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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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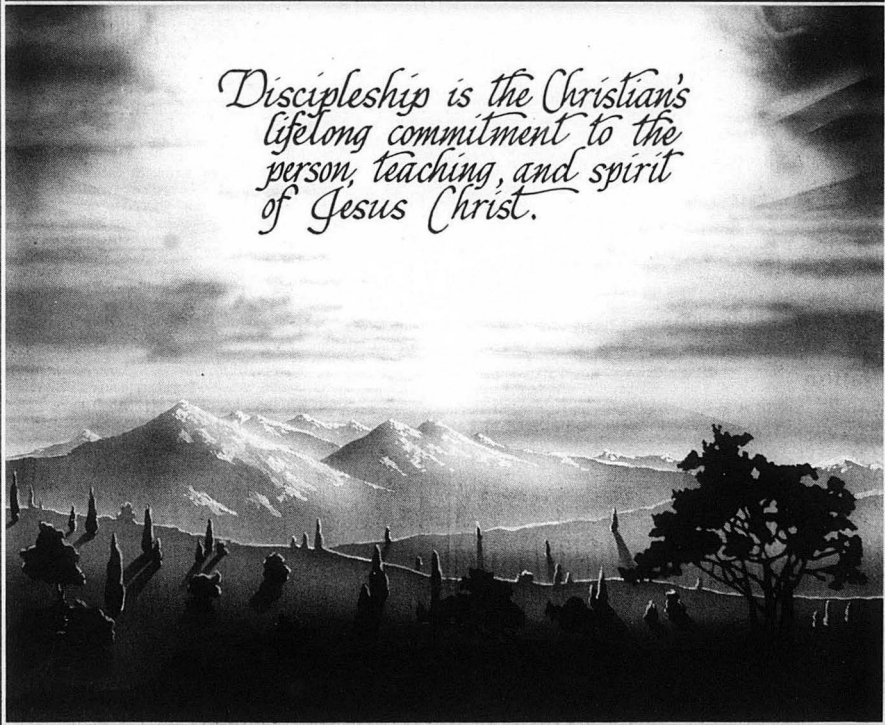
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Arkansans Respond

Arkansas Baptist

October 12, 1989

*Discipleship is the Christian's
lifelong commitment to the
person, teaching, and spirit
of Jesus Christ.*



In This Issue

Cover Story



The Most Obvious Need 13

Commitment to Christ will be the focus of the upcoming State Conference on Discipleship, scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at North Little Rock's Park Hill Church.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

At Crossroads, Needing Hope

BUFFALO, N.Y. (BP)—With help from volunteer mission teams, a small church in the inner city of Buffalo, N.Y., multiplied its witness 800-fold this summer.

As a result, 75 people made professions of faith in Christ, and another 700 indicated interest in knowing more about the gospel. That means the 30 member mission, Buffalo Bible Fellowship, recorded two professions of faith for every one member.

The one-year-old mission averages 45 in attendance but has had as many as 17 visitors at one time since the project began.

The door-to-door blitz was the idea of Pastor Ed Stetzer, a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer. Stetzer coordinated 10 volunteer mission teams from five states who knocked on 36,000 doors during an eight-week period. The 200 volunteers distributed "Here's Hope Buffalo" packets and shared a personal witness when possible.

Stetzer said, he wanted to participate in the simultaneous "Here's Hope" revivals

coordinated by the Home Mission Board next spring. However, because of the nature and size of his congregation, a revival meeting was not practical.

"The theme was so good, and the materials were so good, we felt we really needed to use them. But it was about a year too early for a revival for us," he explained. "So we adapted the materials to our own needs."

"Here's Hope" was the perfect theme for Buffalo, Stetzer said, because the city has gone through a major transformation in the past decade. Blackened smokestacks at the deserted Bethlehem Steel yard stand silent, a symbol of the city's industrial past being replaced by a high-tech future.

"Buffalo is really at a crossroads," he explained. "There are many people in transition. They need hope."

With help from the Home Mission Board, New York Baptist Convention and several sponsoring churches, Buffalo Bible Fellowship printed "Here's Hope" tracts, posters and brochures. The packets contained printed materials about the church and reply cards from which church members will make follow-up visits.

GOOD NEWS!

Citizenship in Another World

1 Peter 2:11-12

For over two decades television viewers have been watching a soap opera called "Another World." More than likely the theme for the drama came from the idea of actors and actresses living in another world. Whatever the reason for its title, the viewers are drawn from their world into the suspense of another world.

Peter wrote to believers who lived in an ungodly world. He gave some guidance for Christians as they lived in an unfriendly society.

Christians have citizenship in another world—Peter addressed believers as "aliens" and "exiles" (2:11, RSV). The word "aliens" described those who had no legal rights in a country. The word "exiles" emphasized the idea of a temporary resident. So, the Christian has a greater attachment to another world.

The attachment to the kingdom of heaven does not mean complete detachment from the world. It does not mean monasticism. It means a supreme obedience to the kingdom of heaven.

Christians have a warfare with an evil

world—While living in the world, the Christians fight constantly with "the passions of the flesh" (RSV). The term "flesh" in the New Testament means human nature apart from God. It means life without the guidance of God.

Jesus won the warfare over the world, the flesh, and the devil during his life and ministry. A believer does not need to lose daily battles with the flesh. There are abundant resources for deliverance through Jesus Christ.

Christians have an influence on a watching world—Peter encouraged believers to live Christlike lives so "they (the world) may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (2:12, RSV). Every Christian is an advertisement for God to the world. Perhaps the strongest evangelistic force in the world is a committed Christian living daily the Christlike life.

All types of accusations were made against believers in Asia Minor. The best reputation was the daily living of God's way of life.

The Christian's true citizenship is in another world.

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Crusade Blessings

J. EVERETT SNEED



The Billy Graham Crusade and the meetings that have surrounded it hold the potential of being one of the most positive events which have taken place in Arkansas in many years. Billy Graham and his staff are to be commended for providing an evangelistic effort of the highest quality. Many of the churches of Arkansas, particularly Southern Baptists, worked ardently to reach the lost and to bring about revival of those who are Christians. The preservation of the results, however, now depends in large measure on the follow-up that is done by our churches.

Arkansas owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to businessman Jimmy Karam for his persistence in encouraging Billy Graham to come to Arkansas. Approximately two years ago, Mr. Karam contacted most of the religious leaders in Arkansas to encourage them to invite Billy Graham. He obtained more than 35,000 letters. The Graham organization said that this was the largest number of letters ever to be received inviting Mr. Graham to an area.

This editor can testify firsthand to the integrity of the Billy Graham organization. We were present on June 2 when Sterling W. Houston, director of Billy Graham Crusades for North America, held a breakfast in which he indicated that Mr. Graham would come to Little Rock. We also had the privilege of working with the nominating committee to obtain the leadership personnel for the crusade and have served as secretary for both the executive and administrative committees. From this vantage point, it appears completely certain that those who are in leadership in the Billy Graham organization are committed to the work of Christ. Billy Graham himself receives a relatively low salary.

The statistics themselves tell much of the story. There were 6,677 registered decisions during the crusade. Approximately one-half of the decisions were individuals who were trusting Christ as Savior. The salvation of 3,500 individuals will have a dramatic impact on the well being of our state. This also should strengthen many of our churches.

The crusade was well attended. The most optimistic pre-crusade estimates were an average of 30,000 in attendance. There actually were more than 35,000 in average attendance. Southern Baptists should receive significant, positive impact from

the crusade, since more than one-half of those who were in attendance were Southern Baptist by preference.

Arkansans also are to be commended for providing financial support for the crusade. The total gifts were \$1,264,242 as of Sept. 24. This went well beyond the budget which had been revised down by the crusade personnel.

The crusade also was marked by significant benevolent activity. More than 12.5 tons of food was given and more than \$35,000 was given for relief aid from the disaster which was wrought by Hurricane Hugo. The Crusade Executive Committee is determining the distribution of all funds and food which were given during the crusade. The crusade's benevolent activities were in keeping with biblical principles. Jesus described the kingdom kind of in-

dividual as one who would help the abused, neglected, and needy.

Dan Southern, crusade director, and his staff, did a magnificent job in preparing for the crusade. Perhaps the two greatest secrets to the success of the crusade was the soul-winning training and the prayer support. We are persuaded that, without these two ingredients, the positive results we have reaped could not have taken place. Dan Southern and his staff provided quality Christian leadership for the crusade.

We commend Billy Graham for magnifying local churches. Without exception, every evening those making decisions were encouraged to unite with a local church. The Bible states clearly that New Testament churches are to be the primary method by which the lost are won and are nurtured.

The question has often been asked: "What accounts for Billy Graham's success?" There are many things which have assisted Billy Graham in becoming the evangelist who has spoken to more people and had more decisions made under his preaching than any other in the history of the world. We believe, however, that prayer, soul winning, training, organization, and reliance on the Holy Spirit are the primary factors which have brought success to the Billy Graham organization.

How much benefit will the crusade provide for our churches? Dan Southern and his team are working to assist with follow-up. In the end, the benefit reaped from the Billy Graham Crusade depends on the effort that was put into preparing for the crusade and the amount of follow-up each church provides. It is essential that everyone who made a decision during the Billy Graham Crusade be contacted by a local church. As we work, God will bless.

Arkansas Baptist

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Letters to the Editor

Take the Risk

It has been stated, confession is good for the soul. I pray mine will be good for our ABCS. I know I'll be labeled for what I'm writing, but men much better and more conservative have endured much worse.

I'm an inerrantist and have worked hard for the conservative view. I booked blocks of rooms and devoted time and money to the work. I have gone to conventions and voted with others who felt we were standing for God's Word. Yet now, I know I have been used. Sadly, in Arkansas, the inerrancy movement is an illusion being used by a few to gain their own political objectives which focus not on the Bible, but gain and power.

