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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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May 14, 1987

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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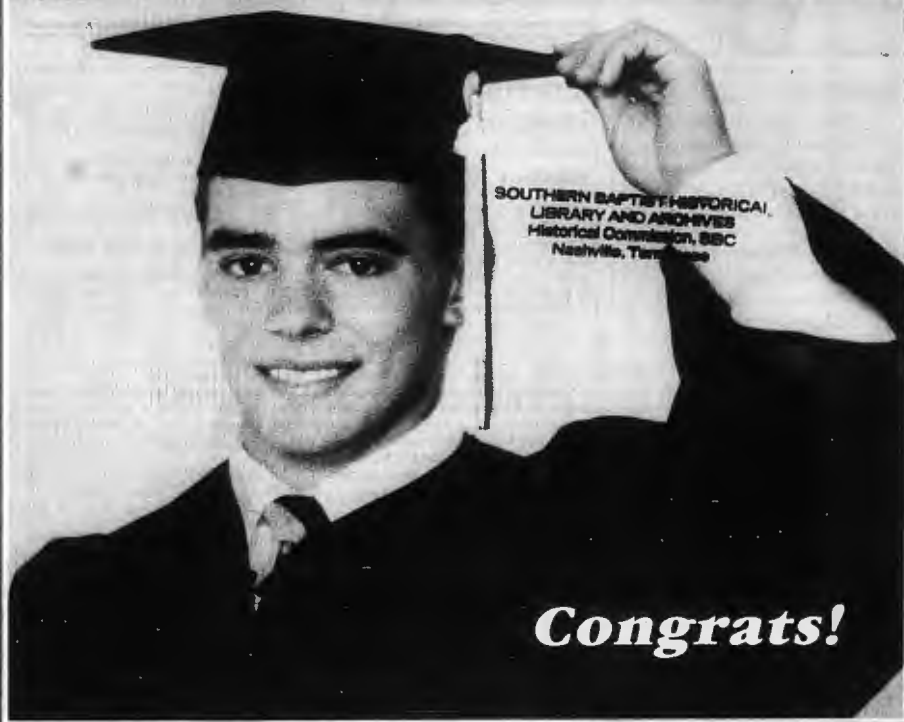


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Abortion On Front Burner

Arkansas Baptist

May 14, 1987



In This Issue



ABN photo / Millie Gill

May brings commencement, a big hour for students and families who have worked hard to achieve that goal. Churches should make a point of honoring their graduating seniors this month.

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IT'S UPLIFTING

Church Organized

GABORONE, Botswana—Less than two years after it started as a weeknight Bible study of John, the first Setswana-language Baptist church in the Botswana capitol of Gaborone was organized. The Bosele Baptist Church is located in one of many Self Help Housing Authority areas in the city of 80,000. Last December, missionary Dan Hylden baptized the first eight members in a portable baptistry.

Leaders Saved

MASERU, Lesotho—Two key leaders in a village near Roma, Lesotho, were among seven adults who recently made professions of faith. A small Baptist group in the Lesotho capitol of Maseru established a preaching point in the mountain village. They invited Southern Baptist missionary Frank Baker, from Florida, to preach. Fourteen people who were present at the Sun-

day morning service in Maseru went with Baker to the village where 19 adults, six young people, and 25 children met them. During a three-hour service, seven adults, including the chief and the head woman, were saved.

Roof-less Church Still Meets

RUNDU, Namibia—After a windstorm during rainy season destroyed the roof of Kaisosi Baptist Church in Rundu, Namibia, repair work started immediately. Meanwhile, hundreds of worshippers continued to meet outside under large trees near the church building for Sunday worship when it was not raining. The building was constructed by the Kaisosi people, who made the bricks themselves. The Baptist Association of Namibia and Baptist missionaries in that country helped purchase materials for the roof.

GOOD NEWS!

Benefits of the Grateful Life

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Ingratitude is not a little sin in God's sight. Throughout the Bible, we are admonished to give thanks. It not only pleases God, but there are many benefits for those who do.

The grateful life stimulates others. Appreciation and encouragement strengthen others and motivate greater performance, but destructive criticism kills. And unexpressed gratitude can stifle enthusiasm.

The grateful life fosters humility. Counting our blessings magnifies our indebtedness to many persons. Certainly such recognition of God for our salvation, security, and service tend toward humility in gratitude.

Alexander Graham Bell was more grateful for his citizenship than for honor. He wanted it recorded on his grave marker.

Alexander Graham Bell
Inventor-Teacher
Born
Edinburgh
March 3, 1847
Died
A Citizen of the U.S.A.
1922

The grateful life disciplines selfishness. Such an outlook focuses on the needs of others. It thrusts one beyond the fences of his own backyard to care about the needs

of others.

The words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty symbolize a spirit of selfless service to others:

Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming
shore,

Send these, the homeless, tempest-

tossed to me;

I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

The grateful life brightens hopes. Gratitude develops a wholesome disposition toward life. It registers the many benefits received. Gratitude combats discouragement, depression, and self-centered concentration.

A classic example is the personal letter from the apostle Paul to the Philippians. From a Roman prison, he could make the key words of that epistle "joy" and "re-joice."

Alexander Pope expressed it this way in *An Essay on Man*: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast; Man never is, but always to be blest."

Christians should notice the qualities reflected in the text and want to exhibit their opposites. Gratefulness is the basic source for the growth of all other winsome traits of personality.

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God's Call To Service

J. EVERETT SNEED

The Bible states clearly that God calls all Christians to service. But some are called to vocational leadership roles. Before an individual is involved in a leadership role, he must hear and respond to God's call. The two most important instruments in assisting Christians to hear and respond to God's call are the church and the home.

Paul makes it clear that God provides a wide range of gifts to Christians so God's kingdom activities can be effectively carried on. Each gift is important, and no one is to feel that he or she is superior to others because of the gift or gifts received.

Paul further indicates that in the very act of salvation every individual receives at least one gift.

