

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

3-10-1994

March 10, 1994

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Organizational Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "March 10, 1994" (1994). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994*. 48.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arbn_90-94/48

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1990-1994 by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST



Volume 93, Number 5

March 10, 1994



Nationwide, 96 percent of multi-housing residents do not attend any church. Discovering creative ways to reach people who live in apartments and mobile home parks is the task of Southern Baptist home missionary Sandy Woodside.



IT'S YOUR SERVE

Minister in Christ's Name

**1994 Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering
for Home Missions**

National Goal: \$40 million

State Goal: \$1,025,000

Rogers appoints three pastors to nominating committee

Arkansas Baptist State Convention president Ronnie Rogers has announced the appointment of three pastors to serve on the state convention nominating committee. He also has appointed chairmen to serve both the nominating committee and the convention's articles of incorporation and bylaws committee.

The three men appointed to serve three-year terms on the nominating committee join six other men already serving on the nine-member committee. The new members are Van Harness of Greers Ferry, Barry King of Hot Springs and Tony Preston of Bentonville. The committee is responsible for nominating individuals to fill vacancies on state convention boards and committees.

Rogers, pastor of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs, said he sought to appoint individuals "who are doing something in their church" in such areas as ministry, outreach and Cooperative Program support. "I want guys who are doing what we're supposed to be about in their local church," he explained.

Rogers appointed Jimmy Wallace, pastor of Looke Church, as chairman of the nominating committee. Wallace, serving his third year on the committee, is serving his second year as chairman.

Phillip Smith, a layman from Pochontas, was appointed chairman of the articles of incorporation and bylaws committee. He is serving his third year on that committee.

Among the newly appointed nominating committee members, Harness is pastor of West Side First Church in Greers Ferry. He formerly was pastor of Mt. Vernon

Church in Benton and a church in Missouri. Harness is a member of the Christian Civic Foundation board and evangelism director for Little Red River Association. He is a graduate of Southern (Williams) Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University.

King, who nominated Rogers as state convention president last fall, is pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs. He previously was pastor of First Church, Social Hill, and Riverside Church, Friendship. King is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and is pursuing a master's degree through off-campus seminary studies. He currently is moderator of Garland County Association and a member of the Christian Civic Foundation board.

Preston, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, is pastor of First Church, Bentonville. A former associate professor of evangelism at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., he also has been pastor of churches in Alabama, Texas and Mississippi. He is a graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Miss.

Other members currently serving on the nominating committee in addition to Wallace are Bill Gunter, a layman from Hope; Paul Peoples, a layman from Sherwood; Bill Bowen, pastor of First Church, Mena; Dennis Dodson, pastor of First Church, Monticello; and Wallace Williams, a layman from Clarkedale. The committee will present its nominations to convention messengers during the ABSC annual meeting Nov. 1-2 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Cover Story

H&M photo / Laura Gibson



Annie Armstrong Offering

Sandy Woodside, a Southern Baptist home missionary involved in multi-housing ministry in Kansas City, Mo., is among more than 4,800 home missions personnel serving throughout the nation. Southern Baptists help support their ministries through the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This year's offering has a national goal of \$40 million and a state goal of \$1,025,000.

Also inside

Perspective

You'll Be Glad to Know.....	4
Woman's Viewpoint.....	4
Straight from the Editor.....	5

Arkansas Baptists

Marjorie Grober serves WMU.....	6
'Perform Ministry' under way.....	7
Training opportunities.....	8
Easter productions planned.....	9
Arkansas All Over.....	12-13
College Digest.....	21

Nation/World

Executive/Committee actions.....	10-11
Olympic ministry efforts.....	15
Legislative updates.....	16

Lessons.....	22-23
--------------	-------

Next issue: March 24

ARKANSAS BAPTIST

USPS 008021

Trennis Henderson.....Editor
Russell N. Dilday.....Associate Editor
Colleen Beckus.....Assistant Editor

Mille Gill.....Executive Assistant to the Editor
Paige Cooper.....Accountant
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D.Editor Emeritus

Letters to the editor are invited. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and may not contain more than 350 words. Letters must be signed and marked "for publication." A complete policy statement is available on request. Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used. Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of the Arkansas Baptist. Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

The Arkansas Baptist (ISSN 1040-6056) is published bi-weekly by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc., 601-A W. Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$8.85 per year (individual) \$16.36 per year (lively Family Plan), \$7.00 per year (Group Plan), Second Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Arkansas Baptist, P.O. 952, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501-376-4791.

Member of the Southern Baptist Press Association Volume 93 • Number 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Greg Kirksey, Benton, president; Curt Hodges, Jonesboro; Lucie C. Hagins, Fordyce; Cliff Palmer, Rogers; Brenda Bruce, Newark; Mark Baber, Marion; David McCormick, Dardsnelle; James Preston, Stamps; and Otis Turner, Arkadelphia.

'93 statistics show mixture of gains, losses

Arkansas Baptists registered six gains and four losses among key denominational reporting statistics in 1993, according to figures released by the Baptist Sunday School Board's strategic information and planning section. The statistics were compiled from 1,313 Uniform Church Letters from Arkansas Baptist churches.

Increases were registered in numbers of churches, church membership, Sunday School enrollment, Discipleship Training enrollment/participation, missions expenditures and total tithes, offerings and special gifts. Decreases came in baptisms, music ministry enrollment, Woman's Missionary Union enrollment and Brotherhood enrollment/participation.

On the national level, Southern Baptists experienced the same gains and losses with the exception of Sunday School enrollment. While Arkansas Baptists reported a slight gain in that area, Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment fell 0.2 percent to 8,246,250.

Arkansas Baptists' largest percentage gain was financially, with a 9.8 percent increase in total tithes, offerings and special gifts. The 1993 ABCS total was more than \$169 million, \$15.1 million more than the 1992 total of nearly \$154 million.

Although receipts in ABCS churches increased nearly 10 percent, Arkansas Baptist missions expenditures increased by only \$349,169 over 1992, a 1.3 percent increase.

Don Moore, Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive director, responded to the disparity between receipts and missions spending. "I think current sociological trends emphasizing the individual and what meets his needs causes us not to be as quick to address the larger Baptist family and the world," he remarked. "Churches are adding staff, buildings and programs they had not previously had. This is eating up the money that ordinarily would have gone to missions."

The number of reporting Arkansas churches increased by eight, or 0.6 percent, for a total of 1,313 churches and church membership reached 507,182, for an increase of 0.8 percent or 4,221 over 1992. Both gains came at a slower pace than the previous year when Arkansas Baptists gained 12 reporting churches and more than 7,000 members.

Arkansas Baptist percentage gains were higher than the Southern Baptist Convention total of 0.74 percent, or 283 churches, and SBC membership gains, which reached only 0.25 percent over 1992 figures. SBC church membership is now reported at more than 15.4 million.

Discipleship Training enrollment and

1993 Arkansas Baptist statistics

	1993	1992	Gain/Loss	Change
Churches Reporting	1,313	1,305	8	0.6%
Baptisms	12,645	13,009	-364	-2.8%
Church membership	507,182	502,961	4,221	0.8%
Sunday School enrollment	261,906	259,842	2,064	0.8%
Discipleship Training enrollment	79,182	75,909	3,273	4.3%
Music ministry enrollment	57,095	58,300	-1,205	-2.1%
WMU enrollment	26,616	27,550	-934	-3.4%
Brotherhood enrollment	12,121	12,583	-462	-3.7%
Total receipts	\$169,047,875	\$153,930,655	\$15,117,220	9.8%
Mission expenditures	\$27,492,422	\$27,143,253	\$349,169	1.3%

participation showed the greatest percentage increase among ABCS and SBC programs for 1993, with Arkansas Baptist churches reporting a 4.3 percent increase over 1992 and Southern Baptists reporting a 4.6 percent increase.

Bob Holley, ABCS discipleship and family ministries department director, said the increase in Discipleship Training figures for Arkansas was partially the result of promotion and new DT materials.

"We conducted a New Start project, which enlisted and trained consultants to go to churches that did not report Discipleship Training in 1992," Holley explained. "The consultants interpreted Discipleship Training ministries in 160 churches and 35 associations."

"What people are responding to more than ever before is Discipleship Training materials that speak to felt needs," Holley noted. Highlighting popular materials such as Experiencing God, Parenting by Grace, PrayerLife and LIFE Support, he added, "People have said to me that the Discipleship Training resources are on the cutting edge."

Moore also affirmed gains made in Sunday School enrollment. Arkansas Baptist churches increased from 259,842 Sunday School members in 1992 to 261,906 in 1993. Although it is only a 0.8 percent increase, Moore said Arkansas was fourth numerically in SBC state conventions reporting Sunday School growth. "It is an important distinction with what happened in Arkansas. We are the smallest of the Old South states, but, amazingly, we are fourth numerically."

Among the four reporting areas showing decreases in the state were: baptisms, down to 12,645 from 13,009 in

1992; music ministry enrollment down to 57,095 from 58,300; WMU enrollment down to 26,616 from 27,550; and Brotherhood enrollment down to 12,121 from 12,583.

Arkansas WMU executive director Julia Ketter believes the lower figures for WMU may be a result of measuring methods.

"When enrollment is measured," said Ketter, "only the educational programs are measured. We have no good measuring tool to tell us exactly how many are participating." She said the WMU's losses also are "the continuation of a steady loss of Baptist Women and a plateau in Baptist Young Women numbers."

Offering suggestions for increasing WMU attendance in local churches, she noted, "Our mindset must be flexible enough to adapt to church members' needs. We also need to adapt to the needs of women today."

Moore said while decreases in WMU, Brotherhood and music ministries may result from measuring tools, the decrease in Arkansas baptisms is a result of "something happening to us in the area of evangelism.... We have become preoccupied with ourselves and our own spiritual development and have neglected the welfare of the lost."

On the national level, baptisms declined 5.1 percent, WMU enrollment declined 3.29 percent, music ministry enrollment was down 0.5 percent and Brotherhood enrollment dipped by 0.1 percent. The baptism decrease was the second consecutive drop in that area while music ministry enrollment fell for the first time in 28 years. Despite the declines, Southern Baptists reported more than 349,000 baptisms for the year.

YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW



By DON MOORE
ABS-C Executive Director

Southern Baptists do more than pass resolutions. We are trying to make a difference in the area of moral issues. We must do more than vote for someone else to do something. Parents, pastors, educators and church leaders must take more responsibility for living, teaching and encouraging right moral behavior. The Moral Issues Conference on March 25-26 is designed to equip us to more effectively address 12 critical areas of need. Dr. Richard Land and Dr. Guy Greenfield will present the materials for the general sessions. Facilitators will help with the 12 workshops that will get down to the "nitty gritty" of making a difference. May it not be said that "this generation was lost because of our moral indifference." The cost is \$10 if you pre-register.

Another matter that needs our attention in March is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. The Home Mission Board can only meet the need for expansion and outreach if we provide the funds for it. Most of us do well if we are able to touch the majority of people in our own communities. Reaching the dark and dangerous cities continues to be a priority of the Home Mission Board. If God calls and people volunteer to go into those areas, the least we can do is to provide support for them. I would love to see every church present the need to their people and give them an opportunity to give to the Annie Armstrong Offering.

While we are on missions, let me encourage attendance at the annual WMU Convention. The dates are March 18-19 at First Church, Benton. You'll never get a better charge for your mission action battery than when the WMU holds their convention. I want to encourage men to attend. You will love it.