For two years I have been involved in an organization which had been organized to support what I thought was a godly agenda. I was wrong. I was one of eight district leaders in the state. The current group was organized mostly by a DOM in northwest Arkansas who is supported by national figures. This DOM schedules meetings, sets agendas, and coordinates activity. Before meetings there is a planning session in which proposals and candidates are picked. Then individuals are assigned to bring the proposals/candidates up during the meeting. This planning is orchestrated by the DOM and the pastor of a large northwest Arkansas church who is running for president of ABCS. I participated in several of these sessions and taped one in order to validate what I'm stating.

There are godly men and women in this network who don't participate in such practices and are being manipulated by a few seeking political power and pursuing personal vendetta. Time and again derogatory remarks are made about other conservatives because they didn't blindly go along with the political agenda.

How is the Bible defended by using appointments for political power, attacking fellow conservatives, or bragging about the power to "black ball" those who don't bow the knee! Where is the inerrancy in this?

I resigned from this network without malice toward these men. I just pray these actions are stopped.—**David Montoya, Gravette**

In Our Schools

I am writing to express concern, if not alarm, at what may be happening to our Southern Baptist schools—and to us as a

result. Without question, Southern Baptists are right in holding their schools accountable, and these institutions ought to welcome and honor this accountability with unpatronizing grace. But accountable for what? Precisely what do we as Southern Baptist constituents want from these schools? An independent voice in honest pursuit of truth? Or an automatic rubber stamp for cherished, long-standing positions?

In the present denominational climate we seem to be saying to our schools, "All right now, do your thing. Search the Scriptures. Search out the truth. Only make sure you don't come up with anything the majority of Southern Baptists don't already believe, or we will cut you off!"

To say this is to make tradition and public opinion, rather than truth, the master. To say this is to smother debate and stifle free inquiry, without which there can be no honest search for truth and no meaningful self-criticism and correction. To say this is to lock ourselves in with whatever truth we now have, regardless of how defective or fragmentary it may be. It is also to lock ourselves in with whatever errors or falsities we already have, with no hope of correction. It is to repeat the error of the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' day, who chose to close their hearts and minds to Jesus, and in so doing shut themselves up in darkness.

The honest search for truth is always at risk: at risk of discovering we have in fact

BOB PARKER

Today's Issues

Reflections on Hell

Hell a current issue? You'd better believe it! Dr. R.G. Lee, a long-time pastor of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, quoted in his message entitled "Is Hell A Myth?" a statement by Dr. A.C. Dixon who said: "If we had more preaching of hell in the pulpit, we might have less hell in the community."

Someone seriously told me recently that one reason eternal hell is not being preached or taught is that it would scare people from attending church. My own belief is that many are already not attending because of the lack of such preaching.

Personally, I like expository preaching. It is my favorite kind but I don't believe that topical or doctrinal messages should be totally ignored. Pastors, evangelists and chaplains should let it be clearly known what they believe God's Word states about hell.

Again, I believe we would have less conflict in our homes and churches if hell were preached more. Serious prayerful thought should be given to the sowing-reaping principle and what the Bible clearly states about hell. Jesus clearly taught for instance that even "religious" people go to hell. The account of the rich man and Lazarus is an example. In hell the rich man called out

to Father Abraham, the progenitor of his "faith".

The clearest proof of eternal hell's existence is the willingness of our Lord to die on the cross and for such witnesses as Paul to suffer greatly that the gospel of Christ be spread.

What can be done about this largely ignored truth about hell? In the power and love of the Holy Spirit, let us preach, witness and teach about the reality of the place in eternity whose worst punishment is total absence of God and any good whatsoever. Also, we absolutely must live lives in our homes and churches that reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Ga. 5:22-23).

"Hell bound" individuals, unless they repent and turn in personal faith to Christ Jesus, reflect the works of the flesh as noted in the three preceding verses. Note all of them: "... Immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envyings, drunkenness, carousings, and things like these..." (Ga. 5:19-21).

Robert A. Parker is director of the Christian Life Council.



been mistaken; at risk of mistaking error for truth; at risk of having to change the way we think or act. But it is worth the risk, for as long as the risk is taken, there is always the hope of correction and return. To deny this privilege, this responsibility, to our schools is also to deny the possibility for new and fuller truth and the hope of correction and return.

I vote to take the risk. I don't like the other option.—Daniel Harrison, Pocahontas

Ninety?

I see us not as a convention divided 55/45 but as one in which 90 percent of us share common concerns. We are being asked to choose sides on two issues which should not be issues—the Bible vs. the priesthood of the believer. If you accept that the Bible is in danger, then you will most likely support the group that currently controls the convention. If you accept the premise that God will take care of his Word and the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer must be protected, then you will most likely support the opposing group.

I don't like the labels, but like them or not, we have to live with them. To me, a

"fundamentalist" is one who insists on interpreting the Bible for me. I have difficulty accepting that idea. It violates my understanding of the priesthood of the believer. A "liberal" is one who rejects portions of the Scripture. I cannot accept that idea because it lays us open to discrediting all the Bible or allowing the writings of the cults to have equal value with our Bible. This is totally unacceptable.

I believe there is a biblical parallel for our present situation. The liberals are represented by the Sadducees, who neither believed in angels nor the resurrection. The fundamentalists are represented by the Pharisees, who insisted on their interpretation of the Scripture. The rest of us publicans and sinners are choosing one side or the other according to our understanding. Paul said, "If you bite and devour one another beware lest you be consumed by one another" (Ga. 5:15). Such things ought not to be.

Can the majority of us not leave the quibbling to those who enjoy it, and get on with the work God has given us?—Sidney G. Carswell, Little Rock

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

Last night the Billy Graham Crusade concluded. The stories of miraculous conversions taking place abound. Atheists, Buddhists, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, these conversions are a part of the story. The full story cannot be known or told. About all we can say is that we have seen once again that "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation." What honor and praise is due our Lord Almighty! His mercy endureth forever!

The Graham Team modeled for all of us the beauty of humility and simplicity. What a refreshing touch came to our lives by this. Unpretentious, kind, approachable, modest, and joyful they were. No flashy clothes, jewelry, shoes or outward extremes were used to call attention to them. They were genuine and God was faithful. "It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord" (Ze.4:6).

The human element was significant. God had to ultimately do the convicting and calling. That's why he is to be praised! However, it would have never happened without the vast army of people involved in the organization and work. This is a beautiful example of faith and works. After seeing the organizational work of the Graham Team and the results, a person would be willfully biased or blind to decry or play down the place of organization and hard work in bringing in the kingdom. Both must have the blessing of God on them.

The local church factor. There would have been few pray-ers, counselors, singers, ushers or attendees had it not been for the local churches. The visiting, witnessing and follow-up rests upon the local church. I am praying for heroic measures to be taken in follow-up.

Our Baptist presence was strong! I was singing in the choir each night and in a position to see our people at work. What a thrill! I am thankful for all you were able to do. You paid a price in prayer, training and personal effort. God blessed! Let's keep it up. We can do great things when we work together around the main thing!

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



Woman's Viewpoint

Choosing Memory-Makers

MARGO TIMMONS

I am looking out of my window on a world of heat and end-of-summer landscape. Geraniums and crepe myrtle are still in vibrant color, but the pinks and lavenders of flowers from earlier, cooler days have faded under the merciless heat of the summer sun.

This is a time for looking back on long, lazy hours spent on a quiet peaceful lake, or canning pickles from an abundant garden harvest. Work or play, viewed from a distance seems without flaw and a desire to return tugs at one.

Yet, this is also a time for anticipating autumn and its joys; a nip in the air, a fire



with its pungent aroma, the trees putting on their fall style show of reds, golds, and tans.

Autumn brings the feeling of a new year with the need for determining just what our priorities are: what really deserves our time.

So many good things clamor for our attention. It is often easier to respond to those that call the loudest. Taking time to smell the

roses is often difficult when the laundry hamper is running over. Yet, I have few fond memories of clean clothes, but that time I spent rocking and singing (I called it that) to a small boy 28 or so years ago I'll never forget.

What will I allow to occupy my time in the months ahead? I'll continue to respond to the need for clean clothes, but perhaps a return to those early morning times, spent alone with God, will help me choose the better memory-makers.

Margo Timmons, and her husband Joe, are active members of First Church, Little Rock. She is a beauty consultant and the mother of two adult sons.



(BP) photo / John Swain

Baptists volunteers from 11 states provided disaster relief during Hurricane Hugo.

Arkansans Respond

by Tim Yarbrough and Tim Bearden
SBC Brotherhood Commission

CHARLESTON, S.C.—An Arkansas disaster relief unit was busy preparing and serving meals to victims shortly after Hurricane Hugo's devastation of South Carolina Sept. 22.

Many South Carolina residents received their first food in days thanks to the efforts of Baptist Men mobile disaster relief volunteers from 11 states.

Baptist Men volunteers served 150,000 meals in the first week following the hurricane. Thirteen units are serving 35,000 hot meals a day and will reach capacity as they near 40,000 meals, according to George Bullard, director of the missions division for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptist disaster relief units are working with organizations such as the Red Cross and Civil Defense to coordinate feeding efforts.

Cliff Satterwhite, associate Brotherhood director of South Carolina, said an Arkansas farmer was sending a pickup truck load of rice to South Carolina for distribution to Hugo victims.

The Hugo disaster relief effort is the largest in the history of the Brotherhood Commission, according to James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president. The Memphis-based SBC agency is coordinating volunteer disaster relief efforts.

"This is by far the largest and most immediate response we have ever had," Smith said. "The network of this thing is unbe-

lievable. . . it was almost an immediate response."

Six persons from the Arkansas unit were serving meals to victims from the parking lot of Union Baptist Church in Hannah, a small town between Lake City and Conway. The unit told Arkansas Baptist State Convention officials that it was preparing and serving 500 meals daily and providing 300 sandwiches for volunteers.

John Wyatt, a volunteer from Heber Springs, Ark., said the attitude of victims is one of hope, not despair.

"The people we are ministering to say they knew God would send help," Wyatt said. "We're glad we could come. There is no end to their thanks and appreciation."