The Bible further gives clear evidence that God uses some to counsel others on hearing God's call. Young Samuel thought it was Eli who had called him. Eventually, Eli was certain that it was God who had called Samuel and counseled, "... Go lie down: and it shall be, if He calls thee, thou shalt say, speak Lord for thy servant heareth..." (1 Sam. 3:9).

Perhaps the most important single ingredient in successful Christian vocational service is commitment. God can and does overcome numerous disabilities, but he cannot use the uncommitted individual.

Paul lays down two important requirements for the "bishop" (1 Tim. 3:1-8), overseer or pastor of a church. First, he is to have a proper relationship at home. This is his first duty, and Paul asked, "If a man knows not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (1 Tim. 3:5).

Second, Paul emphasizes that those who are called to leadership positions such as pastor, are to have a proper relationship with the people with whom they come in contact (1 Tim. 3:7). All these requirements are not given specifically for the pastor; they apply to all who are in leadership positions in Christian service.

In the past, Christian service was thought of exclusively in terms of pastoral or preaching ministry. Today, however, there are almost innumerable opportunities available to those who respond to God's call. These include education directors, music directors, college and seminary teachers, administrators, Christian social ministries, home and foreign missionaries, and much more. Missionary service



involves opportunities as diverse as agriculture and medicine.

In Samuel's experience, one should not forget that Hannah provided an environment in which her son could hear God's call. The home was one in which God was worshiped and his leadership was sought. Hannah gave Samuel to the Lord even before he was conceived.

Today families should provide an atmosphere in which children can hear God's call. This can be created by proper worship, both public and private, and by the commitment of the parents. Children know better than anyone else the true attitude of their parents towards the Word of God, worship, church attendance, and a daily walk with God.

The church also has a responsibility to provide a spiritual climate in which the

members may respond to God's voice. The pastor should occasionally preach on responding to God's call. Such things as literature, prayer emphases, and mission studies can assist the individual greatly in knowing God's will for his or her life.

Young people also can be greatly assisted by attending Christian vocational guidance conferences. Such conferences provide an overview of the kinds of service that are available in Christian vocational service. In short, a church should maintain an attitude in which it expects God to call people from its membership into full-time Christian service.

Sometimes, one may have a false idea concerning the methods God uses in calling individuals. Some mistakenly believe that Paul's call on the road to Damascus is the norm. God, however, seldom calls individuals in such an extraordinary way as he did with the Apostle Paul. Actually, God uses a variety of methods to speak to his followers, but basically it is an inner compulsion which urges an individual toward Christian service.

When God calls, he does not furnish a complete, detailed overview of an individual's entire life of service. An individual must respond one step at a time as God opens doors and gives direction to his life. A lifetime of Christian service is maintained through faith and requires continuing commitment through an entire lifetime.

Churches and homes should plan to be incubators in which God can call out his servants and in which they can grow and develop. Individuals whom God is calling should respond as Samuel did long ago, "Speak; for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:10).

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

VOLUME 86

NUMBER **

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Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

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Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (ISSN 0004-1734) is published weekly, except Easter, Independence Day, the first week of October, and Christmas, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., Little Rock, AR. Subscription rates are \$6.48 per year (individual), \$9.52 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.12 per year (Group Plan). Foreign address rates on request. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, (576-4791)

DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know

We had more than 60 participate in the New Pastor/Staff and Wives Orientation, April 13-14. Those of us who hosted them were blessed by making their acquaintance. They are a warmhearted and enthusiastic group. We were also impressed with the experience and commitment they bring with them to our state. As the British would say, "We became fast friends." The reciprocal benefits are apparent. We know each other and, consequently, love and trust each other. That's the way it is supposed to be in the family of God.

There has been some question about the openness and accountability of our convention finances since the television ministries have been brought into question. Hopefully, many of you read the U.S. News report on Southern Baptist ministries as they were contrasted with the huge television ministries. There is no comparison between what we are able to accomplish and what they accomplish on basically the same amount of money. This is not to imply that there is not a place for television ministries. The exorbitant life styles, the diversified activities that compete with commercial businesses that have to pay taxes, and the huge amounts of money received and spent at the discretion of one man have put tax-free status for religious activities in great question. I predict that the day is close at hand when our churches and ministries will be taxed as other business.

I need to say three things. First, Arkansas Baptist agencies and institutions have never failed to pay taxes on properties or income used for business purposes. Second, the audits on all of our agencies and institutions are published in the Annual which is sent to every pastor in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. These audits are found on pages 274 to 344 of the 1986 Annual. Third, while salaries are not published, as mandated by convention action of 1983, if you want to know anyone's salary, it is as simple as calling and asking. The records are not only open, but decisions on all expenditures are made by representatives from our churches.

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



First in a Series of Three

Ordination: My Experience

by T.B. Maston
Professor Emeritus, Southwestern Seminary

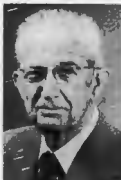
I was converted a few days before my 17th birthday. Shortly after that, I felt the Lord was calling me to preach. But for some reason, I had a deepening impression our Father did not want me to pastor a church.

I can visualize exactly where my daddy and I were leaning on our hoe handles where we were chopping corn. He had been at the church service when I was converted and also when I announced to the church that I felt called to preach.

When I shared with him my deepening feeling that the Lord did not want me to be pastor of a church, his statement to me was, "My boy, as long as you feel that way about it, don't be ordained. We have too many ordained preachers in these hills of east Tennessee who don't preach."

That statement, I am sure, explains more than anything else the fact that I have never been ordained except as a deacon.

At the time I was struggling with what



the Lord wanted me to do, there were only two types of full-time Christian ministry generally recognized: pastoral ministry and foreign missionary service. I certainly was not ready for the latter.

I decided many years ago that our gracious heavenly Father adjusted himself to my limitations. The only call that I could comprehend and respond to was the call to preach.

I taught for 41 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I started teaching in the school of religious education but later taught in the school of theology.

