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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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September 28, 1989

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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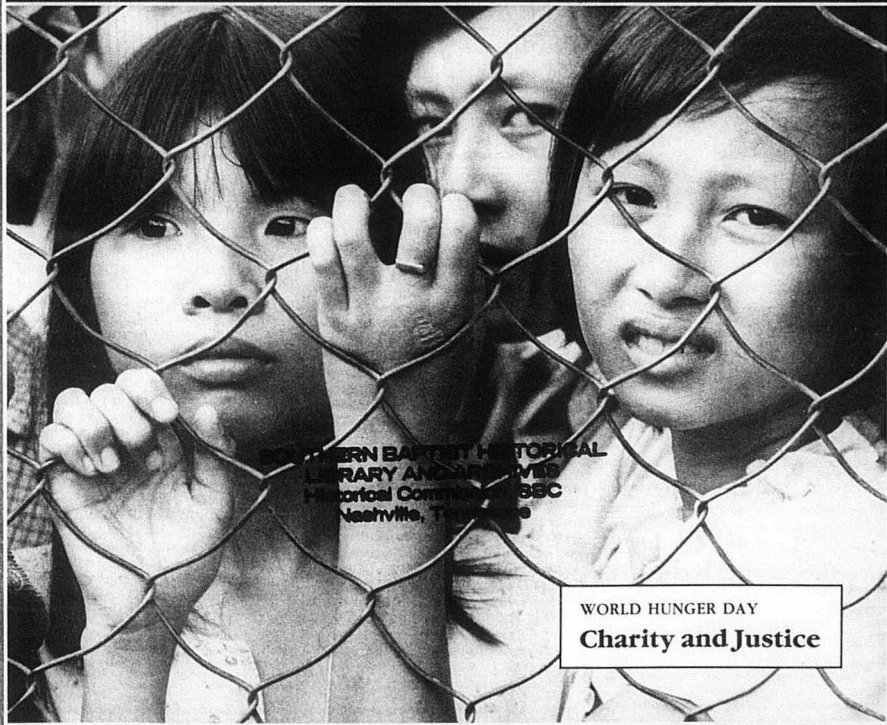


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Arkansas Baptist

September 28, 1989



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WORLD HUNGER DAY
Charity and Justice

Cover Story



FMB photo / Joanna Pinneo

Charity and Justice 5

Christ demands both charity and justice for the poor and oppressed, like these children in a Philippine refugee camp.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Talk of The Town

HAZLETON, Pa. (BP)—Crusade Baptist Church in Hazleton, Pa., is the talk of the town.

Its new church building under construction has drawn people by the site every night just to see what has been done since the day before.

Hazleton is a city of 50,000 and 85 percent Catholic. Three television stations and two local newspapers have covered the building project.

Why all this interest? Because more than 600 volunteers representing 15 Southern Baptist churches in six states poured in and out each week providing labor and doing the construction.

Steve Neger is pastor of the church, which began from a crusade in August 1981. About 10 people, half of them the pastor's family, comprised the initial group.

Today the church has around 175 in worship and ran out of space in its present building about three years ago. Purchased from another denomination, the current site has limited parking. The new site of seven acres is in a wooded area with ample room for parking.

The first volunteer construction group

arrived June 7. Composed of 12 people from Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia, they have worked together for nine years and built nine churches.

Each week others came, through August. The building is to be completed soon. Groups who gave their time and labor also provided transportation, food and lodging. Four groups did Backyard Bible Clubs.

States represented were Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, and Connecticut. The Connecticut group represented a church built the same way last summer.

At a point when trusses were needed and not ready, one group went to the truss factory and in three days built 180 trusses at a savings of \$2,700.

Neger said the church has worked very hard, and his people are excited about the new building: "Our major job in this was to have the site ready when the construction people arrived. In all of these nine years, we are the only church that had the site completely ready when they came. That is why it is going up so fast."

The church also set up a tent with eating space and a professional kitchen. Each group brought its own cooks.

The first service is expected to be in early October.

GOOD NEWS!

'Let Me Show You My Children'

1 Peter 1:22 to 2:3

Most parents are silly about their children. There is a degree of legitimacy about this obsession. Often times, parents want to show off their children's pictures. They say, "Let me show you my children."

Peter wanted to show his readers God's children. Let us examine the characteristics of God's beautiful children.

Begotten children—"You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable" (1:23, RSV). The term "seed" was used metaphorically as the means of procreation.

God brings people into a new order. This new order differs from life on earth. Natural birth leads to death. The spiritual birth leads to life. God has a vital part in bringing his children into this new life.

Loving children—Upon entrance into the family, the Christian acknowledges a wide range of brothers and sisters. A prominent trust of God's children is love. "Love one another earnestly from the

heart" (1:22, RSV).

Loving other family members will mean that some attitudes and activities toward others will be renounced. "So put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander" (2:1, RSV). These five evils could destroy harmony in God's family.

Growing children—God's children grow. "Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation" (2:2, RSV). The nourishment needs to be sought with the same intensity of desire which an infant calls for at feeding time.

Children are not born to remain infants. They are to grow. The Christian should rejoice in his spiritual birth but also spiritual growth.

God has some wonderful children. He brought them into his family with an imperishable seed. He gave them new relatives, and he especially takes delight in his children's growth.

Adapted from "Proclaim," April-June 1981. Copyright 1981 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission. For subscription information, write to Material Services Dept., 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37234.

True Success

J. EVERETT SNEED

Today's world glorifies success. The individual who has power, money, and is sexually attractive is declared to be successful. God's definition of success is quite different from that of the world's. The Bible declares that an individual is successful who lives by God's standards and becomes what God would have him to be.

There are a number of things which can hinder an individual from true success. First, immorality can prevent a person from achieving true success. A very successful business friend recently said, "I would never hire an individual whom I knew to be immoral." There were several reasons for his simple statement. If individuals are immoral, they will likely lie to their employer. They will never devote their full energy and attention to their work. They will continually be looking for some angle by which they can improperly advance themselves.

A second hindrance to true success is imbalance. History is rich with individuals who have clawed, scratched and worked in order to achieve the top of their chosen profession. In many of these instances, so little time was given to their families that their families were lost. When they reached the top, there was only emptiness.

Domination is another hindrance to having a truly successful life. Any individual who misses the position God has given him will sooner or later experience tremendous difficulties. One of the primary principles for a successful life is to treat other people as one wishes to be treated.

In every troubled home there is a struggle for power. Sometimes it is the husband; on other occasions it is the wife, but without exception, there is a determined effort by someone to dominate and control. Often the struggle is over who is going to be in charge and then who will misuse the power which they have achieved. Happy homes are those in which each marital partner loves, honors and respects the other.

Greed is another hindrance from true success. Greed is not limited to the wealthy or well known. An individual who has only a few dollars can be obsessed with greed. It has nothing to do with the amount of possessions an individual may have. It has everything to do with a person's attitude and spirit. An individual who is greedy and grasping is enslaved to the things of this



world. God intends for us to recognize that we are but stewards of the possessions he has entrusted into our hands. Successful people are always generous and place people above things.

Finally, a person who forgets God can never truly be successful. Without God, a person may be like a shooting star who burns brightly for a time but sooner or later is destroyed. There are people in our society who are without God who appear on the surface to be truly successful. But ultimately their lives will be of little value if they have excluded God from their lives.

True success begins with an individual committing his life to Christ. When Christ is an individual's guide, he has made the first and most important step toward success. Jesus came into the world to provide opportunity for individuals to change. The

word "conversion" means to "turn about." We, as Christians, are to turn our lives toward the goals, desires and ambitions God has for us.

It is important for us to learn what is right and to do it. A close friend often said, "It is necessary for a person to have certain moral decisions made before he is tempted." If one has not made decisions about such things as sexual morality, stealing, and lying, when confronted with the temptation he will surely succumb. But if an individual has already determined in his innermost being that he will not do these things under any circumstance, he can resist temptation.

It is important for an individual to see opportunities. God can lead one to see what is right for his life. One of the greatest sins is for a person to have an opportunity and waste his life by not accepting it.

In seeking to discover opportunities, an individual should seek God's guidance and visualize what he desires to do and to become. Realistic, clear cut goals, and definite planning under the guidance of the Holy Spirit can produce remarkable results. In order for these goals to be fulfilled, an individual should keep these images in his mind's eye. Every truly successful individual has been a big dreamer. Successful Christians visualize their opportunities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Man was created for success. Every individual who follows the leadership of the Lord and strives to live by his principles is successful. Jesus came to the world to restore man's lost glory and to provide the Holy Spirit to give us guidance day by day. When we determine to glorify God through our abilities and actions, we will fulfill our destiny and be successful.

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Letters to the Editor

No Longer Bound

I am writing as one who for the past several years has been involved with the "fundamental-conservative" element of our convention, but who is now withdrawing from that element. It all began well, with good intentions, but now has degenerated into nothing more than political activity and closed-door meetings, such as the recent meeting in Springdale, where the program for taking over the state convention was outlined. The primary focus is getting people elected in order to reward them for faithfulness to "our cause," or "because they see things our way." This underhanded political activity borders on dishonesty. I am sick of such statements as "we must get the pastors of Arkansas convinced that we support Don Moore," and "we must be certain to give the impression that we do not want to fire Dr. Sneed;" when the entire undertone of the meetings do not do much to convince one that this is true.

Mike Huckabee has been labeled "the Baptist Building man, and must be defeated if he runs for state convention president." Such talk is about as unChristian as anything I can think of. I pray that we can get back to the time when we allowed the Holy Spirit to lead our convention and Pastor's Conferences. I pray that we will cease this political activity and maneuvering to get our own way. What about the Lord's way? Thank God I am now free! I am no longer bound within the limits which these political activists try and set for me.—Name Withheld by Request

Join the Fight

Our denomination is solidly on record in its opposition to abortion. Our resolutions are worded very carefully and are quite specific in their condemnation of abortion and their encouragement to work against abortion.

Words, nothing but words! Our position against abortion reminds me of the "faith" warned against in James. How many Southern Baptists are in Arkansas? Now, how many are members of Arkansas Right To Life and/or Southern Baptists For Life?

Have you ever come into contact with the reality behind that nice clean clinical word "abortion"? The reality involves blood being shed, bodies being dismembered, heads being crushed; in

short, the murder of a baby.

How long are you going to let this abomination continue without at least adding your name to the roles of those actively fighting abortion? Every minute that passes without your actively standing against abortion is another minute you support abortion!

Southern Baptists, Christians, stop procrastinating! You've meant to take a stand against abortion; do it, Now! We need your active support now. What else are you going to do today that could result in the saving of 4000+ babies' lives per day?

We need members and member/volunteers urgently. I have membership forms and can put you into contact with others in your area who are already in the fight. Do it now!—Dale W. Morfe, Fort Smith

Woman's Viewpoint

Rx For Combining Families

ANN EDRINGTON MOORE

In the space of a few short minutes I acquired four married children, eight grandchildren and two sisters, plus a husband and a new name. My marriage, as a widow to a widower, was indeed a family affair as I brought to the union three married children, four grandchildren, two sisters, a brother, my parents and my late husband's mother, not to mention a cat and two dogs. Fortunately our families had been close friends for years.

Second marriages, particularly when children are involved, are filled with many adjustments. One of the first we faced was deciding where to live and combining 80 years joint accumulation of household goods and memorabilia. (We chose to live in my house as it was better suited to our combined family.)

To reinforce the new



family ties, I prepared a birthday/anniversary calendar for each child and periodically write a newsletter to keep all informed of health, activities, honors, etc. And frequent phone calls are made to all seven. (Ma Bell loves us.)

In order to make it "our" home I have prepared a picture wall of his children and grandchildren (similar to an exhibition of my family). We display pictures of both our late spouses, too.

The first two Christmases we celebrated twice giftwise, once for his children and once for mine. This past year the children suggested that

next year we make it "one" for "our" children.

The choice of a church presented no problem as we were both active members of the same church. We find daily devotional time an important factor in our marriage. And I have been transferred from the singles class to a young couples class which we teach.

A mutual love of travel and the performing arts, 40 years of shared memories and the fact that all our children are adults and good friends has made our new life together much happier.

Children, spouses and grandchildren now total 28 and I can tell you that, at gift time, it does not come cheaper by the dozen... but I would not trade our beautiful combined family for anything.

Ann Moore, widow of John A. Edrington, is now married to Mitchell Moore. She is an active member of First Church in Osceola.

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A SMILE OR TWO

I won't say how the so-called civilized world is doing, but last week three monkeys looked around, and burned a copy of *Origin of the Species*.

—Bob Orben

God was careful to make the mountains, the oceans, the plants and the animals first, and to leave man and woman for last. He spared himself a lot of gratuitous advice.

—Richard Eder

Charity and Justice

by Robert Parham
SBC Christian Life Commission

An estimated 730 million people face each day with little prospects of enough food to eat. They live in Mississippi and Mali, Texas and Tanzania, Georgia and Guatemala. They live in the slums of Nashville and the shantytowns of Nairobi. They live in the barren hollows of Appalachia and the barrios of Argentina. They are hungry in large measure because they are poor.

Both the Old and New Testaments list the poor as those who are vulnerable to hunger. The Old Testament speaks about the widow, orphan and foreigner as vulnerable members of society who need care and justice (Dt. 10:18-29; 15:1-18; Jr. 22:3; Ze. 7:8-10). The New Testament gives us a similar list (Lk. 14:12-14; Ac. 6:1). Indeed, the biblical insight about who is most at risk to hunger corresponds to today's hunger list: women, children, migrants, immigrants, refugees and the handicapped.