Dennis and Gail Hallinan of Sumter said they felt fortunate to have survived Hugo's wrath. The Hallinans are members of Crosswell Baptist Church.

"We were on our knees in the center of our house for one and a half hours during the storm. Our house was saved, although we lost all but two trees in our yard," said Mrs. Hallinan. "We didn't have worship service Sunday. . . we had a praise service because nobody was hurt."

Mrs. John Bahany of Sumter said the relief services provided her family with its first meal following the disaster.

"We ate breakfast here for the first time since Thursday. I was so happy, I cried," she said.

An unidentified Sumter resident told relief workers: "We're thankful you all are here. We don't know what we would have

done without you."

Brian Richardson, a Sumter farmer, said that, without relief efforts, he did not know how he would feed his family.

"It's a terrible thing," Richardson said. "I'm feeding my wife and four children (here)."

In addition to the Arkansas unit, mobile units responding to South Carolina are from Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Ohio, and Illinois. Baptist Men volunteers from South Carolina and Georgia are assisting in disaster relief efforts.

Other locations where disaster relief units have been placed are Citadel Square Church in Charleston, Sumter High School in Sumter, Providence Baptist Church in the Macedonia community, First Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ashley River Church in Charleston, Rutledge Avenue Church in Charleston, Charleston Heights Baptist Church in Charleston, Kingstree Church, the McClellan community, First Baptist Church in Manning, the Myrtle Beach area, and Baptist College in Charleston.

Damage to homes, churches, businesses, and other structures in Charleston and surrounding areas is extensive, Satterwhite said. Some 50 to 60 churches in South Carolina were known to have received varying levels of damage from the storm.

"There aren't many steeples still standing," he observed.

The First Baptist Church of Charleston, the oldest Baptist church in the South, sustained massive roof and structural damage, Satterwhite said. Stained glass in many churches was broken, and other buildings received extensive water damage.

Monetary donations to assist with disaster relief efforts should be sent to Hugo Disaster Relief, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104

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GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

World Mission Rally

Arkansas Baptists will launch their three-year partnership with Guatemala Baptists with a World Mission Rally Oct. 27 at Little Rock's Immanuel Church.

And, according to Glenn Grober, Brotherhood director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the program for the rally is guaranteed to inspire.

Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., will deliver the keynote message during the rally, which is expected to draw hundreds of Baptists from across the state. Parks is a favorite speaker among "missions-minded" Arkansas Baptists.



Also on program for the evening will be musical presentations from the Arkansas Singing Men and an address by Joe Bruce, Foreign Mission Board area director for Middle America and Canada.

The event kicks off a three-year partnership between nearly 1,300 Baptist churches in Arkansas and their 119 counterparts in Guatemala, a Spanish-speaking country of 6 million people located in Central America. In 1988, Arkansas Baptists concluded a similar partnership with Equatorial Brazil.

The Guatemala partnership will focus on five areas of work, Grober said.

The primary thrust of the effort will be directed toward starting 25 new congregations in Guatemala City, the nation's capital, and five new churches on Guatemalan home mission fields. Arkansas Baptist associations and churches will be challenged to adopt areas where new work is needed and develop work in those areas through a three-year involvement. The partners would see their projects through stages of surveying the community, witnessing door to door, assisting with property purchase and construction, and organizing the new congregation.

If Arkansas Baptists are successful in start-

ing 25 new congregations, they will have doubled the number of churches in the city in three years. Since the Southern Baptist Mission in Guatemala was organized in 1956, 25 congregations have been established in the city.

A second focus of the Guatemala partnership will be eight city or area crusades, Grober said. Four crusades are planned for 1990, followed by three in 1991. The partnership will conclude with a major city crusade in Guatemala City in 1992.

Arkansas Baptists will assist the Guatemala Baptist camping program by establishing a national campground, said Grober. Through a cooperative arrangement, property will be located and purchased, facilities will be planned and built, and a program will be developed.

A fourth area of work will involve evangelism among the country's "indigenous" (Indian) population, Grober added. A primary characteristic of these efforts will be medical/dental teams working in outlying areas which have no Southern Baptist work.

The fifth arena of Guatemala-Arkansas partnership will be the strengthening of existing churches and associations, Grober said. Examples of this work would include leadership training and building remodeling.

Grober believes the Guatemala partnership has enormous potential for helping Arkansas Baptists, as well as Guatemala Baptists.

"Besides the great numbers of people won to the Lord and churches strengthened in Brazil, Arkansas Baptists who participated in the Brazil partnership were greatly blessed themselves," Grober said. "I never heard anyone say they felt like they had lost anything because of their in-

volvement in Brazil, and most said they had profited immensely by it."

He pointed to renewed enthusiasm for missions and stronger missions giving as two of the most obvious benefits of Arkansas Baptist involvement in partnership missions. "While many other states have experienced decline in Cooperative Program giving, Arkansas Baptists have kept their Cooperative Program giving up," he said. "I believe the Brazil partnership played a significant role in that."

Grober points out that lower costs will enable more Arkansas Baptists to be involved in the Guatemala partnership than participated in Brazil. A 10-day trip to Guatemala may cost as little as \$500 or \$600, he said, compared to almost \$1,500 for a similar trip to Brazil. Because of the lower costs, churches and individuals which felt they could not afford to join the Brazil projects will find Guatemala financially accessible.

In addition, more flights to Guatemala are available than there were to Brazil, Grober said. This will allow Arkansas Baptists more flexibility in planning trips of varying lengths in order to accommodate their schedules.

The World Mission Rally will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 27, at Immanuel Church, 10th and Bishop Streets, in Little Rock. The program will begin at 7:30 and conclude at 9:30.

For more information about the World Mission Rally or the Guatemala Arkansas Partnership, contact the ABC Brotherhood Dept., P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72209; telephone 501-376-4791.

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Westmoreland OBU Assistant

ARCADELPHIA—Andy Westmoreland, a development officer at Ouachita Baptist University, has been named to the position of assistant to the president, Dr. Ben Elrod.

An Ouachita graduate, Westmoreland has been serving most recently in the OBU development office coordinating various fund-raising projects, in addition to serving as director of the Ouachita Student Foundation. Since becoming an administrative staff member of the school in 1979, he has also held the positions of director of student activities and Evans Student Center, and director of the Student Special Services program.

70 Attend Fall Rally

Seventy people attended the Fall Campers on Mission Rally at Greers Ferry Lake near Heber Springs Sept. 7-10.

Speakers included Jim and Ginny Pence, who shared their experiences in Las Vegas;

David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, who led a Bible study; and Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College, who spoke on the mission role of the college.

Next year, the campers have chosen to construct camper pads at Siloam Springs. Officers elected for 1989-90 are: Raymond Reed, Camden, president; J.C. Ross, Grady, vice-president; and Dorothy Jackson, Hardy, secretary/treasurer.

SBC Faculty Promoted

WALNUT RIDGE—Two Southern Baptist College faculty members, Dr. Bob Magee and Dr. Kenneth Startup, have been promoted to the position of associate professor.

Magee, promoted to associate professor of music and director of choral activities, has been at SBC for four years and previously taught at Seminario Bautista de Bogota, Columbia. He is a graduate of William Carey College, Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Startup, promoted to associate professor of history and chairman of the division of social science and religion, has been at SBC for six years, and had previously been a research and editorial assistant. He is a graduate of West Georgia College, Virginia Polytechnical Institute and Louisiana State University.

New Church Extension Staff

Vernon Wickliffe began serving as part-time field assistant in the Church Extension program of the ABCS Missions Department on Sept. 1.

Wickliffe will be working with association and church in discovering the need for, and developing new mission congregations. Wickliffe brings with him more than 40 years of ministry experience, with 27 years in pioneer mission work.



Wickliffe

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Helping New Churches—Arkansas Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors have discovered a way to assist newly organized churches in Arkansas by providing transportation for outreach ministries. Glendon Grober, state Brotherhood director, is asking Arkansas churches who can provide buses or vans to contact him. Searcy County Church was the first to benefit from this project when a bus, owned by the state Baptist Men's Fellowship and used by Royal Ambassadors for their camps, was presented to them Sept. 5. Participating in the presentation of keys and documents were (left to right) Gary McDaniel of Searcy County Church; Tommy Goode, Church and Community Ministries director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; Grober, and Norman Hamilton of Searcy County Church.

August Cooperative Program Report

Received	\$998,541.97
Budget	\$1,083,333.33
Under	\$84,791.36

Year-to-date	
Under	\$247,113.35

Same time last year	
Under	\$221,322.99

The Cooperative Program total for 1989 represents a .73 percent increase over 1988 receipts for January-August. Though this is not a great amount, it is the first time this year we have shown an increase over the same period of 1987. However, we cannot feel too good because August receipts were only 92 percent of monthly budget requirements.

We have four months to reach our annual goal of \$13 million. In order to accomplish this task, we must exceed our monthly budget all four months. Yes, it can be done!

Thanks, Arkansas Baptists, for your faithfulness in giving.—**Jimmie Shuffield**, associate executive director

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Mark Christie has resigned as interim minister of music at First Church in Crossett.

Danny Petrie is serving as pastor of Mountain Springs Church, Austin, coming there from Okahumpka, Fla. He is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Petrie and his wife, Betty, have two children, Adam Lee and Jennifer Renee.

Charlie Johnson joined the staff of First Church in Greenwood recently as minister of music. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University. He has served Texas churches. He and his wife, Mary, also traveled for 10 years as music evangelists. They have one child, Charla Dawn.

John Evans is serving as pastor of First Church in Salem, going there from First Church of Bee Branch.

Debbie Barrett is serving as preschool coordinator at Central Church in Jonesboro.

Brent Fields of Jonesboro is serving as pastor of First Church in Hobart, Okla. He has been serving as associate pastor of First Church in Rockwall, Texas.

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

Francis McBeth has been named Sinfonia's Man of Music for 1989 and also has received the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Award for 1988-89. This is the 24th consecutive year he has won the ASCAP national award. McBeth is chairman of the theory-composition department of the School of Music and resident composer at Ouachita Baptist University.

