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**December 21, 1989**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Sharing God's Love

# Arkansas Baptist

December 21, 1989

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Students  
Sharing  
Family

Arkansas Baptist  
December 21, 1989  
Volume 1, Number 12

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BSSB photo / Jim Veneman

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*Student Day at Christmas is a time for recognizing the contributions and needs of college students. This year's theme is "Students Sharing Family."*

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## IT'S UPLIFTING

### Mistletoe for Lottie Moon

DALLAS (BP)—Millican Baptist Church in Brazos County, Texas, plans to spread a little goodwill this year and raise money for the Lottie Moon Foreign Missions Offering at the same time.

While seated at the window of his study looking at the mistletoe hanging from trees in the yard, pastor Dan Bates had an idea about raising funds and heightening missions awareness.

"The trees are loaded with mistletoe, so I thought maybe we could put small amounts of it in plastic bags labeled 'Greet one another with a holy kiss,' sell them and give the money to foreign missions," Bates said.

"It's a natural for the College Station area," he added, noting the Texas A & M football tradition of cadets kissing their dates following every touchdown. "I wish I'd thought of it in time for the game with the University of Texas."

The proposed sale of mistletoe for foreign missions is in addition to the nor-

mal Lottie Moon Offering that will be taken throughout December at Millican Baptist Church.

"We didn't set a corporate, churchwide goal this year. Instead, we just asked individuals and families to prayerfully consider what we should give to missions instead of spending money buying junk for each other that ends up broken or forgotten within a few days after Christmas," Bates said.

In addition to giving through the Cooperative Program and through offerings for state, home and foreign missions and world hunger relief, Millican Baptist Church also is involved in a year-round "Stamping Out Hunger" emphasis.

The church collects used, postmarked United States and foreign postage stamps and sells them to stamp dealers and collectors. The money raised is used to buy food for needy people in the Millican area.

"We're a small church. We're not wealthy people. But this is something we can do. It has motivated our people to get our eyes off ourselves and to see the needs of other people around us."

## GOOD NEWS!

### The Father And His Sons

Matthew 21:28-32

Whenever mention is made of the father and his sons, we immediately think of the familiar story in Luke 15 known as the parable of the prodigal son. In Matthew's gospel, however, there is another story of two sons which, though lesser known, nevertheless proclaims a significant message.

The father commanded each of his sons to go to the field to work. One said he would but didn't. The other said he wouldn't but did. The judgment of both Jesus and the Pharisees was that it was the latter who most fully did the will of God.

What is the lesson of this parable that Barclay calls "a very human story"?

**Historical lesson**—The original purpose of the parable was to proclaim the failure of Israel.

Notice the context of the story. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was followed by the dramatic confrontation in the Temple. The Master drove out the money-changers and upset the Temple activities. The Pharisees challenged Jesus to show by what authority he did these things.

In that context the meaning of the story

is clear. The first son represents the tax gatherers and sinners. Their lives seemed initially to reject the work of God's kingdom. When Jesus came, however, their lives were altered to his demands. The second son represents the scribes and the Pharisees. They put on the pretense of seeking the will of God. When God's Son came, however, they refused to accept him.

The kingdom of God was to be realized in those who were willing to meet the demands, that is, belief in Jesus as the Messiah. It was in this sense that Jesus could say to the Pharisees, "I tell you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you" (Mt. 21:31, GNB).

**Practical lesson**—In a broader sense, the parable relates to persons of all ages who would seek to be a part of God's kingdom. It reminds us that words can never take the place of deeds, that our allegiance is evidenced by our action. In both the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 7:21) and the Epistle of James (Ja. 1:22-25), the message is clearly expressed: We prove our discipleship not by our words but by our deeds.

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# True Meaning

J. EVERETT SNEED

There are many reasons for great joy at Christmas. There is the joy of being with loved ones, the thrill of exchanging gifts, and the excitement of children as they view their new possessions. But all of these should be secondary. Our joy should primarily arise from the fact that day is set aside to remember the birth of our Lord.

The birth of Christ is different from the birth of any other great man because of the miraculous conception. Jesus is the product of God himself without physical union. There was never before such an event; there will never be another in the history of the world.

There are many facets in the incarnation that make it marvelous to a committed Christian. Among these are: (1) the prediction of Christ coming in the Old Testament; (2) the proof of his incarnate existence to every open minded individual; (3) the perpetuity of Christ's continual existence in body; and (4) the purpose of his coming brings joy to the heart of every believer.

One of the great proofs of the accuracy of the Scripture is fulfilled prophecy from the Old Testament. The Old Testament predicted the coming of the Messiah (Christ), which was fulfilled as our Lord dwelt with mankind during the days of the flesh. For example, the prince of Old Testament prophets, Isaiah, declared, "Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Is. 7:14). This passage of Scripture sets forth the miraculous conception of our Lord. It further reveals that he is "Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

Not only did the Old Testament predict the incarnation of Christ, but the New Testament confirms it. Not only do Matthew and Luke give us details of the virgin birth, but Scriptures throughout the New Testament tell of his incarnation. For example, Paul said, "God was manifest in the flesh" (I Ti. 3:16). Again the Apostle declared, "Christ Jesus who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men" (Ph. 2:5-7).

The virgin birth is extremely important to Christianity. It conveys that Jesus was both God and man. Had Jesus been lack-



ing in either complete divinity or complete human nature, the process of reconciliation would have been impossible. Man had separated himself from God. It required one who completely man and completely God to bridge the gap. Jesus is the only one able to bring reconciliation between sinful man and Holy God.

Again, the virgin birth points to the pre-existence of Christ. Christ existed before the creation of the world. In fact, it was Christ who was the active force that brought the entirety of the universe into existence. John the beloved disciple said, "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."

There are many proofs of the incarnation. The works of Christ prove that he was God in the flesh. Someone has said that his miracles were his credentials. He had

power over every facet of nature. He could say to the storm tossed sea, "Peace be still" and the wind and the waves would respond. He could touch the skin of the leper and it would become as the skin of a new born babe. He could also stand before the tomb of a loved one who had been dead until the process of decay had started and cry with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And Lazarus responded by coming forth from the grave.

The words of Jesus also prove that he is the incarnate Christ. John the beloved disciple simply said, "Never man spake like this" (I Jn. 7:47). The world has known many great orators and teachers, but none have equaled the speaking and teaching ability of our Lord. He is without peer.

Finally, the resurrection proves that Christ is God incarnate. Paul said that Christ he was "declared to be the son of God with power according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Ro. 1:3-4).

Paul teaches that Christ will remain in a human body forever. Perhaps more importantly, he teaches that when we are resurrected from the dead we shall be like Christ also. After we receive a resurrection body we will no longer know pain, sickness, disappointment or death. We will be as Christ was after his resurrection.

There are many purposes for the incarnation. But perhaps most importantly Christ came into the world that we might have life eternal. Apart from Christ's birth, sinless life, death and resurrection, there would be no hope for sinful man. But as one places his faith and trust in Christ, eternal life becomes a reality. Herein lies the true meaning of Christmas. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## Arkansas Baptist

VOLUME 88 NUMBER 40

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# Leading the Flock

## *Be Constant with Devotion, Concern*

In Ezekiel 34:11-31, the prophet portrays the concern of God for his flock. This relation of a shepherd to his flock is recurrent in Scripture. In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus declares himself to be the "good shepherd." In the Old Testament the sheep is Israel, the people of God. In the New Testament, the sheep are the church, the redeemed people of God.

The New Testament teaches that bishops or pastors are those who are gifted and called to be specifically responsible for the nurturing oversight of God's precious flock. These "pastors" are to shepherd the flock given to their care. They are to be fed, meaning they are to be carefully and consistently nurtured. They are also to be led, meaning they are to be provided guidance in an atmosphere of security and harmony. They are to be given care (oversight), which means to protect, provide and cause to be productive.

Visualize, if you will, a shepherd approaching from the distant slope. He comes in mid-day to join other shepherds with their flocks. A spring of water flows from beneath a little cliff of rock where the slopes converge to make a quiet nest where a few trees shade an otherwise barren land.

As the shepherd draws near you notice he carries something on his shoulder. One sheep follows very close to the shepherd and a flock trails along behind. As the shepherd approaches we can tell he is carrying a young lamb on his shoulder. "I guess the little fellow became so weary it could not keep up with the flock," someone says to the shepherd. "Oh no," replies the shepherd, "the mother sheep is somewhat lame and began to lag too far behind, so I take up her lamb and she stays just at my heel!"

What a lesson to learn! What suggestions come to us from the subject of "Leading the Flock of God?"

First, the subject offers a clear perception of possession. It is God's flock! To assume ownership is to pluck from the hand of the Almighty that which is most precious to him. To presume control of the flock is to assault the rights of the one who is the owner.

In the structure of God and his people, the shepherds are first sheep! They do not become another species in becoming leaders of the flock, they remain sheep of his pasture.

John 10:2 states "he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." Here we have indication of absolute openness. "One who climbs up some other way, is

a thief and a robber." The shepherd always enters by the door. There is never occasion to slip into the flock for any personal gain or purpose. The shepherd would never seek to devise any deception.

Shepherds are always accountable to the owner of the flock. The shepherd has only one authority, that is over any enemy that would threaten the flock Jesus gave the disciples authority over unclean spirits, serpents, and demons of darkness, not over one another! Shepherds have responsibility for the flock, not authority over them. They are to provide, protect, nurture, and guide the flock to the satisfaction of the one whose flock they tend!

There is a serious shortage of shepherds. The deceptive strategies of Satan seem to be making mule drivers and pack hounds out of shepherds.

Secondly, consider some ways a flock functions. Flocks are always led! Leaders are at the head of the line. They are to be alert to any danger encountered along the way. Their voice speaks to soothe and give comfort. They guide to plentiful provision for they have themselves been strengthened from grazing the same slopes. The shepherd keeps a concern for resources necessary for growth, but equally concerned for rest and refreshing.

