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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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October 26, 1989

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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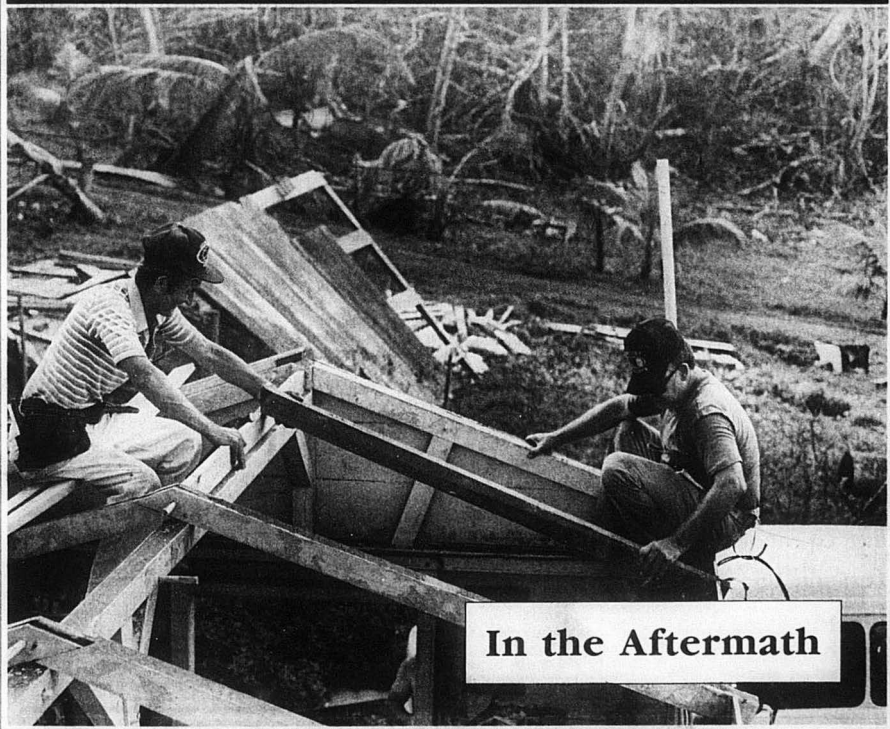
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As You Go . . .

Arkansas Baptist

October 26, 1989

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee



In the Aftermath

In This Issue

Cover Story



(BP) photo / Ronald Centrell

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Missions volunteers are hard at work helping people rebuild their homes and lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Forty Years

PATTAYA, Thailand—Missionaries in Thailand marked the 40th anniversary of Southern Baptist presence in the southeast Asian nation. At their annual meeting they honored five missionary couples who have worked in Thailand more than 30 years each, for a total of 336 years of missionary service. During the past 40 years missionaries have played a role in constituting 36 Baptist churches with 2,534 members and starting 46 home groups and preaching points with 466 members. In Thailand, Buddhists claim 94 percent of the population.

Seminary Project

HONG KONG—Non-Christian members of a community center sponsored by Hong Kong Baptist Church participated in a recent project to support the Baptist seminary there. Center director Tang Kwok

Tai, a part-time seminary student, challenged members at the community center to raise money for the seminary. They responded with \$1,000. Those unable to give decided to knit and sell woolen scarves. The effort netted an additional \$2,500. About half of the center's 300 members are Christians; since the center opened last fall, more than 20 people have accepted Christ.

Japanese Centennial

TOKYO, Japan—Japanese Baptists celebrated 100 years of mission work as an overflow crowd of more than 1,400 people gathered in the 1,000-seat auditorium at Seinan University in Fukuoka for the Centennial Celebration. The first Baptist missionaries, Jack and Sophia Brunson and J.W. and Dru McCollum, arrived Nov. 5, 1889. Baptists in Japan now count 297 churches and 30,000 members.

GOOD NEWS!

Actions of The Church

1 Peter 3:8-12

Church business meetings are interesting experiences: The sessions are filled with reports, discussions, and recommendations for actions.

Peter conducted a business meeting for the churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. Through a letter Peter gave some recommendations which the church should follow. The actions remain in the minutes (1 Peter), and they apply to contemporary congregations. These actions are integral to the Christian life-style.

Be like-minded—The first action the church should take is to have "unity of spirit" (3:8, RSV). Literally, the expression means to have your mind on the same things. Believers may have unity when each member has his mind on Christ and his kingdom.

Be sympathetic—The next action the church should take is to have "sympathy" (3:8). This means to "feel together." Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Sympathy and selfishness do not coexist.

Believers belong to one another. They are parts of one body (cf. 1 Cor. 12:26). Each part shares either the disease or health of the whole.

Be loving—A prominent action of the church is "love of the brethren" (3:8, RSV).

Jesus said that the identifying characteristic of his disciple is love (cf. John 13:35). The simplest test of the reality of Christianity is whether it makes them love the brethren.

Be tenderhearted—The fourth action of the church is to exert "a tender heart" (3:8, RSV). The expression came from the ancient notion that the visceral part of a person was the seat of strong emotions. Peter wanted the church to "try a little tenderness."

A tender heart leads to compassionate action toward those who hurt. The tender heart is the beginning of social action for a hurting world.

Be humble—Another important action for the church is to have "a humble mind" (3:8, RSV). This is the person who acknowledges God as the Creator.

At times believers can get in the attitude of self-sufficiency. This usually happens when we compare ourselves to other human beings. Christians will always remain humble when Christ is the basis of comparison.

Be a blessing—The final action is a hard one. The Christian is to return good for evil (cf. 3:9-12). The natural tendency is to seek revenge on those who mistreat you. The church should counteract evil.

God has six clear actions for the church. He passed them unanimously. Now is the time for the church to take action.

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Authoritative Word

J. EVERETT SNEED

All belief is derived from some source of authority. We as Christians have the Bible as our final, totally reliable, authoritative Word. The Bible as originally given by God was totally without error. This is because the Bible is "God-breathed." We can depend on the Scriptures for our faith, theology, ethics and practice.

We do not have any of the original autographs or manuscripts that were written by the servants of God. But there are two miracles that have surrounded the Bible as we have it today. First, there is the miracle of God's inspiration, or overshadowing, of his servants so that the message was in keeping with his will.

The second miracle is that God has preserved his Word for us so that it is totally dependable in the translations that we have today. The noted lexicographers Westcott and Hart said that there "is not a single major doctrine that hinges on a textual variance." Simply stated, this means that when an individual picks up his translation of the Word of God, he can believe it and accept it because it is accurate.

Today there are numerous theories of inspiration. We as Southern Baptists have stated our position clearly in our 1963 confession of faith, commonly called the "Baptist Faith and Message." This statement says, "The Bible is written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to men. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its message. It reveals principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian unity, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

There are numerous reasons why we believe the Bible to be inerrant, accurate and trustworthy. First, since God has revealed himself to man, it is reasonable to assume that he has revealed himself in an accurate and trustworthy manner. To challenge the validity of the Scripture is to challenge the trustworthiness of God.

Second, Jesus gave testimony to the validity of the Old Testament Scriptures. Christ quoted from almost every Old Testament Book. This is the incarnate Son of



God's stamp of approval on the Old Testament.

Again, our Lord sealed the validity of the New Testament as he commissioned his apostles as teachers and gave them the promise of the supernatural aid of the Holy Spirit in their teaching. The promise given to the apostles is similar to the promise that was given to the writers of the Old Testament.

The apostolic writers of the New Testament, unlike the heathen sages and poets, gave attestation of inspiration by the miracles they performed. The New Testament clearly declares to us that the apostles performed miracles. These miracles serve as credentials of the inspiration of the apostles chosen by God.

Finally, the unity of the Scripture, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies,

and archeological discoveries that have been made all give further attestation to the absolute trustworthiness of the Scripture. Anyone who has been involved in extensive writing is aware of how difficult it is to maintain unity and agreement in one's writings. The Scriptures were written over a period of 1,300 years by more than 30 writers and yet displays a unity which declares that God through the Holy Spirit is the author of our Bible.

The Bible is the final source of authority for man. There will never be another Bible, because there will never be a need for another. Our Scripture contains all that man needs to know until the end of the age. This does not mean that there will not be new interpretations or new truths drawn from the Bible. It is an inexhaustible treasure. No single individual or single generation of individuals have explored all the truths that are contained in it. However, it is final in its message.

Man will never outgrow the Bible. In one of Jesus' last teaching periods he said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away" (Mt. 24:35).

The Bible is a book by which individuals are to live. The Psalmist said long ago, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105). Man is to pattern his life by the truths and principles that are laid down in the Word of God. Man left to his own devices will stagger in the darkness of sin. The Bible reveals to man the path that he is to tread. It assists man from stumbling on the stones and pitfalls of life.

Fortunately, today we can read the Word of God and place complete trust in it. Our need is to believe God's Word, live by it, and proclaim it daily.

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Letters to the Editor

Power to Love

"The Greatest Orthodoxy—Love." This was the sermon title of a friend of mine at the SBC in Miami years ago. It was appropriate then, but how much more appropriate for belief and practice in our beloved denomination today when things other than love are being championed as the greatest Christian orthodoxy, and when some practices are the very antithesis of Christian love.

Over and over Jesus stressed the pre-eminence of love. Space permits only a few references here:

"... You shall love your neighbor as yourself..." (Mk. 12:31); "... Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you..." (Lk. 6:27); "A new commandment I give to you, that you love and another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for another" (Jn. 13:34-35). (Judged by this standard, what do "all men" see in our SBC?)

Other New Testament writers strongly affirm the absolute indispensability of love in the life of a genuine Christian: "He who does not love does not know God?, for God is love" (1 Jn. 4:8); "If anyone says, 'love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 Jn. 4:20); "... He who does not love abides in death..." (1 Jn. 3:13); and the entire 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians, which proclaims love's superiority over all spiritual gifts, and stresses the utter impossibility of serving God acceptably without love as our motive and practice. It closes by saying, "... the greatest... is love."

It is easy to talk about the Bible, and who believes it the most and who interprets it correctly, etc., but if we fail to love our brothers, neighbors, our enemies and all mankind, our claims for Christian orthodoxy in belief and practice are utterly false.

Let's pray that God will give us both the desire and power to love, so that we will stop breaking his heart and destroying his work and each other.—**Jamie Jones, Fayetteville**

In Children's Hands

The only place connected to government where the Bible, prayer, and God are supposed to be illegal, is in the schools.

Every president of the United States of

America has taken his oath of office on the Holy Bible. The Bible stands for human rights, ethics, honesty and the need of a loving, caring God. But this is being denied to the children of this country.

The Congress has prayer. Congress has held a National Day of Prayer since Congress was set up. The courts have Bibles. But kids are not to. The state government has Bibles, but Bibles are denied to the children of the state.