I had the privilege through the years of many engagements in the churches, also at Ridgecrest and Gloria. I was privileged to have a part in the training sessions for the journeymen and career missionaries sent out by the Foreign Mission Board. Through the years I spoke rather frequently in churches, supplying pulpits and in other engagements in local churches and denominational meetings.

As far as I can tell, the fact that I have not been ordained except as a deacon has not handicapped my ministry.

(Next week: Ordination in the New Testament.)

BOB PARKER

Today's Issues

Instead of Gripping

There are some things that can be done, and are being done, regarding religious education and public schools. During his recent visit to Arkansas, James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, spoke about that subject.

We would do well to investigate some of these possibilities instead of doing nothing but gripe about what may not be done.

Dr. Dunn mentioned that in some areas the Mormons and Jews are using "released time" for their young people. This is a plan where a local school board permits, with parental consent, a child to go to a nearby church, during school hours, for



religious teaching. This might be during a study hall period.

Upon calling Mormon officials in Salt Lake City, I learned recently this was being done by them primarily in areas where they had many students, states like Utah, Idaho, and Arizona. Why not also have released time programs in states like Arkansas, where we have many evangelists?

If more information on this important matter is desired, write or call the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The address is 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. The telephone number is (202) 544-4226.

There are other possibilities, such as Equal Access and moments of silence. The Joint Committee led in encouraging Equal Access federal legislation. At least half the 50 states have statutes that permit a period of silent reflection. Many include prayer in the list of permissible activities.

Gripping is more "fun" and less work. Nevertheless we ought to learn even from those we don't consider to be Christians.

Robert Parker is director of the ABSC Christian Life Council.

Southern Accent



Don't Pass By!

The young Indian boy waved frantically as I drove past. Suddenly, I slammed on my brakes, realizing he was trying to get me to stop. As he ran to my car, I could see blood running from his head across his hands and then onto his coat.

"Mister, please give me a ride to my aunt's. I busted my head wide open when my bike chain broke."

Blood was already dripping on my white car, and I thought of my car's interior, but this was no time to turn away.

As I quickly opened the door, I said, "Don't lean against the seat, blood is running down the back of your coat."

Inside the car where it was warm, he seemed to relax a little, and as I drove I began wiping the blood from his coat, hardly noticing my hands were becoming stained with the boy's blood.

As I arrived at this aunt's house, he quickly jumped out of the car and ran for help, turning and shouting, "Thanks, mister!"

I smiled as I recalled two biblical truths. One, Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you've done it unto the least of one of these my brethren, you've done it unto me," and two, Jesus shed his blood so that I might have spiritual healing.

The blood stains on my hands and car no longer mattered, plus I felt a warm glow within as I drove away, thankful I had not passed by on the other side of the road.

As I relate this true illustration in my life, I can't help but feel the reason God can't use some of us is because we're too busy to be interrupted.

When it comes to the education of our young people, we must not pass by on the other side of the road. In other words, we cannot settle for anything but the best.

Each day on our campus, I come in contact with youth who are reaching out of love, Christian growth, and learning. It is at these times I'm glad that I attended one of our Southern Baptist colleges where people cared and made a lasting investment in my life. Now I can use those teachings to invest in our students' lives.

When we pass by on the other side of the road, we always come to a dead end for others as well as ourselves.

Ben Early is public relations/alumni director for Southern Baptist College.

Food & Fellowship

Jiffy Desserts

VIRGINIA KIRK & JANE PURTLE

We Baptists have full schedules. Sometimes there's a place to go every night. Do you need ideas for quick desserts for a Sunday School class meeting, Wednesday night potluck, or friends-over-after-church?

Here are some suggestions and a few simple recipes.

GI-oreos frozen squares

- ½ gallon softened vanilla ice cream (or ice milk or mellorine)
- 22 chocolate sandwich cookies, slightly crushed
- 1 8-oz. carton whipped topping

Mix all ingredients. Spread in 9x13 pan or dish. Cover with foil and freeze. Serve in squares. Delicious!

This dessert can be made several days ahead if necessary—a help in busy times. Prepare it at least the day before.

Simple banana pudding

- 1 pkg. instant vanilla pudding
- 2 bananas, sliced
- 20 (or more) vanilla wafers
- 1 8-oz. carton whipped topping

Prepare pudding according to package instructions. Place a layer of vanilla wafers in a casserole dish, then add half of the pudding. Next layer the bananas and top with the rest of the pudding. Cover with the whipped topping.

Fudge cookies

Do you need cookies in a jiffy? Try this old-fashioned no-bake chocolate cookie. It takes only a little more than a jiffy.

- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 1 stick margarine
- 4 tablespoons cocoa
- 3 cups quick cooking oatmeal
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup peanut butter

Mix sugar, milk, margarine, and cocoa in a heavy saucepan. While stirring, bring to a boil and boil for 1½ minutes. Remove from heat and add oatmeal, peanut butter and vanilla. Drop by teaspoonfuls on waxed paper. Allow to cool.

When you are caught with nothing to serve as a dessert, prepare a small tray of cheddar or American cheese, along with slices of apples. So easy and good. Then there is always a simple dish of ice cream or sherbet. Sometimes I think my family likes this as well as a more elaborate dessert.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.



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Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Tommy Medley has joined the staff of Graves Memorial Church in North Little Rock as music and youth director, coming there from First Church in Oakland, Tenn. A native of North Little Rock, he attended Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway.

Bill Barnett has resigned as minister of music at Sherwood First Church.

Clyde Coleman has accepted a call to join the staff of Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock as associate pastor of pastoral care. A native of Arkansas, he is a graduate of Jacksonville Baptist College in Jacksonville, Texas; East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Texas; Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Ouachita Baptist University. He has served as pastor of both Texas and Arkansas churches, as associate pastor of Second Church in Conway, and as chairman of the Department of

Religion of Central Baptist College in Conway. He and his wife, Veda, have two children, Curtis and Janice.