Driving always scatters sheep. Shock occurs when you scare sheep. You may drive a herd, push a pack but never, never a flock.

In conclusion, a few remarks relating to leading. First, share the same concern for the sheep as does the owner of the flock. Be willing to be led as a sheep before leading the flock. Stay constant in commitment to a single concern: the welfare of the flock. When and if the flock fails to follow, don't denounce the sheep, demonstrate devotion all the more carefully.—**Glen McGriff, director of Crisis Support Ministries.**

## Woman's Viewpoint

### To Go or Not to Go

JANET HUCKABEE

To go or not to go?

That's the question we ask ourselves as the shopping days count down to Christmas Day.

Should I go to the mall and fight the crowds? Can I get parking place at Walmart? Is there time to order through the catalog?

To go or not to go?

That truly does become the question as the holidays grow closer. We chase after sales and bargains; the kids constantly change their minds about what toys they want; and every grandparent, in-law, and outlaw asks you what to get the members of your family.

In most homes, the women seem to inherit the glorious job of handling the numerous details of Christmas. We spend hours shopping, fighting for a parking place, standing in check-out lines, cooking,



cleaning, and wrapping presents to perfection... only to watch all that work be over in minutes. People tear into the gifts, gorge themselves on turkey, and quickly say good-bye so they can get on the road before the traffic gets bad.

I catch myself remembering an episode of "Little House on the Prairie" in which Mr. Edwards tried to join the Ingalls family for Christmas. He snowed his way through a snow storm to bring his friends the best presents of the season. He gave each of the girls a peppermint candy cane and a shiny new tin cup.

I can see it now... han-

ding my three children a tin cup and one candy cane! They would think I'd lost my mind!

What has happened to those simple Christmas Days? Do we honor God by our Christmas shopping insanity?

Since seminary, my husband and I have always tried to give, in the form of our Christmas mission offering, the value of our most expensive holiday gift. That way, no matter what hustle and bustle surrounds us in December, we keep our focus on the birthday of the Lord Jesus.

By practicing that habit, I know that parking lots, or malls, or parties won't spoil the spirit of remembering that "unto us, a child was born."

**Janet Huckabee** is an active member of Beech Street First Church, Texarkana, where her husband is pastor. She is also the mother of three children.

# Students Sharing Family

BSSB photo / Jim Veneman

Churches are anticipating the return of many college students as the Christmas season approaches. Student Day at Christmas has been an annual event to say welcome home, offer encouragement, and to allow them to renew fellowship with the church family. The national theme this year is "Students Sharing Family" based on Ephesians 4:15-16.

The theme is especially appropriate as students are concerned about leaving their family, their church family, and their peer group of friends to form new relationships. The scripture deals with the goal of growing up as an individual and as a functioning part of the family of God. As students mature in stature and intelligence, gathering knowledge through study and experience, they add to the functioning working parts of the church family. Churches who love students can help them in their growth as they show their acceptance for them. This encourages students to share the family experience with other students who may not know the Lord.

Many churches will plan a special worship service on the Sunday night after Christmas. Samples of worship plans are available from the Student Ministry Plan Book, from the Student Ministries Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Special efforts may be needed to be sure that students are invited to holiday programs and events of the church. Where groups of students can get together, traditional activities such as caroling may be planned. Students should participate in the ministry activities of the church to show their continuing growth as a part of the body.

As students grow up and leave home, they face many challenges. Their experiences in their family and in their church family will go with them in the academic arena. Student Day at Christmas is a time of celebration of the victories attained and support for the future. Renewal of relationships within the fellowship of the home church supports their outreach to the campus through their personal efforts and through the Baptist Student Union.—George Sims, associate, ABSC Student Department.



A BSU sponsored women's retreat was a time to discuss common concerns.



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to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, missionaries in Mozambique, which has a high rate of illiteracy, could purchase hand-cranked cassette players for sharing the gospel by cassette tape in rural areas.

National Goal: \$81 million

## FAITH AT WORK

# Sharing God's Love

by Breena Paine  
New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Mark Best gingerly lowered the quadriplegic man into the ambulance. The man had been bleeding internally, and his blood pressure was dangerously low, his eyes drooping.

"Do you feel all right, Alvin? Can you hear me?" Best asked, smiling at him. The man nodded his head.

Best never saw the man again after the ambulance ride to the hospital. The same goes for most of his passengers. But as a paramedic and a Christian, Best uses a smile and a gentle touch to share Christ with hurting people.

One girl was riding her bike when someone in a parked car opened the door in front of her, he recalled. She flew through the window, her face horribly disfigured by the cut glass. When Best arrived to help, she was crying, afraid no one would love her anymore.

"It's not so important what's on the outside, but what's on the inside," Best told her. "And Jesus loves you just the way you are."

Although his present job with Medic One ambulance network in New Orleans deals mainly with transfers and occasional emergencies, Best has worked high-stress, tragedy jobs in such cities as St. Louis, Dallas/Fort Worth and Baton Rouge, La. He chose his present lower-stress job to free him up for his studies as a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"In this town is so much anger and hatred. I think it's part of the rapid lifestyle," said Best, a native of Tyler, Texas. "Working at a secular job, it's really easy to let the world rub off on you, to let the anger, hurt, frustration be a part of you."

His seminary education has helped him focus on "what God wants me to be," since several professors "have taken personal time to talk with me. It's been fascinating to see how they are eager to share and are real examples of *agape* love."

Of his profession, he notes, "I've seen some paramedics who (act as if being a paramedic) is just a job to them, treating someone who has just been through the trauma of an auto accident without caring." But his aim is to treat people with the



Mark Best checks a patient's heartbeat.

NOBTS photo / Breena Kent Paine

compassion that Jesus might have in that situation.

"My family's really important to me," said Best of his wife, Pamela, four-year-old daughter Jennifer, and 2-year-old son, Andrew. "Sometimes Pamela and I discuss some of the things that happen at work and the tragedies. We're able to pray for the people."

Just before coming to New Orleans Seminary more than a year ago, Best's ambulance arrived on the scene to help a woman who had been in a car accident and had a broken collarbone. She and her husband were new in the community, and as they chatted in the ambulance, Best told her he was the interim music minister in a church in that area. She seemed interested, so he invited her to church. After he got off shift, Best, his pastor and a deacon stayed with the woman in the emergency room until her husband arrived.

"After she got out of the hospital, there she was in church," Best said. "She said she appreciated someone being there for her from a local church to meet her spiritual needs from the time the accident happened, through the ambulance drive and in the emergency room; then a nurse on her floor (in the hospital) was also a Christian."

Best added: "While I'm helping (the people), I pray for them. I want to be able to empty myself and let God use me as a paramedic. That's the way we should be in everything. Let the Lord work through our hands and speak through our voices."

"I think we have a marvelous opportunity to tell people about Jesus here in New Orleans, and I don't think we ought to miss it. New Orleans should be our first priority because that's where we are, not our hometown, not where we're going to be missionaries, but here where we are."

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## Executive Board Meets

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention met for its annual organizational meeting Dec. 12 at Little Rock's Baptist Medical Center.

ABSC Executive Director Don Moore told board members the state convention's 1989 Cooperative Program receipts were 2.1 percent below budget, in spite of the fact that \$255,000 had been cut from program budgets over the last two years.

However, Moore also pointed out that 1989 receipts are running 1.5 percent above the previous year, a positive sign in light of the fact that many other states are 2 or 3 percent below previous year's receipts.

Moore also revealed projections that Arkansas Baptists will post declines in both baptisms and Sunday School enrollment for 1989. He challenged board members to combine hard work with prayer, saying, "God must intervene and grip our lives with the magnificent obsession to know him and make him known."

The executive director also told board members that the Harvey and Bernice Jones Foundation of Springdale has agreed to donate \$1.1 million to cover the entire projected cost of constructing a new worship center at Arkansas Baptist Assembly in Siloam Springs. He said the gift was conditioned on the state convention raising the additional monies needed for dormitory renovation at the campground.

During their meeting, board members elected the following committees:

**Operating Committee — 1990:** Bobby Walker, James Gattis, Dennis Dodson; 1991: Jerry Kirkpatrick, Homer Shirley, Betty Daily; 1992: Shelby Bittle, Ron Sanders.

**Program Committee — 1990:** Eugene

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



*Executive Board President Greg Kirksey and Vice President Jim McDaniel*

Anderson, Harrel Cato, Jerry Cooper, Scot Hinton, Katsy McAlister, Jerry Muse, Larry Pillow, Glen Power, Eugene Ray, Lynn Robertson, Brad Sheffield, Kyle Sumpter, James Weedman, Billy White, Ted Witchen; 1991: Stanley Ballard, Sid Carswell, Dennis Coop, Nelson Eubank, Ronnie Floyd, Melvadeen Friday, Bill Gunter, Bob Harper, Captain Lovell, James McDaniel, Bryan Moery, Don Phillips, David Pierce, Billie Sharp, Clyde Vire, Jerry Wilson; 1992: Mark Brooks, Joel Faircloth, John Greer, Barbara Hassell, Cary Heard, Billy Kimbrough, Bob Kinnett, Billy Kite, Larry Loggins, Eddie McCord, David McLemore, Dillard Miller,

Glenn Morgan, Sonny Simpson, Bruce Tippitt.