God is in our Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, but they do not want it in schools either.

Who is trying to get God out of schools? Someone who wants our children to grow up like they do in Russia, subject to atheism and no moral values. This sounds like what the Devil would like. He would like to destroy the United States of America and Christianity and then we all can enjoy living like they do in Russia, China, India, and Third World countries.

I think we want what our nation has given us and what God has given us in Christianity. We need God and his Bible in our schools and in our children's hands.—**Russ Curry, Bentonville**

Repent from Abortion

In regard to abortions, I have been a nurse for many years. I have seen many people depart this life. I will never forget an elderly lady who had been comatose for about a week. When she came to the end, she left this world screaming "I am going straight into hell. Abortion, abortion, why did anyone ever tell me about abortion?"

Dear friends, God loves you and we love you, unless you who have had or plan to have abortions, repent and make peace with God. When you draw your last breath it is too late.

Dear friends, during this time of turmoil, be not deceived. God is not mocked. He created this universe and has power to control it. He said his spirit will not always strive with man. One of the Ten Commandments is "Thou shalt not kill." Two hundred thousand abortions a year is murder plain and simple. This is not an unpardonable sin, but is a sin that is destroying our nation. Stop and think, we are getting in the same position as Germany was at the time they slaughtered millions of Jews.

Wake up Christian friends, begin pray-

Woman's Viewpoint

Grounded in God's Grace

MARY ELLAN PUCKETT

In thinking about people who have to find themselves, I turned to II Corinthians 12:9-10 and 13:4-6 and read of the sufficiency of God. The past decade has been filled with people searching for their self-esteem and self-identity.

Paul knew exactly who he was, and did not have to find himself. He said, "I am an apostle of Jesus Christ." He recognized what was expected of an apostle. He must preach the gospel. To preach God's Holy Word did not require any concept of self to God's grace. Had it not been for the grace of God, God would not have used such dynamic force to get



Paul's attention. God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you." Therefore Paul needed to face all people with the fact that God is all powerful, and he did.

In Paul's life self-esteem and self-identity were grounded in God's grace. His knowledge that "power is perfected in weakness" prompted Paul to say, "When I am weak, then I am made strong." But he did not say that he

was weak. Christ found Paul and Paul knew who Christ was, for he called him Lord. There grace became the foundation of self. Any life in low-esteem contradicts God's grace. Christian disciples must know who they are, never to be dependent on others' opinions, if they are in Christ, and make claim, as Paul did, to serve where Christ directs.

The reflections of others must not have any influence on one's self-image in Christ and doing God's holy will in the service.

Mary Ellan Puckett is the wife of Russell Puckett, interim pastor of Rison Church. She has been active in church work for more than 50 years.

ing for our nation and its leaders. Our nation was founded on Christian principles and the Word of God. Unless we return to those, our nation cannot survive.

I want to share another wonderful experience. There was this elderly minister who had been ill for some time. One night he called me to his bedside. He asked me to raise him to a sitting position, with my arm around his shoulders I raised him gently off the pillow. He reached his arms forward towards heaven, an angelic smile came over his face. His last words were "The doors of heaven are open and I can see Jesus. The Angels are coming for me." He fell back in my arms without another breath.

I hope this will be of help to unconcerned people.—**Ridgic Ritter, Harrison**

Working Miracles

In the Little Rock airport 100 days after the Tiananmen Square massacre, we met a young man who had just arrived from China to study at Ouachita Baptist University. He was speechless as he came from the plane and embraced us as if he did not want to let us go. It was an emotional moment for us also, because we had grown to love him while teaching in China and had been working and praying for a long time to get him to Arkansas. After it seemed that he had exhausted all possibilities of getting permission to leave China, he wrote and said, "If God wants me to come to the U.S., he will certainly work it out." Our Lord did indeed work a miracle to bring him to our university.

Yang Su Xin was a student in my wife's class in China. He approached us there about becoming a Christian, and his life was changed dramatically. In fact the impact of the Lord on his life was so profound that other Chinese students remarked about the change in his life.

We believe this young man will be used in a mighty way by our Lord, both in our University and in China after he returns. In a sense he will go back to China as a missionary who will not need support from the Foreign Mission Board. He is the "first fruits" of Ouachita's China program, and his story is a good example of the many ways Ouachita witnesses to the lordship of Christ.

Our experience prompts us to urge all Arkansas Baptists who have contact with foreign students to pray for them and minister to them. Very often the student who has studied in the United States goes back home to become a leader in his or her country. They can become effective missionaries if they are brought to the Lord and nurtured while in our country.—**Tom Turner, Arkadelphia**

SILOAM SPRINGS ASSEMBLY

'Needle in a Haystack'

For more than 70 years the Arkansas Baptist Assembly at Siloam Springs has been developing Arkansas Baptist youth into spiritual leaders. This leadership has spread from local congregations in Arkansas, to other states in the nation, and even international endeavors. Unfortunately, no records have been kept of those who went through this learning process.

We project that as many as 40,000 Baptist youth attended and grew from their Siloam Springs experience. Now comes the searching for the proverbial "needle in a haystack." The Assembly is attempting to identify the current names and addresses of these alumni.

In developing a listing of Arkansas Baptists who have experienced personal growth or significant decisions as a result of their involvement at Siloam Springs, the Assembly wants to seek support of these individuals in the possible capital campaign to refurbish the dormitories and the cabins at Siloam Springs. After many years of use, the dormitories and the cabins are in desperate need of repair and renovation. The refurbishing is necessary to bring them to a condition by which they could continue to provide their heritage of service. At the same time, the tabernacle is show-

ing its age. The building needs to be replaced so that it can continue to serve as the "spiritual heart" of the Siloam Experience.

We need your help to identify Baptists, either living in Arkansas or outside of the state, who participated in the Siloam experience. We encourage you to complete the form at the bottom of this article and return it at your earliest convenience.

If we can identify at least 25 percent of our large number of alumni, it will provide us with more than 10,000 adults who have attended the Assembly in the past. We can then keep the alumni informed of changes, development and growth in the program.

The Assembly Identification Project is an effort to construct a foundation for the future that will build a network of valuable communication. Without your help, we are lost.

We encourage your full and immediate support of this identification effort. The Arkansas Baptist Assembly Alumni Identification Project is progressing along and scores of Baptists from across the state are contributing names of Assembly alumni. Help us locate our valuable "needles" which we have lost in the "haystack of time."—**Freddie Pike, ABSC Sunday School Department**



Siloam Springs Assembly Alumni, Teacher/Staff and Friend Identification

Please help the Arkansas Baptist State Convention identify the name and address of people who have attended the camp. We need their present name, address, zip code and phone number. Please send to Larry Bone & Associates, P.O. Box 22604, Little Rock, AR 72221.

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Alumni Teacher/Staff Friend

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Alumni Teacher/Staff Friend

TRIP NUMBER FIVE

A Volunteer 'Vacation'

by Kim Alley

SBC Historical Commission

NASHVILLE (BP)—Summertime means vacationing at the beach for most folks.

But Lamar Brown prefers to spend a week of his vacation each summer doing volunteer work for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, operated by the convention's Historical Commission.

"To me this is like vacation because I come (to work) in casual clothes and I'm not interrupted by the phone," says the Columbia, S.C., native.

"The people and the volunteers are some of the best people I've ever met in my life."

The Historical Commission staff is equally fond of Brown. His week with them each year yields both the completion of several work projects and many shared smiles.

During break times, Brown circulates through the commission offices relating humorous quips. He is fond of working with computers and telling stories about them. Of a friend, he says, "I taught him how to use his computer two years ago, and he hasn't needed a secretary since."

Brown's humor is coupled with a desire to serve. As a volunteer for Harry Dent's Laity: Alive and Serving ministry and Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship, he stays busy. He is clerk for First Baptist Church of Columbia and was placed on the church's history committee after he began to do his volunteer work with the Historical Commission. He also is a retired colonel of the Air National Guard.

Brown came to the attention of the Historical Commission five years ago.

He wrote a letter to Reginald McDonough, former executive vice-president of the Executive Committee, expressing interest in volunteering in some administrative capacity for the Southern Baptist Convention. In the letter, he noted

that he had a week of vacation that he wished to use in some form of ministry. McDonough forwarded the letter to the commission, which contacted Brown. In the summer of 1985, he came to work in the library and archives for the first time.

Brown annually pays his own way to the commission's office in Nashville, and the commission and library staff assist with his food expenses. He likes to play tennis and usually finds a tennis partner for the week he is in Nashville.

Librarian Pat Brown recalls Brown's first day at work: "The first day I met him he said, 'I'm Lamar Brown. I'm here to do what needs to be done. If you need the floor swept, hand me the broom.' He puts in a full week while he's here."

During his week this year, Brown inventoried associational annuals for Missouri and North Carolina and prepared letters to directors of missions in each association; helped another volunteer move about one-third of the Library of Congress book collection; removed all labels from old books waiting to be reprocessed; and shelved a backlog of associational annuals.

In addition to his volunteer work, Brown has contributed three books to the library and archives and provides a fellowship time each year, complete with cake, for the commission staff. This year's cake read, "It's great to be alive for Trip Number 5!"

At home, Brown works for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department as director of supplies and services. He and his wife, Joan, have two adult daughters.

Brown is planning to return again next year to volunteer his time.

He advises other Southern Baptists to tour the SBC Building, noting, "Most Baptists are losing so much by not coming here and seeing how they (agency employees) function."

SBC Historical Commission photo



Volunteer Lamar Brown

Classifieds

For Sale—Solid oak pews. Padded, with hymnal racks. We have 22 15-ft. pews and 4 4-ft. pews. Call 417-358-3991. 11/9

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

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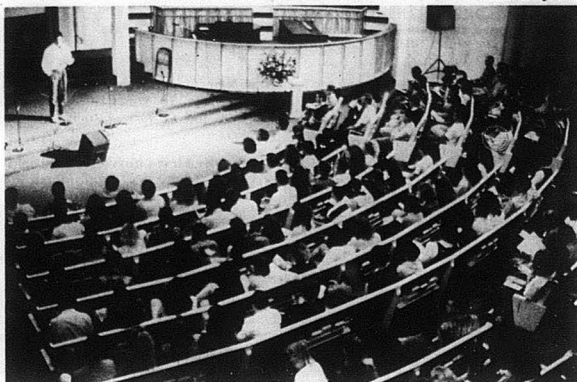
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Interested in a Ministry of Love?

Arkansas Baptist Home is looking for dedicated Christian singles, or couples (with two or less children) to live and work with children in a home-like setting. Salary, fringe benefits, and training are provided. Call or write Royce Aston, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655; phone 501-367-5358.

Photos / George Sims



Five OBU Promotions

ARKADELPHIA—Five faculty promotions were recently announced by Ouachita Baptist University.