James Wallis, pastor of Lowell Church who has helped establish churches in Brazil, has ministered to a federal policeman, Jose Leis Sobrinho, who need-

ed an ear operation. Wallis made appeals to several Southern Baptist churches in northwest Arkansas to sponsor the operation and then flew Wallis to Rogers for the successful operation at St. Mary's Hospital Aug. 23. Sobrinho and his wife, Aniza, returned to Brazil Sept. 19.

V.L. Harris Jr. resigned as pastor of Petit Jean First Church, effective Sept. 24 to begin serving Oct. 1 as pastor of First Church, Parks.

Danny Brown of Clinton has joined the staff of Friendship Church in Clinton as associate pastor. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ron Ingram has joined the staff of Immanuel Church in Pine Bluff as minister of media.

Gary Wise will begin serving Oct. 22 as pastor of Runyan First Church in North Little Rock, coming there from Smithville. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Elizabeth Kreis. They have twin daughters, Rachel and Rebecca.

Allen Elkins has joined the staff of Central Church in Bald Knob as part-time

youth director. He is a student at Southern Baptist College.

Raymond Atwood, a former Paragould resident and graduate of Southern Baptist College, was recently honored in Lenoir City, Tenn., for 40 years of service in the preaching ministry. He pastored churches in Arkansas and Louisiana for 33 years before becoming director of missions for Loudon County Association in Tennessee in 1982.

Russell K. Hunt, a native of Harrison, has announced his resignation as director of missions of Miller County Association in Eldon, Mo., effective Oct. 31. Hunt, who has served there for 10 years, will reside in Neosho, Mo., with his wife, Florence.

Ava Griggers has resigned as a girls' teacher in the youth ministry at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, following 32 years of service.

Robert Ellis has resigned as music director at First Church in Mena.

Samuel Cary Heard Sr. of North Little Rock died Sept. 24 at age 84. He was a member of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, where his son, Cary Heard, serves as pastor. His funeral services were held

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Neiswander Church at Marked Tree celebrated 50 years of service Sept. 17 with a morning worship service, noon luncheon, and afternoon music program that was attended by more than 100. Bill Lovell of Mississippi, who surrendered to the preaching ministry while a member at Neiswander, was speaker and Doris Hubbard read the church history. The Bobbits of Jonesboro were musicians. Jesse Hodges has served the church as pastor for 28 years.

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Sept. 26 at First Church in Dallas, Texas. Other survivors are his wife, Mary Ridenhour Heard; a daughter, Leticia H. Drinkwater of Dallas; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Francis McBeth, the Lena Goodwin Trimble professor of music and resident composer at Ouachita Baptist University, has been awarded the Distinguished Service to Music Medal by the National Council of Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity.

Kelly Hinkson is serving as youth director at Park Hill Church in Arkadelphia. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Fred Findley has joined the staff of Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock as part-time minister of music.

C.M. Woodard has resigned as pastor of Second Church in McNeil, where he has served since the church's organization in November 1982.

L.H. Henry has resigned as pastor of Leslie Church.

Marion Cornett is serving as pastor of Calvary Church in Walnut Ridge. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, where his wife, Paula, is a student.

E.B. Lancaster has completed his service as interim pastor of Wooster First Church. He may be contacted at Route 5, Box 488, Conway, AR 72032; telephone 327-0387.

Tommy Wallace has resigned as pastor of First Church, Beirne, to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Max Garrison has resigned as pastor of First Southern Chapel at Bismarck to move to Cabot.

Eric Barbaree has resigned as pastor of Mount Zion Church at Arkadelphia to accept a teaching position in Little Rock.

Dave Mitchell is serving as pastor of Whelen Springs Church.

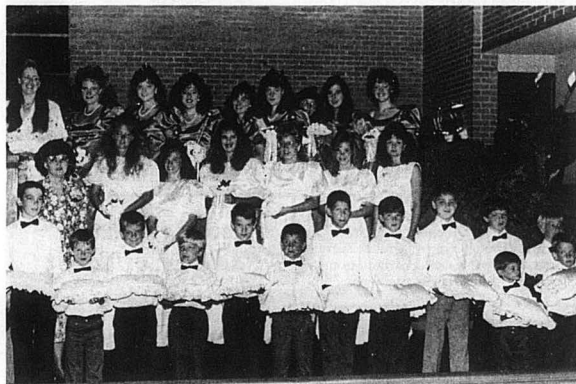
Jessie McKee has resigned as pastor of Shell Lake Church at Heth.

Ron Reynolds has resigned as pastor of First Church, Turrell, to move to Harrison.

Linda Miller is serving a director of development for the media ministry at First Church in Springdale.

Edgar W. Bryan has resigned as pastor of Matthews Memorial Church following seven years of service. He has accepted the call to serve as pastor of First Southern Church in Powell, Wyo.

Ed Lauderdale of Quitman and **John McAlister** of El Dorado were pictured in the Oct. 1 *Arkansas Gazette* as members of Arkansas Disaster Relief Team who are in South Carolina feeding and assisting with relief work for victims of Hurricane Hugo.



The Acteens of First Church in Nashville recently held a coronation service, crowning Shelby Binkley, Laura Blakely, Michelle McGill, Etta Waller, and Carrie White as queens. Queens with a Scepter recognized were DeAnn Hardin, Allison Hill, Alicia Keaster, Donna McCrary, Julie Parnell, Ann Tommey, Becky Williams, and Amy Young. Acteens director is Mrs. David Blase and Mrs. Bill Waller is leader. Mrs. Mark Millwood is Woman's Missionary Union director.

Briefly

Hebron Church in Little Rock observed the seventh anniversary of Pastor Nick Farley Sept. 10 with High Attendance Day.

Northvale Church in Harrison held a commissioning service Sept. 17 for visitation volunteers.

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

Batesville West Church held its annual senior adult Bible conference Sept. 7, using the theme "The Old Time Religion... Still Good Enough For Me." Billy White, pastor of Second Church in Little Rock, was speaker. Special music was presented by the senior adult choir from First Church in West Plains, Mo.

Dardanelle First Church held a youth revival Sept. 10-13 that resulted in 29 professions of faith and 23 other decisions. Gene Culver of Terrel, Texas, and Gary Stallings of Tishimingo, Okla., were the evangelists. Bob Parsley is pastor and Lynn Sellers is youth director.

Booneville First Church ordained Mike Boersma to the deacon ministry Sept. 17. Participating were Don Dunn, Pastor Allen Thrasher, D. Hoyle Haire, and ordained men of the church.

Little Rock Immanuel Church ordained Bill Adcock, Bill Freeman, Bob Roberts, and Earl Smith to the deacon ministry Oct. 1.

Sylverino Church at Fouke recently ordained Larry Griffiths and John Burt to the deacon ministry.

Marshall Road Church at Jacksonville held a noteburning service Sept. 17 to celebrate payment of its indebtedness. Cliff Hutchins is pastor.

Bayou Mason Church of Lake Village observed homecoming Oct. 8 with a 11 a.m. service for which Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. A noon meal was followed by a 1:30 p.m. music program, featuring the McClanahans from West Monroe, La. Bill Good is pastor.

Benton Salem Church celebrated its 25th anniversary Sept. 17 when former pastors Hugh Floyd of New Orleans, Rudy Davis, and Charlie Jones of Morrow were speakers. Other speakers included Hugh

Owen, director of missions when the church was founded, and Bernes K. Selp, pastor of the sponsoring church, First Church of Benton. Mrs. F.M. Robinson of North Little Rock, widow of a former pastor, was a special guest. Herman Thurman, a charter member and deacon gave a history update. Bill Howard is pastor.

Alsup Church at Bay recently honored Pastor Leon Minick in recognition of 16 years of service.

Benton Calvary Church will celebrate 40 years of service Oct. 15-22 with services that will feature those who have been called from the church into the preaching ministry. Speakers will include Steve Martin, Phillip Drennan, Don Miller, Russell Howard, Elson Herndon and W. Clyde Hankins. Traditional Sunday services, followed by a noon meal and a 2 p.m. reception, will close the celebration.

Rogers First Church observed Public School Teacher Appreciation Day Sept. 24.

Morning Star Church at Marshall has reverted to mission status under the sponsorship of Searcy County Church, Marshall. The church, which has been a part of White River Association, will now be a part of North Arkansas Association. Leading the new work are David and Rena Treat.

Woodland Heights Church at Harrison men have provided the materials and built a steeple for the Morning Star Mission. J.A. Hogan is pastor.

El Dorado First Church ordained Jim Ash, James Perry, and Wade Parker to the deacon ministry Sept. 24.

Corners Chapel Church at Trumann honored Deacon Arthur Simpson Sept. 24 for 48 years of service. Simpson is the only active charter member of the congregation.

Goshen Mission was organized Sept. 10 as the First Southern Church of Goshen with 71 charter members. Mission Pastor Farrell Ard was called as pastor. The constitution message was preached by Harold Gateley, director of missions for Washington-Madison Association. Deacon Lynn Still gave the benediction.

Hatton Church dedicated a new building Sept. 17 with former pastors as special guests. Dillard Miller, director of missions for Ouachita Association, was dedication speaker. Harold Davis is pastor.

Saint Francis Church broke ground Oct. 1 for a new building program. Speakers were Ed Hinkson, associate in the ABCS Sunday School Department, and Max Gregory, director of missions for Current-Gains Association.

East Side Church in Fort Smith ordained Keith Hayes, Kiley London, Gary Long, and James Moore to the deacon ministry Sept. 17.

Ebenezer Church in El Dorado will ordain Gary Hill, Ronnie McMahan, and Joe Willet to the deacon ministry Oct. 15.

Timbo Calvary Church has broadened its missions education program through the launching of Acteens and Girls in Action missions organizations. The church also exceeded its \$500 goal for the Dixie Jackson Offering for State Missions.

North Crossett First Church will observe homecoming Oct. 29 with Sunday School, morning worship, a noon meal, and an afternoon musical program featuring the Jeffress Family. J.A. Hogan of Harrison will be speaker.

