, Foreign Mission Board officials announced an extensive computer database of information would be shared with like-minded organizations, as well as with Southern Baptist seminaries and other interested Southern Baptist agencies.

The Foreign Mission Board database contains a listing of the world's ethnolinguistic peoples, people with a common ethnic and language background, and the extent to which they have been evangelized, judging from two dozen-plus factors such as the number of Christians and churches in each culture, whether the Bible or a portion of it has been translated into the language and whether suitable gospel broadcasts are made.

Similar information also has been compiled on each country and more than 3,000 cities around the world.

The Southern Baptist database is the result of several years of work by missions researcher David Barrett and various Foreign Mission Board staff members. Barrett, an Anglican and native of England, came to the board in mid-1985 under a contractual arrangement. He is the author of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, a 1,010-page country-by-country survey of Christian strength published in 1982.

Scanlon, in an interview, underscored the importance of research: "To have an effective strategy for world evangelization, you must know where the people are, what language they speak and how they're to be reached. Research helps to answer those questions, so you can make meaningful decisions."

Worldwide, 10,800 people groups exist, and 530 of them have no churches, according to Foreign Mission Board research. One group with only several hundred Christians is the Kurds, who number up to 24 million people, most of them spread among seven Middle Eastern countries. The Uyghurs (pronounced WEE-gers), 6 million people mostly in China, have never had a Bible or Bible portion in their language.

The world has 66 cities with more than 100,000 people in which less than 0.1 percent of the people are church members. Two such cities are in Turkey — Ankara, with 3.6 million people, and Andana, with 1 million. Baghlan, Afghanistan, discloses no indications of any Christian influence among its 200,000 people.