Robert Rodriguez has accepted a call from Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock to serve as pastor of its new Spanish mission work in cooperation with Pulaski Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and the SBC Home Mission Board. A native of Texas, he is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, North Texas State University, and Nova University. He has served on the staff of both the Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen, Texas, and the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. Rodriguez has served as language missionary pastor in Texas, Colorado, and Michigan. He was appointed a career missionary by the Home Mission Board in May of 1963. He and his wife, the former Wanzell Nix of Hope, are parents of three grown children.

David McGowin resigned May 3 as pastor of Conway First Church.

Gil and Gerry Smith, members of Heber Springs First Church, are serving for one year as foreign missions volunteers in the Philippines. They are working with career missionaries, including Dean and Karla

Dickens of Arkansas. Smith is doing construction work while his wife is working with wives of seminary students, assisting them with handicrafts which they sell to tourists to assist with their husbands' tuition. The Smiths' previously worked as volunteers in the Philippines for nine months and have assisted with other short-term volunteer assignments under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board.

Treat Kevin Clayton began serving May 13 as minister of music at First Church, Trumann, coming there from Wynne Church. He is a junior music student at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Briefly

Sherwood First Church ordained John Dodge to the deacon ministry April 26.

Eden Church near Fountain Hill held a revival April 12-17 that resulted in 14 professions of faith, five additions by letter, one addition by statement, and one commitment to full-time Christian vocational service, according to Pastor Charles Pullin. Ken Jordan was evangelist.

Chicot Road Church at Mabelvale, assisted by Pulaski Association and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department, launched a new mission congregation May 3 at the Whispering Hills Mobile Home Park in south Little Rock.

Arkansas City Church reported five professions of faith and four additions by letter as a result of a revival held April 19-24. Ken Jordan preached the revival and Richard Wade led the music. Ken Overton is pastor.

Bradley Church studied "The Doctrine of Prayer" May 26-29 under the leadership of Bruce Swihart.

Macedonia Church 2 at Bloomburg will observe homecoming May 17. A.V. Smith will be speaker, and Orvis McRae will direct music.

Fianna Hills Chapel at Fort Smith will hold a "Learning to Cope" Seminar May 17-20. Leading sessions on learning how to handle stress and conflict will be Stephen and Jonya Davis, pastor and wife from Russellville First Church.



Meridian Church at Crossett observed Easter by celebrating payment of a \$325,000 indebtedness in a noteburning service. The 10-year note, paid off in eight years, covered the cost of a building that houses a 275-seat sanctuary, 12 classrooms, a nursery, and a church office. Participating in the service were (left to right) Herman White, building committee chairman; Billy Kite, Ashley County Association director of missions; and Pastor Dan Webb.

Sang Avenue Church at Fayetteville ordained Randy Ferguson, Steve Smith, and Jim Ed Summer to the deacon ministry April 12. Program participants included Pastor Paul-Dennis and Glen Nelson.

Harvard Avenue Church at Siloam Springs women held a fellowship dinner April 30. Barbara Youderian, wife of one of the missionaries martyred by the Acua Indians of Ecuador in 1956, was speaker.

North Arkansas Association will sponsor its second annual associational children's daycamp May 30 at First Church, Harrison. Ron and Debbie Baker, furloughing missionaries from Indonesia, will be speakers. An associational Acteens Spring Fling held at Berryville First Church May 11 featured Virginia Bryant, furloughing missionary from Thailand, as speaker. Other program personalities included Carolyn and Susan Shell, a mother-daughter team from Clinton.

Watson Chapel Church at Pine Bluff conducted its first youth survey May 2. Following an orientation session, youth went in groups to survey area neighborhoods, seeking prospects for the church.

Midway Church at Judsónia concluded a "Good News Arkansas, Jesus Loves You" renewal crusade April 22, Pastor John D. Davey reported 11 decisions, with eight additions to the membership. R. L. Robinson, a director of missions from Poplar Bluff, Mo., was evangelist. Malcolm Sample directed crusade music.

Cross Road Church in Little Rock reported an April average Sunday School attendance of 142, as compared to 68 one year ago, when Bill Fleming began serving as pastor.

Brookland Church at Jonesboro will celebrate its 90th anniversary May 31st with homecoming activities which will include Sunday School, morning worship, a potluck noon meal; and a 2 p.m. commitment service. John Basinger of Jonesboro, a former interim pastor, and Harold Ray, Mount Zion Association director of missions, will be featured speakers. Pastor Melvin York reports that former members will be special guests.

Hughes First Church will hold its Youth Spring Banquet May 17 immediately following the morning worship service. 1987 graduating seniors and their families will be honored guests.

Little Rock Second Church ordained Cliff Henry, Ira Hocut, Tab Turner, Rusty Walloch, and Randy Wilcox to the deacon ministry May 3.

Benton Calvary Church launched Christian Home Month May 3 with Bob Parker,

Arkansas Baptist State Convention Christian Life Council director, as speaker.

Hot Springs Second Church youth served the church's Senior Adults with a fellowship luncheon May 3 in recognition of Senior Adult Day.

Rogers Immanuel Church honored Pastor Dale Thompson May 3, recognizing his 10th anniversary of service. Participating in the recognition services were Bobby Boyles, Rod and Myrna Salmon, Shery Boyles, and Matt Hibbard. The Blson Glee Club from Oklahoma Baptist University performed at both the morning and afternoon services.

Marion First Church will host the youth choir from Carlisle for the presentation of "Movin-Out" May 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock youth held a weekend retreat in Moscow, Tenn., May 2-3. Keith Hodges was leader.

Warren First Church will observe Martha Hairston Day May 24, recognizing her 36 years of foreign missions service in Brazil. Hairston, who is retiring, will be guest speaker at the morning worship service. She will be honored at an afternoon tea in the church's fellowship hall.

First for BSU Summer Missions

For the first time in the history of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, more than 100 Arkansas Baptist college students have been appointed summer missionaries. Half of these will have their expenses paid by their fellow students in 27 Baptist Student Unions in the state. The other Arkansas students will have their expenses paid by the Home Mission Board.