**Finance Committee — 1990:** Bruce Bond, Otto Brown, Jim Edwards, John Edwards, Kent Farris, Jim Files, Bob Floyd, James Gardner, Ken Lilly, Roy McLeod, David Moore, Bratton Rhoades, Dan Webb, J.D. Webb, Leonard White; 1991: Michael Anders, Charles Atkinson, Ronald Bracken, Horace Gray, Peggy Jeffries, L.B. Jordan, Alice King, Jimmy Miller, Charles Osborne, Don Rose, Paul Seal, Ray Talfar, Joe Thompson, Noble Wiles; 1992: Virginia Cram, Terry Eaton, Joe Finrock, Jody Gannaway, Robert McDaniel, Merle Milligan, Jere Mitchell, Carolyn Pendergraft, William Piercey, George Pirtle, Tim Reddin, Gearl Spicer, Michael Trammel, Phil Whitten, Charles Womack.

**Executive Committee — Greg Kirksey, Mike Huckabee, Jerry Wilson, Sonny Simpson, L.B. Jordan, James Gattis.**

**Nominating Committee — 1990:** Billy White, Jerry Wilson; 1991: L.B. Jordan; 1992: Sonny Simpson, Tim Reddin.

Board members did not elect a Christian Life Council committee, due to the fact that the board previously had voted to discontinue that program in favor of establishing a new Church Leadership Support department. The Executive Board plans to appoint ad hoc committees to deal with moral issues as the need arises.

## State Acteens Panel

Four teenage girls have been selected to serve on the 1989-90 Arkansas Acteens Advisory Panel. During this year one of the emphases of Woman's Missionary Union is to focus on Acteens. The panelists will be available to speak at associational and local church Acteens activities. Also, the panelists will help plan statewide Acteens activities, participate in the Encounter program and speak at the Arkansas WMU Annual Meeting.

Chosen by the State Acteens Committee were Jenny Baker of West Memphis First

Church, Jeannette Hodel of Danville First Church, Dixie Morris of Cabot Second Church and Robin Wood of Little Rock Cross Road Church. Selected as alternate was Jackie Pollock of Paris First Church.

Acteens is the missions organization of Woman's Missionary Union for girls ages 12-17. There are 2,200 girls involved in Acteens organizations in Arkansas and more than 110,000 in Acteens nationwide. Acteens seeks to help girls grow spiritually through Bible study, prayer, witnessing and "hands on" missions experiences.

### Classifieds

**Position Open—Vice-President for Development** position is open at Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send applications and/or recommendations to: Paul Brown, President, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, MO 63401. 12/21

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Baker



Hodel



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Wood



# LOCAL & STATE

## Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

### People

**Paul M. Wheeler**, a former Arkansas pastor, has moved from Sale Street Church in Lake Charles, La., to First Church of Fairview, McKinney, Texas.

**John Holston** of North Little Rock, who has been serving as interim pastor at Downtown First Church in Texarkana, Texas, since June, will complete his service there Dec. 31.

**Bill Viser** is serving as interim pastor at Riverside Church in Maumelle. He is assistant professor of religion at Ouachita Baptist University.

**E. Amon Baker** has resigned as associate pastor and minister of music at Riverside Church, Maumelle.

**Jack E. Lawson** returned as pastor of Emmanuel Church in Harrison Dec. 3. He resigned as pastor there June 6 following 13 years of service.

**Brian L. Harbour**, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, recently spent a week in the Northwest Baptist Convention leading the pastors in preparation for teaching the January Bible Study on 2 Corinthians. He led sessions in Eugene and Portland, Ore., and in Richland, Spokane and Seattle, Wash.

**Jim Frazier** is serving as pastor of McCormick Church at Trumann.

**John Trantham** of Magazine is serving as interim pastor of Lone Church near Booneville.

**Joe Yates** is serving as pastor of Centerville Church at Dardanelle.

### OBITUARY

**Lorene Pouless Whitlow**, 83, died Dec. 14 in Hope. She was the widow of S.A. Whitlow, a former ABSC executive director. Memorial services were held Dec. 16 at Hope First Church. She was a member of Markham Street Church in Little Rock. Memorials may be made to the Foreign Mission Board or Ouachita Baptist University. Survivors include a daughter, Betty Moore of Hope; a son, John David Whitlow of Little Rock; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Steve Tanner** is serving as pastor of First Church, Hector.

**J.T. Harvill** has announced his retirement as pastor of Rison Church March 1, following 21 years of service. He and his wife, George Ann, will reside in Camden.

### Briefly

**Fellowship Church** at Snyder recently presented plaques to John Nelms, assistant treasurer, and Claude Barnes, treasurer, in recognition of their service. David Howie is pastor.

**Wilson First Church** hosted other area churches in a Foreign Missions Rally Dec. 3. Approximately 90 people, representing the host church, Wardell Church, Joiner Church and Nodena Memorial Church, were present to hear Orville Boyd and Edith Jenkins and their sons, Garreth and

Christopher, who serve as missionaries in Kenya.

**Harlan Park Church** in Conway recently licensed deacons James Will and Steve Stephens to the gospel ministry.

**Pilgrims Rest Church** at Batesville dedicated a church entrance which had been given as a memorial for Paul Gill by his children. Leonard Williams is pastor.

**Rover Church** ordained Cecil R. Cooksey to the deacon ministry Dec. 3.

**Woodland Heights Church** in Conway ordained Jim Constable, minister of youth, to the ministry Dec. 10.

**Lakeshore Drive Church** held a surprise recognition service and pounding for Curtis and Toni Honts Dec. 3 in recognition of his service for five years as minister of education and youth.

**Clinton Immanuel Church** dedicated a new church building Nov. 26 that houses both a sanctuary and educational rooms. Pastor Victor Gore coordinated the dedication day which include Sunday School, morning worship, a potluck noon meal and an afternoon dedication service.

ABN photo / Mark Kelly



**Bull Shoals First Church** celebrated its 30th anniversary Dec. 3 with the dedication of a construction and remodeling project. The congregation, which was established in 1959 as a mission of Filippin First Church, dedicated a 40x60 foot addition which provides a fellowship hall, four classrooms, and a kitchen. Also dedicated was an extensive renovation of the original building which included an expansion of the sanctuary. Ed Powers, director of missions for White River Association, brought the dedication message. Jerry Backus is pastor of the church.

## Couple Receives Award

Bob and Karen Gross received the Clovis Brantley Award during Home Mission Week, July 15-21, at Gloria. They were honored for being the outstanding missions center directors in 1989. Gross has been the director of the Christian Migrant Mission Center located on Old Highway 67, south of Hope, since 1972. The Baptist operated Migrant Mission Center is directly across the road from a federal migrant services center.

The Clovis Brantley Award is given to the outstanding Home Mission Board mission center annually. The award not only honors the individuals who receive it, but also recognizes that Dr. Brantley was a key leader in developing Christian social ministries in Southern Baptist life. He led in designing many types of innovative ministries to meet human needs. Dr. Brantley was also committed to meeting spiritual needs.

This year our Christian Migrant Mission Center led 186 individuals to make profes-

sions of faith. The Grosses make contact with the missionary or pastor in the area where the migrant workers live during the winter months.

The Grosses are currently developing a computer hookup to notify missionaries or pastors in the area where the migrants are going to work. For example, a pastor or missionary might be notified in Michigan or Illinois that this individual has made a profession of faith and will soon be arriving in that area. The Grosses believe that quick follow-up on professions of faith will assist in providing spiritual help and stability for the migrant workers.

Approximately three years ago an apartment was added to the Christian Migrant Mission Center. This allows the Grosses to bring in summer missionary field workers to assist during the 10 weeks of summer vacation. They also have couples who assist both before and after the time the students can serve. All of these individuals are bilingual which enables them to com-

municate with the migrants.

Last year there were more than 41,000 migrants who went through the government center. The Grosses use various methods to attract migrants to cross the road to the Christian center. They provide health kits, Bibles, grocery vouchers and assist with medical needs. They also have playground equipment and puppet shows which have a moral or spiritual emphasis.

Recently the Grosses have begun a Spanish speaking Sunday School class. This class is designed to meet the needs of approximately 200 migrant workers who have settled in the Hope area. These workers are employed in a local food processing plant.

Bob and Karen Gross desire to confront these sometimes forgotten individuals with the message of Christ, as well as to help them with their physical needs.

## President Promoted

WALNUT RIDGE—Dr. D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College for almost 17 years, has been promoted to the newly created position of Chancellor, announced Kenneth Sulcer, president of the SBC Board of Trustees.

"Promoting Dr. Nicholas to the position of Chancellor frees him from daily administrative responsibilities so that he can concentrate full-time on institutional advancement," Sulcer said. "The board's action is based on recent growth and expansion of college programs as well as plans to intensify efforts in world missions, evangelism, public policy and family issues in the 90s."

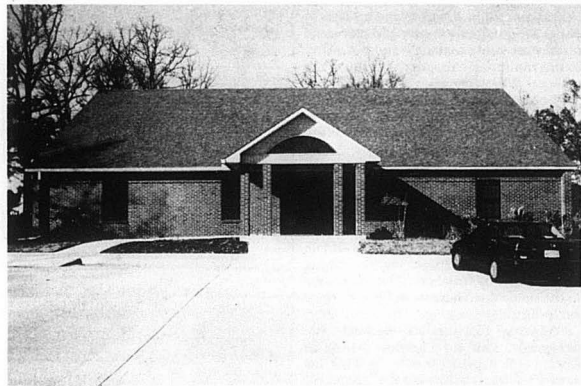
The Board of Trustees also announced in their regular meeting on Dec. 1, 1989, that a search would begin immediately for a new college president, who will assume virtually all presidential duties on July 1, 1990.

"Seeking a new college president at this time will facilitate a smooth transition from the administration of Dr. Nicholas to his successor," Sulcer said. "The new president will face a challenging and exciting year as the college celebrates its 50-year anniversary and changes its name to Williams Baptist College next fall."

Dr. Nicholas will continue to function as chief executive officer of the college but will gradually transfer his presidential responsibilities to the new SBC president.