The Bible also gives us insight into the proper relationship between our conversion to Christ and our responsibilities to care for the impoverished.

When Zacchaeus made his commitment to Jesus, he had a change of heart and lifestyle. He reversed directions. He stopped exploiting people and started caring for them.

"Behold, Lord," Zacchaeus said, "the

half of my goods I give to the poor." The man who had become rich as the chief tax collector saw for the first time the plight of the poor and sought to change their situation. The love of Jesus caused him to love others. He practiced radical charity.

But Zacchaeus did not stop with charity. He sought to do justice: "If I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." He recognized that unfair practices or unjust laws were forms of fraud—deceit, trickery and cheating. He knew that justice was necessary to correct past wrongs and present evils which caused poverty and hunger. He restored fourfold to those whom he had treated harmfully.

Like Zacchaeus, we must see that conversion to Jesus Christ is the beginning point for Christian involvement in social issues.

We can express our faith on the hunger front in many ways. We can do acts of charity through hunger contributions sent to the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. We can also do acts of justice through practicing fairness in the marketplace, working for better tax systems, reforming harmful laws and supporting effective programs.

We give witness to our commitment to Christ when we do both charity and justice for the poor. We show our love for Christ when we act in a hungry world to feed others and to help the hungry feed themselves.



Helping the Children

A fund-raising effort to increase the scope of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services is underway, necessitated by the donation of two facilities. One is the development of a home for unwed mothers and an adoption agency; the home has already been donated. A ranch to use for rehabilitation of youth out of drug and alcohol addiction is the other project for which the facility has already been given. The Children's Home in Monticello is also in need of major repairs. These projects will require \$3 million.

This project is one of two fundraising campaigns being conducted in the state. The other is a project to upgrade the facilities at Siloam Springs Assembly, including the rebuilding of the tabernacle.

You Are Invited

We at Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville, Arkansas, cordially invite you to our 50th Anniversary/Revival Celebration, October 7th through 11th. There will be a reception in our fellowship hall on Saturday, October 7th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for everyone to attend. At 7:00 p.m. Saturday, there will be a Youth Rally, and for the nostalgic a Walk Down Memory Lane of photos and film of years gone by. Former pastors and song leaders will preach and sing at both services on Sunday, October 8th. We will also have potluck meals at the noonday services, Sunday through Wednesday, and nightly services with former pastors and singers conducting those. Bro. Johnny E. Ross, Pastor, and Ronnie B. Taylor, Associate Pastor, and all members of Calvary Baptist Church welcome you to our celebration.

Correction

Copy was left out of Don Moore's article "Individuals Hold the Key" on pg. 6 of the Sept. 14 edition of the *Arkansas Baptist*. The complete copy should have read as follows:

Why two at once? The two facilities donated to Family and Child Care will allow ministries so urgently needed that those ministries can't wait. The deterioration of the tabernacle's basic structure is such that project cannot wait. Nor can the bath facilities in the dormitories wait.



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Looking over memorabilia are (left to right) Fanora Bishop Gardner, Thelma Berry and Marjorie Psalmund.

Blytheville Centennial

First Baptist Church of Blytheville celebrated its 100th anniversary with a celebration weekend Sept. 1-3.

The observance was launched with a "service of memories" Friday evening in which church members shared reminiscences and favorite hymns were sung. The service was led by the congrega-

tion's worship team from more than 20 years ago: former pastor John McClanahan, former minister of education and music James B. Johnson, and organist Mrs. C.E. Smart.

McClanahan, now pastor of Pine Bluff First Church, pastored the Blytheville Church from 1961 to 1965. Johnson, now

minister of education at Kensington Church in Memphis, Tenn., served the congregation from 1959 to 1966. Mrs. Smart served the congregation as organist for 45 years.

Saturday's centennial activities included an historical display in fellowship hall, a barbecue picnic supper, and an evening "Old-Fashioned Singing." Wilbur Herring, interim pastor of the congregation in 1985 and 1986, brought the centennial message.

At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, the congregation gathered in the sanctuary to hear the recollections of former pastors E.C. Brown (1943-54), and Frank Pitts (1955-61). Noted author and lecturer Chester Swor preached during the morning worship hour. Swor's message was the fifth time he had spoken in a worship service for the congregation.

A covered dish luncheon followed the Sunday morning service.

Blytheville First Church was organized in 1889 after a meeting in the county court house led by W.F. Wright, a missionary from Nettleton who also served as the church's pastor from 1902 to 1903. The congregation purchased its first property in 1903 and erected its first facility, a white frame building.

The church's second building was dedicated in 1915, and the present sanctuary and educational facility was constructed in 1952 at a cost of \$284,550.

Larry Kindrick is in his fourth year as pastor of the congregation. David Ross has served the church as minister of music for 12 years. Bob Gray is in his sixth year as minister of education.



World Mission Rally

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'Town and Country Thrust'

by Jim Newton
SBC Home Mission Board

RIDGECREST, N.C.—With input from 32 Arkansas participants, the National Convocation on the Baptist Association declared the associations face a bright future as they become full partners in missions.

The Arkansas participants were among 1,137 who attended the six-day meeting of associational directors of missions, state convention leaders and national program leaders at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Jimmie Garner of Trumann, one of the 20 Arkansas associational directors of missions who attended, said the announcement of plans by the Home Mission Board to introduce a new program called "Town and Country Thrust" was one of the most encouraging things he heard at Ridgecrest.

During a major speech at the convocation, Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis announced the launching of a new "Town and Country Thrust" that will provide assistance in strategy planning resources to denomination's 900 associations in rural settings.

According to Lewis, Arkansas will be one of the first three states to participate in the "Town and Country Thrust" program to be initiated in 1990. Arkansas, North and South Carolina will be the first three state conventions involved in program after successful completion of pilot projects this year in Georgia and New Mexico.

Both Garner, director of missions for Trinity Association, and L.B. Jordan, missions director for Red River Association, said the convocations' workshops on Pastoring other Pastors and on Bivocational Ministries, were two of the most helpful and practical conferences had ever attended at any denominational meeting.

Jordan pointed out that 75 percent of the pastors in his association are bivocational, and the conference led by Dale Holloway was aimed at meeting his specific needs.

Jordan said the greatest thing about the convocation was being able to share ideas with other directors of missions, and learn from others how they are dealing with common problems.

Garner said he had attended most of the previous convocations held since 1963, but at this meeting, the Home Mission Board seemed to be more receptive to what associational directors of missions are saying. "They are listening to us more."

"I don't know how much the Home Mission Board spent on this convocation, but I am grateful to the HMB for getting us together and allowing us to express ourselves. It is great that they want to listen to what we are saying, and feel that what we are saying is important and significant."

Terry Robertson of Buffalo, N.Y., a member of the convocation steering committee, said the meeting was purposely planned to allow input from Arkansas Baptists in consultation with directors of missions from across the nation.

Brantley Elected New Staff Member

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention elected Randy Gary Brantley on Sept. 5 as an associate in the Evangelism Department.

Brantley, who will direct pre-college evangelism, was minister of youth at Central Church, Jonesboro and began his new job Sept. 25. He replaces Jim Lagrone, who is now pastor of First Southern Church, Bryant.



Brantley has extensive experience in youth work and evangelism. He is the founder of a city wide evangelistic high school club, was chairman of the steering committee for Super Summer in 1988, was founder of the Arkansas Junior High Jamboree, speaker at the 1988 National Conference on Youth Ministry III sponsored by the SBC, and many other youth related activities. His secular activities include probation officer for the Bibb County Juvenile Court, Macon, Ga., 1980-81, and music director and disc jockey in 1979-80 for a Christian radio station.

Brantley completed high school in Macon, Ga.; received the associate of science degree at Macon Junior College, Macon, Ga.; received the bachelor of arts degree at the University of Georgia; and the master of divinity degree at Mid-America Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn.

Brantley's primary goal is to reach and develop pre-college young people. In order to reach young people, Brantley has several goals. He plans to equip youth directors, full time and volunteers, to reach the lost young people in their communities. He also wishes to share a common vision with Christian young people of reaching their lost friends for Christ. He feels that this can best be done through networking of evangelistic clubs. In Jonesboro he developed a network of evangelistic clubs that worked with four or five churches which cooperated together in hosting off-campus evangelistic rallies. The purpose was to encourage young people to see themselves as missionaries to high school and junior high school students.

Brantley plans to continue with Super Summer as well as to expand the Junior High Jamboree. He hopes to make the Jamboree a state-wide program.

Brantley's wife is the former Cynthia Simpson. They have one child, Kristen Elaine Brantley.

ASC Sound Tip #5:

Many times we are asked if it is absolutely necessary to have a narrow band equalizer (27 or 31 band) in a church sound system. Consider several situations that require narrow band equalization: (1) Choir microphones usually work from distances of at least 4-6 feet or more and require greatly increased gain for adequate reinforcement. Equalization will allow this extra reinforcement without dramatically dropping out lows or highs, (2) Pulpit microphones also operate from a distance of several feet and narrow band equalization will prevent feedback without significant sound "coloring."

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LOCAL & STATE

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Ron Houston is serving as pastor of Horseshoe Bend Church. He has pastored primarily in the city of Chicago for 21 years. Houston and his wife, Marilyn, have a daughter, Amanda.

Glynn Tyron is serving as pastor of Trinity Church in El Dorado. He has pastored churches in Alabama and Louisiana.

Thomas Strebeck is serving as pastor of First Church in Wilton. He has served churches in Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Wisconsin. He and his wife, Jaly, moved to Wilton from Adams, Wisc., where he served as pastor of First Church.

Robert Vernon Gean, retired pastor of Pleasant Grove Church near McCrory, died Sept. 4 at age 76. His funeral services were held Sept. 6 at Pleasant Grove Church. Survivors include his wife, Helen Duvall Gean; two brothers, Ernest Rodgers of Blytheville and Roy Crough of Waukesha, Wisc.; and a sister, Bessie Youngblood of Blytheville.

Merle Cox retired Sept. 1 from the secretarial staff of Wynne Church, following six years of service. She was honored with a church-wide reception Sept. 3.



Houston



Tyron

Earl Smith recently was licensed to the preaching ministry by Emmanuel Church in Piggott.

Eddie Martin is serving as pastor of Shiloh Church at Corning. He and his wife, Eunice, reside in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Travis Covington has resigned as pastor of Marcella Church.

Manuel Macks is serving as pastor of Midway Church, going there from Newark First Southern Church.

Truett Murphy has resigned as pastor of Strawberry Southern Church.

Jack Woodard is serving as pastor of East End Church at Hensley, coming there from Calvary Church in Nevada, Mo. He is a graduate of Christian Bible College, Rocky Mount, N.C. Woodard and his wife, Clara, have two children, Scott, and Ginger.

Curtiss Doss has resigned as director of the Golden Voices Choir at Crossett First Church to move to Hot Springs.

Gene Thomas began serving Sept. 10 as pastor of Magnolia Church in Crossett, coming there from Bernice, La. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Thomas and his wife, Pat, have three children.

D.C. McAtee has completed his service as interim pastor of Magnolia Church in Crossett. He may be contacted at 708 Oxford, Forrest City, AR 72335; telephone 501-633-9393.

Bryan Smith began serving Sept. 17 as pastor of First Church in Van Buren, coming there from Pensacola, Fla. He is a graduate of Mobile College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bill Dalton, a deacon at First Church in Fayetteville, has donated an automobile to Missionary Josephine Scaggs as a memorial to his wife, Jo Dalton. Miss Scaggs, who now resides in San Angelo, Texas, will pick up the automobile in October on a visit to Fayetteville.

Kenny Daniel has resigned as music director at Calvary Church in Hope.

H.G. Rhea has retired as pastor of First Church in Genoa. He may be contacted by telephone at 501-779-1570.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

ABN photo / Millie Gill



The Red Oak Church, Marked Tree, dedicated a new facility Sept. 10. The 4,000 square foot building, valued at \$100,000, was erected at a cost of \$34,000 with the use of volunteer labor. The building houses a 150-seat auditorium, a baptistry, six Sunday School classrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall, and a pastor's study. Speakers were Trinity Association Director of Missions Jimmie Garner and Pastor Larry Deaton.



Riverside Church of Maumelle, organized in May 1986, dedicated a 4,800 square foot building, valued at \$400,000 Sept. 10. A superstructure was moved from Gould and converted into a 250-seat auditorium, educational and office space, and kitchen. ABCS Executive Director Don Moore was the dedication speaker. E. Amon Baker has served as associate pastor of the congregation since July 1986.

David Holder is serving as pastor of Silverino Church at Fouke.

Charley Ayers has resigned as minister of youth at Trinity Church in Texarkana.

Horace O. Duke Jr. recently received his doctorate of ministry in pastoral counseling at the Graduate Theological Foundation, Notre Dame, Ind. A native of Hot Springs, he is a former member of Hot Springs Second Church where he was ordained to the preaching ministry in 1955. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist College (University) and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored Southern Baptist Churches for 17 years in Arkansas, Texas, Nevada and Oregon. Duke is the son of Grace Duke, a member of Hot Springs Second Church, and the late Horace O. Duke Sr.

Tommy Monk is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Dumas.

Betty Danner of DeWitt died Sept. 1. She had served as organist for First Church in Dewitt for 20 years, as well as serving as church pianist, choir director and a Sunday School teacher.