One last highlight I mention for March. On March 28-30, Third Party Mediation Training will be held for those who would like to be equipped to help churches who find themselves in deep conflict. Church division continues to be a most damaging and destructive reality. Can you help? If you are trained to, you might.

DOROTHY JACKSON

Woman's viewpoint

Where is our mission field?



In my late teens, I was feeling God's leadership in my life toward special service. At that time, all I knew that a woman could do was either be a preacher's wife or a missionary. I did know that the first step was to go to college, so I enrolled at Williams Baptist College, thinking I would become a missionary.

Little did I know that God's plan involved me also being a preacher's wife. At WBC, I met and married my partner for life, a ministerial student who was pastoring his home church.

The questions I ask is, "Where is our mission field?" The Great Commission says we are to be missionaries in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. For me, I interpret this to mean at the local level, in Arkansas, the United States and the rest of the world.

My Jerusalem mission field has been my home, my church and my career, as my husband and I have worked at the local level in the Lord's work. The largest and very enjoyable mission task has been being a parent and grandparent.

My Judea has been in the role of pastor's wife as I've had opportunities to serve in Christ's name here in

Arkansas. All of our churches were such a blessing to our lives. Also, we are very much involved in mission work with the Arkansas Campers on Mission.

As I work at Williams Baptist College, I see it as a wonderful mission field that extends out into the ends of the earth, as I have daily opportunities to work with students. Helping train student summer missionaries who come to Arkansas to serve each summer permits me to "go into the world."

I thank God for letting me be a pastor's wife and the opportunity we have to be missionaries in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and into the rest of the world.

For women, the options for Christian service are now more varied than when I was a teenager. But I thank the Lord for the unique opportunities He has given me, a woman in the 20th century.

Dorothy Jackson is vice president for student development at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge. Her husband, Lendol, retired after 40 years in the ministry and is volunteer coordinator of Arkansas Campers on Mission (COM). She also is secretary/treasurer of COM and serves with her husband in various mission endeavors.

Personal perspectives

"We have become preoccupied with ourselves and our own spiritual development and have neglected the welfare of the lost."

—Don Moore, executive director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

"Volunteer missions helps people understand the joy in serving... You have to experience it to catch it."

—Marjorie Grober, president, Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union

"Change for the sake of change is useless. Change for the sake of God's kingdom and worldwide missions is essential."

—Trennis Henderson, editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Missions vision requires flexibility

Women on Mission. Men Making a Difference. Easy Royal Ambassadors (EZRA). *Missions Mosaic*. *GA World*. Express Missions.

These are titles of programs and publications that will become familiar to the next generation of missions-minded Southern Baptists. They gradually will replace well-known missions tags like Baptist Women and *Royal Service* which soon will join the historic relics file where labels like Sunbeams and Girls Auxiliary have long resided.

While change merely for the sake of change is counterproductive, goal-oriented change that is carefully planned and implemented can make a significant impact. That is the case with current changes under way in Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood emphases.

It has been more than a year since national WMU leaders approved plans to enlarge their ministry base, including a pledge to "provide diverse, flexible organizational models through which persons may participate in the global missions effort."

While some observers questioned WMU's motives in their covenant to "partner with Christians around the world" beyond exclusive Southern Baptist Convention relationships, the past 14 months have reaffirmed that WMU remains committed to its overarching vision of "enabling churches and believers to participate in introducing all persons in the world to Jesus Christ."

WMU leaders further refined their goals

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



By TRENNIS HENDERSON

this year as they announced plans to streamline missions education efforts to ensure greater simplicity, flexibility and relevance for participants. Part of that change involves reorganizing Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women into Women on Mission and replacing *Royal Service* and *Contempo* magazines with *Missions Mosaic*.

Brotherhood leaders have recently announced similar changes by introducing Men Making a Difference missions rallies and EZRA, a simplified structure for Royal Ambassadors.

Why all the changes? The bottom line is to make missions education more user friendly in our frantic, fast-paced world. Women faithfully setting aside an hour or two each week for a missions study meeting or men gathering just for the sake of meeting is becoming less and less realistic in today's society.

Don't misunderstand. That is not to say Baptists no longer place a priority on

missions support and education. However, recent statistical declines in both WMU and Brotherhood organizations indicate that new approaches are needed to capture the interest and imagination of busy Baptists.

It is not a matter of diluting the urgent message of worldwide missions. Instead, it is a matter of updating the modes and methods to more effectively communicate the timeless message.

"No organization can survive without a renewed vision—nor should it," declared national WMU executive director Dellanna O'Brien. "God has shaken us up and caused us to see the greater purpose for which we should strive."

According to Arkansas WMU president Marjorie Grober, "Once we adjust to the changes, I believe it is going to give us new life and better communicate who we are and what we're about."

Brotherhood Commission president James D. Williams remarked, "I am evermore convinced there is a host of Southern Baptist men and boys out there who have not yet been touched and reached, and who can be."

As Southern Baptists participate this week in the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions and give toward an Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$40 million, effective missions education remains a vital ingredient in Southern Baptists' historic commitment to missions.

Change for the sake of change is useless. Change for the sake of God's kingdom and worldwide missions is essential.

Alcohol, drugs create physical, spiritual woes

By C. Ben Mitchell

SBC Christian Life Commission

An alcohol-related traffic death occurs every 20 seconds. Alcohol causes almost 100,000 deaths per year. About 90 percent of unwanted pregnancies occur as a result of the influence of alcohol. Up to 36 percent of suicide victims have a history of alcohol abuse or were drinking shortly before their suicides. One snort of cocaine can kill a person. The World Health Organization predicts that in the next three decades the number of women who die of smoking will more than double to over 1 million per year. And we could go on and on.

But that's not the half of it. Alcohol and other drugs are spiritually dangerous! In Galatians 5:19-26, Paul contrasts the "works of the flesh" with the "fruit of the Spirit." The works of the flesh (the sin

nature) are expressions of the cravings of an unregenerate heart.

Alcohol and other drugs are mentioned twice. First, in verse 20, the word for witchcraft is the word from which we get the word "pharmacy." Drug use and the occult have also been friends to each other. Second, in verse 21, drunkenness or intoxication is associated with the use of alcohol or other drugs.

Frighteningly, Paul declares that those persons whose lives are characterized by these practices "shall not inherit the kingdom of God" Paul echoes this important warning in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Ephesians 5:5. Alcohol and other drugs are both physically and spiritually deadly.

But the fruit of the Holy Spirit is, among the other characteristics listed, "self-control." Seeking to master our sinful appetites and passions is a mark of a person

who is a Christian and who is, therefore, indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Christians possess the power of the Spirit to resist the use of intoxicating and disease-causing substances.

Likewise, those who belong to Jesus Christ should resist the "media-hype" that alcohol and other drugs need to prosper in our society. We should also:

- Support federal, state and local legislation aimed at restricting ads for alcohol and cigarettes.

- Support school groups that emphasize and reinforce abstinence.

- Call on legislators, athletes and others not to accept money from death-producing substances.

As Southern Baptists observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday March 20 and every other day of the year, walk in the Spirit and do not manifest the works of the flesh.

Joy, service mark Grober's five years as WMU president

By Trennis Henderson

Editor, Arkansas Baptist

When Marjorie Grober was asked five years ago to consider serving as state Woman's Missionary Union president, her first reaction was that she didn't feel qualified.

But other state WMU leaders knew better. Whatever WMU administrative experience she may have lacked on the state level was more than compensated by her 30 years of practical experience as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary.

"I was a little bit hesitant to take it on," Mrs. Grober recalled. "I had a 30-year hole as far as WMU work here in the States." Once she agreed to accept the position, however, she quickly realized that her missions experience "gave me credibility with the women."

Julia Ketter, Arkansas WMU executive director, affirmed that Grober was the right person for the right time to help lead WMU ministry in the state.

"Marjorie had lived missions almost all her life," Miss Ketter pointed out. "What better background does one need to lead a missions organization?"

During next week's WMU annual meeting March 18-19 at First Church, Benton, Mrs. Grober will complete her service as WMU president following five one-year terms. But she won't be ending her personal involvement in missions action; she recently was chosen national president-elect of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, an organization which may become an international fellowship in the near future.

She also works with the state disaster relief's emergency child care unit and is an active member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. If all that isn't enough to keep her busy, she also has seven grandchildren—all of whom live in the Little Rock area.

Mrs. Grober's love for missions began at an early age when she was growing up in western Kentucky. "The one thing that was always with me, even before I became a Christian, was that I wanted to please God," she recalled.

Sensing God's call to mission service, she became a registered nurse. While in nurse's training, she met her husband, Glendon, who now is director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Brotherhood department.

After they married and he completed seminary, the Grobers were appointed as



missionaries to Brazil, where she used her nursing skills, taught religious education classes and home Bible studies, served as a seminary librarian and raised four children.

During a furlough in 1984, Grober accepted his current position with the state convention and they redirected their ministry efforts toward Arkansas Baptists.

Describing her commitment to WMU ministry, Mrs. Grober explained, "While we were missionaries, we counted on the prayer support of WMU. Many times we would come back on furlough and share special prayer requests and see those answered."

"When we came back, I thought, 'Okay, now you're on the other end.' It made me want to be a part of prayer support of the missionaries in any way I could be."

During her years as president, Mrs. Grober has spent countless days on the road, participating in WMU meetings and projects on the local, associational, state and national levels. Part of her presidential responsibility has been to serve as a member of the national WMU executive board which includes each state WMU president from across the nation.

Reflecting on her years of service, Mrs. Grober said changes in structure and strategy have helped strengthen WMU

ministry throughout the state. She said staff members working closely with associational WMU leaders, establishing a statewide prayer strategy and placing an increased emphasis on volunteer mission trips have all proven effective.

"Volunteer missions helps people understand the joy in serving," Mrs. Grober explained. "We've seen deeper commitments because of women being involved in those trips. You have to experience it to catch it."

Mrs. Grober said her national WMU involvement "has really been a wonderful experience" despite some actions during the past year being "misinterpreted and misunderstood" by outside observers.

"Just to be a part of planning for growth and expansion and being more inclusive as we reach out to ethnic areas has been a blessing," she remarked. "One thing that has led me to a stronger prayer life is that I have felt the responsibility to vote and seek the Lord's direction. It has been a privilege to be in on some of the long-range planning and to see God's hand in it."

Concerning specific plans to reorganize Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women into Women on Mission, Mrs. Grober shared, "I believe this is going to be a very positive action for us. As I've had opportunity to speak with younger women, they are very excited about the structural changes" which are designed to incorporate greater simplicity and flexibility into missions education.

She said one purpose of the new organization and structure "is to enhance WMU by reaching women we are not currently reaching." She added that recent statistical declines in WMU participation are symptomatic of today's society where "people want to come and get an instant fill without making a commitment."

Serving as an enthusiastic WMU ambassador for the past five years, Mrs. Grober said she has spent much of her time "just promoting what we're doing and encouraging and interpreting what our purpose is."

Even with WMU's ongoing structural changes, Mrs. Grober insists that the organization has remained true to its missions education emphasis. "WMU is for missions education but it requires commitment," she explained. "It is a service-oriented organization that provides the channel and resources to do what we feel God wants us to do."

According to Miss Ketter, Mrs. Grober's years of presidential service have provided a tremendous boost to WMU efforts throughout the state. "Her joy and commitment are contagious," Miss Ketter affirmed. "She has led with dignity, honor and integrity."