"It is anticipated that Dr. Nicholas' new role will enhance the bolder and more aggressive efforts being made by our development department led by Dr. Jerry Wiles, vice-president for development," Sulcer said.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



North Pulaski Association dedicated a missions center Dec. 3, valued at approximately \$150,000. Building costs were at a minimum as a result of the assistance received from the Arkansas Baptist Men's Church in a Day group. The 3,000 square foot center houses four executive offices, a secretary's office, reception area, workroom, library, resource display room, and conference room. Designed to be more than just an associational office, it already is serving as a meeting place for Friendship Church, a mission of the associational churches, whose primary sponsor is Park Hill Church. Building committee members were Rudy Davis, chairman, Martha Deubre, Lex Eaker, Cliff Hutchins, Alyce Polos, and Ron Raines. Daniel Chapel was architect. Office staff members are Marvin Peters, director of missions, Roy Thompson, mission pastor, Randy Walker, family counselor, and Frances House, secretary. Danny Yeteto, associational moderator, was dedication leader. Others on program were Peters, Paul Daniel and Mark Gibson.

# 'Politics No Solution'

by Mark Kelly  
Managing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The controversy among Southern Baptists must come to an immediate end, and lay people alone hold the key to its termination, a group of Arkansas Baptists were told Dec. 11 in a meeting at Little Rock's Excelsior Hotel.

But a Little Rock pastor insists that attempts to marshal partisan forces and capture the convention presidency will result only in further dividing the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination.

John F. Baugh, senior chairman of the Sysco Corp. of Houston, Texas, and James W. Lucy, an oilman and member of First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, hosted a group of 21 Arkansas Baptists at the Monday evening dinner and "informational" meeting.

Baugh told his guests that 11 years of controversy have done extensive damage and destroyed the credibility of the denomination in the eyes of lost Americans. He said that the theological tone of the debate masks an underlying current of "sordid, dishonest politics."

While he acknowledged that some degree of theological diversity does exist among Southern Baptists, Baugh claimed the denomination is in agreement on the fundamental doctrines of the faith and the nature of Scripture. He decried those who he said have manufactured theological issues to further their own political agenda in the denomination.

Baugh, who is a member of Houston's Second Baptist Church, said that only lay people could resolve the conflict because a "spirit of conformity" was intimidating many pastors to fall in line with denominational power brokers for the sake of their careers.

"Southern Baptist lay people could easily stop the carnage in the coming year and eliminate sordid, dishonest politics if they would just stand up and say, 'This nonsense must be ended. We will tolerate no further dishonesty,'" Baugh contended.

He called upon those present to commit themselves to pray for the convention, to search out and communicate the "true causes" of the conflict among Southern Baptists, and to "pay the price of personal involvement necessary to stop this ungodly denominational charade."

"Ultimately, the only way for lay people to restore the denomination. . . is to set aside the time and bear the expenses to serve as messengers" to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, where

they can vote to elect a president who is committed to "inclusion, rather than exclusion," Baugh said. He recommended Daniel Vestal, a pastor from Dunwoody, Ga., as a man who could return Southern Baptists to their missionary and evangelistic priorities.

Vestal is a former pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, which gave to missions in 1988 about \$1.5 million, a total of 44 percent of its undesignated receipts. He was defeated by Jerry Vines for the SBC presidency during the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

However, while Baugh urged the group to return to their churches and challenge other lay people to inform themselves and attend the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, he also insisted he was not in Arkansas to enlist recruits for a political organization.

"We are not here to stick our noses in your business," he said. "We have no interest in telling you what to do or for whom to vote. Whatever happens in Arkansas will happen because you have done it."

"Lay people in Arkansas and elsewhere either are going to roll over and play dead or they are going to rise up and put a stop to this nonsense," he said. "Those are the choices. What you do is up to you."

The meeting, which was organized by Ike and Billie Sharp of Benton, was planned because a similar meeting held recently in Fort Worth, Texas, conflicted with the dates of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting. The Sharps asked Baugh to hold another meeting in Little Rock for interested Arkansas Baptist lay people.

One Little Rock pastor, however, said he sees little difference between the meeting at the Excelsior Hotel and other meetings in the state which have been characterized as "political."

"Meetings like this are definitely unnecessary," said Sid Carswell, pastor of Crystal Hill Baptist Church. "I think it's basically a reaction to what the fundamentalists have been doing in Arkansas, and I am strongly opposed to both."

"I don't like the idea of meetings, and I don't think the majority of Arkansas Baptists like them either," Carswell continued. "At the state convention in November, messengers soundly rejected that point of view. They did not reject individuals, they rejected a type of political activity which most of us find unacceptable."

Carswell said that, while those who attended Baugh's meeting may not have organized to the extent of establishing

district captains, they nonetheless are "doing in essence what the fundamentalists have done."

"The solution to the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention does not lie in continuing to vie for political control of the denomination," Carswell insisted. Instead, he said, it lies in genuine dialogue between persons of differing viewpoints.

Organizers of the Little Rock meeting with Baugh invited the *Arkansas Baptist* to cover the event "because we didn't have anything to hide and we weren't ashamed of anything that was said. We believe everything was said in a spirit of love," said Ike Sharp, who is a member of Benton's First Baptist Church. Recent political activity in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention was not discussed during the meeting.

## Skip Notice

The next edition of the *Arkansas Baptist* will be published on Jan. 4, 1990. Sunday School lesson commentaries for Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 appear in this issue.

The editor and staff of the ABN wish you and your family happiness during this blessed holiday season.

## November Cooperative Program Report

Received . . . . .	\$1,125,545.68
Budget . . . . .	\$1,083,333.33
Over . . . . .	\$42,212.35

**Year-to-date**  
Under . . . . . \$249,260.37

**Same time last year**  
Under . . . . . \$300,867.22

Cooperative Program receipts for November were 103.9 percent of monthly budget. For the year, January-November, we have received 97.9 percent of budget requirements.

Churches have given 1.48 percent more this year than for the same 11 months of 1988. The only problem is that we are still \$249,630.37 under budget requirements.

A great December could push us over the top for 1989. What a great Christmas that could be. I can't think of a better gift to our Lord. Can you?—**Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

## Reaping Blessings

by Don Moore  
 ABCS Executive Director

Before this month is passed most of our churches will have mailed their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering checks to us.

This offering will be used, with God's blessing, to help support 3,800 missionaries in 116 countries of the world in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. A record offering is sorely needed. Increased giving to foreign missions has not kept pace with inflation in the United States or in foreign countries. This means the same dollars are not going as far as they did last year.

With the masses of people being freed from Communist domination in most of Europe, a new day of spiritual opportunity is sure to be on its way. Our foreign missions force needs to be greatly strengthened for the moment the doors of opportunity swing open. Southern Baptists have been requested to provide some assistance already. My feeling is that we will need 3,000 more missionaries within the next five years if we meet the need of all the people who are being set free who have never been evangelized. This offering needs to reflect our desire to enter the open doors.

Not even the cost of postage is taken from your Lottie Moon offering. Every penny you give goes to the Foreign Mission Board for their use in world missions. Thank you for your efforts to do your best for a hurting world whose only hope is Jesus Christ.

**Pressing the battle**—The battle for the souls of all mankind is fierce. God at this moment is preparing for that moment when Satan's grip is broken and the soul of an individual is set free and their spirit is made alive in Christ. So intense is the warfare that poorly trained, weak and uncommitted Christians can scarcely see the battle, much less aid in the fight. Dull to what the Spirit is saying, oblivious to the spiritual lethargy of the day, the church seems to have gone into hibernation or is suffering from amnesia. We must shout the battle cry and call all forces to repent and seek the face of our great Commander if we are to see the battle turn. Would you join some 300 others who covenanted in our Solemn Assembly, Nov. 14, to pray until God sends a great awakening amongst us



Moore

and upon us?

**Men are essential**—Why not rally the men of your church to a new day of spiritual commitment and concern on Baptist Men's Day, Jan. 28. Their testimony can be inspiring. Their encouragement in soul winning, praying and giving cannot be underestimated. Their help in mission projects is a must. Show appreciation! Start regular meetings! Enlist in a new study or project! Do something to make the men of your church want to be more involved in God's plan of world outreach.

Here is an idea. At 3:30 p.m., Jan. 21, on the ACTS network, there will be a Baptist Men's Teleconference. You could videotape that and use portions of it for your special men's activity on Baptist Men's Day.

**Little men are essential**—I do not mean little in terms of small thinking, shallow or petty men. I mean boys who have not yet grown into full manhood. What will they know, what will they care about missions when they reach manhood? It all depends on what can be instilled in them all now. For that reason I appeal to all who could be involved in Royal Ambassador work to attend the Counselors Fellowship at Immanuel Church in Little Rock on Jan. 13. Special RA counselor training and updating will take place. The key to mission expansion rests to a great degree on getting our boys' hearts set on missions now.

**The Evangelism Mandate**—Our Lord has not left us with choice of whether to evangelize or not. He settled that. Our choice is whether to obey or not. A neighboring state convention recently reported a decline of 3 percent in resident church membership over the last five years. A new thrust of dynamic praying and witnessing would doubtless meet with the approval and blessing of God.

**Two helps to Evangelism**—Soul Winning Commitment Day, Jan. 14, is a perfect point of beginning a new thrust of evangelism.

**The State Evangelism Conference** is the second great opportunity for moving back more in line with God's redemptive activity. It would be great if every pastor could bring some lay people with him to the Evangelism Conference on Jan. 29-30. It will be held at the Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Lewis Drummond, Tom Eliff, Roy Edgemon and E.V. Hill are the inspirational speakers. All of us need to pray earnestly for this gathering. If God really moves on our hearts, it would greatly accelerate our preparation for the great revivals we pray

God will give us in the Here's Hope simultaneous revivals.