Dr. Robert F. Allison, the holder of the George Young Professor of Business Chair and chairman of the Department of Business Administration and Economics, has been named the Chairman of the Division of Business and Economics at OBU.

Allison is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and the University of Michigan. He joined the Ouachita faculty in 1986.

Four other faculty members were promoted to higher rank by action of the OBU Board of Trustees. Promotions include: Dr. Hal Bass to professor of political science; Dr. David Dennis to assistant professor of music; Russell Hodges to assistant professor of music; and Mary Worthen to assistant professor of music.

Bass is a graduate of Baylor University and Vanderbilt University.

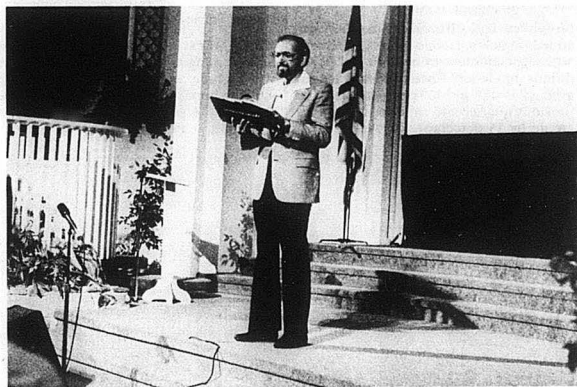
Dennis is a graduate of Western Carolina University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hodges is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Oklahoma.

Worthen is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Ouachita.

'As You Go . . .'

1989 State BSU Convention Emphasizes Discipleship



Christian discipleship was the emphasis when the annual State Baptist Student Union Convention convened Oct. 6-8 at First Baptist Church in Hot Springs.

The convention theme, "As You Go . . . Make Disciples," was based on the familiar Great Commission passage, Matthew 28:18-20.

More than 500 individuals registered for the three-day meeting, which included business matters as well as an inspirational

program.

Program personalities included Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebr. (pictured above); Esther Burroughs, national evangelism consultant with the SBC Home Mission Board; Hensworth Jones, pastor of Central Baptist Church on the island of Antigua in the West Indies; and The Company, a drama troupe from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

September Cooperative Program Report

Received	\$1,113,251.02
Budget	\$1,083,333.33
Over	\$29,917.69

Year-to-date	
Under	\$217,195.66

Same time last year	
Under	\$240,110.84

Through September, Cooperative Program receipts were 1.28 percent more than the same period of time in 1988. But, as you can see, we are still under budget by \$217,195.66.

For the month of September, we received 102.75 percent of monthly budget requirements. If we can continue that kind of giving through the remainder of the year, we can reach our goal of \$13,000 for the year.—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Steve R. Cook of Pine Bluff has graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree. He is married to the former Virginia Graves of Hot Springs. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Steve Cook of Pine Bluff.

D.C. McAtee is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Cotton Plant.

Ron Reynolds is serving as pastor of Gassville Church.

Ron Graham is serving as pastor of Trinity Church in Pottsville, going there from the Pottsville Church.

Jim Lagrone, pastor of First Southern Church in Bryant, has been named by Gov. Bill Clinton as a member of the Rural Development Study Commission to study the feasibility of a rural development institute for the state and to investigate rural development efforts in other states.

Charles Coats of Shirley is serving as minister of music and youth at First Church in Green Forest.

Mamie Ruth Abernathy has retired from 41 years of service at Second Church in Hot Springs, having served for 38 years as organist and two years as church pianist. Abernathy directed the children's choirs for 21 years and hand bell choir for nine years.

Joe Yates has resigned as pastor of First Church in Hector.

Preston Pearce has joined the staff of Wynne Church as interim minister to youth. A native of Shreveport, La., he is a student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lonnie Latham will begin serving in November as director of missions for Bartholomew Association, coming there from Desoto Church in Desoto, Texas. He and his wife, Sandra, have a son, Chris. Latham is a graduate of Dallas Baptist College, Baylor University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jeff Lawson will join the staff of Olivet Church in Little Rock Oct. 29 as minister of music and youth. He and his wife, Nancy, will move to Little Rock from Horseshoe Bend.

Jay Stewart had joined the staff of Shepherd Hill Church in Pine Bluff as

music director. Rex Newman is serving as interim pastor.

Larry Harrison has joined the staff of Bryant First Southern Church as minister of music. He serves on the admissions-office staff at Ouachita Baptist University.

Dennis Neal has joined the staff of Calvary Church in Hope as associate pastor of youth and education. He and his wife, Sandra, moved there from Ardmore, Okla.

Rudy O. Davis is serving as pastor of Second Church in West Helena.

Briefly

Scranton Church held a noteburning service Sept. 10 to celebrate payments of its parsonage indebtedness.

Twin Lakes Chapel at Diamondhead launched a bus ministry Sept. 24.

Shepherd Hill Church at Pine Bluff has added 30 new members to its enrollment with eight additions by baptism and 22 additions by letter. Their Sunday School average is up by 37 percent over the previous quarter and tithes and offerings are up by 15 percent.

New Morrow Church dedicated a new building Sept. 10. James Hill, director of missions for Calvary Association, was speaker.

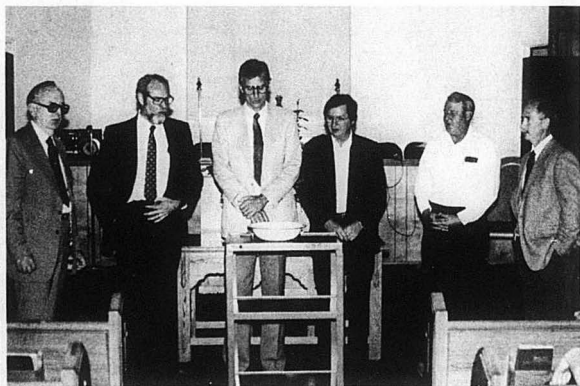
Booneville First Church recently held a service to license W.C. Wofford and Ron West to the preaching ministry.

Camden First Church observed Jean Pool Appreciation Day Oct. 15, recognizing her retirement following 16 years of service in the church office.

Jonesboro First Chapel dedicated its building program Oct. 15 with services that included Sunday School, morning worship and a 2:30 p.m. dedication service. Participating in services were Conway Sawyers, director of the ABSC Missions Department; Neal Stevens, field consultant for the ABSC Missions Department; Billy Joe Emerson; and Emil Williams, pastor of the sponsoring church, Jonesboro First. Troy Prince is pastor.

Siloam Springs First Church observed its 121st anniversary of service Sept. 28. Homer Shirley is pastor.

Hope First Church will observe homecoming Oct. 29 with activities that will include Sunday School, a morning worship hour, a potluck lunch in Fair Park Coliseum, 2 p.m. entertainment, a song contest, and a 4 p.m. church service.



Sixteenth Street in North Little Rock marked payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service Oct. 8. Participating were Robert Rainwater, former pastor; Mason Bondurant, interim pastor; Otis Purifoy; Chester Sitton; Kelly Scott; and Darrell Sitton.

Two Couples Appointed

RICHMOND, VA.—Two couples with Arkansas connections were among the 38 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 10 at Bethany Place Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

Clay H. and Debbie Porter will live in Hong Kong, where he will be starting and developing churches.

Porter has been a language consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 1986. They are members of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

A Tennessee native, Porter is a graduate of Dyersburg (Tenn.) State Community College, University of Tennessee at Martin, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been minister of education and youth at Pike Avenue Church in North Little Rock.

Also a Tennessee native, Mrs. Porter, the former Debbie German, is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Since 1986 she has been an administrative assistant with Professional Counseling Associates in Little Rock.

Dr. Ronald L. and Teresa White will live in Indonesia, where White, a physician, will work in a Baptist hospital.

Born and reared in Wynne, White is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard White of that city. He considers First Church, Little Rock, his home church.

Currently attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, White is a graduate of the University of Arkansas in



The Porters

The Whites

Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. Recently he was a physician with the Arkansas Digestive Diseases in Little Rock, and has been minister of youth at First Church, North Little Rock.

Born in Kansas, Mr. White, the former Teresa Turner, is the daughter of Edwin Turner of Houston, Texas, and Louis DeMaire of Searcy. She also considers First Church, Little Rock, her home church. A registered nurse, she is a graduate of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She has been a nurse at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock and youth director at University Church in Fayetteville.

The Whites have three children: Tiffany Nicole, Ryan Clay and Tera Shea.

Both families will go to Rockville, Va., in January for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Bookshelf

How to Have a Happy Marriage by Bill H. Lewis

How To Have A Happy Marriage is a brief, but excellent discussion on how a couple can have a successful marriage in today's world. The book is based on Dr. Lewis' marital experience, and his counseling with others, and the Word of God.

The Lewises have been married since March 29, 1981. They married after each had lost a spouse. Mrs. Lewis was a member of First Southern Church, Bryant, where Lewis was pastor.

Lewis has been in the ministry for 42 years. He is the author of seven books on a variety of subjects.

The topics covered in the book include Marriage is Full-Fillment, Never Believe That Marriage Is A 50/50 Proposition, Do Not Depend Exclusively On Your Mate For Happiness, Never Mention The Word Divorce, Do Not Think That Intense Disagreement Means That Your Marriage Is In Trouble, Don't Ever Down-Rate, Criticize, Or Correct Your Mate In Public, Don't Ever Make Fun of Your Mate, Practice Constant Forgiveness, Learn How To Compliment The Other, Make A Constant Effort To Keep The Joy Flowing, and Be Sure Your Wife Is Number One.

Lewis said near the conclusion of the book, "Now we say one must be right with the Lord. If you are not talking to the Lord, how can you talk to each other? If there is no joy in God, there is no joy in the home. If we are wrong with God, we are wrong at home. We will take out our frustrations on each other. If we are backslidden toward God, we will be backslidden toward our mate."

The book is available by ordering it directly from the Harmony Baptist Association, 2001 Cherry Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

A SMILE OR TWO

News item: On next Wednesday evening the Ladies Aid will host a rummage sale at the Methodist Church. Good chance to get rid of anything not worth keeping but too good to be thrown away. Bring along your husbands.

"I feel as good now as I ever did. Some days, I feel better."—*Former Louisiana Governor Jimmie Davis*

HMB

HOME MISSION BOARD, SBC

\$7,500,000 Series E Church Loan Collateralized Bonds

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Dennis Bergfeld, Darrell Bridges, and Larry Pillow discuss mission work.

Maryland Mission

by J. Everett Sneed
Editor, Arkansas Baptist

"This is a good example of Baptists working together," declared Darrell Bridges, former pastor to the youth and children of Second Church, Conway. Bridges was referring to the establishment of the Valley Chapel of Germantown, Md., which recently called him as pastor.