Conferences kick off '94 ministry emphasis

By Russell N. Dilday

Associate Editor, Arkansas Baptist

More than 1,100 Arkansas Baptist church leaders and staff received training and inspiration to "Perform Ministry" at 15 conferences across the state February 21-24. "Perform Ministry in Jesus' Name" is the 1994 Arkansas Baptist State Convention theme. It emphasizes six priority ministry projects: Hope for Hurting Humanity, Evangelism through Ministry, Developing a Caring Sunday School, Equipping for Ministry, Mississippi River Ministry and TTEOTE (To the Ends of the Earth).

ABSC associate executive director Jimmie Sheffield said the conferences were designed to "train participants how to do ministry" and to "provide them the tools and handles to perform ministry locally." Sheffield said the Perform Ministry theme was adopted "to heighten awareness for the need for ministry, give Arkansas Baptists resources to use in ministry and give them hands-on training so every church could be involved in ministry."

Conferences were held Feb. 21 at First Church, Springdale; First Church, Hardy, First Church, Clinton; First Church, Harrison; and Highland Drive Church, Jonesboro. Feb. 22 conferences were held at Matthews Memorial Church, Pine Bluff; Beech Street First Church, Texarkana; First Church, McGehee; First Church, Mena; and Immanuel Church, El Dorado. Conferences were held Feb. 24 at East Side Church, Fort Smith; First Church, Forrest City; First Church, Hot Springs; Second Church, Russellville; and Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

Five teams of Arkansas Baptist State Convention staff and state missions and associational leaders led the conferences. Paul McClung, an associate in the ABSC evangelism department, told participants that the purpose of the meetings "is to provide the resources and, hopefully, the inspiration to meet people's needs in Jesus' name."

"You are always trying to balance quality and quantity," said conference leader Sandy Wisdom-Martin, an associate in the ABSC Woman's Missionary Union department. She said participants "are interested in how to do ministry in their communities and a lot are looking for ideas on how to get all their members involved, not just the ones who always participate."

The conferences followed two tracks. Church pastors, staff and directors of missions attended interpretive sessions while lay leaders chose one of four separate emphases sessions.

Jeff Cheatham, director of missions for Arkansas River Valley Association, led the staff track during the conference at Hot Springs. Reading from Matthew 25 he explained, "What the whole conference is about is the least — the people you and I call the least of these."

"I know deep down inside not everyone is welcome in the church," he commented. "Every church has a pecking order. We hope tonight to highlight some of the things that make us ache and open avenues of ministry."

Reviewing ministry opportunities in Arkansas, Cheatham noted, "The pink collar class is one of the largest untouched populations by churches." He defined the class as "minimum wage or just above, not completely skilled, but not untrainable. What we have about us is a tremendous untapped resource of people."

"We need to be informed if we are to know how to minister."

— Clyde Spurgin
Pastor,
First Church, Piggott

Cheatham called for ministries that seek to help people's needs and challenged participants to expand beyond typical "ministry experiments" such as bus ministries, youth choirs and "feeble attempts to integrate that never worked."

Reviewing four of the ABSC priority projects, Cheatham offered participants information on:

■ **Mississippi River Ministry.** "MRM ministries have been working with many minorities in an area where religious and social needs have largely been ignored," Cheatham said. "This is our opportunity to build a cultural bridge." He explained the ministry is "a mission program sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the state missions departments of Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana."

■ **Hope for Hurting Humanity.** "The early church had a ministry, but did not have a building," commented Cheatham. "Jesus never used the established religious organization for His converts. There is a stigma that says we have to do our work within the church's four walls."

He encouraged participants to prepare for Hope for Hurting Humanity by determining community ministry needs using a strategy questionnaire. The questionnaire featured questions on topics such as trends in the community, crisis needs in the area and areas of church growth. He also reviewed an in-church survey form to further determine needs.

■ **Developing a Caring Sunday School.** "How does a Sunday School become a care-giving organization?" he asked. "To carry a sense of oneness, divide adult Sunday Schools into care groups of one to five people, a teacher and officers. If there is an avenue by which these people are sensitive to the needs of others, you, the pastors, can know that."

He also recommended developing care groups in youth and children's departments. "It's the same in the youth ministry design, but you have teacher, class leader and one- to four-person care groups. Children's care groups would consist of a teacher per one to four students and an outreach evangelism director and department director. The concept is to assign it where everyone is responsible for someone — the buddy system."

■ **Ministry-Based Evangelism.** "The year of simultaneous revivals is 1995," Cheatham emphasized. He said the key to the effort's success "is loving and witnessing to people at the point of their need and confronting them with the claims of Christ, who can meet that need, so that people will accept Christ and then minister to others."

"It is important not only to sow, but to reap. Ministry-based evangelism is the idea of sowing which is just as important as reaping. How are we going to share with people in need?" he asked. "To get people involved in ministry, get them to write their testimony. Read from the new Here's Hope tract. To the person a little leery with sowing, this tract is a good way to get them to do it."

Clyde Spurgin, pastor of First Church, Piggott, said his church sent 20 members to the conference at Highland Drive Church in Jonesboro. "It was our Sunday School director who pushed for it," he explained. "He is interested in ministry through Sunday School and has even started a 'Friends of FBC' ministry at the church. He thought it might be helpful for other members to attend."

Spurgin said he "got a lot of good information" from the pastors' session. "All of the subjects were pertinent to the work of the church and we need to know them," he said. "We need to be informed if we are to know how to minister."

CP champion training targets lay leaders

The Cooperative Program needs champions to represent its ministries in the local church, according to Jimmie Sheffield. He said Arkansas Baptist laymen and staff can become champions by attending the Cooperative Program/Associational Missions Champion training meetings in five locations this year.

Sheffield, associate executive director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said the training will fill a gap that sometimes occurs during budget planning.

"Often times there is no one to represent the Cooperative Program to the budget planning committee," he explained. "What happens is that the church gets in a squeeze because of a tight budget and missions giving and the Cooperative Program suffer because it's not given the appropriate representation."

Sheffield said the meetings will train participants "to be advocates of the Cooperative Program so associations and churches can make a responsible decision." He said the "champions" program was developed by a layman and the meetings are geared for laypeople.

He said this is the third year of meetings and reported success with the training. "To date we have trained 259 champions in 139 churches," he said.

The meetings will be held April 5 at Arkansas River Valley Association; April 9 at White River Association; May 3 at Central Association; Sept. 3 at Delta Association; and Oct. 29 at Trinity Association.

There is no cost for the meetings. For more information, contact Sheffield at 376-4791, ext. 5103 or the director of missions in the above associations.

Deacons, pastors, wives: catalysts for missions

Participants at Arkansas Baptists' 1994 Deacons, Pastors and Wives Retreat May 6-7 at DeGray State Park will be treated to a different program during this year's meeting.

L.B. Jordan, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church leadership support department, said the program usually centers on deacon qualifications, ministry training and caregiving skills.

"This year, though, we will focus our attention on deacons, pastors and their wives as catalysts for missions," he said. "Our program personnel will highlight how to perform ministry and it will be a prime way to highlight the Perform Ministry emphasis across the convention."

The program will feature ABCS personnel leading conferences, including Jimmie

Sheffield, associate executive director; Julia Ketner, Woman's Missionary Union department director; Jimmy Barrentine, missions department director; and Glendon Grober, Brotherhood department director.

Another special feature of this year's program will be an entertainment option for those arriving early Friday. Participants may play in a golf tournament or take a barefoot tour of DeGray Lake at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$100 per couple and includes three meals, lodging and conference fees. There is an additional cost of \$11 for the golf tournament (plus cart charges), but there is no additional charge for the barefoot tour. The program will begin at 6 p.m. Friday and conclude with lunch on Saturday.

To make reservations, contact DeGray State Park Lodge; phone 865-2851 before April 22. For more information, contact Jordan at the ABCS church leadership support department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5148.

Conferences offer 'church growth tools'

Associational church growth conferences scheduled across the state will provide pastors, church staff and lay leaders with the tools "to plan for healthy growth" in their churches, according to L.B. Jordan.

Jordan, director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church leadership support department, said conferences dates and sites include: March 17 at Concord Association; March 24 at Central Association; Aug. 25 at Garland County Association; Aug. 22 at North Arkansas Association; and Aug. 30 at Arkansas River Valley Association.

"This is a very centered effort," said Jordan. "We have based the training on the principles of the Southern Baptist Church Growth Plan because it recognizes the validity of the way Southern Baptists 'do church.' In utilizing the growth plan, we create no new entities but we want to breathe new life into the programs we already have."

Noting that the key to church growth is to "teach the elected lay leadership to lead effectively in their positions," Jordan said pastors who do not bring lay leaders to the conferences "will not have the help in training and your lay leadership will miss the opportunity to learn how to effectively plan, dream and guide his or her program organization or committee."

He said individual sessions within the conferences will train pastors and deacons, Sunday School directors, Discipleship Training leaders, church music leaders, Woman's Missionary Union and Brother-

hood leaders, chairmen of evangelism committees and chairmen of stewardship and finance committees.

There is no cost for the conference. Participants must bring a copy of the Southern Baptist Church Growth Plan manual by McCourey and May, or purchase one for \$7.45 plus tax at the conference.

"When a group goes back to their church prepared to utilize their segment of the manual to set goals, write action plans and implement their plans," said Jordan, "others will also be motivated to grow."

For more information concerning the conferences call the directors of missions at the above associations or call Jordan at the ABCS church leadership support department; phone 376-4791, ext. 5148.

Young Musicians Festival set for April

Children in grades four through six will join a mass choir, learn festival anthems and see an illusionist during the State Young Musicians Festival April 16 at Ouachita Baptist University.

Peggy Pearson, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention church music ministries department, said the festival is a rare treat for participants. "The state festival is held once every three years," she said, explaining that regional festivals are held in other years.

Pearson said choirs have the choice of participating by singing for adjudication, for judges comments only, or for participation in the mass choir. She said choirs must learn the anthems "Dear Heavenly Father" (Fred Bock BG2248) and "With Joyful Hearts" (*Young Musicians*, Jan. 1994) and the hymn "Jesus is the Song" (The Baptist Hymnal, 1991, #552).

The program will feature clinician Madeline Bridges, assistant professor of music at Middle Tennessee State University in Nashville. She is co-director of the Nashville Children's Choir and is co-author of *How to Lead Children's Choirs*.

The program also will feature Paul Williams of Little Rock, a religious composer and author of two festival anthems, and a special performance by Little Rock illusionist Randall Eller.

The cost for the festival is \$3 per choir member before March 21 and \$4 per choir member after that date. Ouachita will serve a picnic lunch to participants for an additional \$3 per choir member. The program will begin at 9 a.m. with adjudication and conclude at 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Pearson at the ABCS church music ministries department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; phone 376-4791, ext. 5121.

Churches plan multitude of Easter celebrations

Arkansas Baptist choirs, orchestras and drama casts are making preparations for Easter productions that will recount the death of Christ on the cross and His triumphant resurrection. Among the major 1994 Easter presentations scheduled throughout the state are:

■ "No Greater Love" to be presented at First Church of Warren on Friday, April 1, and Sunday, April 3. Performances, featuring the choir and drama team, as well as a visiting orchestra, will begin each evening at 7 p.m. Minister of music Bob White will be the director.

■ The orchestra and choir of University Church in Fayetteville will present the musical "I Am" at 6 p.m. April 3. Mike Bedford, minister of music, will direct.

■ "Hallelujah, Jesus Lives!", a musical drama of the life of Christ, will be presented by the music ministry of East Side Church of Fort Smith. Minister of music Carl Lorey will direct the March 25 and 26 productions set for 7 p.m.