South Highland Church in Little Rock ordained Bill Hollingsworth to the deacon ministry Oct. 1.

Antoine Church will launch the celebration of its 50th anniversary Oct. 1 and conclude with special services and a potluck luncheon Oct. 29.

Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock will observe its 50th anniversary Oct. 29, beginning with a continental breakfast at 9 a.m. A historical presentation, dinner on the grounds and an afternoon churchwide family singing will conclude activities. Don Moseley is pastor.

Beech Street Church in Gurdon recently broke ground for the reconstruction of their building, which was destroyed by fire more than five months ago. James Guthrie is pastor.

West Memphis Second Church observed homecoming Oct. 1 with Sunday School, morning worship, a noon meal, and a 2 p.m. music program featuring the Martins of Hamburg.

Twin Lakes Church, near Diamondhead, recently began construction of its new auditorium. The 312-seat auditorium is being erected by the Nailbenders. The mission church is sponsored by Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs, and Garland County Association. Billy Nail is pastor.

Classifieds

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Don't Come Sept. 7-8!

But don't come Sept. 14-15, either! The *Arkansas Baptist* is gratified to have brought so much joy to the hearts of unnumbered readers across the state who have gleefully called to our attention the bonehead goof-up in the Sept. 28 issue.

The article on p. 16 was intended to emphasize the fact that many persons around the state still were under the mistaken impression that the ABCS annual meeting was to be held Nov. 7-8, instead of the actual dates, Nov. 14-15. Unfortunately, we only made matters worse by committing the most thorough-going typographical error in the history of Baptist journalism.

We apologize for the error and throw ourselves on the mercy of the readership.

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The Most Obvious Need

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"The most obvious need in our churches today is discipleship. The reason is that Jesus who pioneered discipleship taught people how to live in fellowship with our Lord and how to live in a community with other believers. He also taught us how to witness and reproduce, how to lead and how to be available for missions around the world. For these five reasons and many others I am totally committed to discipling," declared Marian "Bud" Fray, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. In response to the need for discipleship training the Discipleship Training Department (formerly known as Church Training) will conduct a statewide conference on discipleship Oct. 23-24 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Robert Holley, director of the Discipleship Training Department, compared the importance of discipleship training to that of missions, evangelism and stewardship. He said, "We must find a way to focus more on the priority on discipleship training."

In each of the general sessions there will be a keynote speaker who will provide information and set a biblical foundation for disciple training. The keynote speakers for the conference are: Perry Sanders, pastor

of First Church, Lafayette, La.; Avery Willis, author and manager of the leadership development section of the SBC Discipleship Training Department; T.W. Hunt, author and consultant on prayer life for the SBC Discipleship Training Department; and Marian "Bud" Fray, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Each session also will feature a variety of conferences dealing with the total scope of discipleship training. In all there will be 17 different resource conferences available. Most of these conferences will be led by out-of-state specialists and some will be led by the individual who developed the materials. The resource conferences are designed to assist churches in developing a comprehensive discipleship training program.

There also will be a MasterLife alumni banquet on Monday evening, Oct. 23. This banquet is designed for all pastors and the approximately 1,000 individuals who have completed the MasterLife Discipleship training program in Arkansas. The author of the MasterLife materials, Dr. Willis, will be the banquet speaker.

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, there will be two luncheon meetings. One of these will be held for ministers of education in our state and will focus on the "Minister of Education An Equipper." Jack Terry, dean of the school of religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will be the speaker for this luncheon. He also will lead a conference for ministers of education in the afternoon.

Another luncheon will be held for

ministers of youth and will feature Jerry Pounders, a professor from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La., and Sam House, a youth specialist from the Baptist Sunday School Board. These speakers will discuss the youth minister as a discipler and also will lead a conference for youth ministers in the afternoon.

The program also will feature conferences on each of the LIFE courses. The LIFE courses provide a lay institute for equipping. It is intended to provide in-depth discipleship training.

Among the LIFE courses that will be offered is one on how to use the new Disciple's Study Bible. This conference will provide an overview of the 13-session course which equips an individual to adequately use the new Discipleship study Bible and its helps.

There are a number of other LIFE courses that will be offered, such as Parenting by Grace, Covenant Marriage, and PrayerLife.

Robert Holley explains that the task assignment of the Discipleship Training Department has not been changed. It was felt by the trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board and by the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention that Discipleship Training better describes the function of this area than did the old name "Church Training." The department is still charged with providing training in Christian doctrine, Christian ethics, Christian history, and church polity and organization. In addition, the department has the responsibility of new member orientation and leadership training.

Holley feels that this will be the single most important event his department will conduct this year. He urges pastors, church staff members, volunteer leaders in discipleship training, associational directors of missions, and associational discipleship training leaders to be present for this important endeavor.

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ABN photo / Mark Kelly



Members gather for the centennial celebration Sept. 24.

Thornton Celebration

Church Commemorates 100-Year Mark

Thornton First Baptist Church near Forcyce celebrated 100 years of service with a day of special activities Sept. 24.

The observance began with Bible study at 9:30 a.m. and included a noontime potluck dinner and an afternoon service.

The Sunday morning worship service featured old-time hymns and Pastor Eddie Elrod and many members dressed in old-fashioned outfits. When the morning offering was collected, ushers literally "passed the hat," using a pair of familiar old felt hats instead of offering plates.

The worship service also featured a solo by Mrs. Elreba McManus, widow of a former pastor, and brief messages from former pastors E.L. Ward and Wendell Poole. Ward pastored the congregation for 13 years; Poole served the church three different times.

After the noon potluck, members and guests enjoyed instrumental music, recognitions, testimonies, and congregational singing. A brief history of the church was presented by Deacon Dale Freeman.

The Thornton Baptist Church was

organized on Sept. 22, 1889, with 19 charter members in a meeting moderated by an Elder L.O. Miers. Records indicate that the next month the congregation took up a collection to buy a record book. Forty cents was raised.

A year later, in October 1890, the church baptized three converts. A decision in 1891 to build a "house of worship" was not fulfilled until 1899, when the new building was dedicated. Records indicate that during those years several members were excluded from the congregation for non-attendance, others for drunkenness.

Later years at Thornton saw a missionary concern growing. In 1943, money was collected and sent to Hampton to help rebuild a storm-damaged church, and a Woman's Missionary Union was organized.

The church changed its name to First Baptist Church in 1948. Work was begun in 1951 on a second church building, which was remodeled and expanded in 1970. In 1987, a new addition, which included a kitchen and a fellowship hall, was completed.

BSU Director Employed

Linda Payne has been employed as director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville.

Payne, a native of Texas, is married to Jonathon Payne, pastor of Coal Hill First Church. She has attended colleges in Oklahoma and Texas, as well as Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

She has been employed since March 1989 as secretary to the mayor of Coal Hill.

The Paynes have two children, Jeremi, age 17, and Joshua, age 16.



L.C. Hoff

Hoff Honored For 50 Years

L.C. Hoff was honored with a reception Sept. 3 by Bayou Mason Church of Lake Village in recognition of 50 years of service in the preaching ministry.

Hoff, who retired as pastor of Bayou Mason Church following 12 years of service, has been named pastor emeritus and received a plaque for this honor from Pastor Bill Goode.

The church also has furnished a guest room at Wolfe Creek Baptist Children's Camp to honor Hoff who serves as camp director. He also continues to serve churches as interim pastor.



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Disaster Team Responds to Rison

The Arkansas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief unit responded to the Rison crisis during the train derailment and resulting chemical spill.

Several hundred meals were prepared and served, mostly to those involved in emergency services.

The following men took part in the relief effort: John McAllister, Peton Dempsey, Ed Lauderdale, Ed Lewis, Wayne Inzer, Jerry Wellacher, Gary Akers, Kent Dixon, John Ragsdale, Garland Goodwin, and Glendon Grober.

Red Ribbon Campaign

Arkansans for Drug Free Youth will conduct a Red Ribbon Week Campaign Oct. 22-29. The organization is an affiliate of the National Organization of Parents; the Red Ribbon Campaign is a grass roots movement which seeks to reduce the demand for drugs and instill a desire to live a drug-free lifestyle.

The kickoff rally will take place on Monday, Oct. 23, on the steps of the State Capitol. The campaign will conclude with an interdenominational sunrise worship service on Sunday, Oct. 29, at the River-

front Park Amphitheater in Little Rock.

For further information on activities during Red Ribbon Week, contact Arkansans for Drug Free Youth at 501-664-7865.

OBU Yearbook Receives Award

ARCADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University's yearbook, the "Ouachitonian," was recently inducted into the Associated College Press/National Scholastic Press Association student publication Hall of Fame. The yearbook, under the faculty leadership of William Downs Jr., was the only ACP yearbook chosen for this honor in 1989.

World Food Day Symposium

The Arkansas Inter-Faith Hunger Task Force will sponsor a World Food Day Symposium, "Sharing our Strengths," on Oct. 16 at First Christian Church in Little Rock.

Tommy Goode, ABSC director of Christian Social Ministries, is the chairperson for the task force.

The seminar registration fee is \$10. For more information, contact Frankie Reynolds at 375-7971 or Myrna Richardson at 224-0496.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Perfect Attendance—First Church, Augusta, honored Mrs. Mickey (Ginger) Kreis, for 25 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. Mrs. Kreis, 35, has been a Sunday School teacher since age 15 for second grade students. The Kreis's have one daughter, Lana, age 10, who also has seven years of perfect Sunday School attendance. Pictured are Annette Burrow, Mrs. Kreis' mother, Mrs. Kreis, and Pastor Ledell Bailey.

Bookshelf

Women at War
by Marie Putman

Women At War is a personal testimony of how one woman found victory over depression. She describes in great detail the process of learning to apply truths of God's Word which allowed her to maintain victory through all kinds of circumstances. It is a message of encouragement and inspiration, but it can serve as a guide for individuals who are confronted with similar circumstances in their lives.