Tom Logue, who will retire as director of the Student Department this fall, challenged George Sims, associate in the Student Department, to achieve this goal as Sim's "going away present" to him. It was an off-the-cuff remark during Logue's and Sims' presentation of student work at the recent New Pastors/Staff Orientation at the Baptist Building. Sims took Logue's challenge seriously.

The Summer Mission program is one of Sims' assignments in the Student Department, and Logue says Arkansas has led the Southern Baptist Convention in percentage of summer missionaries for several years. Last year four of the top 20 schools in the nation providing summer missionaries were Arkansas colleges, Logue said.



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1987 BSU Summer



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Alaska
Marsha Crawford, OBU
Connecticut



Vernon Horneman, OBU
Arkansas
Kathy Moore, UALR
New Orleans



Ruth Martinez, UALR
California
Mary Dougherty, OBU
Arkansas



Carrie Jones, OBU
Arkansas
Amanda Bibbs, OBU
Arkansas



Kathy Emmerling, OBU
Indiana
Melonie Myers, OBU
to be announced



Dawn Garrison, HSU
Arkansas
Tiah Strange, SAU
Vermont



Jennifer Rusaell, SBC
Arkansas
Frank Raby, SBC
Chicago



David Seara, SBC
Arkansas
Mark Clinard, SBC
Arkansas



Terry Walls, SBC
Arkansas
Lisa Barron, SBC
Arkansas



Wendell Bruce, UA
San Francisco
Lynna Loyd, HSU
Indiana



Gina Foster, ASU
Arkansas
Michele Gattlin, ASU
Arkansas



Alan Carnahan, ATU
Arkansas
Steve Thurmon, ASU
Arkansas



Trevor Bowman, ATU
Arkansas
Megumi Koyanagi, C of O
Maryland



Patrick Lim, C of O
Puerto Rico
Kevin Smith, ATU
South Dakota



Annette Kemp, SBC
California
Fran Barnett, SBC
New York



Holly Nobles, SBC
Indiana
Carol Alexander, ATU
South Dakota



Julie Cole, ASU
Houston
David George, UA
Nevada



Kim Drake, OBU
California
Patty Hamilton, UA
Ohio



Holly Gibson, OBU
Ohio
Becky Wright, OBU
Colorado



Hal Stroupe, UCA
New Orleans
Rex Knight, ATU
Washington, D.C.

Not pictured: Joe Buck, HSU, Chicago; Renee Card, UCA, Arkansas; Joe Marley, OBU, Idaho; Terri Lynn Baxley, ATU, Washington, D.C.; Dirk Collier, ATU, Washington, D.C.; Barbara A. Humble, ATU, South Dakota; Mary Ann Moses, OBU, to be announced; Melissa Norman, ATU, New York; Sharon Smith, OBU, to be announced; Sherree Varieta, GCCC, North Dakota; Joyce Wells, ATU, South Dakota; Darryl Woody, SBC, Oklahoma; Brenda McDonald, SBC, Pennsylvania; Chris Fowler, UAM, Colorado; Russ Draper, SBC, Arkansas; Bryant Keeling, ATU, South Dakota; Harley Petty, UALR, Arkansas; Randy Jones, OBU, Arkansas; Michael Trusty, UALR, to be announced; Charlotte Caughron, SBC, to be announced; Phyllis Thomas, OBU, to be announced; Kristi Burg, UCA, to be announced; David Tan, UA, Grand Canyon; Michael Hanna, SBC, Missouri; Claire Hanna, SBC, Missouri

Missionaries

Congress Convenes

Games The Agenda, Not Politics



Photos by Glendon Grober

When the 1967 Arkansas Boy's Ambassador Congress convened on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University April 24-25, politics was the last thing in anyone's mind. Instead, thoughts of track and field events, swimming competition, baseball games, model car races, and camp crafts filled the heads of the 753 boys who competed in the 21 events offered. With a total of 700 boys competing in the 21 track events, the Congress goes on record as the largest track meet of the year in Arkansas, according to ARBSC Brotherhood Director Glendon Grober. Sixty-two Arkansas churches sent 904 representatives to the annual gathering, which also featured worship services, missionary speaker Stan Parry, minister Raudell Eller, and the A-Trio, a musical group from Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Rally Draws 700 Youth

The 1987 Solid Rock Rally at Forrest City First Church drew an estimated 700 youth from 37 churches on May 2, according to organizer Mike Coker. Students heard athletes like University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, coach R.V. Brown (right) challenge them to courageous Christian living.



ABN Opens Jobs Exchange

With unemployment high and many Arkansas Baptists looking for work, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* has opened a new feature for its readers, "The Jobs Exchange."

Members of Arkansas Baptist churches who either are seeking employment or who have jobs available may post notices free of charge in The Jobs Exchange. Notices of positions available or wanted will be run for three consecutive weeks.

The Jobs Exchange will be limited to members of Arkansas Baptist churches. Church staff positions available or wanted will not be included. Placement of a notice in The Jobs Exchange will not constitute an endorsement by the ABN.

Notices must be submitted in writing to: The Jobs Exchange, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. Name, address, telephone number, and type of employment sought or offered must be included. A brief statement of qualifications or experience also is acceptable.

No information beyond that published in the notice will be available at the ABN office.

ABN Offers Classifieds

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* now offers classified advertising to any individuals or Arkansas Baptist churches needing low-cost advertising.

Classifieds may be used for a variety of purposes, such as offering items for sale, advertising open church staff positions, and announcing availability for pulpit supply. Classifieds offer a better advertising bargain for many such purposes, since ad cost can be controlled by the number of words inserted.

Classified ads must be submitted in writing to the ABN office no less than 10 days prior to the date of publication desired. A check or money order in the proper amount, figured at 85 cents per word, must be included with the ad. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance.

The *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied by the publication of an ad.

Classified ads should be mailed to: Classifieds, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

SBC To Graduate 68

Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, will hold graduation exercises on May 15. Thirteen students will be receiving bachelor's degrees, and 57 will receive associate degrees.

The baccalaureate address will be given by Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, Fort Smith, at 11:30 a.m. Commencement will take place at 2 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. J. Gordon Kingsley, president of William-Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

Four citations will be awarded during the ceremonies.