■ A "Service of Shadows" will be held at 6 p.m. on March 27 at First Church in Pine Bluff. Kim Bowen, minister of music, will coordinate the production.

■ "My Faith Still Holds" will be presented by the choir and orchestra of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock April 3. Minister of music Jim Munns will direct the 10:45 a.m. service.

■ Hot Springs First Church has selected the musical "God So Loved The World" for its Living Cross presentations April 1 and

3. Larry Bradley will direct the 7:30 p.m. performances that will include a costumed drama and multimedia presentation.

■ Bella Vista Church will present "Seven Last Words" on April 3. Don Wright, minister of music, will direct the 7 p.m. performance.

■ "I Claim The Cross" will be the Easter production at First Church of Blytheville March 27. Minister of music David Ross will direct the 10:45 a.m. presentation.

■ A full choir and drama cast will present "God So Loved The World" at First Church, Jacksonville. Danny Branton, minister of music, will direct the 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. performances on March 20.

■ "The Victor" is the Easter pageant to be presented at Second Church of Jacksonville on March 30 and April 3. Joe Francis will direct the 7:30 p.m. programs.

■ "God So Loved The World" is the musical to be presented by the choir and orchestra of Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock on March 27. Minister of music Larry Grayson will direct the 6 p.m. service.

■ The sanctuary choir of First Church in Osceola will present "All Hail King Jesus" at 7 p.m. March 27. Billy Bowie, minister of music, will direct the Easter choral celebration.

■ "Praise the Lamb" will be presented at Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock April 3 at 10:50 a.m. Minister of music Carol Lopez will direct and pastor Fred Ball will present the dramatic reading.

■ The sanctuary choir and orchestra of

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock will present an Easter pageant at 7 p.m. March 20-21 in the east campus auditorium of North Little Rock High School. Joe Fitzpatrick, minister of music, will direct the performances.

■ "Crown Him Lord of All" is the musical to be presented March 27 at Levy Church, North Little Rock. Minister of music Ron Selby will direct the 10:50 a.m. program.

■ The sanctuary choir and orchestra of Immanuel Church in Little Rock will present the fifth annual "Living Cross" March 19 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and March 20 at 4:30 p.m. Performances will be directed by Lynn Madden, associate pastor of music and media.

■ The music ministry of First Church in West Memphis will present "The Choice" April 2 at 7 p.m., April 3 at 6 p.m. and April 4 at 7 p.m. Kevin Reese, minister of music, will direct.

■ First Church in Newport will present the Easter musical "The Day He Wore My Crown" April 3 at 7 p.m. Doug Moore, minister of music, will direct.

■ "I Claim the Cross" will be the Easter production presented by the music ministry of Wynne Church on April 3 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jeff Lawson, minister of music, will direct.

■ "The Promise" will be presented through drama and music by First Church in El Dorado at 7 p.m. on March 20, 21 and 22. Minister of music Wilson Borovskis will be director.

New VBS curriculum designed to meet diverse needs

After five years of research and planning, the Baptist Sunday School Board is releasing a newly-designed Vacation Bible School curriculum to meet varying scheduling needs of churches.

"We've tried to respond to the expressed needs of churches and provide more flexibility and simplicity," said board VBS administration consultant Willie Beaty. "We've made the materials more visually appealing and also built in options that will allow every church to build a VBS schedule that meets its needs."

"The material is more versatile," agreed Jackie Edwards, an associate in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Sunday School department. "The team leader guides give the leader all of the options that can be used with the material, such as extended VBS and day camping. As with any teaching situation, though, you have to fit it to your particular situation."

"Trail of Treasures" is the theme of the 1994 Convention Press curriculum which includes materials for preschoolers, children, youth and adults. Beaty said administrative and teaching materials provide a basic schedule for five three-hour sessions, but optional resources and suggestions in the *VBS Plan Book* allow churches to expand or abbreviate the schedule as needed.

This summer's workers will notice a number of other

curriculum and organizational changes, Beaty said, such as:

■ The re-introduction of crafts as an enrichment activity.

■ Additional music resources including a theme song, song book and VBS Trail of Treasures manual.

■ A worship service planned at the beginning of each day's VBS and featuring a processional of students.

■ A new packaging approach designed to make ordering easier.

■ Worship and Bible study materials written to relate to the New International Version and Scripture verses printed in both King James Version and NIV.

Edwards also noted the new packaging approach "is more economical. All you have to buy is the team leader packet then one book for each team member and the children's books. It could save churches as much as \$2 per teaching unit."

Edwards said it is imperative that team leaders and members attend VBS training sessions this spring. "We're really pushing the VBS clinics this year because of the new literature," Edwards said. "It's very important to use it right."

She said all but two Arkansas Baptist associations have scheduled VBS clinics and that prospective leaders and members should contact their associational office for VBS clinic dates and information.

Annuity Board policies spark Executive Committee debate

NASHVILLE, TN (ABF/BP) — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board faced a double-barreled confrontation with the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Feb. 21-22 but negotiated a last-minute solution to one conflict.

The other conflict—which also pits the Annuity Board against the Southern Baptist Foundation and state Baptist foundations—has not yet been resolved.

The first conflict relates to the Annuity Board's investment in companies perceived to be supportive of abortion. The second conflict relates to the Annuity Board's operation within its SBC-approved assignment.

All the concerns were aired in meetings of the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee in Nashville, Tenn. During Annuity Board president Paul Powell's initial presentation to the subcommittee, several members questioned him about the board's investment policy related to abortion.

The Annuity Board has a policy against investing in any companies producing liquor, tobacco or pornography. But tracking down companies that contribute either directly or indirectly to Planned Parenthood, for example, is difficult, he said.

From an investment standpoint, Powell said, "there is no abortion industry." Thus, divesting from abortion-related stocks cannot be done, he said.

"What you're asking is illogical and unreasonable and simply cannot be done," Powell said.

Further, Powell argued that not all participants in the Annuity Board's plans oppose abortion. Therefore, an improper screening of investments could expose the Annuity Board to lawsuits from some clients who would charge that social-policy screening had resulted in a lowered return on their investments. Similar lawsuits have been filed against other annuity companies, he said.

At one point in the subcommittee's deliberations, it was proposed that the board's Cooperative Program allocation be made dependent on a tougher stand against abortion. That was eventually dropped, however, when Powell drafted a statement explaining the Annuity Board's policy against investing in companies that are publicly perceived as providing services or products that aid, support or promote abortion.

Powell told Annuity Board trustees the following week that "the water hits the wheel at the point of our investing in

companies that make contributions to Planned Parenthood."

The Annuity Board invests retirement funds in 750 to 1,000 companies, many with complex holdings, he said, and it is almost impossible to determine if some are contributing to Planned Parenthood or other objectionable causes. Many, he explained, establish separate charitable foundations to make such contributions.

Powell said he personally is opposed to abortion and had personally called the offices of Planned Parenthood to ask about the sources of their support, but was told they would not reveal them.

"We will avoid, or divest in orderly fashion, equities in any company that is found to have a service or product that is publicly perceived as uniquely aiding, supporting or promoting abortion."

— Paul Powell
President, SBC Annuity Board

He told trustees some consideration has been given to establishing a "sin free" fund where people could designate their money to be invested, but which would earn considerably less interest than the other funds. Such a fund would require \$10 million to establish, he noted.

Debate on the issue was intense throughout the Executive Committee's subcommittee meeting. At one point, a subcommittee member revealed a confidential chart showing the salaries of top Annuity Board administrators.

During the subcommittee's final session, Arkansas layman Lonnie Willis, chairman of the Annuity Board trustees, decried the release of salary information and expressed his disappointment that the Executive Committee would attempt to dictate policy to another SBC body and make the agency appear to favor abortion.

Several subcommittee members responded by voicing their opposition to divulging any salary information, and one offered an apology to the Annuity Board for what had happened.

Between that afternoon meeting and the evening session of the full Executive Committee, Powell met with Executive Committee leaders. Later, when subcommittee chairman Guy Sanders presented the subcommittee's report to the full committee, he read the statement from Powell explaining the board's policy against investing in companies that provide abortion-related services or products.

Sanders then moved to strike a part of the recommendation which asked the board to use the \$1 million Cooperative Program distribution to provide relief for underfunded annuitants and a second part which said "that this policy remain in place until such time as the (board) approves a position on abortion-related activities that is consistent with that of the SBC." The Annuity Board already provides relief for underfunded annuitants with most of the funds provided from the SBC Cooperative Program budget.

In another matter, however, the Annuity Board was reprimanded by the Executive Committee for providing services outside the board's program statements.

The Annuity Board was requested to "discontinue expanding its retirement annuity and insurance services beyond the denomination." The board currently provides those services to Mid-America Seminary, Criswell College and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Board officials said they were servicing those entities because they primarily are operated by Southern Baptists although they are not official SBC-related organizations.

A second request from the Executive Committee asked the Annuity Board to "discontinue expanding its client base in investment and related services which are not prescribed in the three programs of the Annuity Board." A flap occurred late last year when it became apparent the Annuity Board was providing investment services to some SBC-related agencies which provoked criticisms by the Southern Baptist Foundation and the association of Baptist state convention foundations.

After lengthy and intense debate in the subcommittee, the Annuity Board agreed to "discontinue expanding" those activities until the "Program and Structure Study Committee, authorized by the Executive Committee...has completed its work and recommendations that result from its work."

The Annuity Board argued its \$4 billion base and related expertise could bring additional income to the agencies compared to the way they now invest their funds. However, board officials were willing to abide by the declaration that this activity would be outside the parameters of their present program statement.

SBC leaders to study CBF's financial impact

NASHVILLE, TN (BP/ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted Feb. 22 to ask its officers and staff to study the impact of monies coming through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to Southern Baptist Convention entities... and then recommend the "acceptance or rejection of said funds." The recommendation will come at the Executive Committee meeting just prior to the SBC annual meeting in June in Orlando, Fla.

The action came as a surprise to most observers at the recent meeting because discussion about CBF gifts to most SBC entities has been ongoing but was not on the printed agenda of the committee or its various subcommittees.

According to CBF communications coordinator David Wilkinson, "I think the 'impact' is rather evident. Over the past three years, the Fellowship has forwarded more than \$8,773,000 to the work of the agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis told Baptist editors last month that refusal to accept mission funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship would be "an insult to individual Baptists who want to support our missionaries."

In other financial matters, the Executive Committee will recommend to the SBC at the June 14-16 annual meeting a 1994-95 SBC allocation budget of \$136,539,730 which is the same as the 1992-93 fiscal year actual receipts. The action follows a policy of the committee to recommend a budget not more than the receipts of the last year of record. In the budget all SBC entities were given the same decrease of 1.23 percent from the 1993-94 budget of \$138,234,735.

Information released at the meeting from the convention's audit showed the SBC operating budget fund had \$99,001 more expenditures than revenue for fiscal 1993. Operating reserves were tapped to take care of that amount as officials said extra expenses for the shuttle bus service at last year's annual meeting and reduced contributions to the convention operating budget by the Baptist Sunday School Board were the primary reasons for the deficit.