Wilson Borosvskis has joined the staff of First Church in El Dorado as minister of music, coming there from Houma, La., where he was serving on the staff of Mulberry Church. A native of Brazil, he is a graduate of Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Fundacao Educacional Rosemar Pimental in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Brazil and Louisiana. He is married to the former Mary Jean McNealy, a graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss. They have two children, Wilson Jr. and Kristianson Bayless.

Ron Reynolds is serving as pastor of Gassville Church.

Ann M. Bittle of Wynne died Sept. 16 at age 57 following an automobile accident. Her funeral services were held Sept. 19 at Union Avenue Church in Wynne where she was a member and her husband, Shelby B. Bittle, is pastor. Other survivors include three daughters, Peggy Taylor of Texarkana, Pam Veteto of Gravel Ridge, and LaVonne Watson of Lonoke; two brothers; four sisters; and seven grandchildren.

Roy Buckelew has resigned as pastor of First Church in Hot Springs following three years of service to join the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University as chairman of the speech/drama and speech pathology department. Buckelew, who taught at OBU for more than five years prior to moving to Hot Springs, also pastored California and Texas churches. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Southern California.

Briefly

Floral Church at Batesville will celebrate 100 years of service Oct. 22 with a 10 a.m. service, a noon luncheon, and an afternoon service that will include recognition of former pastors, presentation of the church's history, special music, and a message. Lyle Koone is pastor.

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock held a surprise service and pounding Sept. 10 for Pastor Ross Woodbury and his family in recognition of three years of service.

Wilton First Church recently held its first annual youth retreat at Camp Canfield with

25 in attendance. Mark Strebeck, minister of youth and music at First Church in Clinton, was leader. Tom Strebeck is pastor.

Pine Grove Church near Pocahtontas held a groundbreaking observance Aug. 20 with activities that included a 11 a.m. service, a noon meal, and a 2:30 p.m. program. Speakers included Max Gregory, director of missions for Current-Gains Association, Lanny Younger, Curtis Smith, Casey Catt and Johnny Neighbors. Special music was by Stanley and Cecilia Simpson and Howard and Sherry Huddle.

Baugh Chapel near Cabot recently closed a revival that resulted in one profession of faith. Harry Black, pastor of First Church in England, was evangelist.

England First Church held a Sunday School growth emphasis Aug. 6-20, closing with a service led by Larry Sherman, youth consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Windsor Park Church in Fort Smith ordained Denny Neff and Willis Moore to the deacon ministry Sept. 10.

Tennessee Church at Texarkana celebrated payment of its parsonage indebtedness Aug. 13 with a noteburning service.

Van Buren First Church has established a scholarship fund in honor of Katie Jordan Hatton, retired missionary to Brazil. An senior adult member of the church who chose to remain anonymous gave \$5,000 within one month after the scholarship fund was established. Hatton is the daughter of the late T.H. Jordan who served the Van Buren church for 15 years.

Anderson Church at Hope, organized in November 1945, will observe homecoming Nov. 12. Former pastors and members

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will be special guests. Ima Lee Smith is the only charter member still attending regular services. Clyde Gray is pastor and Darrell Collins is music director.

Toltec Church at Scott will observe homecoming Oct. 8 with activities that will include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m., a potluck meal at 1 p.m. and a homecoming program at 2 p.m. in which former pastors will be honored and music will be presented by former members. Charles Martin is pastor.

Calvary Church at Booneville recognized Pastor James Simons Sept. 24 for six years of service.

Bates Church at Waldron observed its 75th anniversary Sept. 17 with a 1:30 p.m. reception, followed by a program.

Glenwood First Church ordained Lindsey Campbell, Terry Hope and Elmwood Massey to the deacon ministry Sept. 10.

Harrisburg First Church will launch a Sunday School telephone class for homebound individuals Oct. 1.

Pine Bluff Immanuel Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary and the fifth anniversary of ACTS of Pine Bluff Oct. 8-11. A service at 10:50 a.m. will launch activities which will include services daily at noon and 7 p.m.

Northeast Church in Fayetteville ordained Frank Terry to the preaching ministry Sept. 17.

Fort Smith Immanuel Church broke ground Aug. 27 for an education/office addition. Participants included Jay Sorrels, treasurer; Dick Boyett, building committee chairman; Pastor Gary Strehlow; Jennings Bozeman, Challenge to Build director; and Susie Eacret, building finance committee representative.

West Point Church will observe its 135th anniversary Oct. 8 with a potluck luncheon, followed by a 1:30 p.m. program.

Greenwood First Church observed dedication weekend Sept. 23-24. Special concerts were presented by Gabriel and Malvie Giles. A 10,000 square foot educational building, constructed at a cost of \$450,000, was dedicated Sept. 24. Pastor Milton James said this addition will give the church the capacity of 800 in Sunday School.

Finch Church at Paragould will be in revival Oct. 4-8 with a different speaker each night. Special services on Sunday, Oct. 8 will include morning worship, a noon potluck meal, and an afternoon noteburning service at which the president of Paragould First National Bank will be speaker. Junior Vester is pastor.

Hilldale Church at Alexander will celebrate its 14th anniversary Oct. 22 with a 11 a.m. worship service, followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon music program. Hosea Harrington is pastor.

Camden First Church observed Rob Wright Appreciation Day Sept. 10 in recognition of his service as interim minister of music.

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Number 58 — A new mission, the 58th in Arkansas, was launched at Diamond City in northeast Boone County on Aug. 3. Sponsored by Lead Hill Southside Church, the mission will serve the community of more than 900 people, which sits on the shore of Bull Shoals Lake. The new chapel is an outgrowth of a Thursday night Bible study which has been averaging 26 persons in attendance since it was begun in February. The property was purchased with funds provided by North Arkansas Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and interested individuals. Volunteers remodeled the building extensively. Kenneth Threet is pastor of the sponsoring church.

BOYS RANCH DEDICATION

'Not a Dog's Chance'

Arkansas Baptists dedicated a 340-acre boys ranch near Harrison on Sept. 12. The dedication marked an important milestone in the ministry of Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

The ministry, the first of its kind for Arkansas Baptists, will help adolescent males who have completed drug or alcohol rehabilitation programs. Located in the Ozark foothills eight miles north of Harrison, the ranch will take advantage of its relative isolation and a strict regimen of activities and counseling to help the young men prepare themselves for life without drugs.

The property is being leased to Family and Child Care Services by the Shawnee Valley Boy's Ranch. The lease stipulates that, if Arkansas Baptists maintain the ministry for two years, the property will be signed over to Family and Child Care Services.

The property was offered to FCCS Executive Director Johnny Biggs shortly after he had been approached by the Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute about a pressing need they were feeling.

Robin Haganan, an institute administrator, told Biggs he was troubled by the fact that they had no place to refer their young clients who had finished drug or alcohol rehabilitation programs. Many were going right back into the environments which had pressed the addictions upon

them in the first place. What he wanted was a place where the young men could go to make a better transition to the world.

When the offer of the boys ranch property was made, Biggs saw it was an ideal setting for such a refuge.

The FCCS trustee board commissioned a special committee to look into the prospects of the ranch. Chaired by Watson Bell of Searcy, the committee brought a recommendation that the ministry be pursued if the money could be obtained to operate it.

The answer to that prayer came when Bernice Jones of Springdale made a significant contribution on behalf of the Harvey and Bernice Jones Foundation. Her gift covered start-up expenses and provided the first year's operating budget.

The program accepted its first boys in June and currently has nine in residence. When the renovation is completed, the ranch will have a capacity for 30.

According to Boys Ranch Resident Manager Richard Brown, the rehabilitation of the facilities' run-down living quarters required the extensive involvement of volunteers from North Arkansas Association. Four work days were scheduled with the association's Brotherhood, and 61 individuals from 22 churches showed up for the first day. In addition, the association's Woman's Missionary Union, under the leadership of Marie Hogan of Harrison, worked to provide kitchen supplies, curtains, bedspreads, linens, and other items for the project. The association has budgeted \$100 a month to assist the ranch.

In addition, Clint Morrison, director of the FCCS Harrison office, said Harrison-area businesses had been generous in their support of the effort. He noted contributions of supplies and money from Mass Merchandisers, Levi Strauss, Arkansas Power and Light, Pepsi Cola Bottling,



Renovated living quarters

Claridge Products, Family Doctor's Clinic, and Dr. Robert Langston.

The Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute's Haganan told those attending the dedication services, "Facilities like this are needed all over the country to provide long-term care to help conserve the results of the rehabilitation programs.

"We don't have these young men very long at the institute, and it's frustrating to see the good we have accomplished with them fall apart when they return to the environments they came from. When it has come time for them to be released, we have had to let them go, even though we knew they wouldn't succeed, because we had nowhere to send them.

"Without a facility like this, most of those kids don't stand a dog's chance of surviving in the outside world."

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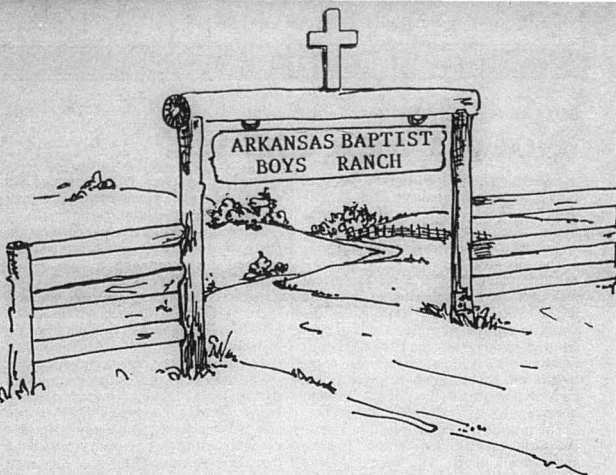


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The basic program at the Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch is funded by Mrs. Bernice Jones of Springdale. The contribution, made by the Harvey and Bernice Jones Foundation, provided the start-up costs and the first year's operating expenses. The ranch also receives \$100 per month from the North Arkansas Baptist Association and gifts from individuals, churches, community groups, and businesses.

For further information, contact: Dr. Clinton Morrison, P.O. Box 1213, Harrison, AR 72601; telephone: 501-741-3806.

The Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch, located north of Harrison, serves young men ages 13 to 20 from across Arkansas. The ranch provides a community-based, chemical-free living center which emphasizes the spiritual, physical, educational, and emotional development of each resident. Since the ranch opened in June 1989, four young men have made professions of faith, and three have been baptized.



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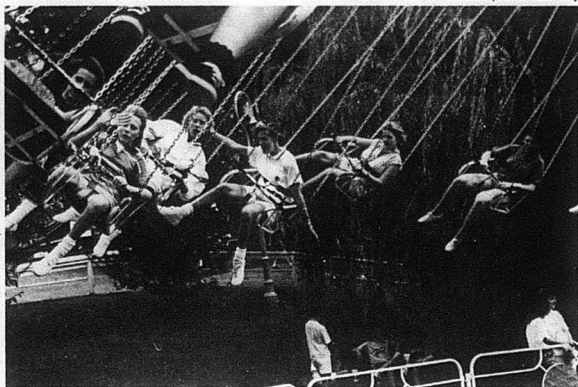
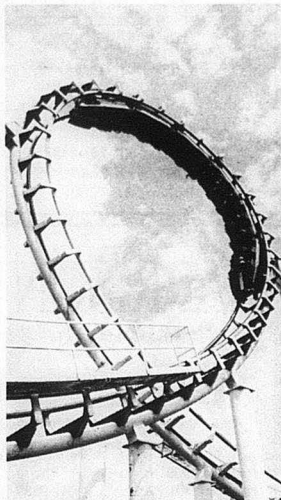
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ABN photos / Mark Kelly



Experienced youth workers know that the key to controlling teenagers in an amusement park is keeping them so dizzy they can't stand up. More than 6,000 Arkansas Baptist teenagers descended on the Magic Springs theme park at Hot Springs for the annual Baptist Youth Day festivities. Although the schedule was affected by a sudden afternoon thunderstorm, youth groups from 15 churches performed for their peers. The program for the afternoon rally was headed by youth communicator Jerry Pipes, "Gabriel," a contemporary Christian music group, and Randy Lanford, who also interpreted the youth discipleship program "DiscipleLife" for the teenagers and their leaders. Youth Day is sponsored each year by the ABSC Church Training Department.