The chapel was established through the work of the Home Mission Board, the local Montgomery County Association, the Maryland State Convention, a Praxis team from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the work of churches from over the Southern Baptist Convention. One of the churches which played a major role in the establishing of the new work was Second Church, Conway.

Second Church, Conway, sent a group of 72 to Germantown in the summer of 1988. Second Church has conducted summer mission trips for a number of years. Dennis Bergfeld, minister of music for Second Church, has directed these activities. Bridges has assisted him on mission trips.

On this particular mission trip, the 57 young people and 15 adults conducted six backyard Bible clubs, a mission vacation Bible school, and two concerts. They also conducted a door-to-door campaign, surveying prospects and enlisting individuals who would be interested in having Bible studies. Two Bible studies were immediately begun as a result of this effort. Currently there are three home Bible studies which are being conducted by the

chapel.

The Maryland convention and the Home Mission Board targeted this location because it is on the growth edge of Washington, D.C. The Home Mission Board rated it as a 9.6 out of a possible 10 for new church starts.

Bergfeld's wife, Nellmarie, is a close friend of Willene Pierce, state WMU director for Maryland and previously on the WMU staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Through this contact Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Church, discovered the need in Germantown. Pillow made contact with the Montgomery Association and later with the Maryland State Convention. Second Church was the first to show interest in the new mission site.

After Second Church had made contact with the Montgomery Association, the association appealed to its local churches for a sponsoring church. The Redland Church of Durwood responded to the request. The association then contacted Southeastern Seminary for a Praxis team. The Praxis team, seminary students who assist in new church starts, worked nine weeks in the area and gave direction to the volunteers who came from Second Church.

The Germantown area is growing rapidly. In 1970 there were 2,800 people in the area. Today the population exceeds 35,000. It is projected that, by the year 2000, the population will be approximately 75,000.

The town is located eight miles from the Washington, D.C. metro area. The town is

bordered on the opposite side by cornfields. Developers are constructing town homes rapidly. Approximately 70 percent of the people currently live in town homes.

Property is exceedingly expensive. Town homes range from \$100,000 upward. The average cost of an 1,800 square foot town home is \$130,000. Detached houses with yards are much more expensive.

Most of the people who come to the area are involved in U.S. government work. Eighty percent of the population is under 40 years of age. The community has no city government or city services. It is an unincorporated area, served by county law enforcement officers.

The new chapel has approximately 40 members, but is averaging in excess of 100 in attendance. The congregation received some families from the sponsoring church, Redland.

The congregation currently is meeting in the public school and plans to continue renting these facilities for some time because of the high cost of land. The chapel is composed of people who have come from different states and with different ethnic backgrounds. The church leadership believes that it will require a non-traditional approach to reach the people in the area.

Pastor Pillow feels extremely positive about the involvement of Second Church in the establishment of the Valley congregation. He said, "My faith in the value of mission trips has been greatly increased. Mission trips require a lot of money, time and staff work. Often there is very little apparent results. But this trip produced excellent results because a new congregation has come into existence.

Pillow believes that this experience will have a positive impact on the young people of Second Church. He said, "The young people who went on the trip hate to see Darrell leave, but are excited because he is going to serve a congregation that they helped start."

Both Pillow and Bridges believe that such mission trips assist in strengthening missions. Pillow said, "All our young people who participated will be impacted by this to some extent. But one or two will capture a vision for missions that will remain with them always."

Notice

The next edition of the *Arkansas Baptist* will be published on Nov. 9. Sunday School lesson commentaries for Oct. 29 and Nov. 4 are included in this issue.

Wonderful Month!

by Don Moore
ABC Executive Director

November! What a wonderful month! It's the month of my birth. That's pretty wonderful to me. It's the month deer season opens. That gets more people excited than you can imagine. It's the month of Thanksgiving. That is always a meaningful time. But there is more.



Moore

Annual Arkansas Baptist State Convention. This is always a time of joy in fellowship, action in the business sessions, and challenge in the projects and programs adopted for the future. This 136th annual session will be held at the First Baptist Church in Little Rock on Nov. 14-15. (Sorry about the misprint of the date in other announcements.) A record number is expected to attend this year's session. The Executive Director of the Guatemala Baptist Convention will be a featured speaker. Other out of state speakers are Darrell Robinson of the Home Mission Board and Richard Land of the Christian Life Commission. Excellent pre-convention programs have been planned by the officers of the Pastors, Ministers' Wives, and the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association for November 13. Let's seek the face of God and seek to do the will of God under the leadership of his Holy Spirit. This convention must set us forward and not backward in our fellowship and in the ministries of evangelism and missions. Yes, we need healing! Yes, we need a miracle! Through Christ we have a right to ask it. In faith let's ask. Then, let us look forward to seeing each other, trusting each other and edifying each other. This is God's will. See I John 5:14,15 for assurance in this.

Foreign Mission Study.—The suggested week of study for this annual emphasis is Nov. 19-22. The study leads into the Week of Prayer emphasis for foreign missions. The natural result of learning and prayer will be a record Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Did you know that you have the power to determine what happens in missions around this globe? Did you know God will hold you accountable for the use of that power? Did you know there are Baptist men and women in almost every church who could and would lead out in this activity if asked? Banking, hotels, and as of this past month, the media

in America is being bought and controlled by Japan. Japan is one of the least productive mission fields. As a coming world power, Japan needs to be impacted by the gospel of Christ. The mission study is "Churches Meeting the Challenge of Japan." Have a good study, prayer emphasis, and offering! I know you can, and I pray you will. The declining number of missionaries going to the fields indicates we need a renewed effort in this matter.

"M" Night is still around and blessing those who participate. Mobilization night was started to create excitement and involvement in the training churches were making available for their members. The need is greater today than ever. The time, Sunday night, is as good as ever. With all of the woeful evidence of our lack of true discipleship with our memberships, I want to encourage every church and association to work hard at improving their discipleship training ministries. There is something that will work in every church if there is someone to work it. Check it out!

January Bible Study.—The 1990 study is from my favorite epistle, II Corinthians. Nov. 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., we will conduct a training clinic at the Baptist Building to equip individuals to lead an associational January Bible Study Clinic. Others are welcome to come, but we especially want the directors of missions, or someone so designated, to prepare themselves to help the pastors get ready for next year's study. A special blessing falls upon and comes within the person who gives special time to the study and proclamation of the Word.

Building? Remodeling? Nov. 27-Dec. 1, Ed Hinkson and a building consultant from the Church Architecture Department in Nashville will be calling on churches in the state who want professional counsel related to their building. These tours are meeting a great need. This is the third tour in 1989. It's all yours for free, if you will make an appointment by Nov. 8.

State Keyboard Clinic.—Accompanists really can make the difference in a worship service. The really good accompanists, we tend to take for granted. Those less proficient, we tend to criticize or ignore. Couldn't your church say, "We appreciate you" by sending their pianist or organist to this clinic, Nov. 4? The specialists being brought in for this are sure to share some refreshing ideas they can use. The clinic this year will be geared toward the more advanced accompanists rather than beginners.

Baptist Men's Prayer Retreat.—Who

knows when the next great awakening may come? We all know we need it. We believe we want it. But when and with whom it comes, only God knows. It will not come apart from prayer. Would it not be great for it to begin with a group of Arkansas Baptist men who gather to pray at Camp Paron? Wives you are included. Sleeping accommodations will be in separate dormitories. Linens and toilet articles are not furnished. Lay Renewal people will sponsor this great time of spiritual adventure. The dates are Nov. 2-3.

International Student Conference.—Camp Paron will be the site of this annual meeting. There are 1,800 students from 30 nations attending colleges and universities in Arkansas. Our BSU and the National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention will be sponsoring the meeting. Every conceivable religious background and no religious background will be represented there. Relationships can be developed through this event that will open up one-on-one witnessing opportunities. My chief appeal related to this meeting on Nov. 17-19, is that we all hold our leaders and students up in prayer as they try to impact the lives of many who will go back to their countries to be national leaders.

Royal Ambassador Week.—Nov. 5-11. Observe it in your church.

Brotherhood A Call for Help

Hugo spread destruction in the midst of Southern Baptists homes and churches. It struck the SBC foreign mission fields of Saba, Nevis, Mt. Surrat, Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Eustatius. There was wide spread damage on the home mission field of Puerto Rico.

There is no way to describe the damage to homes and churches in South Carolina. Arkansas Baptists responded with personnel, food and money to the South Carolina crisis. Our unit changed locations as water and electric power became available. Larger groups went to help not only with feeding but in clearing, restoration and comforting through counseling.

The Caribbean Islands are still in need of food and help in rebuilding. The Foreign Mission Board has issued a call through the National Fellowship of Baptist Men for: (1) Groups of six to 12 men each for clean up in Guadeloupe. The teams will need to take sleeping bags, extension cords and generators. (2) Teams, teams, teams for Antigua. (3) Six line men for St. Kitts. (4) Teams of men to work in reconstruction

HELPLINE

of homes and church buildings in Guadeloupe, Antigua and St. Eustatius. If you want more information please contact our office immediately.

Book-Link continues to grow. Dr. Hal Buchanan is now working exclusively as Director of Book-Link. Requests continue to come in from all over the world. From June 1988 through July 1989, Book-Link shipped 8,037 books, 951 journals, 1,650 tracts and 129 audio cassettes for a total of 10,869 pieces. The estimated value of these materials is \$27,431. Add postage and volunteer time to that amount and the total value of services equals about \$54,000. Shipments have gone to 22 countries and three states. If you have Christian books to donate, contact Hal Buchanan at 601-842-4309, or call the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis at 1-800-727-6466.—Glendon Grober, director

Evangelism

Revival Objectives

The objectives of revival in our day must be Bible-based and true to the purpose of our Lord. We must exalt the name of our Lord and excite the people of our Lord.

The first objective is the renewing of our spiritual vigor as Christians. Webster says "renew" means "to make strong or refresh again, to reestablish or return".

Many Christians are run-down spiritually. We need to be recharged by the Holy Spirit to have the spiritual power to be effective and happy in our Lord. William Pinson, a former



Shell

ethics professor of mine at Southwestern Seminary and now Executive Director of Baptist General Convention of Texas writes, "Renewal means wholeness, coming alive with the total gospel. It is for all Christians, not just for the clergy. Renewal is to effect morality as well as devotional life, ethics as well as evangelism, ministry as well as worship."

As revival renews our spiritual vigor, it brings satisfaction, security, and success to our lives as we serve our Lord.

The second objective of revival is reclaiming of lives lost to service. It shocks our minds and breaks our hearts to realize so many of our church members are lost to our Lord's service. We are told that we have about 4,000,000 non-resident Southern Baptists. We also have about 3,000,000 inactive resident church members. Many of these are born again people and many have never been saved. Even for the saved, the potential, the finances, their influence, and their testimonies are lost to the cause of Christ. God exhorts us to reclaim them for his glory and for their joy. Galatians 6:1 says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." A real revival helps to reclaim lives, talents, and services for the glory of God.