In budget-related deliberations during the program and budget subcommittee meeting, a motion was made to reduce Baptist World Alliance funding by \$20,000, down from a proposed \$397,639, in protest of R. Keith Parks being a featured speaker at a recent BWA conference in Cyprus. Parks is the CBF's national coordinator and former president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board who left that post in

PROPOSED 1994-95 SBC PROGRAM ALLOCATION BUDGET

	1994-95 Budget Proposal	1993-94 Basic Budget	Percent of Total Request
SBC Operations	\$3,097,786	\$3,136,204	2.27%
Foreign Mission Board	68,270,450	69,117,366	50.00%
Home Mission Board	26,700,472	27,031,609	19.56%
Annuity Board	1,046,596	1,059,576	0.77%
Southwestern Seminary	8,052,430	8,081,950	5.90%
Southern Seminary	5,976,911	5,990,158	4.38%
New Orleans Seminary	4,792,332	4,803,674	3.51%
Southeastern Seminary	3,530,583	3,833,701	2.59%
Golden Gate Seminary (Special Allocation)	2,672,696	2,666,142	1.96%
Midwestern Seminary	200,000	200,000	0.15%
	2,451,472	2,445,460	1.80%
Foundation	291,384	294,998	0.21%
American Seminary Commission	256,832	260,017	0.19%
Brotherhood Commission	965,215	977,186	0.71%
Christian Life Commission	1,353,085	1,369,866	0.99%
Education Commission	485,151	491,168	0.36%
Historical Commission	491,900	498,001	0.36%
Radio & TV Commission	5,424,705	5,491,982	3.97%
Stewardship Commission	479,727	485,677	0.35%
Total	\$136,539,730	\$138,234,735	

PROPOSED 1994-95 SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS GOAL: \$150 MILLION

disagreement with trustees' stances and missions philosophy.

Several subcommittee members objected to reducing BWA funds, and the motion was defeated when it gained only three votes.

Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., reported on the work to be done by the seven-member "Program and Structure Study Committee" he chairs, which held an initial meeting in January.

Describing the committee's thrust, Brister said, "We will maximize the effectiveness of our denomination to reach our world for Jesus Christ...in this time of culture war in the history of Western civilization." It will recommend to the Executive Committee and then to the SBC "what we should do programmatically and structurally as a denomination as we look into the next millennium." The effectiveness of the committee's work, he said, will "ultimately" be measured by "the number of disciples born into the kingdom of Jesus Christ."

In other business, the Executive Committee:

■ Affirmed 1995 goals marking the SBC's 150th anniversary of \$100 million for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, \$50 million for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and \$150 million in SBC Cooperative Program receipts for 1994-95.

■ Approved St. Louis as the site of the 2002 SBC annual meeting, pending "satisfactory contract negotiations with the convention center and area hotels." The committee also delayed until its June 13 meeting further discussion of confirming Atlanta as the 1999 site of the SBC or selecting another city.

■ Authorized representation from the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention, having reached 15,000 members, on SBC committees.

■ Approved a 3 percent increase in Executive Committee staff salary structure.

NEXT ISSUE: SBC president Ed Young reports findings of SBC study committees.

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

Church news

Luxora First Church dedicated a \$275,000 sanctuary Jan. 30 with 163 people in attendance. Pastor Lynsol B. Richmond preached at the morning worship service that was followed by a potluck meal and fellowship. Afternoon speakers were Charles Ryan, Matt Corkran and building committee chairman Elkin Raper who was presented an appreciation plaque. Other committee members were Greg Johnson, John Tate, Jimmy Corkran, Don Newell and Bobby Holmes. Charter members recognized were Louise Hayes, Mary Denton and Helen Thweatt.

Melbourne First Church held a note-burning service Feb. 13 in recognition of payment of a \$225,000 indebtedness for a new building, parking lot pavement, purchase of two vans, pastor's study refurbishing and construction of a new church sign. Funds for the pastor's study were given as memorials to Homer Robertson and Rebecca Hickerson and the sign was a memorial to T. J. Harris. Chairman of deacons John E. Miller burned the note. Doayne Robertson is the current pastor. Other pastors during the construction and improvement projects were Junior Vester, Carter Tucker and Don Sanders.

Springdale First Church held a noturning service Feb. 20 in recognition of payment of the worship center, administration complex and chapel. An "I Love My Church Day" was observed Feb. 13 with members contributing more than \$358,000 toward the \$401,000 needed to finish paying off the indebtedness. A \$190,000 budget surplus through January provided the additional monies required. Pastor Ronnie Floyd reported that in the past six years, the church not only paid off the indebtedness, but the annual ministry budget has increased from more than \$1 million to more than \$4 million. Burning the note were Floyd and Bert Miller, administrator of operations.

State Line Church of Winthrop recently celebrated payment of its \$180,000 sanctuary. In the "note framing" celebration, trustee chairman Eucl Oblesby presented pastor John Douglas Davey with the framed, paid note. Davey presented the note to church clerk Carrie Mac McClinton for display in the church foyer. The church, established in 1939, recently named its first-ever finance and budget committee.

Marianna First Church recently completed an "Experiencing God" study that has resulted in a *koinonia* fellowship and a weekly women's prayer ministry. The church also held a "First Family" winter Bible study Feb. 25-27. J. W. "Jack" MacGorman, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the leader. Allan R. Greer is pastor.

Warren First Church recently honored pastor Greg Stanley with a fellowship, recognizing his fifth anniversary of service. He was presented with a plaque and a mini-vacation.

Ordinations

Tupelo First Church ordained Tony Criswell to the gospel ministry Feb. 6. Criswell is pastor of Denmark Church near Bradford.

Lake Village Church ordained Mac Coker and Ron Jones to the deacon ministry Feb. 20.

Van Buren First Church ordained Frank C. Tisworth to the deacon ministry Feb. 20.

Watson Chapel Church of Pine Bluff recently ordained Bill Inman to the deacon ministry and licensed Matthew Weaver and Stuart Fultz to the preaching ministry.

Union Avenue Church in Wynne recently ordained six men to serve as deacons - five to serve the Union Avenue Church and one to serve its mission, Ridgeview Mission in Wynne. Church deacons ordained were Randy Cox, J. D. Davis, Wayne Fowler, Bobby Moore and Jon Owens. Ellis Throgmorton will serve the mission.

Staff changes

Kenneth E. Barnard is the new pastor of Calvary Church in Benton, coming there from Glendale Church in Booneville. He is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Barnard and his wife, Sherry, are parents of two children, Shawn, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Brendon, a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Gary Wise began serving Feb. 13 as pastor of Bethel Church in Jacksonville, com-

ing there from Runyan First Church of North Little Rock. He previously was at Smithville Church and Jermyn Baptist Church in Jermyn, Texas. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wise is married to the former Elizabeth Kreis. They are parents of twin daughters, Rebecca and Rachel, and a son, Matthew.

Charles Whedbee has announced his resignation as pastor of Fellowship Church in Wicheville and his retirement from the pastoral ministry, following 44 years of service. In addition, he is evangelism director for Buckner Association and has been moderator for the association. Whedbee and his wife, Iva Lee, were honored Jan. 30 by Fellowship Church with a program and gift presentation.

Bill Lynch is serving the second time as pastor of Rock Creek Church in Buckner Association. He and his wife, Rosie, reside in Spiro, Okla.

Gayle L. Brooks is serving as pastor of First Church of Cotter. He and his wife, Alice, moved there from Colorado where he was pastor of Running Creek Baptist Church in Elizabeth. He previously was associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Englewood, Colo. Brooks also has assisted with mission work in Michigan.

Eddie Meharg is bivocational pastor of Cabln Creek Church of Lamar. He also has served West Point Church, Calvary Church of Harrisburg and Bethany Church of Georgetown. Meharg is a graduate of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy of Camden. He and his wife, Glenda, will continue to live in Judsonia. They are parents of two sons, Greg and Darren.

Kim D. Bowen has joined the staff of First Church in Pine Bluff as minister of music, coming there from Evergreen Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., where he was associate pastor and minister of music. He also has been a staff member of other churches in Kentucky and Georgia. Bowen is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children, Aaron Dorrell, Kimberly Nicole and Jordan Lee.

Carl Bunch has announced his retirement as director of missions for Caddo River Association, effective March 31. The association will host a reception for Bunch and his wife, Alice, at First Church of Mount Ida March 27, beginning at 2 p.m. Bunch, who has served for 40 years as a



First Church of Lake City celebrated the payment of the debt on its sanctuary with a Feb. 6 noteburning service. The facility, reconstructed in 1988, was paid off in November 1993, through annual harvest offerings. The special service, which featured former pastor Wayne Sanders as guest speaker, included a Sunday School attendance of 190 and a morning worship attendance of 205. A churchwide fellowship dinner concluded the celebration. Participants in the noteburning were (left to right) pastor Mike McDaniel, harvest offering chairman Jim Barber and Sanders.

director of missions and has been in the ministry for 53 years, was DOM for Mount Zion Association and associate director for Macomb Association in Michigan. He has been pastor of churches in Keiser, Wilson, Jonesboro, Monette and Homersville, Mo. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College), Arkansas State University, and attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bunch has been a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive board, the ABSC nominating committee, and a member and secretary of the board of trustees for Southern Baptist College. He also served on the "Program of the Seventies Committee" of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. Bunch also has served as a member of the ABSC executive board. They have six adult children, Marlon C. Bunch of Lake City; Johnny N. Bunch of Texarkana, Texas; Lewis A. Bunch of Dallas; Maurine Richardson of Little Rock; Jo Ann Matthews of Bismark, Mo.; and Jacqueline Reams of Dexter, Mo. They have 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Jon Rushing joined the staff of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs Feb. 6 as minister of music. He is a senior at Ouachita Baptist University where he is a member of the Praise Singers.

Suzanne Norris has joined the staff of Lakeside Church in Hot Springs as church

pianist. She is a student and member of the Praise Singers at Ouachita Baptist University.

Kris A. Lamlé has joined the staff of First Church in Greenwood as minister of education, coming there from First Church in Fayetteville where he had served since 1987 as minister to youth and students. He is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva. Lamlé and his wife, Carla, have one son, Keaton Kristopher.

Ronny Waycaster began serving Feb. 1 as pastor of Fairfield Bay Church. He previously was interim pastor of First Church in Liberal, Mo. In addition, he has been pastor of churches in Lamar, Mo., and Mathis and Crystal City, Texas. Waycaster is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Memphis State University. He is married to the former Kathy Sutherland. They have two children, Laura Alyce and Leigh Elaine.

Frank Shell has accepted the call to serve as director of missions for North Central Association in Clinton, effective June 1. He currently is teaching at Yellowstone Baptist College in Laramie, Wyo. Shell has served as a pastor in Arkansas, including churches at Sage, White Oak, Walnut Ridge and Clinton. In addition, he taught and coached baseball at Williams Baptist College (then Southern Baptist College), and

was a pastor and interim director of missions in Montana. He is a graduate of Central Arkansas College, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has completed advanced studies at Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn.; the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss., and North Texas State University, Denton. He is married to the former Carolyn Southerland. They have four married children, Jay, Sarah, Joe and Susan, and four grandchildren.

James Browne has resigned as pastor of Trinity Church in Blytheville to move to Texas.

Obituaries

Fleeta Brooks Kizziar of Ratcliff died Feb. 1 at age 79. She was a member of First Church of Ratcliff where she had served as church clerk for approximately 40 years. Survivors are two daughters, Barbara Kizziar of Ratcliff and Georgia Wade of Paris; two grandchildren, Wendy Wade Stotts of Morrilton and Neal Kizziar Wade of Ozark; two great-grandsons; and one brother.