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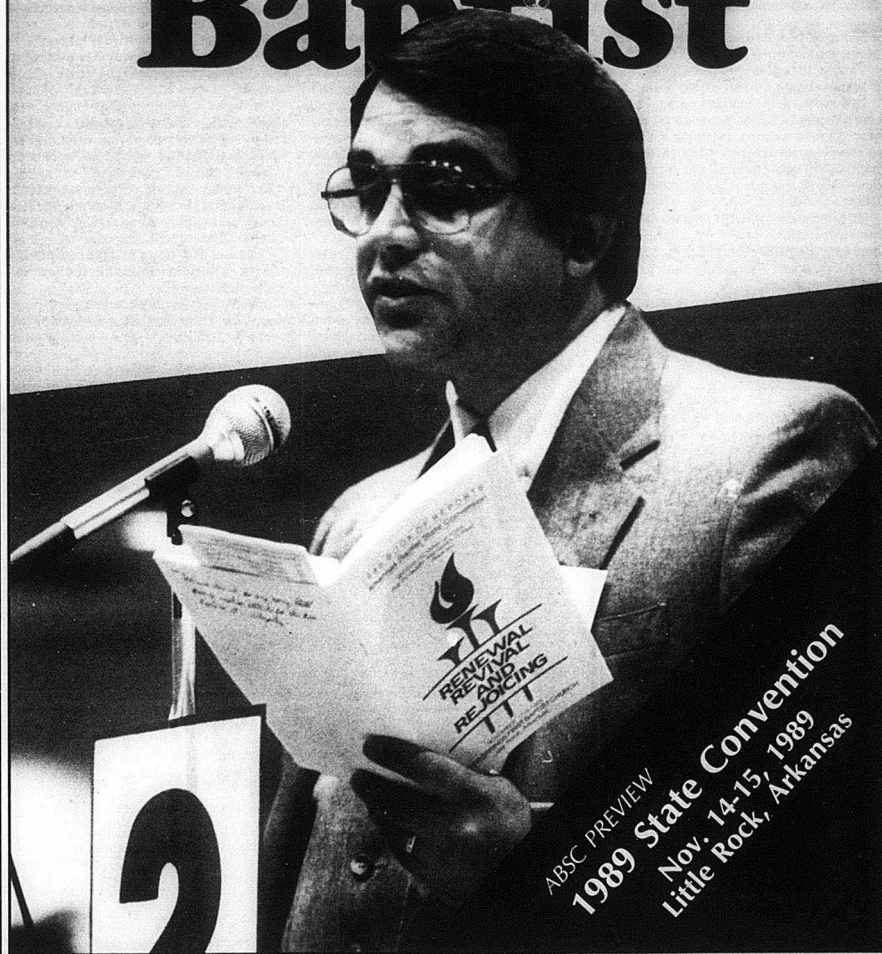
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ABSC PREVIEW

1989 State Convention
Nov. 14-15, 1989
Little Rock, Arkansas

STATE CONVENTION

ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Don't Come Sept. 7-8!

by Mark Kelly
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

Don't come to Little Rock Sept. 7-8 for the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

If you do, you'll be too early. The annual meeting convenes the next week, Sept. 14-15, at Little Rock's First Baptist Church. But you may not mind the wait, because it seems certain you won't be alone.

Despite the fact that the date was changed from Sept. 7-8 to Sept. 14-15 in last year's annual meeting, evidence continues to crop up indicating that many Arkansas Baptists still are planning around the old date, which appeared in the 1989 ABCS Diary.

They persist in this belief despite numerous efforts to inform them to the contrary, including letters from the executive director's office and a notice in the Arkansas Baptist.

So, if you're bound and determined, come Sept. 7-8 and enjoy a week of fellowship before the rest of us arrive. But plan to stay around, because if you leave, you'll miss two days of important business concerns and inspiring music and preaching.

"Stir Thy Church" will be the theme of the 136th annual meeting, which will be held in four sessions beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, Sept. 14. (Did you get that? Sept. 14!)

The theme will be interpreted along four lines: "Stir Thy Church to Global Action," "... to Moral Courage," "... to Aggressive Outreach," "and ... to Loving Fellowship."

Darrell Robinson, vice-president of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga., will deliver the Bible study in each session. Robinson was pastor of the Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., before going to the Home Mission Board.

Also featured on the program will be

Rosalio Ramirez Rivas, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of Guatemala, who will bring the keynote message in the convention's first session.

Arkansas Baptists voted in last year's annual meeting (the same one in which they voted to change the dates of this year's meeting to Sept. 14-15!) to launch a three-year partnership mission with Guatemala Baptists beginning this fall. A World Mission Rally Oct. 27 at Little Rock's Immanuel Baptist Church will initiate the project.

Other program personalities for the 1989 annual meeting include:

— Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, who will bring the keynote address on Tuesday afternoon.

— Randall O'Brien, pastor of Little Rock's Calvary Baptist Church, who will preach the Convention Sermon on Wednesday morning.

— Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, whose sermon will close the Tuesday evening session.

Major items of business are scheduled in the convention's final three sessions. Tuesday afternoon messengers will hear reports

from Ouachita Baptist University, the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, and the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas. In addition, they will receive a report from their nominating committee and vote on five recommendations from the ABCS Executive Board.

Those recommendations include a \$13.5 million 1990 budget and proposals to change the names of Southern Baptist College and Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. The texts of all Executive Board recommendations and a proposed bylaw change are printed elsewhere in this section.

On Tuesday evening, messengers will hear the report of Southern Baptist College and witness the recognition of churches which have led the state in missions giving and baptisms.

Wednesday morning's session will be devoted to reports from Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services and the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, as well as the election of officers and the consideration of a report from the resolutions committee.

Officers for the 1989 Arkansas Baptist State Convention are Cary Heard, pastor of North Little Rock's Park Hill Baptist Church, president; Delton Beall, pastor of Forrest City's First Baptist Church, first vice-president; and Mark Brooks, pastor of Springdale's Elmdale Baptist Church, second vice-president.

Welcome to Little Rock

It has been our privilege a number of times to host the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting. Each occasion has brought us deep satisfaction knowing we contributed in a small measure to the work of our Lord in this state. Our people are always eager to assume whatever responsibility that is necessary to make you welcome and to assure a good convention.

As you make your way to the Capital City please be assured that a warm welcome awaits you here at First Baptist Church. As pastor, I extend to you the full use of our facility, as well as our hospitality. Come praying for our convention officers and every messenger that the Spirit of Christ will rule in every session and that what takes place within our gates will result in the furtherance of the Gospel.

We are delighted beyond words you have chosen our church as a meeting place this year. There is no way you can impose upon us. Please make your every wish known. We will do everything we can to carry it out. We love Arkansas Baptists and look forward to your coming our way.



John B. Wright

John B. Wright, Pastor

Notice

The next edition of the *Arkansas Baptist* will be published on Oct. 12. Sunday School lesson commentaries for Sept. 30 and Oct. 8 are included in this issue.

As noted in the above article, the state convention date is Nov. 14-15, not Nov. 7-8.

Proper Credentials

Membership and messengers to the 1989 Convention are determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of the *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their findings and recom-

mendation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse to seat any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization similar to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. —**Dennis Dodson, chairman, Credentials Committee**

Registration

Messengers elected by Arkansas Baptist churches who are planning to participate in the annual meeting Nov. 14-15 in Little Rock must bring messenger registration cards approved by their churches and signed by their moderators or church clerks.

Messengers who present themselves for registration without properly certified credentials will be sent to the Credentials Committee.

Balloting

In accordance with the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and in keeping with previous policies and procedures, the following guidelines have been established for voting at the annual meeting.

All duly-elected messengers who register

at the convention will be given an official book of numbered ballots. Messengers are encouraged to print their names on the front of the ballot book as soon as they register.

A ballot is considered the property of the person to whom it is issued. Therefore, a ballot can be used only by that individual. Ballots are not to be exchanged or used by any other messenger or nonmessenger, even with the owner's consent. When ballots are used, instructions will be given designating which ballot is to be cast. Ballots which do not bear the appropriate number for a specific vote will be considered invalid. Ballots which are not legible or which are submitted blank will be considered invalid.

Messengers who lose or find ballot books should notify the registration desk. An owner may claim a lost ballot book only if the book bears his or her name.—**Don Phillips, Tellers Committee chairman**

Resolutions

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Cary Heard has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Oct. 23, 1989. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to David Crouch, P.O. Box 5, Searcy, AR 72143.

We would like to express our appreciation in advance for your cooperation in this matter.—**David Crouch, chairman, Resolution Committee**

Convention committees

Parliamentarian

Hal Bass
Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Credentials Committee:

Dennis Dodson, Monticello, chairman
D.C. McAttee, Forrest City
Jimmy Watson, Pine Bluff
Eddie McCord, Batesville
Eddie Simpson, Lonoke

Tellers Committee:

Don Phillips, Camden, chairman
John Horne, Fort Smith
Roy Lewis, Bauxite
Hal Graves, Hot Springs
Bob Dailey, Conway
Brad Rogge, Hensley
Howard Kisor, Hazen
Dugg Grubbs, Clarendon
Bobby Pennington, Hamburg

Resolutions Committee:

David Crouch, Searcy, chairman
Stephen Hatfield, North Little Rock
J.R. Debusk, Pine Bluff
Larry Pillow, Conway
Mike Trammel, Jonesboro

Order of Business:

Mike Huckabee, Texarkana, chairman
C.A. Johnson, Paragould

ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Interest Group Plans

In addition to the regular sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, a variety of special interest groups will offer programs for messengers.

Pastors

Arkansas Baptist pastors will convene their annual preconvention conference at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 13 at First Baptist Church, Little Rock. Three sessions will be conducted, concluding with a time of decision at 8:50 p.m.

This year's conference theme will be "Is There Any Word From The Lord...?" Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, is president of the Pastors' Conference.

In addition to many in-state speakers, out-of-state program personalities include Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, Texas; Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission; John McArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, Calif.; and Robert McGee, president of RAPHA, Houston, Texas.

Ministers' Wives

This year's Ministers' Wives Conference will be held on Monday, Nov. 13, at First Church, Little Rock, beginning with a noon luncheon. The conference runs simultaneously with the Pastors' Conference.

The conference theme, "Make Me An Instrument," will be interpreted by a guest speaker, seminary leaders, and Arkansas musicians. Lawana McIver of Dallas, Texas, will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon.

To pre-register, send name, address and \$5 to: Lisa White, 20 Kings Court, Little Rock, AR 72211.

Religious Educators

The Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association will hold its 1989 meeting Monday, Nov. 13, at First Church, Little Rock.

Registration and fellowship will begin at 1:30 p.m. and the banquet will be held at 5:15 in Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Felix Montgomery, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Melody Mosley Morris, Creative Worship Through Drama, Chicago, Ill., will be program leaders.

Mail reservations to Barry Bates, 332 Columbia SW, Camden, AR 71701.

Alumni Meetings

Ouachita Baptist University fellowship will be held immediately following the Tuesday evening session of the convention in Fellowship Hall of First Church, Little Rock. All friends and alumni are invited to attend.

Southern Baptist College alumni are invited to a banquet at 5 p.m. Nov. 14 in the Fellowship Hall of First Church, Little Rock. Cost is \$5. For reservations contact the Public Relations Department of SBC at 501-886-6742, ext. 120.

New Orleans Seminary alumni will meet for lunch 12 noon on Nov. 14 at First Church, Little Rock, in Room A-103. The seminary representative for this year's gathering is Don Stewart, vice-president of the seminary. Tickets are \$6 and are available through George Sims at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, phone 501-386-4791.

Southern Seminary alumni are invited to a reunion luncheon on Nov. 14, at First Church, Little Rock. The luncheon will include an address by J. Ralph Hardee, professor of church administration. Tickets are \$7 and can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Jerry L. Davis, 602 East Beverly Ave., Sherwood, AR 72116.

Southwestern Seminary alumni will meet at noon Nov. 14 at First Church, Little Rock. During their meeting, the alumni will hear a report from Thomas Urrey, professor of New Testament at the seminary. For tickets or more information, contact Hess Hester, pastor of First Church, Smackover, at 501-725-3941.

Golden Gate Seminary will hold an alumni "Dutch" luncheon at Shoney's on West Markham in Little Rock at noon on

Nov. 14. For more information, contact Sid Carswell at 501-455-0669.

Midwestern Seminary alumni will meet at Western Sizzler on Rodney Parham in Little Rock for a "Dutch" luncheon at noon on Nov. 14. Costs will include 75 cents that will be for gratuity and room rental. A speaker from the seminary will be present. For more information, contact Stan Wilson at 501-227-2569.

Mid-America Seminary alumni meeting will be held at noon on Nov. 15 at Bonanza Steak House on Rodney Parham in Little Rock. A 10 percent discount will be given on all dinners. For further information contact Ron Mayes at 501-882-3342.

DOMS

The Arkansas Baptist Director of Missions Fellowship will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, at the Western Sizzler on Rodney Parham for a fellowship time. Arkansas Baptist State Convention Associate Executive Director Jimmie Sheffield will discuss the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Plan.

Retirees

Retired pastors, staff members and employees of Southern Baptist churches, agencies and institution are invited to a fellowship dinner Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Church, Little Rock.

For reservations, contact the ABSC Annuity/Stewardship Department at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791.

Child Care

First Church, Little Rock, will provide childcare for children birth through five years during the Pastors' Conference and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Please assist the church in its planning by making reservations through the church receptionist at 501-227-0010.



Make Me An Instrument

Monday, Nov. 13, 1989

Noon Luncheon • Seminars 1:45-4:30
First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.

Conference for Wives
of All Arkansas Baptist Staff

Luncheon Cost: \$5. Send luncheon reservations by Nov. 1 to: State Ministers Wives Luncheon, #20 Kings Ct., Little Rock, AR 72211.