The third objective of revival is the redeeming of the lost to Jesus. Jesus said in Luke 19:10. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus laid aside the crown of glory to come and wear a crown of thorns, that we might wear the crown of life. He explains here the number one reason he left heaven and came to earth was to save the lost. In the twentieth century, he is still the Savior and we are the seekers to bring people to him. We should expect lost people to be saved in every revival.

The final objective of revival is retaining

new Christians for Christ's use. We must never be satisfied to dip them and drop them. Each new Christian is a baby in Christ. We must give them love and support as they begin their spiritual pilgrimage. We must help them to know that it is a very serious decision to commit one's life to Christ. They need to understand that identification with the church and Christianity is a continuing growth process in life. Christ exhorts us in his commission to mature disciples. Real revival helps do this.

We are praying that these objectives will be reached March 18-April 8 in the Here's Hope Revivals.—Clarence Shell, director

Woman's Missionary Union 'Sent . . . to Serve'

"For God so loved the world . . ." the whole world, that he was generous in his giving and sent his Son to pay the price for the sins of the whole world. The sad fact remains that literally millions around the world have yet to hear this good news. The happy fact is that God can use Arkansas Baptists to enable almost 4000 foreign missionaries to share that good news in 116 countries. Knowledge and understanding enable us to be greater supporters of foreign missions.

Will your church consider having the churchwide foreign mission study scheduled for Nov. 19-22? Churches meeting the challenge of Japan is the focus for all age levels. A complete planning kit or the individual books and teaching guides are available through the Baptist Book Store. Dec. 3-10 is the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. This year's theme is "Sent . . . to Serve." Due to budget cuts, the Foreign Mission Board is unable to provide free prayer guides. Each church is asked to develop their own using suggestions being sent to WMU directors and pastors. This will call

Houseparent Positions

Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care is seeking mature Christian couples interested in working with abused, abandoned, and neglected children. Salary, benefits (medical and life insurance), and supervision. For details, call or write David W. Perry, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 501-376-4791.

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for commitment and added involvement on the part of our churches but we must be faithful.

One missionary has said that "prayer for missions is not a fringe benefit. It is a necessity." The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will also be taken during this week. Arkansas has set a goal of \$2.7 million. As this goal is reached and surpassed we will help Southern Baptists to reach the national goal of \$81 million.

Arkansas Baptists, do you remember what a glorious experience we had on April 11 in Little Rock as 50 new missionaries were appointed? Almost 7,000 of us stood to our feet to pledge prayer and financial support for them and the other foreign missionaries who are sent to serve. Now is the time for us to act on that commitment and to lead our churches to act. Let's be diligent to educate our people about a world that God still loves and Jesus died for. As informed Arkansas Baptists, we can be more consistent in our prayer support and more generous in our financial support. God loved so much that he gave. Will we, as his children, follow that same example?—Carolyn Porterfield, Baptist Women/BYW director

Stewardship/Annuity Free Materials

A study conducted by John and Sylvia Ronsvalle concluded that church stewardship was a "no-growth industry." Church members have more disposable income but they have not increased the percentage level of their contributions.

Other industries have exploded. Americans spend about 7.4 percent of their income for recreation. Eight billion dollars a year is spent on pets, and consumers put down \$3.5 billion each year for cut flowers.

Giving, as a percentage of income, hasn't increased since the fifties. Christians aren't enthused about giving.

Can this pattern change?

Stewardship promotion on the local level is essential. Believers are challenged by visions with which they can identify.

The spoken word from the pulpit and the classroom, the printed word and visuals all build vision.

The Stewardship/Annuity Department can provide materials that help create vision. Budget guidebooks, tracts, surveys, study guides, posters and tithers' commitment cards are available upon request. Motivational and "how to" videos and films may be requested on a no-cost loan basis.—James A. Walker, director

Looking Ahead

November

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

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

13 Pastors' Conference, *Little Rock First Church*

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

13 ABREA Meeting, *Little Rock First Church*

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

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

19-22 Foreign Mission Study (WМУ)

27 "M" Night (CT)

27-Dec. 1 Church Building Tour (SS)

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

December

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 Student Day at Christmas, (BSU)

January

13 RA Counselor Fellowship, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (Bbd)*

14 Soul Winning Commitment Day (Ev)

21 Baptist Men's Teleconference (Bbd)

22-23 Media Library Conference, *Central Church, North Little Rock (CT)*

28 Baptist Men's Day, (Bbd)

29-30 State Evangelism Conference, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (Ev)*

31-Feb. 2 BSU Directors' Workshop, *St. John's Seminary, Little Rock (BSU)*

Abbreviations:

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

ATTENTION:

Ministers and Church and Denominational Employees

Are you retiring soon? The Annuity Funding Rate for Annuity Board retirement plans changes to 8.0% January 1, 1990.

This may affect anyone who retires after November 30, 1989.

Call toll-free 1-800-262-0511 for more information.

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SOUTHEASTERN

Toward Reconciliation

by Marv Knox
Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Faculty, trustees and administrators at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary took a first step toward reconciliation during an unprecedented workshop Oct. 9-10.

The three groups—engaged in a two-year-old conflict that has threatened the seminary's accreditation—reached a three-part "compromise" offered by outgoing trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley, a pastor from Rockville, Md.

They agreed to:

— Place a moratorium on election of permanent faculty members until after the board's March meeting.

— Instruct a special faculty/trustee task force to propose a new faculty-selection process, which the trustees are to consider in March.

— Allow President Lewis A. Drummond to maintain his prerogative to appoint temporary faculty as needed during the interim.

Faculty selection dominated discussion during the workshop, which was interwoven into the fall trustee meeting at the Wake Forest, N.C., school.

Disagreement over the faculty-selection process launched the conflict in October 1987. That was when the trustees' new conservative majority changed the way the seminary picks professors—a move faculty and others believed was designed to ensure that only biblical inerrantists could be hired as professors.

That action reduced the faculty's power to determine faculty candidates, vesting more control with the president and a trustee committee. Then-President W. Randall Lolley, most administrators and some faculty subsequently resigned, and Southeastern's two accrediting agencies launched investigations.

The workshop this fall was part of a response to one of those agencies, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Planners said the workshop was designed to get all three parties talking about issues that divide them.

When it was over, participants agreed progress had been made. But faculty noted the process almost was undermined by four actions trustees took in their meeting.

First, trustees voted that the American Association of University Professors and its chapter at Southeastern Seminary "have no official standing with the seminary." The Southeastern chapter involves all but one full-time professor who were on the faculty prior to Drummond's tenure.

Second, they refused to allow "inclusive language guidelines" drafted by the faculty to be printed in the seminary's catalog, student handbook and directory.

Third, they agreed to consider at their March meeting a proposal that would name the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement as an official seminary document and would require all faculty candidates to affirm the statement prior to election or full-time employment. Current faculty signed the seminary's present doctrinal guidelines, the Articles of Faith—also known as the Abstract of Principles—and would not be required to sign the Baptist Faith and Message.

Fourth, they voted to open the small-group meetings in which faculty and trustees were to discuss seminary issues. At the faculty's request, they later consented to close those meetings, as pre-arranged procedure indicated.

Despite those problems, participants said the time together was valuable.

Robert Cooley, president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in suburban Boston and the workshop facilitator who was suggested by Southeastern's other accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, said the workshop ended on a high note.

"Change is accomplished through crisis, revolution or process," Cooley said. "I have seen in this process some movement toward change."

Trusteeship is a ministry, and faculty membership also is a divine calling, he added, urging members of both groups to respect one another.

Cooley called on Southeastern to adopt a "shared governance" model of operation,

noting the difficulty with the faculty-selection process "is only symptomatic" of the larger problem of seminary governance.

Trustees, faculty and administration should be participants in shared governance, he added, explaining that this properly involves only three components: trustees and faculty on either side, with the president in the middle.

And the groups must continue to communicate, Cooley urged. "Design faculty input at every trustee meeting," he said.

Faculty, trustee and administration representatives came away from the meeting expressing at least guarded optimism.

Drummond 'Plan'

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved and then overturned an "exigency plan" for operating the school if President Lewis A. Drummond becomes incapacitated during his bout with cancer.

He is undergoing radiation therapy and expects to undergo surgery to remove the colon tumor in early December.

Jesse P. Chapman, a retired physician from Asheville, N.C., proposed that Cecil Rhodes, a retired physician from nearby Wilson, N.C., be designated as the seminary's acting chief executive officer "during the time Dr. Drummond is undergoing active medical treatment" in the hospital.

Trustees approved the measure 14-10.



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Lawyer Threatens Suit

Against Southwestern Trustees if Firing Attempted

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—An Atlanta lawyer has threatened to sue individual trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary if they try to fire President Russell Dilday during an Oct. 16-17 board meeting.

Dilday, who has headed the 4,800-student seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 11 years, has been under increasing fire from "conservatives" for "political activities," including a May appearance before a "moderate" political organization in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In August, trustee officers met with Dilday and considered calling a special meeting of trustees to deal with the matter. The officers decided not to call a special meeting but said it would come up in the regular fall meeting.

Trustee Chairman Kenneth Lilly, a medical doctor from Fort Smith, Ark., has asked for an executive session of trustees and Dilday Oct. 17. Lilly also mailed an 85-page memo to trustees detailing what he called the "whole problem of political activity" by Dilday.

Certified letters were mailed to the seminary's 36 trustees Oct. 6 by Hugh W. Gibert of the Atlanta law firm of Arnall, Golden and Gregory, threatening litigation against individual trustees if action is taken against Dilday.

Gibert did not return telephone calls to Baptist Press, but did tell Ed Briggs, religion writer for the Richmond (Va.) *Times-Dispatch*: "I didn't threaten to sue them; I sent a letter to members of the board at Southwestern. I expressed the views that my clients wanted them to be aware of."

In the letter—copies of which were mailed to state Baptist newspapers—Gibert wrote that the "firm has been retained by a group of members affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention," but declined to identify his clients to Briggs.

He wrote: "Their (the clients') concern focuses particularly upon the threats that they perceive to the presidents of seminaries, the head of Baptist Press (the denominational news service), the president of the Foreign Mission Board and other personnel employed by the Southern Baptist Convention and its entities.

"The most immediate concern is related to threats perceived against Dr. Russell Dilday, his position as president . . . and to his rights as a Christian, as a leader of the denomination and as an American citizen."

Gibert goes on to say neither Dilday nor other SBC personnel "initiated or are parties to this communication."

In the two-page letter, the attorney said that when Dilday and others "were chosen to serve in their positions, there was no suggestion that it would be required that their views conform to those of other persons or groups."