Thomas A. Spencer Jr. of North Little Rock died Feb. 8 at age 76. He was a deacon and choir member of Immanuel Church of Little Rock and had taught in the church's children's Sunday School division for many years. He was a literacy missions associate for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, serving as a volunteer literacy tutor at the Alexander unit of the Arkansas Youth Services Center. In addition, he had worked through Friendship International, teaching English as a second language. Survivors are his wife, Shirley G. Spencer of North Little Rock; a son, Thomas A. Spencer III of Sherman, Texas; a daughter, Dorothy Spencer Becknell of Tulsa, Okla.; a brother, a sister; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Immanuel Church of Little Rock.

Kenneth E. Jackson of Bay died Feb. 18 at age 56. His funeral services were held Feb. 21 at First Church of Bay where he was pastor. In addition, he had served churches in Mississippi, Poinsett and Craighead counties in Arkansas, as well as Soda Springs, Idaho. Jackson was a graduate of Mid-America Seminary. Survivors are his wife, Carmelita Jackson; two sons, Kevin Jackson of Charlottesville, Va., and Tracy Jackson of Harrisburg; two daughters, Lisa Deckelman of Bay and Nancy Roach of Paragould; his mother, Lucille Jackson of Osceola; one brother, two sisters; and nine grandchildren.

A conference emphasizing the biblical teachings concerning moral issues and how families and the church can confront these issues in today's world.

CONFERENCE ON MORAL ISSUES

March 25-26, 1994

Calvary Baptist Church • 1901 N. Pierce St. • Little Rock, Arkansas

For: ♦ Pastors & Church Staff ♦ Church Leaders & Adult Members

Featured Speaker
Friday Evening



Dr. Richard Land
Nashville, TN

Schedule

Friday, March 25
7:00 p.m. – General Session
8:00 p.m. – Workshops
9:15 p.m. – Adjourn

Saturday, March 26
8:30 a.m. – General Session
8:45 a.m. – Workshops
10:15 a.m. – Workshops
11:30 a.m. – General Session
12:20 p.m. – Adjourn

Featured Speaker
Saturday Morning



Dr. Guy Greenfield
Albuquerque, NM



Conference Objective: The conference will: 1) heighten awareness of moral issues impacting the family, 2) set forth biblical teachings regarding these issues, and 3) present approaches and resources to enable families/churches to address these issues.

Workshop Issues: AIDS, Child Abuse, The Media & Moral Issues, Sexual Abuse, Pornography, Gambling, Violence, and others.

Workshop Leaders: Steve Nawojczyk, Tim Wildmon, Larry Page, Trueman Moore, Jacquelin Truett, David Perry, Bill Visor.

Registration Fee: The pre-registration fee is \$10 per person.
Registration at the door will be \$15 per person.

Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203;
phone 501-376-4791, ext 5160 for additional information about the conference.

A Cooperative Program Project of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Baptists make Olympian effort in Norway

By Mike Creswell

SNBC Foreign Mission Board

LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY (BP)—They didn't win medals, but a Southern Baptist team competed hard at the Olympics.

A 15-member team of Foreign Mission Board missionaries and Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States put in long hours in sub-freezing cold to spread the gospel among athletes and visitors.

While Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen speed-skated into Olympic history and figure skaters Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding faced off on Olympic ice, more than a dozen people prayed to receive Christ as Savior at the Olympics.

But those spiritual decisions during the 1994 Winter Games were only part of the Baptist team's work. The workers prayed with scores of others seeking a closer relationship to God. They also evangelized hundreds, passed out Christian literature, provided personal counseling to many and made numerous contacts for follow-up.

"We're not just passing out paper," missionary team coordinator Fred Dallas said in an interview in Lillehammer. "Lots of groups can do that."

Instead, team members built friendships so they could establish a meaningful dialogue about the Christian faith. Repeat visits and conversations were sought.

Team members talked to people on the icy walkways, in restaurants, coffee shops and other public places where crowds took refuge from temperatures hovering in the teens.

Volunteer Jim Faulk set up shop at a McDonald's restaurant, telling people about Christ between bites of burgers and fries. Faulk, a contemporary Christian musician producing his fourth album, works with Action Ministries. It provides training in evangelism and discipleship, especially to college students on 160 campuses across the United States.

Dallas, who has now coordinated three Olympic ministries, directed a huge outreach effort at the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. As a missionary to Spain, Dallas lives near Barcelona, but has spent most of his time in Lillehammer since last October preparing for the Winter Games.

International witnessing effort

Hundreds of Baptist volunteers from several countries took part in the Barcelona effort, including a small team of Southern Baptists led by Dallas.

Action Ministries, led by David Guinn, provided volunteer team members from the United States. Guinn has a special interest in Olympics outreach. A former world-class wrestler, he took part in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. His 177 wins and six losses ranked him fifth in the world that year. But he turned from the mat to the campus when he became a college youth minister.

Like any coach, Guinn was proud of the team he brought to Lillehammer. "All of them are trained in evangelism and discipleship," he said. "For what we're doing, they're the best you could find anywhere. The whole intent is evangelism, sharing Jesus. That's why we're here."

The Olympics offer a rare chance to evangelize people from scores of nations,

Guinn added. "It's the closest to Pentecost we'll ever find. It's where the whole world comes together, people are responsive and they'll listen to you," he said. Further, athletes are one of the most envied and admired groups on the planet. An athlete reached for Christ can share in ways ordinary people cannot, he explained.

The team's home base was Lillehammer Baptist Church, a 76-member congregation that made an all-out effort to evangelize and minister during the Olympics.

Team members met each morning at the church for prayer and Bible study, then set out through Lillehammer's icy streets. Each wore a distinctive black jacket emblazoned with "Olympics Sports Chaplain" logos and carried bags packed with multilingual evangelistic tracts.

But the secret weapon for the team was specially designed pins featuring the name of Jesus on an Olympic torch. Olympics-related pins are eagerly collected by Olympics visitors.

Team members always stood ready to swap or give away their special pins. Each was color coded for presenting the plan of salvation: black for sin, red for the shed blood of Christ, white for forgiven sin and green for growth in Jesus Christ.

Dallas said he hopes results of the Olympics effort in Lillehammer will duplicate those in Barcelona. While a lot of good responses resulted from sharing the gospel during the Barcelona Olympics, the best result probably was that church outreach and growth were higher after the Olympics than before.

"The excitement and motion associated with the Olympics present a unique opportunity to adjust the focus of local churches toward evangelism," he said.

"That means the results will be long-term for many people, not just the ones who hear the gospel during the few days of the Games."

Interested in a Ministry of Love?

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children is looking for a dedicated Christian couple with not more than two children to live and work in a cottage setting with eight children. Salary and benefits.

Contact: Royce Aston

P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655

Phone: 367-5358

Are your Seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an Atride, Raised Roof & Electric Step. Call Trinity Transportation Today!



1-800-330-3622 • (817) 458-4844

BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples
- Kinkles
- Baptistries
- Windows
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Baptist Housers

Call or write for our free catalog

402-271-4239
PO Box 1840
Henderson, TX 75653-0480

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

imperial

PEWS—PULPITS
STAINED GLASS

Manufacturer Serving the Nation, Since 1940

1-800-234-6624

Health Insurance Unaffordable?

This scriptural concept of burden sharing is the alternative to expensive insurance.

- People helping people.
- Pay only \$300 + 20% of first \$5,000.
- \$122 per mo. average family burden share.
- Assistance with maternity expenses.

Call All Saints
1-800-259-0095

Harassment guidelines spark apprehension

WASHINGTON (BP)—Christians may face severe hindrances in sharing the gospel in their workplace if proposed federal employment guidelines are adopted, evangelical leaders have warned.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency that is responsible for combating job discrimination, is in the final stages of issuing revised guidelines on harassment, including that based on religion.

The guidelines define harassment as "verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual" because of his or her religion or that of his or her "relatives, friends or associates." Harassment includes not only slurs but "threatening, intimidating or hostile acts."

Under the guidelines, the employer has a "duty to maintain a working environment free of harassment on any of these bases," including religion.

"We are deeply concerned that the guidelines would have a chilling effect on religious freedom and religious expression in the workplace," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "If a person shares his faith with a co-worker on lunch break, the person and his employer might be charged with religious harassment."

Forest Montgomery, general counsel of the National Association of Evangelicals, said he hopes the EEOC will meet with

evangelical attorneys and respond positively to their concerns, but it is late in the process. The EEOC could issue the guidelines at any time, an agency spokesman said.

"It is one thing for sexual harassment guidelines to prohibit physical and verbal conduct of a sexual nature which is offensive, but trying to apply the same concept to religion is to mix apples and oranges," Whitehead noted.

"Religious discrimination is and should be unlawful," he said, "but the new guidelines create the risk of encouraging more and more lawsuits to disrupt and divide the workplace along religious lines. Religion should be left out of the guidelines altogether."

Home, private schools secure exemptions

WASHINGTON (BP)—Responding to a deluge of phone calls from home school and private school supporters, the U.S. House of Representatives has removed nonpublic schools from potential supervision by the federal government.

In two lopsided votes, the House approved amendments which clarified home, religious and other private schools will not come under the jurisdiction of

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (H.R. 6).

Without the amendments, the act may have been interpreted to mean home school parents and private school teachers would have been required to be certified by the state, many home and Christian school leaders said.

The House approved by a 424-1 vote an amendment by Rep. William Ford, D-Mich., chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, striking the controversial certification language and adding: "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect home schools."

They also voted 374-53 in favor of an amendment by Rep. Dick Army, R-Texas, specifying the bill would not be interpreted to mandate certification of home school or private school teachers or to authorize federal control of any aspect of a home, religious or other private school.

Classifieds

Orlando Convention Arrangements — Choice accommodations/shuttle service. Discount airfares. CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS 1-800-972-8952.

Used church pews for sale — with cushions, pulpit, two sedalias, communion table. 22 20-ft. pews, 44 13 1/2-ft. Call 318-396-1116 (Louisiana).

For Sale — God's Lill' Acre in beautiful Pinecrest \$350. 851-2736.

Pastor — Accepting resumes for bi-vocational pastor. Grandview Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, Route 5 Box 376, Berryville, AR 72616.

Youth/music — Earle Baptist Church, P.O. Box 674, Earle, AR 72331, is now accepting resumes for Youth/music minister.

PT youth minister — First Baptist Church of Horatio, AR, is in need of a part-time youth minister. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 296, Horatio, AR 71842.

Pastor needed — Pastor Search Committee, Hermitage Baptist Church, is receiving resumes for prospective pastor. Send reply to Eddie Boley, P.O. Box 6, Hermitage, AR 71647.

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 80 cents per word, must be included. Multiple insertions of the same ad must be paid for in advance. The ABN reserves the right to reject any ad because of unsuitable subject matter. Classified ads will be inserted on a space-available basis. No endorsement by the ABN is implied.

ASC COMMUNICATIONS AND SIGNALING SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR

Arkansas Sound Corporation

7000 Remount Road

North Little Rock, AR 72118

Serving Arkansas since 1977

For All Your COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS

Ask for our church sales rep. David Dillard has 25 years experience in music ministry and is here to assist you in selecting the right sound system for your needs.

STATEWIDE SALES AND SERVICE

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE SURVEY

(501) 753-5674 AR WATTS 1-800-441-1272



Quality
VANs Sales

Used 12 and 15 passenger vans, special prices to churches. 501-268-4490, 1500 E. Race, Searcy 72143. Larry Carson

PEW CUSHIONS

Quality Custom Manufacturers of:

Upholstered Seats & Backs

717 North Cypress, N. Little Rock

Writs: P.O. Box 5700, N.L.R., AR 72119

Call for more information: 501-375-2921

Albert George Mfg. Co.