ABSC Tentative Program*Stir Thy Church***Tuesday Morning**
Nov. 14, 1989

8:30	Congregational Singing	Charles Vance
8:35	Prayer	John Wright
8:40	BIBLE STUDY	Darrell W. Robinson
9:10	Call to Order	Cary Heard
9:15	Welcome	John Wright
9:20	Appointment of Committees	Cary Heard
	Enrollment of Messengers	Dennis Dodson
	Adoption of Order of Business	Mike Huckabee
	Tellers Committee Instructions	Don Phillips
	Resolutions	David Crouch
	Constitution Amendments	James R. Pate
9:40	Congregational Singing	Charles Vance
9:45	Special Music	Arkansas Music Men
9:50	"Missions Advance 87-89"	Allen Thrasher
10:05	Announcements and Recognitions	Cary Heard
	Baptist Hospitals	
	Former Presidents	
	Retired Baptist Workers	D. C. McAtee
	New Arkansans	Don Moore
	Missionaries	Julia Ketrner
	"Guatemala Partnership"	Glendon Grober
10:45	Congregational Singing	Charles Vance
11:00	Special Music	Arkansas Music Men/Singing Women
11:15	MESSAGE	Rosalio Ramirez Rivas
11:55	Benediction	Michael Brown

Tuesday Afternoon
Nov. 14, 1989

1:30	Congregational Singing	Joe Fitzpatrick
1:35	Prayer	Ferrell Ard
1:40	BIBLE STUDY	Darrell W. Robinson
2:10	Ouachita Baptist University Report	Ben Elrod
2:25	Miscellaneous Business	
2:35	Arkansas Baptist Foundation	Harry Trulove
2:45	Congregational Singing	Joe Fitzpatrick
2:50	Special Music	Donna Crenshaw
2:55	Nominating Committee	Harold Elmore
3:05	EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT	Greg Kirksey
3:25	Congregational Singing	Joe Fitzpatrick
3:30	Report of Seminaries	Milton Ferguson
3:35	Christian Civic Foundation Board	John Finn
3:45	Recognition of Guests	Cary Heard
3:50	Special Music	Tom Bolton

3:55	MESSAGE	Richard Land
4:25	Benediction	Delton Beall

Tuesday Evening
Nov. 14, 1989

6:15	Congregational Singing	Lester McCullough
6:20	Prayer	Billy White
6:25	MESSAGE	Darrell W. Robinson
6:55	Southern Baptist College Report	Jack Nicholas
7:10	Special Music	Southern Baptist College
7:25	Cooperative Program Awards	Jimmie Sheffield
7:35	"Church Arkansas"	Jack Ramsey
7:45	Directions 2000	Jimmie Sheffield
8:05	"Here's Hope"	Joe Finfrock
8:20	Recognition of Churches	
	Leading in Baptisms	Clarence Shell
8:25	Congregational Singing	Lester McCullough
8:30	Special Music	Ladies Rejoice
8:35	MESSAGE	Don Moore
9:10	Benediction	Dale Wicker

Wednesday Morning
Nov. 15, 1989

8:15	Congregational Singing	Paul Williams
8:20	Prayer	Mark Brooks
8:25	BIBLE STUDY	Darrell W. Robinson
8:55	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:05	Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care	Johnny Biggs
9:15	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:25	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	Everett Sneed
9:35	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
9:45	Congregational Singing	Paul Williams
9:50	Special Music	Sheri Swindler
9:55	CONVENTION SERMON	Randall O'Brien
10:25	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	
10:35	Congregational Singing	Paul Williams
10:40	Resolutions	David Crouch
11:10	Miscellaneous Business	
11:25	Presentation of New Officers	
	Benediction of New President	

Organist: Lyndon Finney
Pianist: Martha Rosenbaum**Program Personalities****Darrell Robinson**, vice-president of evangelism, Home Mission Board, will bring the Bible study.**Rosalio Ramirez Rivas**, executive secretary, Baptist Convention of Guatemala, will bring the message on Tuesday morning.**Richard Land**, executive director, Christian Life Commission, will bring the message on Tuesday afternoon.**Don Moore**, executive director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will bring the closing message on Tuesday evening.
Randall O'Brien, pastor, Calvary

Church, Little Rock, will bring the Convention Sermon on Wednesday morning.

Greg Kirksey, pastor, Hillside Church, Camden, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, will present the board's report on Tuesday afternoon.

STATE CONVENTION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1 1990 Budget

I. State causes

	1990 estimates
1. Administration	\$236,573
2. Business Services	255,336
3. Annuity	16,758
4. Baptist Student Union	622,948
5. Brotherhood	117,840
6. Christian Life Council	76,503
7. Church Music	153,047
8. Church Training	213,022
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	122,668
10. Evangelism	247,340
11. Ministry of Crisis Support	91,931
12. Missions	492,190
13. Stewardship	91,198
14. Sunday School	273,251
15. Woman's Missionary Union	268,894
16. Support Services	55,176
17. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	179,338
18. Camp Paron—Operating	56,223
19. Camp Paron—Improvement Fund	25,504
20. Annuity Dues	375,000
21. Baptist Student Union—Buildings	124,000
22. Convention	83,908
23. Historical Commission	8,387
24. Non-Department Programs and Other Causes	215,215

Total Executive Board Programs.....\$4,402,299

25. Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care	380,244
26. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	224,850
27. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	194,419
28. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	2,024,686
(2) Southern Baptist College	557,807
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	109,290

Total State Programs.....\$7,945,595

II. Southern Baptist Convention.....5,574,405

Total Budget.....\$13,520,000

Recommendation No. 2

1. "Here's Hope—Jesus Care for You" Simultaneous Revivals

The "Here's Hope" revivals is a Southern Baptist Convention emphasis for 1990. The Southern Baptist Convention goals include 100 percent participation by state conventions and associations and 80 percent of the churches.

The baptism goal is 175,000 as a result of the "Here's Hope" revivals. Other goals include 13-15 million Sunday School workers in evangelism, and other goals related to placement of summer missionaries, interns, Praxis leaders, church planters, retired ministers, and Mission Service Corps pastor-type leaders.

Effective decision counseling and new member follow-up are essential to assure meaningful church membership and to help address the inactive non-resident member situation in our churches. Preparation for the Simultaneous Revivals must also include strategies for "Conserving the Results of Evangelism."

Preparation for the revivals also includes prayer. The Daniel Prayer Plan will focus on individual commitment to pray for "Here's Hope" revivals.

Goal: Our goal is to enlist 1,000 churches/missions to participate in "Here's Hope—Jesus Care for You" revivals and follow-up activities by December 31, 1990.
Goal: Our goal is to lead 500 churches to provide decision counseling/new member follow-up for new converts and transfer members by September 30, 1990.
Goal: Our goal is to enlist 10,000 persons to participate in the Daniel Prayer Plan related to "Here's Hope—Jesus Care for You" revivals by June 1, 1990.

2. Guatemala-Arkansas Partnership

1990 will be the first full year of the Guatemala-Arkansas Partnership. Partnership missions has the potential to involve hundreds of Arkansas Baptists in mission projects such as evangelism, church program development, construction, church planting, medical and dental, agricultural, and others that will be planned in conjunction with the Guatemala mission and convention.

Goal: Our goal is to involve 281 churches in the three year Guatemala-Arkansas Partnership. The criteria for evaluating this goal is: 76 churches in 1990, 85 churches in 1991, 120 churches in 1992.

3. "Share Hope"—

"Share Hope" will be a major emphasis on Sunday School as the vehicle of church growth, supporting simultaneous revivals, and giving strong, continued support to the baptism goals of the convention.

Three major thrusts make up this emphasis. They are:
(1) "Share Hope—Start a Class." This is a continuation of the 1989-90 emphasis to begin 400 new teaching units resulting in 9,200 new enrollees in Sunday School.

(2) "Share Hope—Bring Them In." This will include an enrollment/high attendance campaign, "Fill My House," with suggestions to tie the campaign date to the "Here's Hope" revival in each church. "Bring Them In" also will offer suggestions and materials using the Sunday School organization to promote attendance at the "Here's Hope" revivals.

(3) "Share Hope—Reach 10." This phase will relate to the Baptist Sunday School Board emphasis. The major idea will focus on individual commitment to enroll 10, each class enrolling 10, etc. A major thrust will be promotion of "The Final Four" emphasis during the last four months of the church year.

Goal: Our goal is to lead a minimum of 600 churches to participate in some phase of the "Share Hope" emphasis by September 30, 1990.

4. Directions 2000

The Directions 2000 Planning Group is developing objectives, goals, and action plans for 1991-1995 Executive Board programs. 1990 will present a good opportunity to launch these plans in the fall as the new church year begins.

By May, the launch of the Directions 2000 plans at this time, our promotion can be complemented by the Southern Baptist Convention promotion related to Bold Mission Thrust plans for the same period of time.

Goal: Our goal is to launch the Directions 2000 plans by December 31, 1990.

5. "Families Touching Families"

"Families Touching Families" will encourage and assist churches to develop programs to reach lost and unchurched families, family members, single adults and senior adults.

The strategy is for churches to meet the strategic needs of these groups of people by conducting special emphasis days (Christian Home Emphasis, Senior Adult Day and Single Adult Day and special events to strengthen marriage and parenting relationships) as intentional forms of outreach and ministry. This emphasis will be supported in the curriculum of the following programs: Sunday School, Church Training, Church Administration, Church Music, WMU and Brotherhood.

Goal: Our goal is to lead 400 churches to conduct Christian Home Emphasis, Senior Adult Day, and other family ministry projects by December 31, 1990.

Recommendation No. 3

Directions 2000

The Executive Board recommends the approval of the Directions 2000 Planning Group proposed purpose statements for the Executive Board programs, the department/programs purpose statements, needs, objectives, goals, and promotion plan for 1991-95 with the theme, "Building God's Family."

The objectives and goal areas with the year of emphasis are:

1991—Support Missions; 1992—Strengthen Families; 1993—Grow Churches; 1994—Perform Ministries; 1995—Reach People.

In addition two foundation emphasis will undergird the five year program of activities. They are "One for All," a Cooperative Program emphasis, and "Practice Prayer."

Recommendation No. 4

The Executive Board recommends that the name of Southern Baptist College be changed to Williams Baptist College, effective August 15, 1990, when the

celebration of its 50th anniversary will begin.

1. Rationale for changing the name.

1. Points made by a committee appointed by the Education Commission of Southern Baptist College to study Christian higher education among Baptists in Arkansas includes the following:

A) The name of Southern Baptist College should be changed.

B) The present name is inappropriate and confusing, conveying an impression that the school is operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

C) The present name affects a status wholly and unrepresentative of the institution and its program.

2. Reasons Southern Baptist College staff have given for the need for a change of the name.

A) The name is confusing to those not acquainted with Southern Baptist College.

In a national meeting, when Southern Baptist College staff share that they are from Southern Baptist College, they are often asked, "which one?"

B) The name seems to suggest to many that the institution is a Bible college or seminary rather than a liberal arts institution.

C) Connotes to many a narrow parochialism which has adverse implications for both development and admissions.

Some donors are willing to support Christian higher education but are not willing to support a narrow, parochialism.

Many students within 20 miles of Walnut Ridge, as well as beyond, assume that the only people who attend Southern Baptist college are preachers or mission volunteers.

D) Concerning the influence of the name upon development activities, directors of foundations have told us, "you've got all the money behind you that the Southern Baptist Convention has, you don't need our money."

E) To recognize and commemorate the tenacious, sacrificial service of H. E. Williams who spent virtually his entire productive life in the building of the college.

II. The Board of Trustees approved on December 1, 1988, a recommendation from the faculty and administration of the college that the name of Southern Baptist College be changed to Williams Baptist College effective August 15, 1990, when the celebration of its 50th anniversary will be started.

Recommendation No. 5

The Executive Board recommends that the name of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services be changed to Arkansas Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries.

The rationale for the agency name change is as follows:

(1) The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children is our heritage, since 1894.

(2) We have encountered more and more people who fail to understand the relationship of our agency to the Arkansas Baptist Home for Children.

(3) The suggested new name will give more immediate identification to our Children's Home ministry with "Children's Home" being a part of the agency name.

(4) It will also give immediate recognition of the other Children's Homes and group care facilities that are a part of our ministry.

(5) It also recognizes that part of our focus is on families and family-related problems.

(6) More importantly, it has "ministries" in the name which actually describes our heritage. In 1894, our agency was founded on a strong religious conviction that God is served as we serve our fellow man in His name. The Master himself in reaching out to those in need, pointed the way with a message that has endured across the centuries: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

(7) Our agency name should be descriptive of the work we perform as an agency of the convention; we believe this name change will provide that clarification.

Constitution and Bylaw Changes

The following Constitutional changes were approved in the 1988 Convention. According to Constitution procedure, changes must be approved in two consecutive conventions.

BYLAWS—Section 5—"Committee Members"

4. All directors of associational missions or mission pastors receiving all or part compensation from the Convention through the Executive Board shall be considered employees of the Convention and shall not be members of any Convention, agency or institutional board. The president of the Convention by virtue of his office shall be a member of the Executive Board for the duration of his term of office.

Noted in italics (changed from associational missionaries to directors of associational missions)

Jim Pate, Russellville, chairman, Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Classifieds

Position Open—Part time staff position of Music/Youth. Send resume to: Lakeside Baptist Church, Rt. 9, Box 1001, Rogers, AR 72756. 9/28

For Sale—Lowrey Citation Theatre Organ, \$1,500. Can be seen upon appointment. Contact 673-2111 or 673-3434 for more information. 9/28

For Sale—School Bus, 1984 GMC, Ward VSS Series, 20 passenger, 6.2 diesel, 60,600 miles, \$6,750. Call 523-9157 or 523-3916. 9/28

Position Available—Minister of Education and Administration. If interested, send name and address and we will send you a packet with a questionnaire. Pineville Park Baptist Church, Search Committee, 2455 Hwy. 28E., Pineville, LA 71360. 10/19

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

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Terrific October

by Don Moore
ABC Executive Director

What a terrific month is October!