"Needless to say, such requirements would have been unacceptable to them, nor would they have accepted their respective positions. They are not willing to allow such requirements to be imposed upon them, nor are the Baptists whom we represent. Furthermore, requirements of conformity in denominational views would have been, upon their employment, and even now would be inimical to Baptist polity," he writes.

He adds the "restrictions against speech imposed upon any denominational employee must be applied evenly and


equally to each trustee. . . ."

"For these reasons, our clients seek that diversity within the denomination be tolerated in a spirit of Christian charity and in accordance with the best traditions of the denomination. They further hope that those who come to occupy, however temporarily, positions of power within the denomination will not attempt to use that power to force conformity with views not historically embraced by Southern Baptists."

Gibert goes on to write that if the "hopes prove to be . . . unfounded" and an "attempt is made to remove Dr. Dilday from his position because of denominational views that he may express, our clients would, regretfully, but without regard to expense, defend Dr. Dilday's rights."

The letter notes litigation will not be filed against the SBC or any of its entities, but "would be taken against individual trustees of the entities whose personal positions will be challenged and whose fortunes will be placed at stake."


Baptist Press was unable to contact trustee Chairman Lilly for his response to the letter.



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'Family Matters'

by Dan Martin
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The president and trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary discussed "family matters" behind closed doors for nearly five hours Oct. 17.

When they emerged, they issued a three paragraph statement of affirmation and warning, directed at President Russell Dilday and the 36-member board of trust.

Trustee Chairman Ken Lilly, a medical doctor from Fort Smith, Ark., read the statement to the gallery of about 250 people at the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary:

"Our executive session consisted of healthy dialogue in which we all acknowledged our differences and failings.

"We, the trustees and Mr. President hereby affirm one another and pledge our mutual support.

"Because of the sensitivity of the issues involved, we covenant together as trustees and president to cease and desist from making any statements, or writings, or engaging in any activities that could reasonably be interpreted as being intentionally political in nature, all the while seeking to deal with each other and the institution we serve in truth and love."

Lilly's reading of the statement was greeted by polite applause. "That's it," he said, as he moved trustees into regular business.

Dilday, who has headed the 4,800-student seminary for 11 years, interrupted regular business after Lilly had read the statement to say he wanted a time to "let everybody kind of rejoice in what has happened."

"There was a unanimous expression of coming together after a long and orderly and very positive process of discussion," he said.

"The statement came about in a very providential way," he added. "The board gathered around here with me on our knees. We pledged our best; we covenanted—a very important word—as trustees and president to abide by the very best part of this statement to the very best of our ability.

"The board has taken a very positive and strong step that will ensure a strong future for this seminary," he added.

Trustees called for the executive session after some—including former Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr.—said they feared a "circus-like atmosphere" would be generated.

They voted 22-11 to conduct the executive session after Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, said trustees needed to deal with a "family matter" in discussing "some things with the president."

He added he is "not afraid to discuss them in open session, but sometimes we

need to get together as a family. I do a lot of things in public, but I don't dress and undress in public."

After the vote to hold the executive session, Dilday, in his report to trustees, said he would "rather have had the session open to Baptists around this convention, but you (trustees) have voted to do that in a secret and private way. I will work with you in this regard."

He said: "It is not likely we will settle those differences in our perspectives about the convention, the nature of the SBC or the direction it ought to take.

"But those differences do not directly relate to the work of this institution. That work continues to be the priority responsibility (of trustees) to guide, direct and govern this school.

"The work of this institution continues to be strong."

Dilday urged all concerned to "deal with the complaints . . . in a way that would not deter" the work of the convention.

"Our task is to be sure that in the midst of this debate and confrontation that the school be protected and that it does not suffer," he said.

'Sensitivity' Is Only Gag

by Toby Druin
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Both Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell Dilday and Chairman Ken Lilly insisted following their almost-five-hour, closed-door session that the only gags or muzzles applied to either Dilday or the trustees were ones of "sensitivity" about what and how something is said.

They did reach a "compromise," Dilday said as he and Lilly spoke to reporters in a brief news conference.

"I guess compromise could be used as a word for it," Dilday said in response to a reporter's question about what they had been able to accomplish.

"I think we all came together," he said. "We all mutually acknowledged our failings and our feelings, our differences, and we agreed we can't solve the differences we have about the Southern Baptist Convention in a session like this.

"But we can come together about our purpose and responsibility for this seminary, and I think that is the way I saw the meeting come out—that there will be in the future differences in our convention and in our denominational discussion, but we don't want anything to interfere with the work of this school, its calling, its purpose, its ministry."

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GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY

Trustees Affirm Dean

by Eddie Oliver & Herb Hollinger
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's academic dean, criticized by Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees for an article which appeared in one of the board publications, was affirmed by the seminary's board of trustees during their regular fall meeting, Oct. 10-11.

Robert L. Cate was criticized by SSB trustees for an article, "The Development of Monotheism," which appeared in the Biblical Illustrator, a Sunday school teacher's resource magazine.

The article was published without any substantive changes, following an examination by the board's doctrinal reader, seminary President William O. Crews said. Cate was requested to "survey the development of Israel's belief in one supreme God in the midst of cultures which practiced polytheism," Crews added.

Golden Gate trustees approved a motion, with two dissenting votes, which affirmed Cate, saying the article did not violate the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Trustees noted that Cate had reaffirmed that the Bible has "truth without any mixture of error for its matter," a key phrase in the statement of faith.

The two dissenting trustees opposed the motion because they felt board trustees were unfair and that the criticism of Cate was inappropriate. Saying the Sunday School Board trustees "owe us an apology," Carolyn Self of Atlanta and Norman Taylor of Silver Spring, Md., asked to have their dissenting votes recorded in the minutes.

During an August board meeting in Glorieta, N.M., the Sunday School Board adopted without opposition a recommen-

dation that trustees "disagree with the article because it is inconsistent with the biblical revelation; and we recommend that as soon as possible a new article reflecting the biblical view of monotheism be printed in the Biblical Illustrator."

In presenting the motion to seminary trustees, Dick Lincoln of Columbia, S.C., said, "We needed to act, especially because of what the Sunday School Board (trustees) did." Recognizing the article was controversial and difficult for all concerned, Lincoln said he hoped the motion was something seminary trustees could "live with."

Prior to receiving the recommendation from the executive committee, trustees met in executive session to discuss procedures to handle the motion. The recommendation and motion were then discussed in plenary session.

Taylor said the way the situation developed was "inappropriate and unfair" on the part of board trustees and "I strongly affirm and support this man."

Robert Lewis, trustee from Fairfield, Calif., said he did receive some letters of protest over the article and although he personally disagreed with Cate's interpretation, he felt the motion by trustees was "a good statement."

"I don't feel he has violated any principles of Scripture. . . (Cate) is a great man of God and I love him. Let's put it behind us," Lewis said.

Toney Anderson, trustee from Renton, Wash., identified himself as a layman and asked: "What's the big deal? This is very close to creedalism, in my opinion."

"The whole thing is a disaster. I wish we could ignore it. . . the Sunday School Board (trustees) did us a disservice—a

travesty," he said.

Commenting on the board's action, Crews said, "I believe our board took a firm position by affirming (Cate) as an individual, a Christian educator and a brother, while at the same time acknowledging obvious disagreements in individual interpretation."

When contacted by Baptist Press, Cate declined to comment.

Land Sale Fails

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees heard a report on development of the seminary's property and approved a loan to cover related costs during their fall meeting Oct. 11-12.

The Mill Valley, Calif., seminary is facing a cumulative budget deficit for a three-year period of more than \$300,000 because of a portion of the Mill Valley campus that was to be bought by a private developer has not sold, trustees were told.

Consequently, the seminary lost \$580,000 in income from potential sale proceeds for the 1989-90 fiscal year, said Gordon Fercho, vice president for business affairs.

"We are hoping the sale will go through before the end of this year but are taking steps in case it doesn't happen," he said.

Seminary staff identified \$635,199 in reductions from the seminary's \$5.6 million budget. Several open positions will remain vacant to help with the shortfall, Fercho explained.

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High Court Rejects Cases

by Kathy Palen

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (BP)—Returning to the bench for its 1989-90 term, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected three church-state disputes.

The high court refused to hear appeals from a religious group that was ordered to return \$5.5 million in donations, a blind ministerial student who sought state vocational rehabilitation funds and a South Dakota man who asked for a religious exemption from a state insurance requirement.

In the first case, the Supreme Court left standing a 1st Circuit Court of Appeals decision that ordered The Bible Speaks, a fundamentalist religious community in Lenox, Mass., to return \$5.5 million in donations to Elizabeth Dovydenas, a former TBS member.

During a 12-month period beginning in late 1984, Dovydenas, then 34, gave the religious group more than \$6.5 million. After she left the church, she sued to have her donations rescinded, claiming TBS had

placed undue influence on her.

A bankruptcy court judge ordered the ministry to return all of Dovydenas' donations. But the 1st Circuit allowed TBS to keep a \$1 million donation Dovydenas made in December 1984.

The appeals court held the church made "secular statements of fact"—such as that Dovydenas' gifts had cured the pastor's headaches—that led to her later donations of \$5.5 million. Since those statements were not part of the church's religious beliefs, the court ruled, they placed an undue influence on Dovydenas. (88-1977, The Bible Speaks vs. Dovydenas)

In a case that already had made its way to the high court once, the justices refused to review a decision by the Washington Supreme Court that the state's constitution prohibits a blind student from receiving state vocational rehabilitation funds to study for the ministry at a Bible college.

In January 1986, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment ban on an establishment of religion did not prohibit the student,

Larry Witters, from receiving those funds to pursue religious training at Inland Empire School of Bible, a private Christian college in Spokane, Wash.

But the high court sent the case back to the Washington Supreme Court, informing the state court that it could decide to apply the state's stricter ban on any form of aid to sectarian institutions if it so chose. (89-94, Witters v. Washington Department of Services for the Blind)

In the third case, the Supreme Court rejected the appeal of Lindy D. Cosgrove, who was found guilty of violating South Dakota's motor vehicle financial responsibility law. Under that statute, every driver or owner of a motor vehicle in South Dakota is required to purchase liability insurance or post a bond, certificate of deposit or certificate of self insurance.

Cosgrove claimed a religious conviction precluded him from purchasing the insurance.

The South Dakota Supreme Court refused to grant Cosgrove a religious exemption from the law. The court held there was a compelling state interest in protecting citizens from uninsured drivers. (89-10, Cosgrove v. South Dakota)

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(BP) photo / Ronald Cantrell



Georgia layman Richard Parker repairs a roof in Guadeloupe.

In the Aftermath

by Mary E. Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat (BP)—Hurricane Hugo stripped the Caribbean's "emerald island" to a brown, barren wasteland.