A.B. Culbertson and Company

invites your indication of interest to:

FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

EARN UP TO: **8.75%**

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed Culbertson IRA. Transfers and rollovers accept, in most cases.

Interest Payable Semiannually by Check

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

A.B. Culbertson and Company

Financial Services Since 1954



1250 Continental Plaza

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Member, Midwest Stock Exchange



For more complete information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at a face value plus accrued interest, subject to prior sale.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern, Branch Manager

P.O. Box 1302

Benton, AR 72015

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Bonds currently being offered by A. B. Culbertson and Company.

Call:

(800) 468-3007

(501) 778-5700

BIG 12TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN GOSPEL SINGING

Friday, August 5, 1994 through Saturday, August 13, 1994

Lester Flatt Memorial Park -- Vilonia, AR

TALENT: Wendy Bagwell and The Sunliters, Nelons, Bishops, Florida Boys, Perfect Heart, Palmetto State Quartet, Primitive Quartet, Gov. Jimmie Davis, Dixie Melody Boys, Countrymen Quartet, Free Spirit Singers, McKeithens, Happy Rythms, Sounds of Life, Scrap Iron Quartet, plus more groups to come!

TICKETS: Admission adults all-9 days \$30.00, Saturday \$8.00, daily \$7.00 and children 6-10 half price. Camping \$6.00 per day with festival tickets, all other days \$12.00. Call days- 501-835-2451 or nights- 501-796-2030. Fishing, swimming and paddle boats. Hot and cold showers available. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs. Absolutely NO alcohol or drugs. Sunday morning preaching and potluck dinner on the ground. Plenty of watermelons. Bring your ice cream freezer. If you need a free flyer, write to Lester Flatt Memorial Park, #50 Lester Flatt Drive, Vilonia, AR 72173.

TRAVEL

I·D·E·A·S

Places to go, things to do.

Select ONE or MORE of the
1994 FUNCO TOURS

↳ Candian Rockies motorcoach tour
AND Alaskan cruise -
June 12-25, 1994

↳ Palo Duro Canyon and the drama
"Texas" near Amarillo, TX -
August 13-14, 1994

↳ New England Fall Foliage Tour -
October 1-8, 1994

↳ Galveston, TX "Dickens Christmas
on the Strand" - December 2-4, 1994

... and write for more information:

FUNCO INC.

Neta Stewart

6220-A McCart Avenue

Ft. Worth, TX 76133

... or call FUNCO INC. for more
information: 817-926-8755



Eureka!



Inn-of-the Ozarks has a plan for a great group outing in Eureka Springs: a money-saving package that includes INNcomparable lodging plus visits to The Great Passion Play, Eureka Springs Gardens and other famous Eureka Springs attractions.

Have you toured beautiful Thornecrow Chapel? The Christ of the Ozarks Statue? Historic St. Elizabeth's Church? Visit those landmarks also as part of the package - plus take in one of Eureka's famous country music shows - and enjoy dinners and breakfasts at Myrtie Mac's Restaurant plus other perks.

Can't get a group together? Ask about our Spring and Fall Family Days Special.

Spring & Fall Special*

3 Days, 2 Nights - 4 to a room

April 28-June 9 & Aug. 14-Sept. 8 - \$101

June 10-Aug. 13 & Sept. 9-Sept. 30 - \$111

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 - \$115

*Sunday & Wednesday arrivals subject to 10% discount.

All rates apply to groups of 20 or more.



Resort & Conference Center

P.O. Box 431 • Eureka Springs, AR 72632 • (501) 253-9768

Last Chance!

Henry Blackaby

5-NIGHT CRUISE

"Experiencing God" "Fresh Encounter"

As low as \$649 per person

Alaska Cruise 1335

Mediterranean 1495

(Paths of Paul) 545

Christian Singles 495

Walk Thru The Bible 495

Call Celebration Tours

1-800-99 TOURS

(1-800-998-6877)

THE OUTPOST

Everybody's
One Stop
Convenience Store

- Delicious Sandwiches
 Made to Order
- Grocery Deli
- Fishing Supplies

- Gas
- Ice

Open 5:00 a.m. Till After the Passion Play
(with the Coffee Pot On)

Hwy. 62 West

Between Berryville & Eureka Springs

Wayne & Robbie Giles
Owners

423-2236

Buffalo National River Canoe & Raft Trips



Buffalo Outdoor Center

Ponca, AR 72670 (Spring)

1-800-221-5514

Silver Hill (Summer)

1-800-582-2244

• LOG CABIN RETREATS •



The Best For Less

Traveler's Inn

- Family owned & operated
- Sixty clean comfortable rooms
- Remote control TV's
- Large Pool & Picnic Area
- In Room Phones
- Perfect Location -

Walk to Pine Mountain Jamboree,
10-Restaurants & Gift Shops

- Golf available (private course)

• Trolley Stop

- Reservations made free
 to all attractions
- Group discounts available



TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS

1-800-643-5566

Rt. 1 Box 269, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

Advertising in the
ARKANSAS BAPTIST
reaches 40,000+ households

Call Nelle O'Bryan
at 501-376-4791, ext. 5155

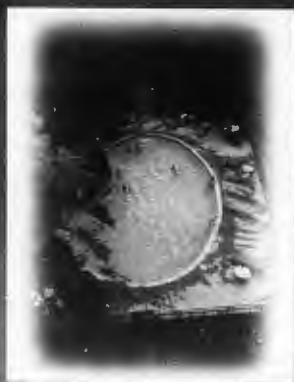
TRAVEL I • D • E • A • S



THE 1876 INN



Where You're a Stranger Only Once



- Clean
- Comfortable
- Secure
- Friendly
- Helpful
- Professional

TOLL FREE
RESERVATIONS
800/643-3030

THE 1876 INN
Route 6, Box 247
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
501/253-7183



=1876=
RESTAURANT

AWARD

AWARD

EUREKA SPRINGS,
ARKANSAS

We're
Not
No. 1...
YOU ARE!



Places to go, things to do.



**Reasonable
Rates**

1-800-643-2233

Located Within Walking Distance
of Pine Mountain Jamboree

Church Groups of 12 to 160 People:
For the Best (\$12.50) Seats
at the Great Passion Play

Reserve now at
Keller's Clean Comfortable
Country Dorm
Resort

Rt. 4, Box 554, Eureka Springs, AR

Super-Economical \$30 Package
now includes Best Tickets (first 18 rows!),
swimming, air-conditioned lodging & meals!
(EXTRA night's lodging just \$10 ea.)
Call 501/253-8418 for Reservations



THE ARK CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER

15 MILES TO EUREKA • 30 BRANSON
ACCESS TO TABLE ROCK LAKE • MAIN BUILDING FOR MEETINGS
• 16 ROOMS (2 HANDICAPPED) 2 DOUBLE BEDS & BATH
• GAME ROOM • FULL SIZE QTYM • EQUIPPED KITCHEN
BOX 152 EAGLE ROCK, MO 63641
(417) 271-4530 / (417) 442-3496

OZARKA LODGE

Your Natural Choice In Eureka Springs!



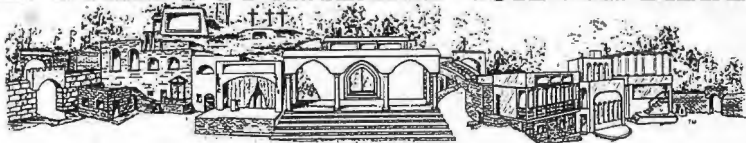
- LOCATION - Junction Highways 62E and 23S. Heart of The Attraction District
- QUALITY - Sparkling clean accommodations, nonsmoking rooms available
- SERVICE - Friendly, attentive staff
- EXTRAS - Great views, outdoor pool, HBO, complimentary a.m. coffee and tea



Approved

"We enjoy having you as our guest"
Ozarka Lodge, Rt. 6, Box 8
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
Ask about Value Day Rates
Reservations: 1-800-321-8992
Information: (501) 253-8992

THE WORLD'S #1 ATTENDED OUTDOOR DRAMA



The Great Passion Play

The story of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ has been celebrated for nearly 2000 years.
Over 5 million people have come to celebrate with us under the stars at Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

1994 Season runs April 29 thru October 29

For information call: 501-253-9200

For Ticket Reservations call: 800-882-PLAY

1994 Ticket Prices: \$10.50/\$11.50/\$12.50

SPECIAL RATE FOR GROUPS (12 or more): \$1.50 per ticket discount

Three Outstanding Video Presentations From The Great Passion Play

VIDEO ORDER FORM

___ The Great Passion Play Video Over 250 actors recreate Christ's Passion. 2-hour video. Only \$19.95 (plus \$3 S&H).

___ The Tabernacle Video The world's only complete, life-size reproduction of Moses' Tabernacle in the Wilderness. 30-minute video. Only \$9.95 (plus \$3 S&H).

___ The Potter Video Taken from the book of Jeremiah, an actor portraying the Potter reveals God's lessons and truths. The "Potter" actor also portrays Christ in The Great Passion Play video. 30-minutes. Only \$9.95 (plus \$3 S&H).

ALL THREE VIDEOS Great Value! Only \$34.95 (plus \$3 S&H).

Payment Method: Check M/O MC Visa Discover Credit Card#

Exp. Date Name State Zip

Address City State Zip

Mail to: The Great Passion Play, PO Box 471, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. (Allow 2-4 weeks).

ark.baptist

It's Your Serve.

If you play tennis, you know that the person serving has an advantage. But that doesn't make the game easier for the server. When the ball is in your court, the pressure is on. It's up to you to make things happen.

As we enter the 1994 Season of Home Missions, Southern Baptists are being called upon to meet the challenge of home missions in America.

By supporting the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, you can help home missionaries meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of others. The ball is in your court. It's your serve.

**Give to the Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering for Home Missions.**
National Goal: \$40 million



IT'S YOUR SERVE

A Quarter to Christy's Sign

The Arkansas Baptist's

CHURCH SERVICES DIRECTORY

Baptistries/Steeple

Construction Sales Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1049
Magnolia, AR 71753-1049
1-800-526-9663 FAX: 501-234-6475
Also Laminated wood arches, beams and decking.

Book Stores

Baptist Book Store (SBC)
9101 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205
501-225-6009

Heating & Air Conditioning

Cox Heating & Air Conditioning
1612 Park Avenue
Stuttgart, AR 72160
673-2081

Kitchen Equipment & Supplies

Almco Wholesale
10001 Colonel Glenn Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72204
228-0808

Puppetry

House of Puppetry
P.O. Box 190055/78 Westminister Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72219
Fredda Hicks
501-568-7769
Puppets and Puppet Supplies

Sound Systems

American Audio, Inc.
P.O. Box 1719
Ruston, LA 71273
Edwards, Young & Blake, Owners
318-251-0290 FAX: 318-255-3363
Audio system and acoustic design-installation-rental.

MP Productions, Inc.

6301 Murray St.
Little Rock, AR 72209
Ken E. Newberry, Contracting Manager
501-562-7425 FAX: 562-7521
System design, installation, and service.

**For a listing call the ABN
at 376-4791, ext. 5155**

COLLEGE DIGEST

Ouachita Baptist University

Eubanks elected head of philosophical organization — Byron Eubanks, assistant professor of philosophy at OBU, has been elected president of the Arkansas Philosophical Association (APA). A faculty member since 1987, Eubanks is the 24th president of APA, a statewide organization composed primarily of philosophy teachers in 19 Arkansas colleges and universities.