**An unforgettable experience**—We do not have many of these. However, such a moment is surely in the making. Present plans are for the greatest gathering in Siloam Baptist Assembly history to take place on Saturday before Labor Day, Sept. 1, 1990.

Can you imagine? The last service ever to be held in the Old Tabernacle will be held that afternoon. Conversions, call to missions and ministry, engagements, commitments to give up worldly conduct, discovery of the spirit-filled life—such decisions by the thousands have been made in that old tabernacle. Every person who has ever had such an experience at Siloam Springs will be invited to a day of celebration and consecration. Most will doubtless gather in that place to recommit themselves to the same godly purposes to which they earlier responded.

I can't imagine what could happen in our hearts as we relive those precious moments.

Then, the tabernacle will be removed in order for a new one to be built.

Specific plans are not available at this time. This announcement will hopefully give you and your family enough lead time to set aside that day as a priority in your schedule.

## Church Music Festivals Are For Everyone

Whether you're a child, youth, middle age, or growing gray you'll find all ages involved in music festivals this spring.

First, there is the State Handbell Festival, March 9-10, at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock. This bell ringing time brings all ages from youth through adults together for a great time.

Second, the Young Musicians will meet in five area festivals at Hope, Little Rock, Wynne, Monticello, and Rogers on April 21 for their day of singing together and for each other.

Third, is a kind of festival as the Senior Adults meet in Eureka Springs for two days of "Sing 'n Share." They will have singing, inspiration, and entertainment.

The fourth festival is for youth, May 12, Second Church, Little Rock. They will share their talent in solos, keyboard, instrumental, ensembles, and choirs for a full day of music festival just for them.

Be part of a festival this year, you'll love it!—Glen E. Ennes, associate

## Evangelism

### Cooperative Conference

Our annual State Evangelism Conference will be a cooperative effort between Arkansas Baptist State Convention and three National Baptist Conventions in our state. The following conventions and presidents will work with us in planning this conference: General Missionary Baptist State Convention, President Clyde Kelly; Regular Arkansas Baptist State Convention, President O.C.



Shell

Jones; and Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention, President P. J. James. Bob Ferguson, retired Cooperative Ministries director, helped institute this planning and Jack Kwok has been involved in the final planning process.

We will be privileged to meet Jan. 29-30, 1990, at the Immanuel Baptist Church, 1000 Bishop, Little Rock. The conference will be launched at 1:30 p.m. Monday, January 29, and conclude with a commitment service on Tuesday at 9 p.m.

We have several outstanding preachers from other states who will be visiting us. Dr. Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Seminary, is one of our leading authorities on spiritual awakening in the United States. Dr. Drummond will be speaking three times on Spiritual Awakening. This will directly relate to the theme of our conference, "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares For You." We will be praying 10,000 strong that God will give Spiritual Awakening to Arkansas in 1990.

Dr. E. V. Hill, pastor of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles for the past 28 years, will be speaking three times. Dr. Hill is probably one of the best known National Baptist preachers in the United States. Dr. Hill was in Arkansas this past summer helping prepare for the Billy Graham Crusade. He was also here to speak in the Billy Graham School of Evangelism in September. He has the message directly from God's Word for both National Baptists and Southern Baptists.

Tom Elliff is well known in Arkansas. He is a native of the state where both his father and grandfather were Southern Baptist preachers. Tom has been pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., since 1985. This is one of our leading evangelism churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. He is presently serving as president of the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion Pastors' Conference. When he preaches, he shares a fresh message from God.

We have two denominational leaders who will be coming to share their hearts with us. Bobby Sunderland, who has served for many years in the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board, will share a message to every pastor's heart on "How to Save Your Ministry." Dr. Roy Edgemont, director of the Church Training Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, will be speaking on "Conserving the Result of Evangelism." He is a very dynamic speaker and one of our leaders in Discipleship Training.

I ask you to pray with me that God will anoint us with his power.—Clarence Shell, director

### Brotherhood New Approaches

New approaches to the Great Commission task of world missions are being developed by our Foreign Mission Board.

One of these is called "tent makers." These are businessmen and their families who go to work at a business in a foreign country. They receive no financial support from the Foreign Mission Board as their income is from their job. They do establish a covenant relationship with the Foreign Mission Board that will provide them with fellowship, nurture and some analysis and strategy of reaching people in their country.

A more recent development is called Entrepreneurship. This are people who might go with venture capitol for a business and have a Christian presence.

The CSI (Christian Service International) seeks to reach people groups that are not in their own country. The missionary lives in a country that accepts missionary presence. In that country he works with a people group from the country where missionaries are not permitted to officially go in.

The opportunities for students overseas are also being developed by the Foreign Mission Board. They serve extremely well as salt in a lost world.

What these strategies means is that there really are no more closed countries for Southern Baptists. We may even say that there is not any more limited access rather these is creative access as we pray and seek for God's will for our lives.

As I looked at the approach of reaching people who are not in their own country I became aware of the fact that Arkansas

Baptist Men could in some sense serve not as CSI, but as CSA (Christian Services Arkansas). There are people groups in Arkansas that are from foreign countries. If Baptist Men could find these people they could first, pray for God to begin to warm their hearts. Secondly, they could ask God to give them opportunities to fellowship with these people. Thirdly, they could seek to help these people and watch for the opportunity to present the gospel. As CSI has become a reality for the Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Men in Arkansas could make CSA become a reality as we witness to people from other countries as they may well be open to the gospel during their stay in Arkansas.

The Guatemala/Arkansas Partnership Mission will be involved in revivals in May and November in Guatemala. If you are your church are interested please advise our office. There are also some medical projects that we will be glad to talk with any groups that might be interested.

Don't forget the annual RA Counselors Fellowship at Immanuel Church in Little Rock on Jan. 13. Four national RA leaders will be present to share hands on suggestions and materials for working with RAs.—Glendon Grober, director

### Evangelism National WOW Workshop

Arkansas Baptist youth ministers and youth workers will have an opportunity to attend a National WOW Advance Training Workshop Feb. 19-21, 1990, at Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff.

The conference is scheduled to begin Monday, Feb. 19, at 12:25 p.m. and will end Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 11:30 a.m.

WOW Advance Training is 13 weeks of personal evangelism training for youth of all ages and their leaders. It is developed by the Personal Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board to prepare youth for the challenge of Continuing Witness Training (CWT).

The WOW Advance Workshop is for ministers of youth and youth Sunday School outreach leaders. The training is being offered in a few select places in the



Brantley

United States. This workshop will certify participants as equippers to youth of the WOW Event and WOW Advance Training materials. Participants must attend all training sessions to be certified. WOW Advance materials can be ordered only by a certified equippier.

Registration is \$28, postmarked 30 days before the workshop, and \$38 up to 14 days before the workshop. Full refund of registration will be made up to the 14-day deadline. No registrations or refunds will be made after the 14-day deadline. Registrations fee includes all materials. It does not include travel, food, or lodging. Workshops with less than 20 participants will be rescheduled.

To register, send registration forms and check payable to the Home Mission Board. Mail to the Personal Evangelism Department, WOW Registration, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601. If you need further information concerning Arkansas' WOW Advance Training in Pine Bluff, please feel free to contact our State Evangelism Department at 376-4791, and speak with Randy Brantley.—**Randy Brantley, associate**

## Stewardship/Annuity Benefits Increase 50%

Effective Jan. 1, 1990, protection benefits in the Church Annuity Plan will increase 50 percent. This makes a good retirement program even better.

The protection benefits in the retirement program are provided by matching contributions from the state convention. Qualified participants receive a matching contribution of one-third of church/minister contributions with a maximum contribution of \$35 from the convention.

A 36-year-old minister, who has met the requirements, will see his death benefit increase from \$30,000 to \$45,000. Should he be disabled, he would receive a \$300 monthly benefit instead of \$200.

In addition to increased protection benefits, the Annuity Board recently announced that the Fixed Fund will be credited with 9 percent earnings for 1989 instead of the 8.75 percent announced late last year. The 1990 Fixed Fund rate has been set at 8.9 percent.

These two factors make the Church Annuity Plan a very competitive product in retirement planning. Contact your State Annuity Representative for more information.—**James A. Walker, Annuity Representative**

# Looking Ahead

## January

- 13 RA Counselor Fellowship, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (Bhd)*
- 14 Soul Winning Commitment Day (Ev)
- 21 Baptist Men's Teleconference (Bhd)
- 22-23 Media Library Conference, *Central Church, North Little Rock (DT)*
- 28 Baptist Men's Day (Bhd)
- 29-30 State Evangelism Conference, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (Ev)*
- 31-Feb. 2 BSU Directors' Workshop, *St. John's Seminary, Little Rock (BSU)*

## February

- 5 State Vacation Bible School Clinic, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (SS)*
- 5-6 ASSIST Training, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (SS)*
- 9-10 Lay Renewal Fellowship, *Levy Church, North Little Rock (Bhd)*
- 11-17 Focus on WMU (WMU)
- 15 Church and Community Ministries Workshop, *Calvary Church, Little Rock (Mn)*
- 18-21 Home Mission Study (WMU)
- 19-21 National Conference on the Doc-

trine of Creation, *Immanuel Church, Little Rock (DT)*

- 23-24 Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat, *Camp Paron (M)*
- 23-25 High School Young Men's Rallies, *Majestic Hotel and Spa, Hot Springs (Bhd)*
- 28-3/2 Director of Missions Retreat, *DeGray Lodge (Mn)*

## March

- 4-11 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU/HMB)
- 8-10 Interfaith Witness Training, *Ouachita Baptist University (Mn)*
- 9-10 HSBYM State Basketball Tournament, *Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, and Immanuel Church, Little Rock (Bhd)*
- 9-10 State Handbell Festival, *Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock (M)*
- 12-13 Pastors' Retreat, *Camp Paron (Ad)*
- 16-17 WMU Annual Meeting, *Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock (WMU)*
- 18-4/8 "Here Hope. Jesus Cares For You" Revivals (Ev)
- 19-22 State Building Tour (SS)
- 23-24 State Building Conference, *Markham Street Church, Little Rock (SS)*
- 23-24 Leadership Training Conference, *Camp Paron (BSU)*



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**Mountain Home**  
Havens Heating & Air 425-4901  
**Paragould**  
Jerry Jetton Inc. 236-7291  
**Pine Bluff**  
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Paschal Htg & A/C 751-0195  
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# Holiday Survival

## Counselors Offer Tips for Coping with Depression

by Teresa Dickens  
Missouri Word & Way

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—The warmth of Christmas is mere fantasy for many people, mental health experts admit. For some people, the holiday season means only depression, unwanted memories, having their loneliness intensified or having to spend time with people—often family members—they would rather not see.