Montserrat, nicknamed the "emerald island" had almost no vegetation when for its lush rain forest, Southern Baptist missionary John Hamilton surveyed Hugo's damage.

"When I flew over, there was no greenery at all on the island," said Hamilton, who lives on the nearby island of Antigua in the Leeward chain.

Since almost all crops were destroyed, Montserrat's most pressing need is food, he said.

Southern Baptists are bringing help and hope to Montserrat and other Caribbean islands hit hard by Hugo. The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board are coordinating relief efforts.

The Foreign Mission Board sent emergency food and supplies Oct. 4 to Antigua. Hamilton was expected to coordinate distribution with Baptists on Montserrat Oct. 5. In addition, weekly food shipments will go from New Orleans to Guadeloupe and Antigua.

While food is the main need on Montserrat, the priority on the French island of Guadeloupe is shelter, said Dan O'Dell, Southern Baptist missionary there. The French government has helped with food and supplies, he said, "but for a good many

people, the need is just to be in out of the rain. There are still many homes without roofs." Ten Georgia Baptist volunteers spent Sept. 25 through Oct. 1 rebuilding a church and homes on Guadeloupe.

Three other Southern Baptist teams were working in the Caribbean in early October. Six volunteers from Lakeside Baptist and Crestway Baptist churches in Birmingham, Ala., were working Sept. 29-Oct. 8 on St. Eustatius. A team of 18 Baptist men from Rehoboth Baptist Association in Centerville, Ga., was helping on Saba Oct. 1-7. During their stay, four of the Saba volunteers were expected to go to nearby St. Martin to help repair the New Testament Baptist Church in Philipsburg. A team of 12 from First Baptist Church of Fitzgerald, Ga., was working Oct. 5-12 on Antigua.

The mission board's first food shipment was supposed to have arrived on Antigua Sept. 30, but transportation problems caused delays, said Bill Damon, associate area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.

Relief coordinators urged Southern Baptists to contribute food and supplies for weekly shipments to the islands. They need rice, beans, canned meat, baby food, powdered milk and cooking oil in plastic containers or cans. Contributions should be sent to KMA Enterprises, Napoleon and River Building, J-Cube 9, New Orleans, La. 70175. Donations should be designated for Foreign Mission Board/Brotherhood Disaster Relief for Antigua/Guadeloupe.

Volunteers on Guadeloupe helped rebuild the Miracle Temple Baptist Church

and restored roofs on the homes of several Baptists, said O'Dell. They also started rebuilding another church on the island.

The volunteers, from Gainesville and Sautee, Ga., were surprised local people wanted to rebuild their church before their homes. "Some of the men helping us work on the church didn't have roofs on their own homes," said team leader Stanley Hill, a layman from Harmony Hall Baptist Church in Gainesville. "The place of worship was most important." After working all day on the church, the Guadeloupians went home to repair their own houses, Hill said.

The team's presence encouraged Guadeloupe Baptists, missionaries said. "The missionaries said the people seeing us come so far helped renew their enthusiasm to help themselves," said Ronald Cantrell, a layman from Bethel Baptist Church in Sautee.

After working on the church, volunteers roofed houses of people who had no one else to help them. Cantrell helped repair the roof of an invalid widow's house. She sat in the doorway watching the volunteers work. When the group finished, she tried to hug them and said in French, "God will bless you doubly for your efforts here."

On Guadeloupe, volunteers worked with Southern Baptist missionaries Al and Judy Gary and Dan and Jan O'Dell. "I think this trip really showed me our missionaries, what they're doing to spread the gospel and the things they have to deal with," said Hill.

Team members also found evangelism opportunities while traveling. They wore caps bearing the emblem of Georgia Baptist Builders, a Baptist men's organization. A man in the San Juan, Puerto Rico, airport, noticed their caps. He had family members in Guadeloupe. "When he learned what we were doing, he stood there in tears thanking us for going to Guadeloupe," said Hill. "He kept saying, 'God is so good.'"

Since the Guadeloupe team has returned, three teams have gone to the Netherlands Antilles and Leeward Islands.

Two other teams are confirmed to go to the Caribbean later in October. A group from First Baptist Church in Gentry, Ark., will help in St. Kitts. Baptist volunteers from the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship will work on the island of Nevis.

In addition, "We're expecting to send more groups to Guadeloupe and Antigua," said O'Neal. As relief efforts continue, missionary O'Dell asked Southern Baptists to pray for the Caribbean people.

"Personally, I am praying that in spite of all the damage that somehow the doors will be opened for a greater witness of the Lord on the part of the evangelical churches," he said.

Convention Uniform

The Anti-Christ's Coming

by Reed Bethel, Otter Creek First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-15

Focal passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Central truth: The glorious coming of Jesus will be preceded by the appearance of the anti-Christ.

In 1988, a report circulated that Jesus was going to return in September of that year. This was the latest in a long series of faulty forecasts that trace their beginnings to apostolic times.

A similar report served as the occasion for writing 2 Thessalonians 2. It was falsely rumored that the "day of the Lord" had already taken place (vv. 1-2). The "Day of the Lord" is a biblical term for Christ's glorious coming (not to be confused with the rapture) at the end of the Tribulation when he will conquer the anti-Christ at Armageddon, cast Satan into the abyss, and begin his millennial reign.

(1) The beast will be revealed (v. 34). Called the "man of lawlessness" or "man of sin" by Paul (v. 3). The anti-Christ will come to power over a "United States of Europe" (Dt. 7:23-25, Re. 17:8-14). He will make a seven-year treaty with Israel, but will break it after three and one-half years (Dt. 9:27). He will then set himself up as God in the rebuilt temple, thus revealing his satanic ambition and character (Re. 13:5-8). This is the abomination of desolation (Dt. 9:27, Mt. 24:15).

(2) The believers will be removed (vv. 5-8). When Paul says the anti-Christ is presently being restrained (vv. 6-7), he is probably referring to the Holy Spirit in the church. As the salt of the earth (Mt. 5:13), the church is the world's preservative; but when it is removed at the rapture, decay will quickly set in.

(3) Blindness will be reigning (vv. 9-12). The anti-Christ will come to power through deception and delusion. The false prophet (Re. 13:11-18) will perform counterfeit miracles on his behalf (v. 9), tricking the world into beast-worship. Because they refuse to believe the truth (Ro. 1:18-32) and turn to Jesus, God will send Christ-rejectors "a powerful delusion" (v. 11) so that they will turn to the anti-Christ. By spurning God's grace, their doom is sealed (Jn. 3:18)!

The spirit of anti-Christ is already at work (1 Jn. 4:3). These verses warn us of the danger of rejecting Jesus and hardening our hearts to his Word.

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Life and Work

Strength for Missions

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4,36-41

Focal passage: Acts 1:4,6-8; Acts 2:1-2,4,36-37,41

Central truth: The Holy Spirit provides believers with the strength for missions.

Mission impossible! These words must have described the attitude of Jesus' disciples as he talked to them about being witnesses for him. The kingdom of Israel had not been restored as they expected Jesus to do. Now he was about to leave them and no kingdom was in sight. In addition to this, Jesus was talking about receiving a new source of power. He had told them about this just before he was crucified, but they did not understand. Now he was telling them that through this new power they would be witnesses to the end of the earth. How would they be able to accomplish Jesus' last command? How could they please their Master? These are questions they must have considered. They are questions we must consider as we seek to obey Jesus' command to be his witnesses to the uttermost part of the earth.

We must major on being witnesses. This seems so simple, yet the very fact that we have no more power is because we major on matters that should be left to God. The early disciples asked Jesus about the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. The Amplified Bible gives this translation of Jesus' answer: "It is not for you to become acquainted with and know what time brings... the things and events of time and their definite periods... fixed years and seasons (their critical nick of time), which the Father has appointed (fixed and reserved) by his own choice and authority and personal power" (Ac. 1:7). Jesus' word to the early disciples in his word to us. What things should we leave to God so we can major on missions?

Mission possible! These words could describe the attitude of the early believers after Pentecost. Where did they receive their power? They waited in Jerusalem as Jesus commanded them to do.

Suddenly the Holy Spirit came. They were all filled with power that enabled them to witness to men who spoke different languages. Powerful preaching brought conviction that resulted in the conversion of about 3,000 souls.

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Bible Book

Facing Trials Victoriously

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

Basic passage: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Focal passage: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Central truth: Trials are opportunities to grow spiritually and to honor Christ.

Many Christians in other parts of the world face persecution because of their faith in Christ. Most of us have never experienced the intensity of persecution that they faced.

The Thessalonians were enduring persecutions and hardships because of their commitment to Christ. Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 to encourage them in the midst of their suffering.

After his salutation, Paul gave thanks to God for the believers at Thessalonica. He reminded them that they were his brothers and sisters in Christ. He expressed thanksgiving for their growing faith, their abounding love, and endurance under trials. He bragged on them to other churches. Paul's words must have been a great encouragement to them.

The trials faced by the Thessalonians helped them to trust God more. Trials made them more aware of the preciousness of Christian fellowship, and they grew in love for one another. They learned patience under a heavy load. We should see whatever hardships we face as God's means to build these qualities into our lives.

The main thrust of Paul's encouragement was to assure the Thessalonians of the vengeance of God when Jesus is revealed from heaven. God's judgment on sin and sinners will be certain and severe. Fire is the method of divine judgment.

The "vengeance" (v. 8) which God will take on those who do not know him and have not accepted the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ means literally, "that which proceeds out of justice." There is no element of taking revenge or of self-gratification in the judgment of God as is often the case with human vengeance.

Paul prayed for the Thessalonians in verses 11-12. It is noteworthy that he did not pray for their trials to cease. Perhaps that is what we would have prayed. Instead, he prayed that God would count them worthy of their calling. Essentially, he prayed that God's will would be done in their lives and that God would bless their work of faith with power.

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

The Scroll, Son, and Songs

by Reed Bethel, Otter Creek First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Revelation 5

Focal passage: Revelation 5

Central truth: Jesus is the central figure of heaven. Fulfillment comes when he becomes the central figure of life.

Revelation 4-5 is set in heaven between the rapture and the seven-year tribulation. Verses 1-4 describe the scroll, 5-8 the Son, and 9-14 the songs.

(1) The scroll (vv. 1-4). Verse 1 describes the Word of God, symbolized by the scroll in the hand of God the Father. Specifically, this scroll is a revelation of the things to come in Revelation 6 onward. God holds it in his right hand, symbolizing its power (He. 4:12, Ro. 1:16). It has writing on both sides, revealing that nothing can be added to it (Re. 22:18-19). It is sealed, denoting that it cannot be altered (Is. 40:8).

John wept that no one was found worthy to open the scroll (vv. 2-4). Oh, for a heart that hungers and thirsts for God's Word (Jb. 23:12)!