Putman explains the activity of Satan in her life and in the lives of others. She explains how an individual can overcome Satan's power through the use of Scripture. She writes, "John 14:10-20 tells us that God the Father has given all power and authority to Jesus, that Jesus within us makes this power available. All we need is to ask in Jesus name. It is marvelous to me that the God of Creation gives me bold access to his presence."

She describes her own activity in overcoming depression as a "warfare." She said, "It is crucial to understand 'stronghold' if we are to learn about warfare. A stronghold is any area of life that gives Satan easy access to us. It can be sin pattern; certain 'besetting' sins; habits; compulsions; uncontrolled thoughts and actions. Satan builds on these things and they become veritable fortresses. If a 'ground of entrance' has been granted to demons, they see this as a green light."

Putman clearly states that she believes that an individual is saved by grace through faith. This is a one-time experience. Individuals, however, continue to grow and develop. She describes in great detail how she has personally grown and overcome the Enemy and been able to put aside depression.

A workbook also has been compiled to supplement Putman's text. The workbook is designed to assist Christians in continuing growth with Christ.

Mrs. Putman and her husband have two sons, Danny, and Billy, and a daughter, Teresa. She is an active member of the Immanuel Church in Rogers.

The book is available at the Baptist Book Store or may be ordered directly from Marie Putman, 4819 Rock Ridge Terrace, Rogers, AR 72756.

NEW HYMNAL

Candid Comments

by Charles Willis
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—More than 2,000 letters offering suggestions, admonitions and support have filled the church music department's mailbox at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board since a new Baptist hymnal was announced for 1991 publication.

Wesley L. Forbis, editor of *The Baptist Hymnal*, and Terry W. York, hymnal project coordinator, say the volume of correspondence has been both gratifying and overwhelming since the new hymnal was announced in 1987. Between them, Forbis and York have answered every piece of correspondence without resorting to form letters.

The number and, in some cases, length of opinions may prove that the hymnal is second only to the Bible in importance in the hearts of Southern Baptists. And, like helping the person who wants a "large-print, pocket-sized Bible," meeting all the customer's needs may be an impossibility.

For every need and opinion, correspondence would indicate, there is a directly opposing need and opinion. While some want only Victorian hymns, others prefer only 1980s compositions. Some wrote to offer goodwill and prayers for success, while others wrote to say something on the order of, "If you do (or don't) use this specific hymn, we won't buy the new

hymnal."

Members of the hymnal committee surely could only conclude Southern Baptists are anything but apathetic when they consider to congregational singing.

"I am a seventh-generation Southern Baptist," one wrote, "my roots too deep to change easily to something else. . . . I prefer 'thee' and 'thou' and 'ye' in songs, in certain contexts. There is a grace, a reverence and purpose in these that is just gentler and more palatable than the harsh stripped and peeled 'you.' (Has anyone ever used 'y'all' in a hymn?)"

While many expressed support for newer works in the "Baptist Hymnal," 1975 edition, a few hymns came under criticism for failure to stand even a short test of time. One early 1970s hymn in particular, which shall remain nameless, was singled out by several correspondents as already dated.

"Maybe it's just me," observed one church leader, "but can anyone really sing that song with a straight face?"

Others expressed frustration over missing verses or texts altered from earlier hymnals.

"I would like for you, Wesley Forbis, and members of the committee to please add to the hymn 'Were You There,' 'Were you there when he rose up from the grave,' the most important and effective verse of that song," declared one writer. "I cannot im-

agine serving on a committee of this type and failing to include this verse."

Others have not forgiven previous hymnal committees for removing the word "worm" from Issac Watts' "At the Cross."

One indignant Southern Baptist argued, "If the Lord Jesus, speaking prophetically in the 22nd Psalm could say, 'I am a worm, and no man,' surely I can say with the great poet Issac Watts, 'such a worm as I!'"

Many letters included lists of desired hymns from the *Broadman Hymnal* of 1940 and the *Baptist Hymnal*, 1956 edition. And more than one writer devoted multiple pages to single-spaced, typewritten lists of hymns to exclude.

Some with fewer needs wrote one-sentence letters, such as, "I would very much like to see 'Are Ye Able' put back in our hymnal."

The need for hymns in certain subject areas troubled some Southern Baptists.

"We need more tuneful hymns on the Christian home," one minister of music wrote. "We are singing, 'God, Give Us Christian Homes' to death!"

Hymns and choruses aside, the range of topics covered by interested parties included technical musical matters, indexes, page layout, book bindings and worship aids.

No doubt many Southern Baptists will find their requests granted when the hymnal debuts in March 1991. Realistically, everyone won't get every wish fulfilled. But as one Southern Baptist concluded a list of preferences: "This is probably more information than you wanted; however, it is just like our U.S. democracy—at least I have voted."

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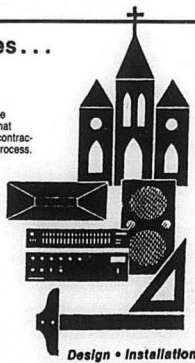
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Executive Session

Trustees will be asked to go behind closed doors

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will be asked to go into executive session Oct. 17 to discuss the "whole problem of political activity" by President Russell Dilday.

The request for an executive session was introduced in an 85-page memorandum mailed to trustees in late September by Chairman Ken Lilly, a physician from Fort Smith, Ark.

Lilly told Baptist Press "a number of the trustees are going to ask" for the closed-door meeting. "They, themselves, will decide whether they want an executive session," he added.

Lilly said he "really wanted a special meeting because this is not the kind of thing which should be discussed in an annual or semi-annual meeting."

Dilday met with the three trustees officers—Lilly, Damon Shook, a pastor from Houston, and John McNaughton, a businessman from Fort Worth, Texas—in mid-August to discuss the possibility of a special called meeting to discuss Dilday's "political activities," particularly a May 2 speech before a "moderate" political group and an article he wrote prior to the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist

Convention.

Lilly said "some of the guys (trustees) wrote me letters" complaining about Dilday's appearance at a rally of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention May 2 in Nashville, which brought about the mid-August meeting.

"I tried to be as nice about it as I can," Lilly said. "I went to Russell (Dilday) to try to solve some of the problems. I think they could be a lot less if they were handled in a quiet way rather than in the press, but Russell's attitude is that if you get it all in the press, it will make a big difference.

"Well, it's not going to change anything; the guys still want to talk to him about all of this."

All participants in the Aug. 15 meeting agreed not to talk to the news media about the meeting. In his memo, Lilly wrote: "You will note the usual activity of the president to 'try the case' in the liberal media even before we have time to act on it. This seems to happen every time we try to solve problems quietly."

Lilly added he has "no malice in my heart, no axe to grind. I want to believe we can meet with the president (Dilday) and come to an understanding. I want for the trustees and the president to meet together."

Lilly's memo to trustees, he said, is a

reaction to a mailing Dilday sent out which included a manuscript of the May 2 speech on denominational unity and the May president's column in *Southwestern News*, the seminary's newsletter.

In the memo, Lilly thanked Dilday for "sending us part of the information we may need. . . . I am sending you more information which may be helpful."

The memo includes minutes from the Aug. 15 meeting; a copy of the statement issued to the media about the meeting; both the manuscript and a transcript of the May 2 speech; nine pages of quotes from Dilday, ranging to 1984 and citing 55 entries from newspapers, magazines and newsletters; 56 photocopied news articles; and programs of the Baptists Committed meeting.

The cover letter notes trustees "will want to hear his (Dilday's) fascinating explanation as to how his political speech was not political."

Dilday said he opposes the call for an executive session. "When I came 11 years ago, all of the meetings of the trustees were closed. I insisted they be open to anyone wanting to attend, and an executive session should only be called in matters where it might embarrass the person about whom we were talking," he said.

"Executive sessions should never be a way of avoiding public awareness of what the board was doing or to keep the press, faculty, staff or interested constituents from being informed about what is happening."

Neither Dilday nor Lilly would speculate about what the trustees will do.

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BAPTISTS COMMITTED

Takeover Warning

by **Toby Driun**
Texas Baptist Standard

Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention charged that "conservative" forces in the SBC will begin attempts this fall to gain control of state conventions as they have the SBC in the last 10 years.

Saying the SBC is in the throes of a "moral crisis," laymen Steve Tondera of Huntsville, Ala., and John Baugh of Houston spoke at a half-hour-long news conference at the Park Plaza Hotel adjacent to the SBC Building in Nashville immediately before the opening session of the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 18.

Tondera, of Huntsville, Ala., and past president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, warned that conservative political forces this fall will begin with the Texas convention an attempt to ultimately control every state convention.

Tondera said a meeting of so-called young conservatives at First Baptist Church of Eules, Texas, in May prior to last June's meeting of the SBC laid the groundwork for a pastors' conference in Texas that will be used to promote support for taking over the Texas convention.

The pastors' conference recently was announced by Rick Scarborough, pastor of Retta Baptist Church of Burleson, Texas, on the day before the opening of the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Scarborough, one of the speakers at the spring meeting of the "Young Conservatives," denies the Texas convention

was discussed at the meeting.

Laymen and pastors must "wake up to this takeover threat" whose ultimate goal is control of the 54 colleges and universities and even local associations and churches," affiliated with the state conventions, Tondera said.

Baugh repeated his charge the state conventions have been targeted by conservative political forces, but claimed the plan is part of a larger scheme of Reconstructionism, an attempt by "zealots who are passionately committed to dismantling democracy and replacing it with a theological oligarchy" in the United States.

Whether "that crafty scheme" is successful, Baugh said, depends on whether or not Southern Baptists and the American people "are willing to forego individual liberty and religious freedom."

Baugh said Reconstructionist dogma teaches that such SBC doctrines as "freedom of choice and individual liberty, democracy and separation of church and state" are anti-Christian.

Those thoughts, he said, are laid out in a book, *The Reconstruction of the Republic*, offered in a publication advertised in a publication of the SBC Public Affairs Committee.

"Reconstructionism merits careful analysis by every sincere American Christian," Baugh said. "Reconstructionism

would supplant the democratic processes of this nation and impose arbitrary laws upon the people to be administered by a self-perpetuating theological oligarchy."