While most do "survive" the holidays, many do not. Statistics show that the rate of suicide is highest between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Fortunately, many seek help before their emotional states deteriorated that far. Christian counselors confirm that this time of year is the busiest for them.

"I am always busiest this time of the year," said Ed Broyles, a licensed professional counselor and member of First Baptist Church, of Sedalia, Mo. "Many people have trouble dealing emotionally with the holiday season. There is too much pain in their lives to find any joy. They tell me: 'I hate this kind of season. I hate Christmas.'"

Church members aren't immune to these feelings, he stressed: "It's not just the down-and-out. It touches people in every avenue of life—even the church.

"There are many people in our churches

who struggle to survive the holidays. We assume that being a Christian immunizes us, but that is not true. It is one of the most overlooked areas of need in many congregations."

The reasons for the emotional misery created by the holiday season are many. For some, it is a recent death, divorce or stress over some other deep hurt that makes the holidays difficult. For others, being alone—such as a single adult or a senior adult—or living away from family make the holidays almost unbearable.

Whatever the reason, many people need help dealing with the holidays. Broyles and two other counselors, Ron Kemp, director of the Family Institute of the Ozarks and member of First Baptist Church of Bolivar, Mo., and Mary Ann Conway, minister of education for Concord Baptist Church in St. Louis who is working toward a doctorate in family counseling, offered tips for "survival."

—Have realistic expectations. "Don't set your expectations too high," Kemp said. "Unrealistic expectations always result in disappointment, and sometimes severe disappointment. If you don't expect too much, you won't be hurt as much."

—Plan ahead. "Planning is the most important thing a person can do to survive the holidays," said Broyles. "I tell people

to make detailed plans for the holidays. Write them down even. Then follow through, whether you feel like it or not.

—Plan time with others. Whether it is with one other person or a group of people, contact with others is very important. "I often ask a client, 'Who is one person or family you know that you could spend time with?'" said Broyles. "Once I get a name, I give the client an assignment to ask the person or family for an opportunity to spend time with them."

Kemp added that volunteering to work in a food shelter or some other activity is a good way to get involved with others. "Involving themselves in giving to others takes the focus off of their pain," he said.

—Accept others' help. "I tell clients that if the person offering help wasn't sincere, he or she wouldn't make the offer," Broyles shared. "I remind them that they are doing a service for that person by accepting the offer. Both the giver and receiver benefits."

—Find someone to talk with openly. "This may be a pastor, friend or even a counselor," Broyles said, "but they need someone they can be open and honest with about how they feel."

—Make spiritual preparation. "For Christians, the real joy of Christmas is found in their relationship with God," noted Conway. "Focusing on the secular definition of Christmas enhances one's depression, but if they can focus on God and their relationship with him, they can find encouragement and strength.

"Spiritually uplifting music is important, too. Music is always good therapy."

—Recognize responsibilities. "You are only responsible for yourself," Conway emphasized. "No matter how much we want to change others, we cannot. We can only change ourselves.

"The only thing we can do for others is to forgive them. Forgiveness is not condoning a person's actions. It is leaving the justice in God's hands."

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## ANNTUITY BOARD

**Fixed Fund to Earn 8.9%**

DALLAS (BP)—The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has announced a Fixed Fund earnings rate of 8.9 percent for 1990 and a one-time crediting of excess that raises the 1989 earnings rate to about 9 percent.

President Darold H. Morgan announced the 1990 earnings rate, noting an increase from the 1989 rate of 8.75 percent.

"We are also pleased that actual 1989 earnings will allow us to make an additional credit to accounts that will raise the effective annualized rate to approximately 9 percent," he said.

The Annuity Board offers four funds to which members may direct their contributions while employed by Southern Baptist Convention churches and entities. These funds have varying earnings and degrees of risk. Each member decides his own risk tolerance.

The Fixed Fund is the board's most conservative plan fund. Plan members' accumulations in the Fixed Fund are invested in fixed income assets. The primary objectives are preservation of principal and predictable returns.

Fixed income assets presently in the Fixed Fund include guaranteed investment contracts issued by major life insurance companies, bank investment contracts and related deposit products issued by commercial banks, and high-quality money market investments.

The other funds are: the Balanced Fund,

a mixture of common stocks and bonds; the variable fund, comprised of common stocks fund securities convertible to common stocks; and the Short-Term Fund, primarily money-market investments.

**Moore Named Baylor Prof**

WACO, Texas (BP)—Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, has been named Visiting Distinguished Professor of Religion at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, effective Jan. 1, 1990.

Moore, a leader in the "moderate" movement of the Southern Baptist Convention, will retire Dec. 31, 1989, from the Amarillo pastorate he served 30 years.

Baylor officials said his responsibilities will include teaching practical studies and New Testament survey courses, assisting faculty and students through the ministry guidance program and "working with Texas Baptists and other constituencies to enhance the purpose and goals of Baylor."

Moore, former president of the Texas convention and former first vice president of the SBC, is chairman of Baylor trustees. Baylor spokesmen said Moore would not be required to resign from the board because his position, while salaried, is in the category of a temporary appointment.

**Trustees Elect Five Staff**

ATLANTA (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board elected five people to the Atlanta staff during their December executive committee meeting.

Jim Newton, director of news and information services for the past 10 years, was named director of public relations effective Jan. 1.

The Kingsville, Texas, native will succeed Kenneth Day, who is retiring following 29 years with the board. President Larry Lewis said Newton's current post is to be suspended indefinitely.

Board members also elected Bobby Eklund of the Baptist General Convention of Texas evangelism division as director of the church evangelism department.

Marshall Chambers, director of evangelism for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey since 1985, was elected associate director in the associational evangelism department.

C. Nelson Tilton, assistant director in the metropolitan missions department, was elevated to associate director in the department.

Michael Bailey, national consultant for the board's volunteer department, was transferred to assistant director of the property department. Bailey has a special assignment in asbestos removal with some of the agency's 200 buildings it owns nationwide.

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# Alliance Urges Participation

by Mary Knox  
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP)—Leaders of the Southern Baptist Alliance have voted to express their support for denominational workers and to urge members of their organization of moderate Southern Baptists to "participate fully" in all levels of the convention.

The 38-member Alliance board approved the motion with only two dissenting votes during its early-winter meeting in Washington, Executive Director Stan Hasty said. It also approved a motion to invite a representative from another moderate organization, Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, to attend Alliance board meetings.

The motion on support for denominational workers and convention participation was presented by H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. It states:

"We express our deep regard and support for all those in Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions who are seeking to serve Christ and our denomination with integrity. In the interest of upholding Baptist freedom, we encourage our members to participate fully in local, state and national decision-making processes, shaping the future of Southern Baptists."

The motion speaks to the destiny of the Alliance, Hasty noted. The organization was created by moderate Southern Baptists not quite three years ago in the midst of theological/political controversy that has rocked the Southern Baptist Convention since the late 1970s.

Some critics have charged that the Alliance is the embryo of a new denomination. Most supporters and leaders, meanwhile, have denied that claim, insisting the Alliance is a lifeline of support for moderates who might otherwise leave the denomination.

## Budget Enjoys Best Start

NASHVILLE (BP)—A second record-setting month has pushed the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget to its best two-month start.

The Cooperative Program convention-wide budget received \$11,093,732 in November, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

That makes last month the best November in the Cooperative Program's 64-year history. It teamed with a record October to produce \$22,655,099 for the

first two months of the budget's fiscal year—almost \$2.05 million better than the previous best October/November combination, set in 1986.

The November receipts were 22.51 percent greater than receipts for November 1988. Year-to-date receipts were 13.23 percent greater than receipts for the first two months of the 1988-89 fiscal year. The current U.S. inflation rate is 4.3 percent.

## Hedquist Leaves Committee

NASHVILLE (BP)—Tim A. Hedquist, 48, has resigned as vice president for business and finance of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to accept a position at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Hedquist has been on the staff of the Executive Committee since 1977. In addition to responsibilities for business and finance, he also has been manager of the annual meeting of the SBC.

At Bellevue Baptist Church, where former SBC President Adrian Rogers is pastor, Hedquist will be assistant pastor, staff administration, a position established to oversee the growing responsibilities of administration and support ministries of the nearly 19,000-member congregation.