(2) The Son (vv. 5-8). This section describes the Lord Jesus. Verse 5 gives his form of address: he is the Lion of Judah (Ge. 49:8-10), symbolizing his kingly character; and the root of David (Is. 11:1,10). His ability (2 Ti. 1:12, Jn. 24, Ep. 3:20-21) is praised. He is able to open the scroll!

Verse 6 describes his appearance: He is the Lamb of God (29 times in Re.), slain for the sins of the world. The seven horns speak of the fullness of his power; the seven eyes of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

His ascension to the throne is related in verse 7, as he receives the scroll (thought by many to be the title-deed to creation) from the Father. Verse 8 tells of his adoration, as the living creatures (probably cherubim and seraphim—see Is. 6:1-7, Ez. 1:4-24, 10:15) and elders (representing the saved) worship him. The worship of saints on earth also comes before him like incense.

(3) The songs (vv. 9-14). At the revelation of the Lamb, all heaven bursts forth into song! Verses 9-10 is the song of the saints, a heavenly version of "I Will Sing of My Redeemer!" The son of the angels is "Worthy is the Lamb" (vv. 11-12). The Philippians 2:10-11 is fulfilled as all creation joins the singing (vv. 13-14)!

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Life and Work

An Example for Missions

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Matthew 9:35-38

Focal passage: Matthew 9:35-38

Central truth: Jesus gives us an example for missions.

God has special ways for you to be involved in missions. He has revealed some of those ways to us in this lesson.

We must go to the people. "Jesus went about all the cities and villages" (Mt. 9:35). There is no place too large or too small for the gospel. You will discover that all people have special needs that only Jesus can meet. Many would respond enthusiastically if we would go to them.

We must be willing to meet a variety of needs if we follow Jesus' example. He encountered a variety of needs in the cities and villages where he went and met those needs. We must be alert to the many ways we can minister to people.

We must have compassion on those in need. "When he saw the multitudes he was moved with compassion for them..." (Mt. 9:35). They had no one to lead them, no one to care for them, no one who could meet their needs. They were like helpless sheep left to be prey for wild animals. The needs of the people stagger our imagination. Multitudes in the world live without the basic necessities of life. Millions go to bed hungry each night. Starvation is a fact of life for a large part of the world. Contrary to popular belief, we have many in our nation who also have these needs. The greatest tragedy is the multitudes who have never heard the gospel. People are dying without Jesus. People that God loves. People Jesus died to redeem. They need someone to be involved in missions. They need you to be involved.

We must pray for laborers because of the ratio between laborers and the harvest is too great. We should be aware of this great need. Missionaries tell us about it. We read about it. Many of God's laborers know the frustration of serving God in the Bible Belt where the ratio is not as great. What can we do about this? What should we do about this? Jesus has the answer for us. "Pray the Lord of harvest that he will send laborers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:38).

God wants you involved in missions! He wants you to pray. He wants you to give an offering. He wants you to be more aware of mission needs. He wants all of this, but most of all he wants you!

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Bible Book

Last Things

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

Basic passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13,15

Focal passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Central truth: The day of Christ, a day or period of judgment, will be preceded by apostasy, the revelation of the man of sin, and a removal of the restrainer.

Eschatology is the study of last things. Our Scripture passage this week concerns this subject, specifically "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 1) and "the day of Christ" (v. 2). Devout Bible-believing Christians interpret this passage differently. Many take the position that the coming of the Lord refers to the rapture of the church (see 1 Th. 4:13-18) and that the day of Christ refers to a distinct time of judgment or tribulation. The Thessalonians were in danger of being deceived into believing that these things were already happening. Paul wrote to inform them of three events that must occur before the judgments of the day of Christ took place.

First, before the day of Christ, there will be a falling away (v. 3) or departure from the truth that God has revealed in his Word. Paul referred to a specific apostasy that will take place. The Greek text literally reads, "the falling away," indicating that this apostasy would not be an isolated case, but a more extensive falling away than any that preceded it.

Another thing that must happen before the day of Christ is the revelation of the "man of sin" (v. 3). This term can be translated "the man of lawlessness." This is a Hebrew idiom used to describe a predominate characteristic. He will be a man over which sin will have absolute control. He is also called "the son of perdition" (v. 3). The same words were spoke of Judas Iscariot by the Lord Jesus in John 17:12. This means that he is destined to destruction.

The third thing that must happen before the day of Christ is the removal of restraint against lawlessness. Verses 6-7 teach us that although iniquity is at work in the world, it is being restrained partially. The restrainer has been variously interpreted as God, as the Holy Spirit in the church, as constituted government, etc. The restrainer will be removed at God's own appointed time. God is in control of this world.

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FMB Actions, Advances

by Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board elected an executive vice president, discussed a proposal to purchase school property in Belgium and commended Southern Baptist churches, pastors and missionaries for outstanding results.

In other action at their Oct. 11 meeting, trustees voted a \$174.9 million budget for 1990, appointed 38 new missionaries, honored 72 retiring missionaries, heard reports of world evangelism efforts and listened to a note of caution on a downward trend in missionary appointments.

Donald R. Kammerdiener, vice president

for mission work in the Americas, was unanimously elected executive vice president-elect to succeed William R. O'Brien. O'Brien asked to be relieved of the executive vice presidency when his wife, Dellana O'Brien, was named executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. O'Brien, who will work out of Birmingham, Ala., will become a top special assistant to board President R. Keith Parks Jan. 1.

Parks said the executive vice president's role will expand in January to include direction of the board's day-to-day operations to free the president to concentrate on broad mission policy, world mission strategy and planning. Kammerdiener, a 27-year foreign missions veteran, also will represent Parks in his absence.

The budget, which will support some 3,800 missionaries in 116 countries, represents a \$7.2 million increase over 1989—built on rising revenues from Southern Baptists' annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

While an upturn in Lottie Moon giving has brightened budget prospects, missionary appointment statistics emphasize "a bright amber caution light" for the years ahead, said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel.

Spurgeon urged trustees to join in an effort to turn around what could develop into a serious downward trend in missionary appointments. The number of missionaries appointed annually has declined by an average of 4.6 percent during each of the past three years. If that trend continues, Southern Baptists will fall short of their Bold Mission Thrust global evangelism campaign goal to have 5,000 missionaries working on the field in the year 2000, he warned.

This year the board expects to assign about 310 new missionaries, down 61 from 1988, he said, noting that the board could end this year with a net loss of missionaries for the first time since 1972. Last year's net gain of 28 was the smallest recorded so far in this decade.

Trustees voted to study the pros and cons of purchasing property now occupied by the Belgian Center for Biblical Education near Brussels, Belgium. The action grew out of a motion by trustee Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., who said the property could be used for evangelistic impact in Europe.

Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, said in June that he had ended efforts to buy the financially troubled evangelical school in Belgium following months of negotiations with the school's trustees. He said he did so because of difficulty in raising a reported \$5 million to purchase the school and endow its future operation.

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CAMBODIA

In Need of Healing

by **Erich Bridges**
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP)—The Vietnamese army may be gone, but Khmer Rouge guerrillas still lurk in the shadows of Cambodia's jungles and mountains.

Vietnam withdrew its forces from Cambodia in September—delivering on its promise to end a decade of military occupation—despite the collapse of peace talks in Paris aimed at ending the long guerrilla war against Cambodia's Vietnamese-supported government.

Thus began another period of uncertainty for Cambodia's people, who endured genocide, starvation and despair before the fragile recovery of recent days. The uncertainty also affects those who seek to help Cambodia.

"I don't think we'll know what's going to happen in Cambodia until it's too late to do anything about it," said Fred Kauffman, Indochina development specialist for Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptist aid organization. "How strong is the Khmer Rouge? How much will the people resist?"

Observers see two possible scenarios for Cambodia's future. The best: a political settlement of the conflict and a chance for peace after more than 20 years of killing. The worst: bloody civil war and a return to power of the communist Khmer Rouge. The largest of several Cambodian guerrilla factions, the Khmer Rouge was responsible for the deaths of up to 2 million Cambodians by torture, hunger and disease during its 1975-79 reign of terror.

Kauffman, now based in neighboring Thailand, recently returned from a survey of CSI medical projects in Cambodia, where he lived from 1981-85. He found Cambodians outwardly calm but not optimistic.

"I think people are nervous," he said. "They're carrying on with their daily activities as normal, but there are some very big questions for the next six months and the longer-term future. It's going to be a period of testing. People are glad to see the Vietnamese military go; there's no doubt about that. But now it's up to them to resist the Khmer Rouge."

Aid organizations like CSI also will face big questions if guerrillas widen the conflict. For now most guerrilla raids and clashes with government forces remain limited to areas near the Thai-Cambodian border, where non-communist guerrillas claimed several victories after the Vietnamese pullout.

CSI aided Cambodia with emergency

rice shipments in the past, but now concentrates on medical and health-care projects initiated by Kauffman's colleague, Marvin Raley, physician and CSI Indochina coordinator. Several of the projects, called RINE (Rehydration, Immunization, Nutrition and Education) centers, help malnourished children.

CSI hopes to place resident personnel in Cambodia soon to help coordinate assistance projects. "It's very difficult to try to work in Cambodia without living there," acknowledged Kauffman. "Resident representatives could strengthen our programs greatly."

Despite enormous problems, Cambodia has made some progress. The government has abandoned communist collectivization, and farmers can work their own land. More areas like Oreang Ou, site of the new CSI health center, are normally free of guerrilla activity. Basic education—and the demand for it—have spread widely.

What Cambodia needs most is time—the one thing contending forces seem unwilling to give.

Missionary Notes

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

Pickle, Stewart and Clara; Ecuador; furlough dates: August 1989-May 1990; 211 East "B" Street, North Little Rock, AR 72116; telephone 501-758-3264.

Spiegel, David and Laura; South Brazil; furlough dates: August 1989-January 1990; 305 River Street, Benton, AR 72015; telephone 501-778-6212. (Son of missionary Donald Spiegel).

Spiegel, Donald and Betty; Equatorial Brazil; furlough dates: September 1989-August 1990; 601 South Hughes, Little Rock, AR 72205; telephone 501-664-5137.

Stanton, Ted and Mary; Argentina; furlough dates: September 1989-April 1990; 5805 West 56th Street, Little Rock, AR 72209; telephone 501-565-8625.

Townsend, John and Sharon; South Brazil; furlough dates: August 1989-June 1990; 2588 Ferguson, Fayetteville, AR 72701; telephone 501-443-4123.

Turner, Sam and Bonnie; Kenya; furlough dates: August 1989-May 1990; P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309.

West, Ronald and Elinda; Taiwan; furlough dates: August 1989-June 1990; 313 North 5th Street, Arkadelphia, AR 71923; telephone 246-9705.