Kendall Berry of Blytheville will receive the 1987 Distinguished Baptist Layman's Citation. Berry has been in the newspaper and printing industry for almost 30 years,

and has been a deacon in Blytheville First Church for 50 years.

Ferrell Morgan will receive the 1987 Distinguished Baptist Minister's Citation. Morgan has served in many denominational leadership roles and has pastored churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri.

Thelma E. Weaver of Hoxie will be presented the 1987 Distinguished Baptist Lady Citation. Mrs. Weaver has helped start, strengthen, and build seven churches throughout northeast Arkansas.

Douglas P. Badertscher Sr. of Shreveport, La., class of 1972, will receive the 1987 Distinguished Baptist Alumnus Citation. Badertscher serves as a district manager of the Equitable and is a nationally-known speaker.

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Convention Uniform

A Plea For Repentance

by Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus

Basic passage: Hosea 5:8 to 7:16

Focal passage: Hosea 5:15 to 6:10

Central truth: God wants his people to be fully committed to following him.

With the opening of chapter 4, Hosea moves from his own family crisis to God's controversy with backslidden Israel: "Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel." He addresses all segments of life in the Northern Kingdom, including priests and the royal family, and he does not mince words.

(1) God turns his back (Ho. 5:15)

God never abandons his people (Heb. 13:5). Even in his turning from them because of their disobedience, he is still with them in his abundant grace and tender mercy: "... in their affliction they will seek me early" (v.15b). Discipline is an essential ministry of parenthood.

(2) The call to repentance (Ho. 6:1-3)

Are these words that Hosea was seeking to put on the tongues of the people of the Northern Kingdom, or were they spoken by the people less than wholeheartedly? As the continuing passage seems to indicate, the Lord was far from happy with the response in the lives of the people. All of us, as sinners and sinners saved by grace, stand in daily need of repentance and restoration in our high calling of disciples (learners/followers) of Christ.

(3) The Father's dilemma (Ho. 6:4-10)

The name Ephraim—designation for one of the 10 tribes of Israel—is used throughout these chapters for the nation itself. The clear message in the verses immediately before us is that God was concerned about the lack of trustworthiness of both Judah and Israel. "What shall I do unto thee?" lets us see our heavenly Father in terms of an earthly parent baffled by the continuing misconduct of his offspring. God's despair is over the unreliability of the people. As "a morning cloud" and "as the early dew" (v. 4), their goodness was soon gone.

The Lord had sent his prophets to warn Israel of her waywardness, and he had sent his judgment as saturating as the light of day, and still the people showed no real understanding of what he was expecting of them—"Mercy, not sacrifice," and "knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

Life and Work

Facing Problems

by Bert Thomas, Valley Church, Searcy

Basic passage: Acts 3:1-6:7

Focal passage: Acts 4:1-3, 29-31; 6:1-3, 7

Central truth: Each church will face problems but God will give the resources to overcome each one.

Someone has said that there are really no problems, just opportunities. If this is so then many of us have ample opportunities! One might ask, "Opportunities for what?" That answer is answered by this illustration. In a community there lived a wise man. A group of mischievous boys decided to have some fun at the old man's expense. They trapped a bird, one of the boys concealed it in his hands, and brought it to the man. "Sir," he said, "I have a bird in my hands." "Tell me, is it alive or dead." The wise man knew if he answered alive, the boy would kill the bird. If he answered dead, the bird would be released. He quickly turned the tables on them by saying, "It is what you wish it to be."

Facing problems in the church is much the same way. They are what we wish.

A church will encounter external problems because of its message. Acts 4:2 is a key verse. When a church preaches the death and resurrection of Jesus it troubles lost men. Why? The message of the church challenges men. Can you think of external pressures in your community your church would face if men changed their life-styles?

Many churches are following the example of the Jerusalem church and are facing external problems. Acts 4:29-31 suggests how to face such problems. They prayed for their specific problem (the threat from the authorities). They prayed for boldness to continue to witness. As a result of their prayers the Holy Spirit empowered them to face their specific problem.

Churches must also learn to solve internal problems. A worthy church ministry of the early church had been resulted in jealousy (Acts 6:1-3). The native born Jews were accused of treating the foreign born (Grecian) widows like second class members. The church solved the problem this way. The Apostles counseled the church to select seven men whose lives were controlled by the Holy Spirit to share in the responsibilities of ministries of the church. The church followed the advice of the Apostles and the internal problem was solved.

Bible Book

God's Appearance

by Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

Basic passage: Job 38:1-42:17

Focal passage: Job 38:1-7; 42:1-7, 10-12a

Central truth: God's encounter with Job and his restoring of Job's prosperity challenges us to confess our limited knowledge and power and to trust God in our difficulties.

This lesson concludes the study of Job; and it has an appropriate ending—God responding to Job. Out of a storm, God spoke to Job. His response was probably not exactly what Job had expected.

The Lord began by asking Job: "Who are you, Job, to question my wisdom? Your questions are really stupid!" (writers paraphrase of 38:2).

Then God asked Job to answer a series of questions with obvious answers. These questions are found throughout chapters 38-41. In the focal passage for Sunday, God asked questions that related to creation.

The purpose of these questions was to point out two basic facts to Job. First, the questions revealed the nature, power, and wisdom of God. God has absolute power in the world today. He created it. He still controls it.

Second, the questions revealed the finiteness of Job and all mankind. Job thought he had many of the answers to life's questions. He felt that God had not been fair to him. But the truth was that Job really knew nothing in comparison to God's wisdom and knowledge.

Job ended his response to God with confession and an act of repentance. His confession was an admittance of his wrong in the things he had said. His act of repentance signified that he was truly sorry for his wrong doings.

One should learn a lot from studying this lesson. For example, one should be reminded that God is still active in our lives today. Job's confession and repentance serves to remind us of our need to be reconciled to God. Job's intercessory prayer for his friends in 42:10 should challenge us to pray for others.