Oh yes! It's busy, busy, busy. But consider with me the tremendous opportunities for growth and ministry for you and your church and you will be excited about what this month can mean to you!



Associational Annual Meetings will be given much time and priority. It would be so great if every association could recover the joy of fellowship and inspiration that once characterized these meetings. It may be coming. A major boost to that spirit would be packed houses. Why don't you go the second mile this year? You will bless your fellow Baptists and doubtless be blessed while doing so.

State Conference on Discipleship, Oct. 23-24, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock. This convocation on the discipling-equipping ministry of the church has been two years in the making. Southern Baptists are almost 2,000 years behind in "making disciples." Our failure is reflected in half of our converts being nonresident, inactive, or defecting to other cults or sects. Our evangelism has become as "sounding brass," almost a hollow mockery, because we do so little in a really planned way to personally disciple the converts. One of the world's top leaders on Christian discipleship, Avery Willis, will be here to lead us. T. W. Hunt, a man mighty in the Scriptures and prayer, will be here to help us. Bud Fray, a mightily anointed seryant of God will join in these conferences, as well as Perry Sanders, the tremendous pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lafayette, La. Discipling only happens when we make it happen. A real revival would likely break out in our churches if we did right about our discipleship responsibility. "Oh, God! Let it start at this conference. Let the burden of this need fall on hundreds of our pastoral and lay leaders. Amen!"

World Mission Rally—What a warm climate is felt in our convention toward world missions! The great convention we had at First Church, Fort Smith, seemed to be the start of it. The commissioning service this year seemed to be the climax of it. The afterglow has made us want to know more, pray more, and do more for

world missions.

Here is another wonderful opportunity. Oct. 27, at Immanuel Church, Little Rock, we will have a World Mission Rally to kick off the Guatemala-Arkansas partnership. One objective will be "Information" brought to us by Joe Bruce, area director of the Foreign Mission Board for Central America. The other objective will be "Inspiration" which God will give us through Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Join the spirit! Join the celebrants! Join the teams going to Guatemala the next three years.

Senior Adults, consider this—The annual Senior Adult Chautauqua at Ridgecrest has come to be a rich tradition. We could double the number of Arkansans going this year. But, you must call Bob Holley immediately if you want to reserve a place on the bus—376-4791. Get in on the blessing. Bring a buddy who needs a lift, too. The dates are Oct. 7-14.

Natioal CWT Seminar Being Offered in Arkansas! The dates are Oct. 2-5 at Markham Street Church, Little Rock. Almost without exception, the churches winning many people to Christ are those who use CWT, or a similar strategy for training their church members to witness. At least one-third of our churches should be engaged in such a program. The needs and opportunities for evangelism are that great around us. Call Clarence Shell (376-4791) to see if he can still get you in this seminar. Only a limited number can be taken.

A new wind is blowing in WMU—Many young women are catching the vision and burden for winning our world to Christ. Fellowship and training will cause that excitement to multiply. Where can that happen more effectively than in a retreat setting. OK, plan to get in on it by coming to Camp Paron for the WMU Retreat. Two identical retreats will be held back to back. The first one will be Oct. 19-20, from 1:30 p.m. Thursday until noon on Friday. The second one will be Oct. 20-21, from 5 p.m. Friday until 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Shouldn't you get in on what God is doing with these ladies?

Small Membership Sunday School—Does that describe your Sunday School? If you have 150 or less enrolled in your Sunday School, then you can qualify for a special gathering of people just like you at Southern Baptist College, Oct. 7. Small is not bad unless you can be large and you are still small. We want to help you grow. Better teaching and better outreach

will do it. We will help you in both areas if you will come. The time is from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bivocational pastors can come to this as it is on Saturday.

Two More Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Workshops—One was held recently in Northeast Arkansas. Two will be held in October. The first one will be at First Church, Smackover, Oct. 7. South Central Arkansas music leaders should take advantage of this. The other will be Oct. 28 at Lakeview Church, Cave Springs. This will let Northwest Arkansas music leaders have an opportunity to improve their music leading skills. All of our state music staff will be there to help.

A Tri-State Camp-O-Rec—This is an opportunity for RA's and High School Baptist Young Men to come together in a three state camping and missionary experience. Boys from Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi will participate. The dates are Oct. 13-14 in Memphis, Tenn. It sounds like a great opportunity to boost the interest and attendance for your RA program. Call Glendon Grober (376-4791) to get more information on registration.

A prayer need!—Oct. 6-8, hundreds of college students will be gathered in Hot Springs for their annual Baptist Student Union Convention. Pray for a great moving of God's Spirit on these precious lives. They need the Lord so desperately. The Lord needs them, as well. So many life transforming decisions have been made at such meetings. Your prayers could be just the thing God would use to make the climate right for those decisions to continue to be made. Thank you for praying, right now!

Stewardship/Annuity Missionary In Residence

Orville Boyd Jenkins, a Southern Baptist missionary serving in Kenya, will serve as a missionary-in-residence with the Stewardship/Annuity Department beginning in October 1989.

Jenkins was born in Oklahoma, grew up in Texas and considers Conway, Ark., his hometown. Mrs. Jenkins was born in DeWitt and lived in Ethel.

Before his appointment as a career missionary, Orville was a radio announcer in



Jenkins

Arkansas, North Carolina and Texas. He served as associate director of the North Texas Christian Communications Commission in Arlington, Texas. He taught in Dallas and served on the language staff of the Toronto Institute of Linguistics.

In Kenya, Jenkins serves as language and orientation director at Limuru. He is also regional resource person for language and orientation for Eastern and Southern Africa.

First Church, Little Rock, will provide a home for the Jenkins while they are on furlough.

Churches may contact Jenkins through the Stewardship/Annuity Department by calling 376-4791.—James A. Walker, director

Church Music Annual Music Rehearsal

Music Men and Singing Women of Arkansas will have their annual rehearsal and retreat Oct. 19-20 on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. Rehearsal will begin at 1 p.m. Thursday and conclude at 11:45 a.m. Friday. Jim Woodward, artist in residence, Oklahoma Baptist University, will be the guest clinician.

Membership in the Singing Women is being expanded this year. In addition to women in music leadership positions, two ladies (a soprano and an alto) from each Arkansas Baptist church may apply for membership. The only requirement is a written recommendation from their music director. Membership applications may be obtained from your music director or the Church Music Department.—Lester McCullough, director

Church Music Keyboard Clinic In November

Our State Keyboard Clinic will be conducted on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Calvary Church, Little Rock. The day will begin with registration at 8 a.m., and the first session will begin at 8:30. A Genevox reading session, brunch, and on-site Baptist Bookstore will be features of the day. Sessions will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

The clinic for pianists will be led by Martha Kirkland, keyboard consultant for the

Church Music Department at the Sunday School Board, and the clinic for organists will be led by Anna Laura Page, composer/clinician from Clarksville, Tenn. Both of these ladies will give us conferences that no pianist or organist will want to miss!

Complete information and registration form will be mailed to all music directors, pianists, and organists. If you have not received this, please call me at 376-4791.—Peggy Pearson, associate

Woman's Missionary Union Baptist Women Retreats

When words seem to fail, a simple touch can convey the love of Christ. Today our world cries out for simple touches in the name of Jesus. "Touching In His Name" is the theme for the 1989 Baptist Women Retreats to be held at Camp Paron. Oct. 19-20 and Oct. 20-21.

Andrea Mullins, WMU, SBC, will be leading Bible study. Missionaries Laura Spiegel (Brazil) and Elinda West (Taiwan) will relate how they touch in his name on their respective fields of service. Leading in music will be Kathy Williford, Conway. Ina Miller, Mountain Home, will lead a conference on touching through personal witnessing. Touching through counseling will be led by Dianne Swaim, Little Rock.

The first retreat begins with 1:30 p.m. registration and concludes on Friday after lunch. The second retreat is a repeat of the first. Friday registration begins at 5 p.m. and the retreat concludes on Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

For more information concerning registration, please contact Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Any woman interested in touching her world in Jesus' name is welcome to attend!—Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/Baptist Young Women director

Church Music All-State Band And Choir

Young people love music, they love to sing and play instruments. One only has to look at the volumes of records, tapes, and videos that are sold in the discount stores and record shops; the millions of dollars spent each year on musical instruments and sound systems to agree.

How much of this vast musical interest is focused in a God-honoring avenue opposed to the strong influence of the world?

Your young people can be a part of a musical experience that will honor God and channel this love for music in a direction that will enhance their Christian life and encourage them in their walk with God.

Yes, it is costly. You will have to make some sacrifices. No, it is not convenient.

The All-State Baptist Youth Band and Choir will perform at the Youth Evangelism Conference, Dec. 28-29, and the choir will perform at the State Evangelism Conference, Jan. 30, 1990. All youth grades 9-12 who are active in a Southern Baptist Church cooperating with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention are eligible.

Is it worth it? You be the judge.—Glen E. Ennes, associate

Church Administration Career Assessment Set for December

"How can I best invest my life in the future to glorify God, bless mankind and find fulfillment for myself?" This is one of the important issues addressed in a Career Assessment Seminar. The annual Career Assessment will be offered on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 4-5. The seminar will meet at the Medical Plaza Hotel adjacent to the Baptist Medical Center beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday morning. The group will adjourn by 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

Dr. Fred McGehee, Career Guidance specialist in the Church Administration Department in Nashville, will lead the seminar. Dr. McGehee describes Career Assessment as "a serious pause in your busy life as a minister to update your life purpose and ministry directions."

The seminar is open to pastors, staff members, and spouses. The registration fee is \$40. No registration fee is charged for spouses. Rooms at the Medical Plaza Hotel are \$17 per night, per person (double occupancy) or \$34 for a single.

For a registration or additional information, call or write Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791, ext. 5160.—Robert Holley, director



McGehee

Evangelism

Here's Hope People Search

Here's Hope, Jesus Cares For You is a statewide evangelistic effort to reach the hundreds and thousands of lost Arkansans with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Every Southern Baptist Church in Arkansas should participate in this great endeavor. The recommended dates for Arkansas churches are March 18-April 8, 1990.

The Sunday Schools in Arkansas Baptist Churches are the evangelistic and outreach arm of the church. Therefore, the mobilization of Sunday School workers and members for a year of concentrated evangelistic outreach, teaching and cultivative ministry is natural and desirable.

The Sunday School is responsible for launching the 1989-90 evangelistic efforts with an Evangelistic People Search/Scripture Distribution in October 1989. The recommended date is Oct. 22. The Sunday School is responsible for finding the prospects and cultivating the evangelistic prospects from October to the church's revival meeting in the Spring of 1990.

Each pastor in Arkansas has received a



Shell

Here's Hope Evangelistic People Search/Scripture Distribution Church Guide. This guide is designed to assist each church to discover evangelistic prospects, distribute New Testaments, and develop cultivative relationships with prospects.

Freddie Pike, director of the ABSC Sunday School Department, and his staff have led in an effort to train and motivate each church to find every prospect in our state. We join hands and hearts with the Sunday School people in this great dynamic effort. I want to challenge each Sunday School to organize this People Search/Scripture Distribution effort. I want to challenge each Sunday School leader to agonize over the lost in your community. I want to challenge each Sunday School leader to evangelize the lost in the Here's Hope, Jesus Cares For You effort.—Clarence Shell, director

Brotherhood Partnership Missions

Looking long range at a mission partnership is rewarding. The AMAR (Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission) strongly influenced Brazilian Baptist life. Arkansas Baptists helped begin missions. They constructed buildings for the resulting new churches. The gospel was spread from southeastern Para to northwestern

Amazonas, a distance of over 2,000 miles.

Sharing testimonies and distributing God's Word is still producing fruit almost two years later. During August of this year Missionary Ken Lockes shared with his meeting with a lady in Manaus. She said to him, "Some Americans came to my house with a New Testament and invited me to the Manaus city crusade (October 1987). I later was saved. Now my husband has been saved and we want to come and join the Mt. Horebe Baptist Church."

A second interesting development is the fact that in the early 1950's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering money was used to purchase a piece of property in Sao Raimundo. The property was never used as several attempts were made to start a mission there and that never succeeded. As a result of the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership visitation efforts, the bus that went to the area, the mission has developed into a church. Today a two-story building is in the process of being constructed to house the growing local body of Christ. The far reaching affects of the AMAR Partnership have gone beyond our state to Ohio. Ohio Baptist Men will finish the construction using materials paid for by Arkansas Baptist Men. Partnership missions produced what had been impossible without that added stimulation.

The church at Sao Gabriel da Cachoeira is an outstanding example of the long range affects of partnership missions. The original planning team from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention talked with the Brazilian leadership in Manaus in 1984 about beginning work in Sao Gabriel da Cachoeira. Following the Manaus crusade an Arkansas team went to Sao Gabriel in 1988. They witnessed house to house, treated the sick and had services in the evening. In August of 1989 a team of 11 went to begin the construction of a building. The church has more than 30 members. Others have been saved and will soon be baptized to bring the total to over 40 members. The team represented seven churches and was composed of two High School Baptist Young Men, one woman and eight men as follows: John Tolbert, Jason Ponder, Billy Ponder, George Mason, Rick Branch, Reese Sullivan, Lillian Scritchfield, Mike Grober, Warren Burleson, Rick Cupples, and Glendon Grober. It was also a family affair as there were two father/son combinations.