Prior to joining the Executive Committee, Hedquist was minister of education at First Baptist Church of Nashville. He is a graduate of California State University, Hayward, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

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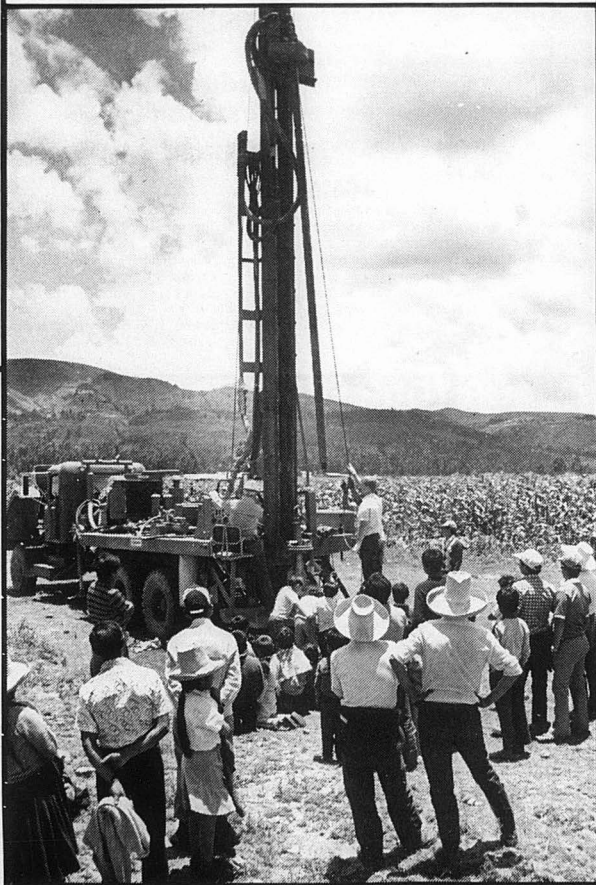


Photo by Warren Johnson



**S**outhern Baptist foreign missionary **Larry Johnson** (left) and journeyman **George Husk** (right) set up to drill a new water well in Cajamarca, Peru (*photo far left*). Johnson is an agricultural evangelist, involved in several agricultural development projects. He has planted pine trees and has helped raise cattle and crops. He has plans to begin a fish farm. All of these projects are planned to help the diet and economy of the local people.

Missionary **Harry Garvin** (*photo above*) works as an evangelist in Uganda, a country known for its military struggles and battles against the deadly disease AIDS. Garvin shares the hope found in the gospel with Ugandans such as this grandmother and malnourished child.

These two foreign missionaries are just two of the 3,797 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries working in 116 countries around the world. They depend on support from those who send them—prayer support and monetary support.

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## DRUNK DRIVING

# Turn Your Lights On

WASHINGTON (BP)—Americans have been asked to turn on their car headlights in an effort to turn off drunk driving.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., invited people across the nation to join him Dec. 31 in symbolizing their resolve to fight drunk driving.

"From noon to 3 p.m., turn your headlights on when you drive," McConnell, a Southern Baptist, said during a Dec. 11 press conference. "This procession of headlights will be a reminder to other drivers not to drink and drive as we ring in the New Year. And it will be a memorial to all those victims of drunk driving who will not be with us to celebrate the dawn of the new decade."

During a White House briefing that preceded the press conference, President Bush called drunk and drugged driving "one of America's largest health and public safety problems."

Each year, almost 25,000 Americans are killed and another 500,000 injured in alcohol-related accidents, he said. And for individuals ages 16 to 35, he added, drunk driving is the leading cause of death.

"Drunk driving is a grave crisis," Bush said. "Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis."

But the president also commended "one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980s—the all-American campaign to

reduce the awful toll of drunk driving."

In the last six years, he said, drunk driving deaths fell an estimated 20 percent even though total miles traveled rose more than 25 percent. He credited tougher state laws and enforcement, a uniform national drinking age and an increase of effective citizen groups.

While federal efforts are important, real success in fighting drunk driving depends "not on what happens inside the White House, but what happens inside your house," Bush told the people attending the briefing.

"We must teach our children that alcohol is a drug and any irresponsible drug use is wrong, that driving drunk is a crime, a violent crime. And we must teach them that choices have consequences and that some of life's worst consequences can be avoided."

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NATIONAL COORDINATOR

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Registration is \$28, postmarked 30 days before the workshop, and \$38, up to 14 days before the workshop. Full refund of registration up to the 14-day deadline. No registrations or refunds will be made after the 14-day deadline. Registration fee includes all materials. It does not include travel, food or lodging. Workshops with less than 20 participants will be rescheduled. To register, send registration form and check payable to Home Mission Board. Mail to Home Mission Board, SBC • Personal Evangelism Department • WOW Registration • 1350 Spring Street, NW • Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

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## Convention Uniform

### *Christmas Means...*

by Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

**Basic passage:** Luke 2:8-12; John 1:1-5,9-18

**Focal passage:** Luke 2:8-12; John 1:1-5,9-18

**Central truth:** Christmas should endure.

Christmas means visits home, gifts, and caroling. Christmas means decorated trees, feasting, and lights galore. Ultimately the tree comes down. Sadly for some, after Christmas means a return to the normal routines of life. It is sad to celebrate Christ's coming, then a return to patterns that ignore the meaning and spirit of Christmas.

A neighbor once described the outstanding Christmas decorations in a community. The colors, shapes, symbols, and the lights were simply beautiful... especially the lights. A somewhat tired grandmother agreed on the beauty of the displays and lights. Then she described what to her were the most beautiful lights of the holidays. She said they were the tail lights of the last car leaving her driveway.

A little humor there. A little touch of realism, too. But the light of the glory of Christmas can shine throughout the year. Christmas cannot be fully celebrated without lights. In a sense Christmas is light. Six hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah as the light in the world (Is. 9:2; 40:5; 60:1-3).

In our lesson for Sunday we read of the glory of the Lord which shown around the shepherds. The brilliant light shining on them in the field that night frightened them (Lk. 2:2-12). They were calmed by the voice of an angel and were inspired to hear of the birth of Jesus the Savior, in Bethlehem, the city of David. Another light gave direction to the wise men from the east. They followed a star and found Jesus (Mt. 2:1-12).

In the continuing study of John this quarter we reflect back to John, chapter one. Here Jesus is spoken of as the Word of God. John says in verses 2 and 3 that the Word, is life and light of men.

The prophecies of the coming light are like a candle in a dark room its light reaches into the far corners of the room. In that same room on a bright sunny day, the candle may still be seen, but is dim in comparison. The candle of prophecy is still there, but Jesus, like the noon day sun, gives full light to those who will see.

Christmas means beholding that light.

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## Life and Work

### *Good News For All*

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

**Basic passage:** Luke 2:1-38

**Focal passage:** Luke 2:8-11,15-20, 25-32,36-38

**Central truth:** Believers have good news to share with the world.

How will you celebrate Christmas? Attend parties? Exchange gifts? Visit with family members? Attend church? Many of us will celebrate Christmas by doing all of these activities. The celebration of Christmas should be a time when believers make a recommitment to sharing the good news of Jesus' birth to all the world.

All the news this Christmas is not good news. Death and destruction came to the East Coast recently when Hurricane Hugo, roared ashore. The use of drugs, including alcohol, will ruin countless lives before this year ends. Poverty is a way of life for millions. For many of these there seems to be little hope for change. Recent reports from federal health officials reveal that over one third of all pregnancies in 1987 ended in abortion. What is the good news? Is there any? God revealed it to humble shepherds when Jesus was born. It has not changed. The good news is that God cares, redeems, and offers hope through the birth of His son Jesus (Lk. 2:10-11).

After the angels revealed the Savior's birth to the shepherds "They (the shepherds) came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this child (Lk. 2:16-17). God wants all believers to follow the shepherds example and share this good news with the world. We are to let it be heard above all the other sounds of Christmas. It is to be told at the parties we attend and our family gatherings. It is to be the major emphasis in our worship services and our gifts are to be given in the spirit of his birth. God wants us involved this Christmas in the sweetest story every told.

Simone and Anna were devout and faithful servants of God. God revealed to his committed servants the best news of the ages. Their response was joy and praise to God for involving them in this glorious event. How will you respond to the good news of Jesus' birth? I am confident many of you will share the good news of our Savior's birth with someone who is lost.

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## Bible Book

### *The Birth of Christ*

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

**Basic passage:** Luke 2:1,3-17

**Focal passage:** Luke 2:1, 3-17

**Central truth:** The best news ever is the birth of the Savior.

Our study this week is a review of the birth of our Lord as recorded by Luke.

First, note the enrollment recorded in Luke 2:1-5. Caesar Augustus ordered a census of the Roman Empire that would serve as a basis for taxation. This taxing was carried out where the family records were kept. Each man went back to the city of his ancestors. Joseph was required to go to Bethlehem because he was a descendant of David. Bethlehem was the original home of David's family. Joseph and Mary traveled together. By this time they were married, and Mary was "great with child" (v. 5). Augustus did not know it, but he was an instrument in the hands of God.

Next, note the nativity scene (vv. 6-7). Bethlehem was unusually crowded at this time. It was necessary for Joseph and Mary to find shelter in a place where animals were kept. Due to the time of the year some animals were likely out in the fields (v. 8). It was in this lowly place that Jesus was born and placed in a manger.

Next, note the shepherds and the angel (vv. 8-12). A short distance from Bethlehem were shepherds "keeping watch (night watches) over their flock by night." The plural use here suggests they took turns at guarding the sheep. An appearance of an angel who "stood by them" (literal translation) caused great fear in the shepherds. The angel told them to stop being afraid and brought them the most glorious message ever heard on earth, the joyous news of the birth of a savior for all men. The shepherds were told they could find the baby wrapped up and lying in a manger in Bethlehem. Then suddenly there appeared a throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing (vv. 13-14).

After the angel left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds resolved to go at once into Bethlehem. They hurried to the place they had been told about and found Joseph, Mary and Jesus. They hurried to the place they had been told about and found Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. They then made known the news of the birth of the Savior (vv. 15-17). We now have the privilege of proclaiming the angel's message!

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## Convention Uniform

### What Do You Want?

by Lawson Hatfield, Malvern

Basic passage: John 5:1-15

Focal passage: John 5:1-15

Central truth: Made whole.