The story of Job has a great ending. God blessed Job and gave him twice as much as he had before. Job's family and friends joined in the celebration. God is so good!

Consultation Planned

Abortion On Front Burner

by Tim Fields

SBC Christian Life Commission

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has taken two new initiatives designed to give "urgent attention to the abortion issue," announced N. Larry Baker, executive director of the moral concerns agency.

The initiatives include the assignment of the abortion issue as a major staff responsibility and a national consultation on abortion May 28-29 in St. Louis.

"Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the commission since January 1985, has assumed staff responsibility for the abortion issue," Baker said. "Elevating the abortion issue to a major program assignment is the first step in the Christian Life Commission's commitment to provide additional help for Southern Baptists."

"Parham has already written on abortion and prepared materials for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and will be responsible for the national consultation on abor-

tion," Baker explained. "The consultation will bring together the entire commission program staff and two dozen other Southern Baptists who represent conservative positions on abortion to chart new courses of action on the issue."

Parham will continue to be responsible for the world hunger issue, Baker said, noting, "The abortion and hunger issues are expressions of the same commitment to the sanctity of human life."

Responding to his new position, Parham said: "Knitting a seamless garment on pro-life issues is a long overdue assignment for the Christian Life Commission, which I accept with a sense of urgency. Abortion and hunger are two of the foremost threats to human life."

"Regrettably, many of us have worked at one end of the continuum while ignoring human life at the other end. I plan to work with all Southern Baptists in the creation of a community where all human life is valued."

Peace Report Delay Possible

by Dan Martin

Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)—The final report of the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee—originally scheduled for release a month in advance of the 1987 annual meeting—may be delayed, chairman Charles Fuller says.

"We wish we could have been able to fulfill our original plan of releasing the report six weeks or a month before the convention, but we find that the idea may have been ambitious," he added.

Fuller made the comments following the 14th meeting of the 22-member peace group, May 4 in Atlanta.

Fuller, pastor of First Church of Roanoke, Va., countered rumors the Peace Committee is "hopelessly stalemated," by saying the report "is completed as far as structure and general content is concerned."

"There are sections which have been referred back to the drafting committee for refinement and some short segments have been sent back to be rewritten. At this point, we feel it is more important to complete the report, with each member of the committee having his or her input, than to hurry the final draft," he said.

Fuller said it appears the final report will include "about 10 recommendations, touching both political and theological issues."

The report, he added, does not include any recommendations which are aimed at splitting the 14.6-million-member denomination. "The committee is committed to the idea that we will stay together; the concept of a split is not in our thinking."

When the committee met in Nashville in early April to survey the first draft of the report, committee members instructed the drafting committee headed by Charlotte, N.C., attorney William Poe to shorten the document from the first version's 25 pages.

"We have purposely shortened the background section of the document hoping to make it manageable and digestible by the messengers at the St. Louis convention," Fuller said.

After the May 4 meeting, attended by 21 of the 22 members, Fuller said the drafting subcommittee will refine, rewrite and reassemble the report. Then, it will be mailed to all committee members for review.

"Following that process, members will send suggestions for revisions. Then the final report will be assembled," he said.

Fuller added the report may be released either in late May or early June, "depending on how long the finalization process takes."

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Southland Backing lottery

By Ken Camp

Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (BP)—"Texans for a Lottery" revealed recently their intention to spend about \$800,000 lobbying for a lottery and an additional \$400,000 for a grassroots referendum campaign in Texas.

Last week, the multi-million dollar Southland Corporation showed where part of that money is going when they publicly entered the gambling campaign, said Weston Ware, associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Southland Corporation began last week to use their 7-Eleven convenience stores in Texas to promote a petition drive in support of the "Lone Star Lottery." Playing on the "freedom of choice" slogan, the Lone Star Lottery is presented as a "freedom of purchase" issue.

Bill Fisher, lobbyist for the Texas-based Southland Corporation and chairman of Lone Star Lottery, also wrote individuals in many legislative districts asking them to urge legislators to choose the lottery as an alternative to additional taxes and cuts in services.

"It is interesting that the letter from Fisher provided no return address for Lone Star Lottery and that the material distributed in the 7-Eleven stores has an address in Austin but no identification as to who Lone Star Lottery is," said Ware.

The 7-Eleven promotional material contains several distortions and fails to tell the whole truth about a state lottery, Ware said.

"The 7-Eleven promotional piece claims that a lottery will bring in \$600 million a year to the state treasury. The truth is that it may be several years, or indeed never, before the state receives that kind of revenue from a lottery," he said.

"The most serious problem with the campaign is it fails to mention that the Southland Corporation hopes to receive a heavy share of the money brought in by the sale of lottery tickets," he continued.

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Shelter Funds Snagged

WASHINGTON (BP)—A constitutional snag in legislation designed to fund emergency shelters for the homeless was examined during a recent congressional hearing.

Congress last year appropriated funds under the Emergency Shelter Grants Program to make more emergency shelters available for homeless people. In developing proposed regulations for implementing the program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development excluded "primarily religious" groups and organizations from applying for and receiving a large portion of those funds.

The proposed regulations would allow religious organizations to apply for funds for operating expenses of emergency shelters, but not for the renovation, rehabilitation or conversion of property for use as shelters.

HUD said the regulations were drafted to avoid violating the First Amendment's establishment clause. But a number of religious groups claim the rules are unnecessarily exclusionary.

Two representatives from the religious community voiced their concerns about the proposed regulations during testimony before the House Employment and Housing Subcommittee.

William J. Wood, executive director of the California Catholic Conference, said the proposed rules defeat the intent of legislation intended to help the homeless and misinterpret relevant constitutional provisions separating church and state. "It appears as if HUD has gone out of its way to deny access to funds by sectarian

organizations," he said.

Wood and John Steinbruck, pastor of Luther Place Church in Washington, stressed the vital role churches and religious organizations play in assisting the nation's homeless.

"Now told that they can no longer receive HUD funds because it is unconstitutional," Wood said, "generous, creative, hardworking people are being forced to sit back helpless and watch homelessness take its lethal toll on their fellow citizens."