Arkansas Baptists can rejoice that God has used them and is still using their influence in the gigantic Amazon valley.

Can we not anticipate even greater blessings as Arkansas becomes involved in partnership missions with Guatemala during 1990-1992?—Glendon Grober, director

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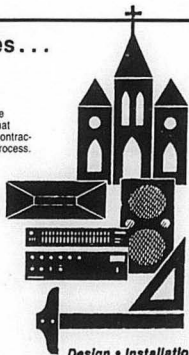
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Looking Ahead

October

2-5 National CWT Seminar, *Little Rock Markham Street Church (Ev)*

6-8 Baptist Student Convention, *Hot Springs First Church (BSU)*

7 Volunteer/Part Time Music Leader Workshop, *Smackover First Church (Mu)*

7 Northeast Arkansas Small Sunday School Workshop, *Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge (SS)*

7-14 Arkansas Senior Adult Chautauqua Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center (CT)

9-13 Associational Meetings, (Assns.)

13-14 Tri-State Camp-o-ree, *Memphis (Bbd)*

16-20 Associational Meetings, (Assns)

19-20 Music Men/Singing Women Retreat, *Ouachita Baptist University (Mu)*

19-20 Baptist Women Retreat, *Camp Paron (WMU)*

20-21 Baptist Women Retreat, *Camp Paron (WMU)*

23-24 State Conference on Discipleship,

North Little Rock Park Hill Church (CT)

27 World Mission Rally, *Little Rock Emmanuel Church (Bbd)*

28 Volunteer/Part-Time Music Leader Workshop, *Cave Springs Lakeview Church (Mu)*

November

2-3 Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat, *Camp Paron (Bbd)*

4 State Keyboard Clinic, *Little Rock Calvary Church (Mu)*

13 Pastors' Conference, *Little Rock First Church*

13 Ministers' Wives Conference, *Little Rock First Church*

13 ABREA Meeting, *Little Rock First Church*

14-15 Arkansas Baptist State Convention, *Little Rock First Church*

17-19 International Student Conference, *Camp Paron (BSU)*

19-22 Foreign Mission Study (WMU)

27 "M" Night (CT)

27-Dec. 1 Church Building Tour (SS)

30 State January Bible Study Clinic, *Baptist Building (SS)*

December

3-10 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (WMU/FMB)*

4-5 Career Assessment, *Little Rock Medical Plaza Hotel, (CT)*

4 Tax Seminar, *Little Rock Baptist Medical Center (SA)*

5 Tax Seminar, *Fort Smith Grand Avenue Church (SA)*

6 Tax Seminar, *Jonesboro First Church (SA)*

7-8 Evangelism Workshop, *Camp Paron (Ev)*

9 CSI Fellowship, *Little Rock Legacy Hotel (Bbd)*

28-29 Joy Expo '89, *Hot Springs Convention Center (Ev)*

28-29 All-State Youth Band and Choir, *Hot Springs Convention Center (Mu)*

31 Student Day at Christmas, (BSU)

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THE BEST OF LIFE

Rescission Requested

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Executive Committee will be asked to rescind its proposal to create a Religious Liberty Commission when it convenes Sept. 18-20.

The request will be made during the Executive Committee's fall meeting in Nashville, according to a letter sent by a committee President-Treasurer Harold C. Bennett to the committee's 77 members and other Southern Baptist convention leaders.

The Executive Committee proposed the commission last February "as an alternative to accomplish the program and funding" of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Baptist Joint Committee is a First Amendment/religious liberty watchdog organization based in Washington comprised of nine Baptist denominations.

Creation of a new Southern Baptist entity requires approval by messengers to two consecutive SBC annual sessions. The first vote was to have been taken last June in Las Vegas, Nev.

But SBC President Jerry Vines asked the Executive Committee to "defer its recommendation" to create the Religious Liberty Commission. Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., made his request in order to keep the focus of the annual meeting "on presenting Christ in Las Vegas," he explained.

Meeting in Las Vegas just prior to the SBC annual session, the Executive Committee concurred. Members amended their original proposal by moving all dates and

references to the Las Vegas convention to 1990 New Orleans convention.

But now the Executive Committee will consider rescinding the entire proposal.

Rudolph Yakym Jr., a Christian Life Commission member from Mishawaka, Ind., moved at the 1989 Las Vegas convention that the Executive Committee study the "feasibility and advisability of foregoing its recommendation to establish a Religious Liberty Commission and instead expand the program statement and budget of the Christian Life Commission to include the proposed duties of the Religious Liberty Commission."

RTVC Says ACTS Stable

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Members of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 11-12, were told the number of households able to receive programs of the ACTS television network remains stable in the face of predictions to the contrary.

The commission also adopted a \$7.75 million operating budget for 1989-90 and learned experimental delivery of its radio programs via satellite would begin in September.

The \$7.75 million operating budget for the Radio/TV Commission and ACTS would enable the agency "to pay the remainder of our short term operating loan and service the long term debt of the commission as well as continue at about the present level of operation," according to interim president Richard McCartney.

'Annie' Meets HMB Budget

ATLANTA (BP)—Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering have exceeded the 1989 budget for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and continue to outpace inflation.

During the September meeting of the agency's executive committee, HMB Executive Vice President Bob Banks reported that \$31,449,145 had been received through Sept. 8, which surpassed the projected budget of \$31 million.

The gifts represent an increase of \$2,151,352, or 7.34 percent more than received for the same eight-month period in 1988. Banks also said the total is 80.63 percent of the national goal of \$39 million and is 95.7 percent of the \$32.8 million the agency expects to receive this year.

Catherine Allen Leaves WMU

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Catherine B. Allen, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, will become executive director of the Samford University Sesquicentennial Commission Oct. 15.

In her new post Allen, who has been on the staff of WMU-SBC more than 25 years, will coordinate activities leading up to and through Samford's year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary during the 1991-92 academic year.

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DONNA SKELL

Abortion Statement Adopted

by Greg Warner
Florida Baptist Witness

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—"Your voice needs to be heard," Florida Gov. Bob Martinez told more than 2,200 cheering Florida Baptists, who promptly adopted a statement opposing abortion Sept. 8 and geared up for the approaching legislative battle that will determine the direction of Florida's abortion laws.

Martinez and several other abortion opponents spoke to a historic called session of the Florida Baptist State Convention Sept. 8-9 at Downtown Baptist Church in Orlando, which attracted the attention of both local and national media.

The convention's 1,708 messengers adopted the consensus statement on abortion, which included plans for a strategy of ministry to women with problem pregnancies and which called for "legislation that will achieve the dramatic saving and nurturing of human life."

The statement is targeted at state legislators, who will gather in Tallahassee Oct. 10-13 at Martinez's request to consider

more restrictive abortion laws. After adopting the statement Friday night, 1,092 messengers and visitors spent Saturday morning in workshops learning how to influence those legislators.

The special session—only the third in Florida Baptist history and the first dealing with a moral issue—took on more of the character of a pro-life rally than a Baptist convention. Participants cheered speeches denouncing abortion and moaned when a handful of messengers voiced opposition.

The three-hour opening session, which opened with the national anthem, was punctuated by frequent calls to political activism.

"We must not let Satan silence us because we might be misunderstood," said convention President Bill Billingsley of Hollywood, whose call for the special convention was criticized as thrusting Florida Baptists into dangerous political waters. Billingsley said such "political ramifications" must not prevent Florida Baptists from saying "what is in our heart."

Martinez told Florida Baptists that, because of his concern for unborn babies, "I felt it was time for Florida to look at its laws dealing with abortion."

Martinez said his proposed legislation represents "what we believe can be done" to tighten the state's abortion laws. The proposal, which will be debated by state lawmakers in October, would prohibit the use of state funds to perform or promote abortions and would restrict abortions of babies old enough to survive outside the womb.

"When that unborn baby has the ability to live outside its mother, that baby is one of us and its life should not be aborted," the governor said, again to applause.

"We hear a lot of background noise from those who say this is an issue of rights," said Martinez, a Roman Catholic. "But an unborn baby has rights, and those rights need to be protected."

In addition to opposing abortion, the recommendation creates a 15-member committee that will plan a strategy for Florida Baptists to implement more homes for unwed mothers, adoption services, foster-care services, crisis-pregnancy centers and education in Christian sexuality.

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Plagiarism Lowers Image

by Pat Cole

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Plagiarism from the pulpit lowers an already tarnished public perception of ministerial ethics, said a Southern Baptist preaching professor.

"There is such low credibility among ministers in the secular world" that the discovery of plagiarism "just confirms suspicions," said Raymond H. Bailey, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Nevertheless, plagiarism is a common problem among preachers, he said. The issue received widespread attention recently when several Southern Baptist pastors were accused in newspaper articles of portraying material they borrowed from other people as their own.

Citing an article on "Ethics in

Preaching" he has written for the fall issue of Southern Seminary's theological journal, "Review and Expositor," Bailey noted the meaning of words and phrases in today's language offers some insight into the public perception of ministers. "Ministerially speaking," he said, is synonymous with gross exaggeration and "preachy" and "preaching" are often deemed pejorative.

Churches often fail to hold ministers accountable for inappropriately borrowing material, he said, noting, "in the church we often dismiss it as amusing," he said.

Yet James W. Cox, the Victor and Louise Lester professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary, said that for some congregations plagiarism is not a laughing matter. Cox said he knows of one non-Southern Baptist minister who was dismissed from his congregation for plagiarism.

All preachers have information gathered from teachers and readings over the years that "comes out synthesized through us," Bailey said. Such material usually cannot be credited, he added.

Yet he stressed: "If you quote someone directly without giving credit, it is theft. If you take an original idea or an original insight that is not part of the common thought, it needs to be credited."

Plagiarism often is caused by "laziness, poor discipline or poor planning" on the part of the preacher, Bailey said. Congregations sometimes contribute to the problem by not allowing pastors the study time necessary to prepare two or three sermons weekly, he added.

CP Two Percent Ahead of Last Year

NASHVILLE (BP)—Eleven months into its fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget has received \$125,855,794, reported Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Cooperative Program's year-to-date total represents a \$2,478,005—or 2.01 percent—increase over the total for the first 11 months of 1987-88, Bennett said. That compares to a U.S. inflation rate of 5.0 percent.

"Regretfully, the national Cooperative Program received only \$10,632,761 in August," he noted. "That amount was \$829,472—or 7.24 percent—less than receipts for August 1988."

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

God's Kingdom

by D.C. McAtee, First Church,
Forrest City

Basic passage: Daniel 2:31-36,39-44

Focal passage: Daniel 2:44

Central truth: God's kingdom shall stand forever.

The Babylonian captivity was in three phases. The first was about 606 B.C. when Daniel and three friends were among a choice group of promising young Jews who were taken to King Nebuchadnezzar's palace, where they were taught the language and "learning" of the Chaldeans. God gave Daniel and his friends wisdom and Daniel the ability to interpret dreams.

In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he was troubled by a dream and called in his wise men of Babylon to recall and interpret the dream. None could, so he ordered their execution. Daniel and his friends were now counted among the wise, and he was able to get the slaughter postponed until he and his friends could pray to God to make this mystery known to them. Daniel praised God for revealing this to him in a vision and for sparing all their lives. Daniel was brought to the king and declared only the "God in heaven" can reveal mysteries, and God had revealed "what will happen in the latter days."

Daniel described the image the king had seen with the head of fine gold (symbolizing Nebuchadnezzar); its breast and arms of silver (symbolizing Media); its belly and thighs of brass (symbolizing the Persians led by Cyrus the Great); its legs of iron; its feet partly of iron and clay (symbolizing Alexander the Great).

Daniel then described a great stone which smote the image on its feet, and all the metals were pulverized. The stone became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

After telling the king his dream, Daniel and his friends gave the interpretation indicated above. They told Nebuchadnezzar that he was a "king of kings" (v. 37). Daniel then told the king that he was the head of gold in the image and that eventually all four kingdoms (vv. 29-40) would be replaced by the Kingdom of God, which would stand forever.

King Nebuchadnezzar then did homage to Daniel and honored him and his friends with places of authority.

If we, like Daniel, trust in God, we can enjoy his kingdom forever.

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Life and Work

Missions Now!

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Genesis 3:6-9,24; Psalms 14:1-3; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:14-15

Focal passage: Genesis 3:6-9,24; Psalms 14:1-3; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:14-15

Central truth: God wants believers immediately involved in missions because of the consequences of sin.

Missions! What comes to your mind when you hear this word? A missionary speaker? The Cooperative Program? The pastor's work? What is missions? Missions is the activity of believers proclaiming the gospel of Christ to the world.

The Bible teaches that missions is each believer's responsibility. It is God's plan for the redemption of the world. Therefore, it should be our plan.

Tragedy struck God's creation! Adam and Eve rebelled against God and suffered the consequences of their sins (Ge. 3:6-9,24). Shame from sin destroyed the perfect relationship they had with each other and with God. They died spiritually that day. Because of their sin, spiritual and physical death spread to all men (Ro. 5:12).

God acted with urgency because of the consequences of sin. He confronted man with his sin, but promised hope in spite of it. "... he placed cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life" (Ge. 3:24).

There is no God! We recoil at this statement. Yet, it is what the fool said (Ps. 14:1). The Bible reveals that all men have rejected God in their heart. "They have all turned aside. They have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one" (Ps. 14:3).

Missions is urgent because no one like Jesus or no one different from Jesus can save (Ac. 4:12). We must be convinced of this truth and proclaim it! Can anything be more urgent than a lost soul?