The Houston layman charged that the terms "inerrancy" and "conservative" had been employed as "devices of deception" to seize the control of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said some have told his God knows about the SBC controversy and will stop it, but he cautioned that God also knew about Hitler's atrocities and used "God-honoring Americans and allies" to finally end them.

"Our purpose is not to compare any Baptist contemporary with Hitler," Baugh said. However, it is our purpose that Southern Baptists recognize that silence in the presence of shameful sin against fellow believers contravenes God's word regarding justice and what the Lord requires of us.

"We believe that God will stop the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. He will raise up strong men and women to begin the cleansing of this stained denomination."

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, presided at the press conference and reaffirmed the oft-stated promise the Baptists Committee will continue the fight to return to the SBC "to its time-honored principles."

We feel encouraged by the response of lay people all across the convention," Moore said. "We are encouraged and are in this effort for the long haul."

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—Martin Ragaway

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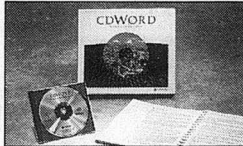
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Vestal Announces

by Jim Newton

Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)—Daniel Vestal, an unsuccessful candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention last June, announced to his Atlanta church on Sept. 24 he is willing to be nominated for the SBC presidency when the convention meets at New Orleans June 12-14, 1990.

Vestal made the announcement at Dunwoody Baptist Church during a Sunday night sermon in which he called for Christians to become servant leaders.

He acknowledged it is unprecedented for any candidate for the SBC presidency to announce publicly his willingness to be nominated in September, pointing out this is usually done in the spring.

"But frankly, we are not living in normal times," he said. "We are living in times of crises and controversy in the SBC."

At the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas last June, Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., was re-elected to a second term as SBC president, defeating Vestal 10,754 to 8,248.

On April 16, Vestal had announced to the congregation at Dunwoody Baptist Church he would oppose Vines in the election. He chose the same audience to announce his decision to run again in 1990.

Vestal, who was pastor of First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, before coming to the suburban Atlanta church in 1987, said he had decided to allow himself to be nominated after much prayer and soul-searching.

He said he is convinced "this is God's will for my life, and part of my service to him."

Earlier in his sermon, Vestal had called for church members to be servant leaders who are willing to humble themselves and serve others rather than self.

"I am offering myself as a servant-leader

to Southern Baptists. I'm putting into practice in my life the sermon which Joel Gregory preached at the 1987 Convention in San Antonio when he admonished us to extend our hands to one another."

Vestal said he wants to be a peacemaker who brings reconciliation and renewal with integrity to divided factions in the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

He declined to answer specific questions on his next steps in seeking to bring about reconciliation between leaders of factions within the SBC.

Pressler Status Unchanged

HOUSTON (BP)—The status of the possible nomination of Paul Pressler to head the federal Office of Government Ethics is unchanged, despite conflicting reports about the possible nomination by President Bush.

Reports have circulated the nomination has been dropped, but they have been

countered by other rumors he still is in the running for the federal post.

Pressler told Baptist Press Sept. 29: "The status (of the nomination) is that I have not been offered the job, and I have not decided to accept it if it is offered.

"The status has not changed but has become a little muddier with the reported leaks."

The FBI talked to a number of Southern Baptists, and reports were made concerning the controversial judge. However, the FBI declined to disclose the contents of its findings.

Pressler told Baptist Press, "I have been disappointed with the obvious ugliness of those in the convention who have been engaged in rumor and innuendo."

Presidential personnel director Chase Undermeyer did not return calls from Baptist Press when the SBC news service called seeking a conclusive report on Pressler's status.

Likewise, the White House press secretary's office declined comment, referring calls to the office of the executive clerk of the White House. The clerk's staff members said no paperwork had been filed regarding the nomination of Pressler.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Victory Comes from God

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

Basic passage: Daniel 12:1-3,5-13

Focal passage: Daniel 12:1

Central truth: Deliverance will come to those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

The first of Daniel's four visions found in chapters 7-12 was our subject for last Sunday. That was the vision of the four beasts (Dn. 7).

Chapter 8 tells of the second vision of the ram and the he-goat, with the ram representing the Medo-Persian empire.

The third vision found in chapter 9 has to do with the 70 weeks. The fourth and final vision is in chapters 10-12. This took place in the last year of Daniel's recorded history, 536 B.C., the third year of the reign of Cyrus, king of Persia.

The last few verses of chapter 11 describe great and terrible things, and many believe this refers to the Anti-Christ, who is yet to come. Chapter 11:40-45 indicates that there was a great power from the north that was to conquer many nations and establish himself in Mount Zion, Jerusalem. Many think this will be Russia in the end time.

Daniel 12:1 tells of the trouble more terrible than ever before when Michael will deliver God's people. This is probably the same "Michael," the archangel mentioned in Jude 9. He was named twice as a helper of the shining man who was instructing Daniel (Dn. 10:13,21).

Verses 2-3 speak of the resurrection, where many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. D.L. Moody commented about verse 3. "It is not the great in the world who will shine the brightest. . . . But the man of God shines. . . . This Daniel has been gone 2500 years, but still millions read of his life and actions."

Is the last part of Daniel 12:4 being fulfilled in our time? Surely many are going to and fro, and knowledge is being increased, some saying it is doubling every five years.

The remaining verses seem to have veiled messages, where the words are plain, but the meaning may not be understood until the predicted events take place.

Not for Daniel only, but for all Christians, there is an inheritance, a place in the Father's house.

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Life and Work

Missions: Our Mandate

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy
Basic passage: Genesis 12:1-4; Exodus 19:3-6; Matthew 28:18-20

Focal passage: Genesis 12:1-2,4; Exodus 19:6; Matthew 28:19-20

Central truth: God calls each believer to be involved in missions.

God said it! I believe it! That settles it! This statement appears to be true until you give it deeper thought. Perhaps the person who stated it this way was correct: God said it! That settles it! Now I must believe it! Our text for this lesson gives us some biblical examples of God's mandate for missions. We must act upon the will of God as stated in his Word concerning missions.

God has a reason for giving us a mandate for missions. He doesn't call us to leave the security of our community without good cause. Neither does he call just to separate parents, children, or grandchildren. God calls because men need to know his redemptive plan as revealed in Jesus. The pain of preparation and separation is great, but the reward is greater. "You shall be a blessing" (Ge. 12:2). Those willing to respond to God's call will be a blessing and will also be blessed.

God's mandate requires an act of faith (Ge. 12:1,4). We should not take any action until we are certain God has called us. When we are positive he has called us, we should follow the example of Abram (Abraham). "So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him" (Ge. 12:4).

How may we know God calls us to missions? Exodus 19:3-6 is one example. God delivered the Children of Israel from cruel Egyptian slavery to be a special treasure for him. "You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6). Many believers have received God's special care. Reflecting on our past we may remember a godly home, special people who sacrificed for us, loving churches and Christian colleges that help to shape our life. Perhaps it was a seminary setting that nurtured us. Whatever it was, God was behind the special care. We are his special people!

Jesus commanded that all believers respond to his mandate for missions. Standing on The Mount of Olives, he gave the Great Commission to all believers.

God calls us to missions. Will you answer his call? Why not respond to the Holy Spirit as he reveals ways you can be involved in missions?

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Bible Book

The Will of God

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

Basic passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Focal passage: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Central truth: The will of God for Christian character is found in the Bible.

The will of God seems to be a difficult subject for many people. Such considerations as which vocation to pursue, whom to marry, or where to live come to mind when we think about the will of God. But, a more basic consideration is the will of God for Christian character. Keep in mind that this aspect of the will of God is clearly revealed in the Bible. Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

First, spiritual growth is God's will (4:1-2). God wants each believer to grow more and more in the Christian life. We should never be content with our level of spiritual maturity. The Christian is "to walk and to please God" (v. 1).

Second, moral purity is God's will (4:3-8). Verse 3 states, "Abstain from fornication." Fornication is immorality of any kind. The Greek word is *porneis* from which we get our word "pornography." The verb "abstain" means "to hold or to keep oneself from." It is in the present tense, which indicates repeated and continual action. The will of God is that we should continually keep ourselves from any form of sexual sin.

Christians are not to live like those who do not know God (v. 5). We are warned against defrauding others in this area of moral purity (v. 6). Furthermore, God has called us to a holy life (v. 7), and to reject God's standards at this point is to reject God himself! Remember that God has given us his Holy Spirit to help us (v. 8).

Third, brotherly love is God's will (4:9,10). In verse 9, Paul states that brotherly love is taught of God. In verse 10, he commends the Thessalonians for practicing brotherly love.

Fourth, a certain type of social behavior is God's will (4:11,12). In verse 11, Paul urges his readers to endeavor to lead a quiet life and to take care of their own affairs without interfering in the lives of others, and to work. In verse 12, he adds that believers are to live honestly before unbelievers. Quite obviously, this is for the purpose of gaining their respect and influencing them toward Christ.

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Executive Board Meets

NASHVILLE—The following actions were among those taken when the Southern Baptist Executive Board held its fall meeting in Nashville, Tenn., on Sept. 18-19.

Financial Disclosure

Non-Southern Baptist Convention entities which receive funds from convention sources will be required to make full financial disclosure under a policy adopted by the SBC Executive Committee.

The committee adopted a policy requiring that any non-SBC entity "requesting funds... as part of their request, disclose all sources of income for the past fiscal year and proposed fund-raising activities."

The three non-SBC entities supported by the convention are the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Baptist World Alliance and Religion in American Life.

BWA, an organization of Baptists around the world, last year received \$387,000. RIAL, a non-denominational organization to promote religion in America, received \$12,000, and BJC, a Washington-based religious liberty coalition of nine Baptist Bodies in the United States and Canada, received \$391,796.

Although not SBC entities, for years the BWA and BJC have made direct budget requests to the convention through the Executive Committee's budgeting process.