A spokesman for HUD testified his agency recognizes the vital role religious organizations have played in meeting the social service needs of the poor—including the homeless—and has attempted to be sensitive to the concerns of those organizations.

But J. William Dorsey, HUD general counsel, said the agency is required to follow the First Amendment. He said the "tough constitutional questions" involve implementing grant programs that "neither advance nor inhibit religion" and do not "produce excessive government entanglement with religion."

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Lottie Moon Goal Lowered

Backing Down

by Karen Benson, Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—The 1987 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions has been lowered from \$81 million to \$75 million.

The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union voted by mail ballot in late April to lower the 1987 goal by \$6 million when projections revealed Southern Baptists would not meet the 1986 goal of \$75 million.

As of April 27, only \$67,751,032.36 of the 1986 goal had been received. Projections indicate only \$70.1 million will be given toward the 1986 goal.

The WMU executive board sets the goal several years in advance in order to include the goal amount in all publicity and promotional materials, many of which are produced months or years in advance. WMU officials did not indicate if future goals also will be lowered.

The goal change was made in time to have the revised amount shown on several promotional materials—including the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions posters and prayer guide—but not in time to get the amount changed in other promotional items, such as ads in Sunday school literature.

WMU leaders and officials at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission have expressed regret that the goal had to be

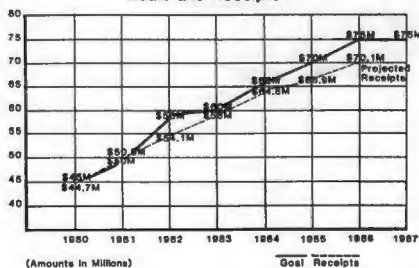
decreased, but they cited the need to be realistic in setting the goal.

"We felt compelled to lower the 1987 goal when the 1986 goal wasn't reached," said Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director. "The big problem is that a lot of people think we set a goal with an allowance for fluff. But actually, there's a place already for every penny of the goal. We know exactly where that \$81 million would have gone."

Even if the \$81 million goal were to be reached, "desperate needs" still would go unmet on the foreign mission fields, Weatherford said. "We know how inadequate \$81 million would have been, and that shows just how much more inadequate \$75 million will be. It's just like sending missionaries out without the tools to do their work."

But because every penny of the goal is budgeted and allocated in advance, "we have to be more realistic in setting goals,"

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Goals and Receipts



she noted. "We can't set a goal that will allow us to dream."

While lowering a missions offering goal is painful, "I have an emotional feeling of rightness of lowering the goal," Weatherford reported. "And I'm grateful that we have the process by which we can say, 'We've dreamed a little too high, and we've led you to dream to high. Now, we need to stop that dreaming and be realistic.'"

Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, agreed: "The adjustment of the Lottie Moon goal appears to be necessary but is regrettable. Since we budget the entire goal, it is important that it be realistic. When the goal is not reached, we have to cut back on urgent needs which we had hoped to meet."

But there is some good news among the bad, Weatherford said. In 1988, Southern Baptists will pass the \$1 billion mark in accumulative receipts for the Lottie Moon offering.

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Public Health, Spiritual Health

by Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PARAFENNI, Gambia (BP)—Putting in pit toilets may not be glamorous work, but Southern Baptist missionary Chris Austin feels that is exactly what God has called him to do in The Gambia in western Africa.

The missionary from New Orleans and his 10-man team of helpers are proficient pit toilet installers. They have put in 300 of them in the past two years as part of a public health program that includes installation of water wells, instruction in gardening, health screening and other measures.

As Austin talks with area residents about public health, he also tells the staunch Muslims bow a Savior named Jesus can solve the needs of their spiritual health. The New Life in Jesus Baptist Church which Austin and his wife, Karen, have started is comprised only of his 10 workers he has led to faith in Christ. But their steadily maturing Christian faith holds promise for future growth in the area.

Baptist work has gone slowly in The Gambia and neighboring Senegal because of Islam's presence. Although Southern Baptist missionaries have work in the Serekunda area near Banjul, the capital, most believers there are from other African nations. Austin's workers are Gambians.

A sliver of a country smaller than Connecticut, The Gambia is surrounded by much larger Senegal on Africa's western coast. The country stretches about 300 miles along both sides of the Gambia River but is only 15 to 30 miles wide. The Gambia sprang into American consciousness several years ago when author Alex Haley's book, "Roots," was published, followed by the television miniseries. The tale's opening chapter on Haley's ancestor was set in the tiny Gambian village of Juffure.

The Gambia is a poor country. In rural areas, half of all children die before the age of 7, Austin says. Most die from diseases that elsewhere are successfully treated: measles, pneumonia, malaria. Polio and meningitis still are common. But chronic malnutrition often makes these diseases

worse. Ignorance also is a factor. When a baby has measles, mothers often wrap the baby warmly, despite the intensely hot climate, and lay the baby out in the sun.

"Most babies are healthy until they're about 4 to 6 months old," Austin reports. "When they start eating solid food, they go down, because they drink dirty water and eat dirty food."

Limited medical facilities are available, but 80 percent of the total national healthcare budget goes for the support of just two hospitals. Even if more physicians were available, they would wind up treating the same patients repeatedly because so much sickness is caused by poor sanitation and dirty water. One physician serving in the Parafenni area confessed to the Austins that he was distressed because he can cure the sick people but can do nothing about what makes them sick.

That's where Austin comes in. By putting in properly designed pit toilets, many diseases and parasites can be controlled. "For me this is one of the most satisfying

(BP) photo / Warren Johnson



Missionary Brad Masbburn inspects pit toilet installation.

things we're doing, because nobody is helping with waste disposal," says Austin, who holds master's degrees in both tropical medicine and public health.

Through his work, Austin is slowly developing rapport with village leaders in the area and gradually teaching them about public health. It is slow work, changing habits followed for centuries and telling people who have never been to school about germs—something which they cannot see.

As they discover he has told them the truth about health matters, he hopes they will discover he has told the truth about Jesus, also.