How can man call on Jesus to save them if they have not heard about him? How can they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they are sent? These questions from Romans 10:14-15 must be addressed. How? We must make missions our top priority. We must believe missions is important! We must be willing to say as Isaiah said, "Here I am; send me" (Is. 6:8).

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Bible Book

Examples to Believers

by W.L. Bruce Jr., Forty-Seventh Street Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7; 2:3-9,13

Focal passage: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7
Central truth: Believers need to model following Christ.

If you had lived during the first century A.D. and wanted to make a trip from Phillip to Thessalonica, you would have travelled the Egnatian Way, an extension of the Appian Way. This is the road Paul and his missionary team travelled. Located on the Egnatian Way, Thessalonica was the most heavily populated city of Macedonia.

Acts 17:1-9 gives us Luke's account of Paul's ministry in Thessalonica. There, Paul proclaimed in the synagogue of the Jews that Christ suffered and rose from the dead.

The response to Paul's message concerning Christ was mixed. Some Jews, a great multitude of devout Greeks, and a number of leading women of the city believed and consorted with Paul and Silas (Ac. 17:4). This means that they travelled about with them in Thessalonica. They were not ashamed to be identified with Paul. There also was a negative response in Thessalonica. The Jews who did not believe were quick to oppose the believers and Paul had to leave town.

If we had only Luke's account of Paul's ministry in Thessalonica, we would not have Paul's perspective of the church there. But we also have a record of the response as Paul saw it in 1 Thessalonians. Notice four things he wrote about the believers in Thessalonica:

First, they became followers of the missionary team, and of the Lord (1 Th. 1:6). Sometimes, we say that people should follow the Lord and not men. However, we cannot get around the fact that men look at men and then look at the Lord.

Second, they received the Word in much affliction, that is, they suffered because they believed in Christ (1 Th. 1:6; 2:14; 3:1-5).

Third, the joy of the Holy Spirit is mentioned in connection with their affliction (1 Th. 1:6). They were glad to suffer for Christ. Are we?

Fourth, they were examples to all the other Christians in Macedonia and Achaia (1 Th. 1:7). If we are to be examples, we must do what they did and sound out the Word in every place (1 Th. 1:8).

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Convention Uniform

God Gives Freedom

by D.C. McAtee, First Church,
Forrest City

Basic passage: Daniel 7:13,21-27

Focal passage: Daniel 7:27

Central truth: Victory is coming for those who love the Lord.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, was a good administrator. As he added different countries to his empire, he brought some of the choice from each country to Babylon to be trained as advisors. Daniel, from Judah, distinguished himself by explaining the king's dream in last Sunday's lesson. He was made chief of the wise men and general governor of the province.

The first part of Daniel 7 describes the dream Daniel had. Out of the sea came four beasts: a lion (representing Babylon), a bear (representing Media and Persia), a leopard (representing Greece), and a terribly destructive beast not named (v. 7). This furious beast symbolized Antiochus Epiphanes, who sought to destroy all Jews loyal to their faith; its 10 horns represented 10 political leaders that succeeded Alexander the Great. However, another little horn displaced three of them (v. 8). When God sat in judgment, the fourth beast was destroyed and the dominion of the other beasts taken away (vv. 11-12).

Verse 13 tells of the "Son of Man" vision which is the first reference to this term Jesus often used of himself (Mt. 24:30). "One of them that stood by" in the dream explained the meaning of the vision to Daniel. The great beasts represented the four kings, who would each rule in their turn but would finally lose their power, and the "saints of the most high" would possess the kingdom forever (v. 18).

Attempts to identify the 10 horns and three kings (v. 24) have been seemingly fruitless. Speculations as to what the 11th horn is (v. 21) are the Roman empire, the Moslem power, the Catholic Church, the protestant power, the Communist power, or possibly some power that has not yet appeared. Whatever the power, he will speak against "the most High" and oppress his saints (v. 25). In verse 26, the little horn as the Anti-Christ will have his dominion destroyed forever at the end of this age. Ultimate victory comes as the "saints of the most High" shall reign in God's everlasting kingdom (vv. 26-27).

When things are at their worst, God will intervene, and his saints will triumph.

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Life and Work

Extent of Missions

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy
Basic passage: Psalms 96:1-3,10; Luke 24:44-48

Focal passage: Psalms 96:1-2,10; Luke 24:45-48

Central truth: God wants believers to be involved in missions in all parts of the world.

God wants believers involved in proclaiming his plan of redemption to all men. This task seems impossible, but Jesus commanded it. Therefore, it can be done. How can we take the gospel to all nations? This lesson suggests some steps necessary to accomplish this divine task.

Global missions begins with a heart of praise (Ps. 96:1). We should praise God for saving us. We should have a deep desire for others to know him. How can we praise God for saving us and not be genuinely concerned about the salvation of all men?

We need a new song in our heart! A new melody we have never sung before! A new theme for our life that has its roots in the Bible. "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn. 3:30). It will take this cooperative and unselfish spirit of more believers if we extend missions to the lost.

The scope and success of our mission work depends on believers who have the right kind of spirit. That spirit is described in 1 Peter 2:21, "For to this we were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps." Do you have this kind of spirit? Believers who do share the good news of God's salvation to all men (Ps. 96:10).

Believers have the message of salvation for the world. Salvation is rooted in the Old Testament and was revealed by God through the death, burial, and resurrection of his son, Jesus.

Jesus wants us involved in global missions. He opened the minds of his disciples so they could understand God's plan of redemption. Knowing the content of the Bible was not enough for the disciples. It is not enough for us either. Jesus must enlighten our mind to the heart of the gospel (Lk. 24:46; cf. 1 Ch. 15:3-4).

Jesus stated that the scope of our missions is all nations and that we are to begin at home (Jerusalem) (Lk. 24:47). "You are witnesses of these things" (Lk. 24:48). God wants us involved in global missions. What do we need to do to follow this divine plan for winning the lost of the world?

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Bible Book

Stand Fast in the Lord

by W.L. Bruce Jr., Forty-Seventh Street Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18; 3:1-13

Focal passage: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Central truth: Christians are to be true to the Lord in spite of everything.

Paul and Silas had to leave Thessalonica after a brief ministry. The Jews who opposed them stirred up a riot because many were becoming Christians. Believers who lived in that city were endangered by the presence of the missionaries. Their departure was the only solution (Ac. 17:5-9). But the missionary team remained concerned for the new converts. When Paul could not bear it any longer, he expressed his concern by sending Timothy back to Thessalonica to strengthen and encourage them in the faith. Timothy's report of their faithfulness under suffering, along with some doctrinal problems, resulted in Paul's writing of 1 Thessalonians.

The imperative of 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 is stated in verse 8, "Stand fast in the Lord." This can also be translated, "You are standing fast in the Lord." It can be seen as either a statement of fact or as a command.

Paul encourages the congregation in Thessalonica to stand fast in the Lord in suffering. The opposition to the gospel by unbelieving Jews who were filled with envy at the missionaries' success was turned against the converts when the missionary party left town. To encourage them in suffering, Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians 3:3-10. Paul reminds them that he had told them in advance that they would suffer (v. 4). He also wrote that he was concerned lest they should surrender to the devil's pressure, and his labor there should be in vain (v. 5).

Paul's expression of love and concern for the Thessalonians was no doubt a great encouragement to the congregation. He praised them for their faith and love and assured them that he wanted to see them (v. 6). He reminded them of the difficulties the missionary party had experienced, but added that faith had encouraged them (v. 7).

Paul and his party were "praying night and day" for the believers in Thessalonians (vv. 9,10). They were continually thinking of the persecuted believers, and they were continually speaking to God on their behalf. Christians can encourage other believers to be true to the Lord by praying for them.

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STAFF REDUCTIONS

FMB Shifts Announced

by Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will shift some key home office staff and functions "to focus more sharply on crucial needs in world missions," President R. Keith Parks announced Sept. 13.

Parks described the moves as a "fine-tuning process which will achieve more effective use of funds and people in high-priority areas." He said the process, based on an internal study by board staff, would free him and other key administrators to spend more time on creative thinking, strategic planning and leadership.

He projected the "fine-tuning" likely will result in reduction of 21 staff positions—about 5 percent of the board's home office staff—by the end of 1990. "We will utilize vacancies, attrition and transfers within staff to achieve most of the reductions," he said.

"Strategic planning for top priorities

motivated the proposed changes, not budget concerns," Parks said. "When everything is in place we hope to do an even better job of using Southern Baptist resources effectively in the task of reaching the world for Christ."

Parks said he will propose that the office of the executive vice president assume direction of day-to-day operations of the board, which has an annual budget of about \$168 million, oversees some 3,800 missionaries in 116 countries and employs about 450 home office personnel. Top administrators would report to the executive vice president but have access to Parks.

Parks will recommend a candidate for election by the board trustees as the new executive vice president.

The board's current executive vice president, William R. O'Brien, asked to be relieved of the post when his wife, Dellanna, was named executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. The O'Briens have moved to Birp

mingham, where she assumed her new job Sept. 1.

Parks asked O'Brien, who steps down as executive vice president Dec. 31, to become a top special assistant to the president Jan. 1, 1990. He will continue to participate in the board's global strategy group.

The board's internal shifts grew out of a study conducted by a staff committee which Parks charged with the responsibility of finding more effective use of board resources. It followed a similar study Parks asked overseas missionaries to do in relation to their work.

Appointments Down

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Appointments of new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are in a four-year downward spiral, raising questions about whether the denomination can reach its goal of having 5,000 missionaries overseas by the year 2000.

Missionary appointments topped 400 for the first time in 1982, with 406, and reached an all-time high of 429 in 1985. But they leveled off at 411 in 1986 and 407 in 1987, and dropped to 358 last year.

To stay on track for the goal, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board needs to appoint 376 missionaries in 1989. But only 300 new missionaries are expected to get overseas jobs this year, said Lloyd Atkinson, director of the board's personnel selection department.

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MOZAMBIQUE

Tried and True

by Craig Bird

SBC Foreign Mission Board

MAPUTO, Mozambique (BP)—A sturdy old workhorse has been hitched up for new duty in Mozambique.

Bible Way, the correspondence program that originated in neighboring Zambia and has since spread around the world as a printed evangelism tool, is the key ingredient in a Mozambique Baptist plan to start churches throughout the country.

"We think this is a radical new use, a refocusing of Bible Way," Southern Baptist missionary Jim Brock explains. "In other places, it has been applied shotgun style with opportunities for anyone in the country's general population to enroll."

That approach has produced hundreds of thousands of new Christians and trained thousands of others. But Baptist leaders in Mozambique recognized Bible Way's potential in another dimension—identifying core groups to establish churches.

"Basically we have re-honed the target for Bible Way here," Brock points out. "After the convention identifies an area where it thinks new work should be established, a convention worker goes there for two weeks and distributes 100 Bible Way applications for people to mail back in.

"Then we have a year to make contact with people who respond and compile the names and addresses. When the convention church planter arrives, he has a list and can knock on those doors and say, 'Hi, I'm from the Mozambique Baptist Convention. You probably got our free book. Can I come in and visit for a few minutes?'"

The worker gets commitments from several people to hold a Bible study for their neighbors, based on a program developed by Southern Baptist missionary Carroll Shaw in South Africa.

"After 17 weeks of home Bible study, you've got a mission, and the church planter has a natural base to grow a mother church in that town to reach out into surrounding areas, again using home Bible studies as the seeds," Brock explains.

The original concept behind Bible Way was "not just another correspondence Bible study, but a program that would produce believers who would produce churches," according to missionary Tom Small, who was asked by fellow missionaries in Zambia to write the book "Who is Jesus?" for the study.

From its launch, Bible Way has proven effective in leading new Christians to unite with a church or even form one if no church

exists in their area. Mozambican Baptists say they simply amplified a strength already inherent in Bible Way and applied it more specifically.

But getting maximum use out of literature is a way of life in the southeast African country. "Christian literature has been very scarce for many, many years. Baptist churches have been reusing literature that was left behind by Portuguese Baptists when they left the country in the mid-1970's following independence," Brock says.

Literature belongs to the convention and is checked out to the churches, which return it before receiving the next batch.

"We came in planning to concentrate on theological education by extension to help train leadership, but when the convention realized we could help with literature, they asked us to concentrate on that first, so we have," Brock admits.

When the missionary gave Baptist convention President Bento Matusse the first copy of the first book in the Christian training course, Matusse "held it like it was gold; it was so precious to him," Brock says. "Most Americans would have complained because it was mimeographed instead of printed offset. But these people are so hungry for Christian training and have done with so little for so long, it touches them deeply."

Brock encourages the Mozambican trait of reusing material. "They don't have a tradition of throwing things away and I think it would be foolish to introduce it."

Literature usually is produced first in Portuguese, the national language. But as soon as possible, workers prepare translations into major ethnic dialects since many Mozambicans, especially in rural areas, do not speak Portuguese. The Home Bible Reading Program, for example, now is available in Portuguese, Macua, Chuabo, Shona and Changaná.

That's significant for two reasons. It gets material into the "heart language" of the people, and it prepares for the evangelistic explosion Brock is convinced will take place when Mozambique's civil war finally ends.

"Right now refugees are pouring into the cities," he explains. "We are putting this material into their hands and training them how to use it in the missions the Baptist churches are starting. When the war ends and they go back home, they'll take the material with them and start home Bible studies. And there will be the core groups to form churches."