BWA and RIAL have been funded through the SBC Operating Budget, which also funds the operation of the Executive Committee and expenses of the annual meeting. Until 1988, the BJC was funded through the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, which provides monies to all SBC agencies. In 1988, the BJC allocation became a line item in the SBC Operating Budget, which is controlled by the Executive Committee.

The BJC, to which the SBC relates through an 18-member Public Affairs Committee, has been controversial in recent years. It has survived five attempts in the last six years either to defund or to alter the method by which funding is provided.

Three special Executive Committee committees also have been appointed to study the relationship between the SBC and BJC, control of funding and, ultimately, creation of an organization to represent Southern Baptists on religious liberty/separation of church and state matters in Washington.

The new policy of full financial policy attempts to deal with a sore spot with some conservatives on the Executive Committee: that the BJC receives direct funding from

at least three state conventions, Texas, North Carolina and Virginia, and is supported by other SBC organizations, churches and individuals.

Conservatives have sought to determine specific sources of the income, including the names and addresses of supporters, and have alleged the BJC is involved in direct fund raising.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the BJC, has pledged to provide income data "in so far as possible." The data, he said, will be provided to members of the BJC at their annual meeting in early October, and then included in the budget request made to the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee when it meets in January 1990.

Guy Sanders III, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lake Wales, Fla., told Executive Committee members the new policy was recommended "so that all people requesting funds—whether they be agencies of the convention or non-related entities that receive funding from the convention—should go through the same process of making requests and giving us information."

Religious Liberty

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Executive Committee has rescinded its recommendation to create a Religious Liberty Commission and is considering giving the convention's religious liberty assignment to its Christian Life Commission.

Executive Committee members approved the measure 43-25 Sept. 18, during its fall meeting in Nashville.

Their action halted creation of the Religious Liberty Commission, which would have required approval of messengers to two consecutive Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings, held each June.

Changes in the Christian Life Commission's program assignment, which are necessary for the commission to work on religious liberty issues, would not take effect until approved by messengers to an SBC annual meeting.

The Religious Liberty Commission was proposed by the Executive Committee 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 organization comprised of nine Baptist denominations, based in Washington.

The Baptist Joint Committee has been a point of contention within the SBC for most of this decade. Detractors have said the BJC is too liberal, faulting it for not supporting school-prayer and anti-abortion amendments. Supporters have said it upholds the historic Baptist belief in church-state separation and cannot get involved in moral concerns except as they deal with religious liberty.

Three special Baptist Joint Committee study committees have been appointed by the Executive Committee since September 1986. Messengers to the SBC annual meetings have turned back motions to defund the BJC.

The motion to rescind the Religious Liberty Commission proposal and transfer the program assignment to the Christian Life Commission was proposed by Charles Sullivan, immediate past chairman of the Executive Committee and current chairman of its administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee.

Supports Trustees

The Executive Committee adopted a document supporting the role of trustees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at the end of its fall meeting.

The Wake Forest, N.C., seminary is being examined by its accrediting agencies, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Both agencies began their examination in 1988. The studies came at the end of an academic year in which "conservatives" became the majority on the school's trustee board, President W. Randall Lolley and other top administrators resigned and new President Lewis A. Drummond was elected.

The statement was offered by Julian M. Motley, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, N.C.

The document includes a preamble and six sections. The preamble states, in part: "The Executive Committee... has been made aware of the current review of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary by its accrediting agencies. Southeastern Seminary is a seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention controlled by its trustees elected in accordance with the bylaws of the SBC.... It is not our prerogative to direct the affairs of Southeastern Seminary...."

The document continues in a recognition of the significance of accreditation standards, but also affirms the trustees' right to set policy and describes the trustees' relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention.

FMB Denounced

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary claims she has been victimized by outmoded Foreign Mission Board policies and ignored by mission officials after separating from her husband.

Collis Hill Charlton, 42, made her complaints public during a Sept. 20 news conference in Greensboro, N.C. Mrs. Charlton, of Trinity, N.C., said her husband, former

missionary Paul Charlton of High Point, N.C. left her and their two young daughters last December, four months after the couple returned to North Carolina on medical leave from Brazil, where they had worked as missionaries since 1981.

Since then, she and her children have been forced to rely on her parents for financial support, she said. The Charltons

now are legally separated and Mrs. Charlton anticipates their divorce will be final by early December.

During this ordeal, Mrs. Charlton charged, various mission board officials have ignored or dealt inadequately with her plight, refused to split salary payments between her and her husband after they parted, and declined to send her back to Brazil as a single missionary, despite formal requests for her return from Brazilian Baptist colleagues and fellow missionaries in Brazil.

In a statement, Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said: "Those from the Foreign Mission Board involved with Collis Hill Charlton deeply regret the trauma and anguish she and her family have suffered. Unfortunately the causes for it are beyond our control.

"Our perception of events, actions and attitudes differ greatly from hers on many issues. Regrettably, many of these perceptions may remain unchanged. However, I do know that our staff and board share common desires and motives seeking to relate compassionately and fairly with her and all other missionaries."

At least thirteen staff members, trustees and others related to the mission board have communicated with or sought to assist the Charltons, according to Parks.

Mrs. Charlton charged at the news conference that the Foreign Mission Board treats married women missionaries as "appendages" of their husbands, and flatly refuses to consider exceptions to its policy against allowing any divorced person to serve as a missionary, whatever the circumstances of the divorce.

Foreign Mission Board officials responded they tried to help the Charltons salvage their marriage through counseling, then "bent over backwards" to continue providing financial support to Mrs. Charlton and her children after Charlton resigned as a missionary Feb. 17.

German Church Seeks Pastor

The East Bavaria Southern Baptist Church in Grafenwoehr, West German, 70 miles northeast of Nurnberg, is seeking a volunteer retired pastor or chaplain to pastor a growing English language congregation ministering to military personnel. There is great potential with 8,000 new troops and families scheduled for arrival in 1990.

A furnished three bedroom parsonage is provided, also utilities, car, and expenses, plus stipend. If interested, send resume to contact person, Doyle Lumpkin, Box R 12, APO NY 09114.



World Mission Rally

October 27, 1989

Immanuel Baptist Church
10th and Bishop
Little Rock

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Keith Parks

SBC Foreign Mission Board
Richmond, Va.

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901 COMMERCE ST #500
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WORLD

Return to China

by Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—Southern Baptist teachers and students have returned to China after leaving the nation following the June 4 military crackdown on student protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

The teachers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist aid organization Cooperative Services International, joined most other foreigners in leaving China after the crackdown. Chinese students at most universities boycotted classes, closing out the spring semester a month early. Cooperative Services International also canceled its summer language institutes.

The 52 CSI teachers and students in this fall's group comprise the largest number assigned to China by the Southern Baptist organization in its four-year existence. The 46 teachers in the group top by nearly one-third last year's total of 35. The six students double last year's figure. Figures quoted in China's official *People's Daily* newspaper indicated CSI teachers make up nearly one-fourth of the 205 English-language teachers from the United States and Canada working in Chinese colleges and universities this fall.

CSI increased the number of its China personnel as other sending organizations reduced their commitments to China. CSI accepted Chinese educators' requests to fill slots vacated by some other organizations, although CSI officials insisted they are not trying to undercut the work of other groups.

CSI personnel are scattered throughout 21 colleges and universities in 10 Chinese provinces. But officials decided not to assign personnel to remote regions of the country because the political situation in China still is tense.

"Our experience seems to be unique even among Christian organizations," said Jack Shelby, CSI's Hong Kong-based administrator. "There seems to be a drop-off in the number of people wanting to go to China this year."

Four teachers who initially requested CSI sponsorship dropped out of the program May 31, five days before the Tiananmen Square incident. These were the only cancellations reported by the organization, and all were unrelated to events in China. One-third of the current group of teachers taught in China last year, as all teachers eligible for another year returned.

However, the Chinese government canceled the United States' Fulbright scholar exchange program in retaliation for the U.S. government's support of the

Chinese pro-democracy movement. Fulbright scholars slated for China are studying in other Asian nations.

Some organizations have curtailed their China involvement as a protest against the Chinese government's activities during the student-led demonstrations.

"Some people feel our presence (in China) may be used for propaganda purposes," said Shelby. "We don't want that to happen, but if it happens, that's the trade-off. Our enhanced relationship with the Chinese people outweighs any propaganda gains or considerations."

CSI administrators huddled during the summer in Hong Kong to discuss future efforts in China and what their response to the military crackdown would be. They concluded that "we are in China as guests of the Chinese government and the Chinese people. CSI is there to help and to serve as friends of the Chinese people," Shelby related.

Missionary Notes

Addresses for several Southern Baptist foreign missionaries from Arkansas currently on furlough are as follows:

Bryant, Orvell Jr. and Suzan; St. Vincent; furlough dates: July 1989-May 1990; SAU, P.O. Box 643, Magnolia, AR 71753; telephone 501-234-2440.

Chatman, Truman and Carol; Uruguay; furlough dates: June 1989-June 1990; 1208 Hester, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

Garner, Darrel and Judy; Malawi; furlough dates: August-December 1989; P.O. Box 254, Pleasant Plains, AR 72568; telephone 501-345-2732.

Hendricks, Larry and Mary; Costa Rica; furlough dates: May 1989-January 1990; 2451 Tarbet Drive, Memphis, TN 38119; 901-682-9454.

Jenkins, Orville and Edith; Kenya; furlough dates: August 1989-July 1990; 15 Brookview Drive, Little Rock, AR 72209; telephone 501-562-2714.

Johnson, Gerald and Debbie; Peru; furlough dates: January 1989-January 1990; 717 North Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72205; telephone 501-664-4916.

Kirby, Ben and Charlotte; Venezuela; furlough dates: August 1989-June 1990; c/o Rupert Halbert, P.O. Box 356, Star City, AR 71667; telephone 501-628-4846.

Miller, David and Martha; Peru; furlough dates: Aug.-Dec. 1989; #10 Warwick Road, Little Rock, AR 72205; telephone 501-225-5511.