John wrote to generate faith. He chose seven miracles to help his readers believe in Jesus and have eternal life. The miracles are: water into wine (Jn. 2:1-11); healing of the nobleman's son (Jn. 4:46-54); feeding of 5,000 people (Jn. 6:1-13); walking on the seas (Jn. 6:16-21); healing a blind man (Jn. 9:1-12); and the raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:38-44).

The lesson this week is on the Sabbath Day healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda. He had been impotent 38 years.

At the center of this experience is the question of Jesus directed to the lame man. He asked, "Wilt thou be made whole?" (Jn. 5:6). Another way of asking this is "At this point in your life what do you most want?"

For the lame man, there was no hesitation in giving his answer. More than anything else he wanted someone to help him into the pool when its water stirred. He wanted to be healed. The first person to enter the troubled waters was healed. He also stated the impossibility of his reaching the water first. He needed help.

All of us need help in our times of trouble and need. We need help in growing in God's grace. We need help in our health needs and in our times of temptation. We need help to meet the needs of a growing family. Every individual could probably make a list of one to five great needs in spiritual and physical life.

In a humorous vein, it can be said that if you ever see a turtle on a fence post you know it had a lot of help to get there. In a serious way, all persons have times when they need more than a little help. Like the lame man, he could not manage this need alone.

What do you really most want? What is your greatest need? For the lame man, it was for someone who really cared. Jesus cared, and commanded the man to rise, take up his bed and walk.

Jesus can and does give ample help. He does not always provide the exact help requested, but his help is always greater than the need.

What do you most need? Jesus alone can meet true needs. He does so in his own chosen way.

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## Life and Work

### Get Ready

by Frank C. Gantz, Nall's Memorial Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Mark 1:1-5, 7-11, 14-15

Focal passage: Mark 1:1-5, 7-8

Central truth: We are to be ready for the arrival of Jesus into our world.

The Nativity is the beginning point for the gospels of Matthew and Luke. John begins even earlier with his opening words, "In the beginning..." (Jn. 1:1a). Mark, however does not begin his narrative until the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

This gospel is the shortest of the four. It moves quickly and powerfully to demonstrate the power of Jesus over demons, disease, and death. Mark wrote his gospel to Christians in Rome who were facing opposition from an anti-Christian world. They needed to know that Jesus was able to conquer as a suffering servant.

In these beginning verses, Mark points the ministry of John the Baptist. This prophet was to get the people ready for the coming of the King of Kings. The first aspect of getting ready involved preparation for the Lord. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (v. 3). John was the voice or forerunner of the coming king.

In the biblical world, a king would arrive with much pomp and ceremony. His arrival would be precipitated by much work and attention to details. The crooked roads were to be straightened. The hills were to be leveled. The valleys were to be filled. A massive effort of construction took place to prepare the king's highway.

According to verse 4, John declared that preparing for King Jesus involved repentance. Our crooked paths (the root means for the Old Testament word iniquity) are to be straightened.

The second aspect of getting ready involves the anticipation of his arrival (vv. 7-8). John fans the flames of anticipation by declaring the mighty worth and power of the coming king. This is John, the one declared by Jesus to be have no equal among those born of women. He submits himself to this coming king and yet would prove unworthy to perform the most menial of tasks, the unloosing of the king's shoe. Also, this king comes by giving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We are to get ready for the coming King Jesus by the preparation of repentance and by the anticipation of his mighty worth.

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## Bible Book

### Expressions of Love

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

Basic passage: Galatians 6:1-17

Focal passage: Galatians 6:1-2, 5-10

Central truth: Christian love will find expression in a variety of ways.

The Christian life is a life of love. The word "love" does not appear in Galatians 6:1-10. Nonetheless, we find four expressions of love in this passage. The first two come under the category of spiritual help, and the last two come under the category of material or temporal help.

First, Paul stated in verse 1 that we are to restore a fallen brother, or one who has been overtaken in a fault. The word "overtaken" means to be caught off guard by the enemy and to fall into sin. The spiritual believers, that is, those who are walking by the Spirit (5:16,25) are to restore him in a spirit of meekness. The word "restore" is a medical term used for the setting of a broken bone. Such a procedure obviously calls for skill, delicate handling, and much care. This is to be done in a spirit of "meekness" or gentleness that we all are subject to temptation. We must never assume a superior attitude, but always be on guard against falling ourselves.

Second, Paul wrote that we are to bear burdens. Two different kinds of burdens are mentioned in verses 2 and 5. In verse 2 that reference is to a crushing weight. This kind of burden cannot be carried alone. As a habit of life, not merely upon occasion, we are to share the burdens of others. The motive of love is implied in verse 2b, which refers to the law of Christ (see Jn. 13:34). Then, in verse 5, Paul refers to the soldier's pack, the burden or responsibility that is one's own, that cannot be shared. There is some particular task or service to which the Lord has called each of us, and it is our responsibility to fulfill it.

Third, verse 6, tells us that we are to share financially with those who teach us the Word of God. The word "communicate" in verse 6 means "share." This teaches us that providing financially for Christian ministers is not only biblical, but required.

Fourth, verses 9-10, tell us that we are to do good to everyone, especially to believers. We are cautioned against discouragement, or growing weary in well doing. Discouragement is one of the devil's most effective weapons against Christians.

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# Back to 'Normal'

by Mary E. Speidel  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP)—For the first time since leftist guerrillas attacked San Salvador Nov. 11, combat is beginning to subside and life is returning to "normal," said a Southern Baptist missionary there.

Fighting between government troops

and rebels is sporadic and concentrated in small groups throughout San Salvador, missionary Bill Stennett said in an interview. "I know of no large movement like we've had the previous 15 days or so," said Stennett, who lives in San Salvador, the nation's capital. Stennett is from Richmond, Va. His wife, Libby, is from Washington, D.C.

Travel throughout the city is normal and

food supplies are adequate, he said. A 12-hour nightly curfew has been cut in half.

"Life is about as normal as it's been the past ten years," said Stennett, who has worked in El Salvador throughout the decade-long civil war.

The Stennetts live in a section of San Salvador not as heavily hit as some areas of the city. "No area is completely protected when missiles are flying around, but we just have not felt the need to leave," he said.

Missionaries John (Rusty) and Peggy Alums, who also live in San Salvador, will begin a furlough in the United States following a brief vacation in Guatemala. After intense combat broke out near their home Nov. 29, the Alumses left San Salvador for Guatemala City Dec. 1. The day before, several hundred other Americans left San Salvador's western neighborhoods aboard a U.S.-chartered aircraft headed for the United States.

For missionaries Samuel and Margaret Drummond, life has been fairly calm in Santa Ana, about 50 kilometers from San Salvador, where fighting was concentrated.

## Returning Home After Fighting

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries who fled their homes near Manila's central business district returned Dec. 7 after rebel troops in the area laid down their weapons and returned to their barracks.

Four missionary families left their subdivisions in the Makati area of Manila Dec. 5 as a precaution in response to a U.S. Embassy advisory, bringing to six the number of missionary families who took refuge in another area of Manila. The other two had left the area earlier.

Mutinous troops challenging the government of Philippine President Corazon Aquino occupied several businesses, hotels and condominiums in the Makati district for several days after their coup attempt failed.

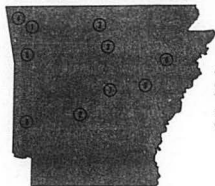
The rebels called off the mutiny Dec. 7 and marched back to their barracks, vowing they would keep fighting Aquino's government, news reports said.

As of late Dec. 7, rebel forces still held an air force base at Cebu City, several hundred miles south of Manila, said Trudy Crittendon, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines. Missionary Gerald Davis was working with Cebu City Baptist Church to help distribute rice to residents who fled their homes near the air base.

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## WORLD

(BP) photo / Mike Crosswell



Baptist minister Johann Macher greets a young Soviet immigrant in West Germany.

### EASTERN EUROPE

## Baptists to Spend \$1 Million

by Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Sensing "extraordinary opportunities in Eastern Europe," the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has appropriated \$1 million to advance the gospel there.

"The funds are immediately available," Carl Johnson, vice president for finance, told board trustees in a special meeting two days prior to their Dec. 13 vote approving the allocation. The \$1 million will help Baptists in Eastern Europe evangelize their nations and to strengthen their churches during a time of sweeping political change across the continent.

The U.S. dollar has been stronger abroad than projections indicated at the outset of 1989, Johnson reported. Thus, about \$1 million remains in board funds originally earmarked for missionary cost-of-living supplements.

"The days in which we're living are some of the most momentous and cataclysmic. . . in a long, long time," said Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks.

Freedom of religion, long forbidden by communist ideology, is among the guarantees in laws already adopted in Poland, promised in the Soviet Union and Hungary, broadly advocated in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and now being sought even in Bulgaria by a fledgling

reform movement. Only Romania and Albania have yet to bend to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for reforms. Yugoslavia's relative religious freedom dates back to the 1960s.

Possible uses of the \$1 million in Eastern Europe include the purchase and distribution of Bibles and the production of evangelistic and Christian education materials, said Isam Ballenger, vice president for the board's work in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

The Soviet Union alone needs between 40 million and 60 million Bibles, according to Bible society leaders.

The \$1 million also could help launch partnership projects in which Southern Baptist volunteers assist in evangelistic campaigns undertaken by the Baptists of Eastern Europe, Ballenger said. Foreign Mission Board officials will meet with Eastern European Baptist leaders to decide the best uses of the money.

The mission board's Global Strategy Group, composed of Parks and his key administrators, has assigned a four-member task force headed by Ballenger to study needs targeted by the Eastern Europeans. It will participate in a meeting sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Jan. 22-23 in Dorfweil, West Germany. The task force plans to meet again with Eastern Europe's Baptist leaders in late February or early March.