Off-campus work study started — Seven OBU students are working in a new program at OBU which allows them to assist in the community while earning federal work-study dollars for their education. The students currently work off-campus from seven to 11 hours a week at the Dawson Educational Co-Operative Medical Center, Group Living, Inc. and Arkadelphia Housing Authority. Associate director of financial aid Susan Hurst is coordinating the program.

Drama team serves churches — The art of drama as an expression of the Christian faith is the mission of the Praise Players at OBU. The group of 10 students writes and performs drama at banquets, church services and retreats. For more information on Praise Players contact Mary Cook at OBU, P.O. Box 3745, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001; phone 245-5262.

McBeth honored — W. Francis McBeth, chairman of the theory/composition department of OBU's school of music, was recognized recently by the Mid-West International Band & Orchestra Clinic, receiving its Medal of Honor. The award recognizes individuals who have displayed distinguished service in the field of music education. McBeth is only the eighth composer to be so honored by the clinic. He has taught at OBU since 1957.

Williams Baptist College

Milligan joins faculty — Michael Milligan has joined the WBC faculty as a professor of chemistry. A native of Pine Bluff, he is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and the University of Kansas, and held a post-doctoral position at the University of Iowa. Milligan joins the faculty as WBC prepares to add biology/pre-medicine to its list of majors this fall.

Gibbons article published — WBC English professor Jerry Gibbons recently had an article published in the historical journal, the *Garland County Record*, published annually in Hot Springs. The article, "The Short, Violent Life of Tom Slaughter," recounts the exploits of Tom Slaughter, considered to be one of the most colorful characters ever to serve time in an Arkansas penitentiary.

Jones Trust makes donation — Williams has been given a \$500,000 scholarship endowment from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust. WBC president Gary Huckabee said, "The contribution of the Jones Trust is deeply appreciated. I see it not as a donation, but as a critical investment in the lives of our students, who will be the leaders of tomorrow."



A Symbol
To Depend On.

Griffin Leggett
Healey & Roth

LITTLE ROCK

Forest Hills

Memorial Park
Little Rock

Griffin Leggett / Rest Hills

10 YEARS SERVING MEMORIAL PARK, FOREST HILLS, REST HILLS

GROSS
FUNERAL HOME

Little Rock

PEOPLE TO DEPEND ON

Since 1973
Churches/Residential

SOOS

STAINED GLASS

P.O. Box 600
North Little Rock, AR 72115
758-8641

AUTHORS WANTED

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly, juvenile and religious works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free 32-page illustrated booklet H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W 34 St., New York, NY 10001

AUTHORIZED
Konica

COPIERS • FAX



Ralph Croy and Associates Inc.

701 W. Capitol, Little Rock • 378-0109
1640 E. Grand Ave., Hot Springs • 623-7392
1022 W. 80th, Pine Bluff • 534-8811



LITTLE GIANT MFG. CO.

BAPTISTRIES
WATER HEATERS
STEEPLES



CROSSES-LIGHTS

Buy Directly from Manufacturer
Box 518 Orange, TX 77630

TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

Convention Uniform

Justification and sin

By Norman Lewis, DOM,
Black River Association
Basic passage: Romans 5:1-21
Focal passage: Romans 5:8-9
Central truth: Faith in Christ demonstrates that God shows His love to us by meeting our needs for peace, grace and hope.

This chapter divides into two parts. First, the blessed results of justification by faith (5:1-11) and second, Paul surveys the history of sin and redemption (5:12-21).

"Being declared righteous" means to look to the state that you are in. Having been declared righteous looks back to the fact of what happened and is finished and complete. We find eight blessings of justification (vv. 1-5): Peace with God, continued access by faith into this grace, rejoicing in the hope in the glory of God, glory in tribulations, patience, experience, hope and the conscious indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The basis of Christian hope is in the death of Christ. While humanity was helpless, God responded to our deepest need. Second, His death happened in due time, or at the right time and, third, His death took place while we still were ungodly or sinful. God proved the greatness of His love for us in Christ's death. Paul contrasts this love with human love. God proved His love superior by having Christ die for us while we were still sinners. Christ is the one through whom all lost people – the ungodly, active sinners and enemies of God – can experience atonement (vv. 6-11).

We find in the remainder of the chapter the "Reign of Grace" through Christ. Sin, which gained a foothold in Adam, has infected all persons and earned them God's judgment of death. Sin was in the world through Adam before the law was given. The law set limits on human behavior so persons would recognize their sin and could be formally charged with their offenses. Like one man, Adam, many died. Likewise, by Christ, many benefited from the gift of grace given by God.

The law revealed sin for what it is. It did nothing to change mankind's sinful nature which has held sway since Adam, but as sin's hold on humanity grew stronger, God's grace also increased. God proved through Christ that His grace is more than sufficient to override our sinful natures.

This lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series. Copyright International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Life and Work

From pain to victory

By Snookie Dixon, minister of education, First Church, Arkadelphia
Basic passage: Luke 22:24-38
Focal passage: Luke 22:32
Central truth: Turning from painful circumstances enables us to better encourage our brothers in Christ.

This passage deals with events following the Lord's Supper. As the Twelve were quarreling over who was the greatest among them, Jesus interrupted to say that He came to them as "one who serves" (v. 27). Jesus told them very candidly that His Kingdom was a kingdom of servants and that those who stood for Him would in the end reign with Him.

Jesus then directed His remarks to Peter, warning him that Satan had demanded permission to "sift you like wheat" (v. 31). However, Jesus continued by telling Peter, "I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail" (v. 32). Jesus was interceding on Peter's behalf!

God had a plan for Peter: "And you, when once you have been turned again, strengthen your brothers" (v. 32). Through His prayers, Jesus knew there would be a turning again after Peter's denial of Him in the courtyard.

Peter's faith did not fail in the courtyard. Satan has power over us when faith fails. Peter's love for Christ did not fail. Temporarily, Peter's hope was gone and without hope, his courage failed. The result of Peter's grief and "turning again" was that he was better able to encourage and strengthen his brothers in the faith.

It is difficult to completely help a man unless we have experienced some of the same failures, hurts and shame in life. It was said of Jesus, "He can help others who are going through it because He has been through it Himself" (Heb. 2:18,19). Peter's experience enables one to turn again and follow the Master because He intercedes for us just as He did for Peter.

Peter's impulsive character required special prayer to keep his faith from falling. Jesus' prayers had purpose. He expected His prayer to be answered and He gave Peter instructions for the time after his strengthening. The courageous stand of Peter before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8-13, 18-20) was part of the answer to this prayer. The Sanhedrin "saw the boldness of Peter and John" and "took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

This lesson treatment is based on the Life and Work Curriculum for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Bible Book

Healing and hypocrisy

By Rex Pilcher, associate pastor, Parkway Place Church, Little Rock
Basic passage: John 9:1-11
Focal passage: John 9:1-5, 13-34, 39-41
Central truth: Jesus heals those who admit their need.

In the healing of the blind man we learn why people have physical infirmities, the faith of the blind man and the continued hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders.

Answering His disciples, Jesus shows us that God allows disease and illness so His glory and power can be displayed and men can be brought to faith in Him. At the time, most people believed a man was sick because of sin. That belief has not completely disappeared today.

Giving sight to the blind man allowed Jesus to illustrate that He came to give light to men's souls. Throughout his gospel John presents signs that communicate a deeper spiritual meaning. That is the case in this healing. God timed the man's blindness with the work of Christ, showing God's ways are far above those of man.

The Pharisees decided Jesus was wrong because He wouldn't obey their regulations. They wanted to remain in control, so they attempted to build a case against the blind man. The man told them what happened and when pressed on who he believed Jesus to be, he said, "a prophet." This displeased the Pharisees, so they questioned his parents.

His parents weren't as bold and refused to give an opinion about Jesus. They confirmed their son was blind, but referred the Jews to the son to answer who did it. This displays their cowardice as they certainly knew how it happened.

When pressed again, the healed man spoke more boldly to the leaders. He accused them mockingly of wanting to be Jesus' disciples also. In verses 30 through 33 the man uses excellent logic and speaks the truth to the leaders, something they were not accustomed to hearing. And in one of the most hypocritical statements in scripture, they answered him in verse 34.

They accused him of being in sin entirely from birth. And when did they come into sin? Their spiritual pride is evident from their statement. They believed they were not in as bad a state as that blind man or they would have also been born blind. But Jesus put the proper perspective on this situation in verses 39 through 41. It's those who admit their spiritual blindness who will see life.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Used by permission.

Convention Uniform

Freedom from sin

By: Norman Lewis, DOM,

Black River Association

Basic passage: Romans 6:1-23

Focal passage: Romans 6:7-8

Central truth: Freedom from sin through Christ reveals that all need to turn to Him.

The first five chapters of Romans focus on the great truth of justification by faith. The second great truth addresses union with Christ. Paul knew his statement in Romans 5:20 would be controversial with some people. His answer was a technique of debate with an imaginary objector. The objector tried to justify a sinful lifestyle by saying that sin glorified God by providing Him the opportunity to show more grace. Paul's answer is an emphatic "no!"

Union with Christ is declared in baptism. Baptism and faith go together. One is an outward symbol, the other an inward action. But as faith accepts the death and resurrection of Christ for our justification, so baptism is "into His death" (v. 6:3) and "in the likeness of His resurrection" (v. 6:5). The relation of faith and baptism is like the two actions of the soldier who signs his life for his country and then puts on the uniform as a sign that he belongs to his country.

Baptism is not only a mark of the assumption of something new, but of the giving up of something old—"our old man" (v. 6:6). Christians who have truly experienced death to sin and resurrection to new life, which baptism symbolizes, cannot possibly continue in a life of sin. Baptism symbolizes that we are freed from sin, we "live unto God."

Union with Christ means a change of mastership. We are freed to serve God. Any person will be a slave to whatever claims that person's loyalty. We have been freed from bondage to sin. We are free to serve God and the cause of righteousness. The reward we receive will be based on the cause we serve. Unbelievers serve sin and reap death (vv. 6:16,21,23). Believers serve God and reap a righteous life and character (vv. 6:16-18). If we got what we deserve, we would receive the penalty of death for our sin. Eternal life cannot be earned. It is God's free gift. The Christian has been freed, not only from the penalty of sin, but also from the ruling power of sin through Jesus Christ.

Life and Work

Simon carries a cross

By Snookie Dixon, minister of education, First Church, Arkadelphia

Basic passage: Luke 23:26-56

Focal passage: Luke 23:26

Central truth: When we are most disappointed and discouraged, Christ can become real to us.

Under Roman law, when a criminal was condemned to be crucified, he was placed in a hollow square of four Roman soldiers and his cross placed on his back. The soldier in front carried a placard which told the crime for which he was being punished. They took the longest road possible to the place of crucifixion. These methods were intended to be deterrents to those contemplating crime.

As Jesus walked, already weakened from a beating, His strength failed and He stumbled. Any citizen from Palestine, an occupied country, could be pressed into service to help Him, so the Roman centurion in charge found someone.

It was Simon from far-off Cyrene (modern Tripoli) whose shoulder the centurion's spear touched. Simon had probably been saving all of his life to come to Jerusalem one time for the Passover feast. Now he found himself being pressed into carrying a criminal's cross by the hated Romans. What a disappointment!

Who was Simon? Mark describes him as the father of Alexander and Rufus (Mark 15:21). Barclay implies that a man is not identified by the names of his sons unless the sons are well-known people. In Paul's letter to the Church at Rome, he wrote: "Salute Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine" (Rom. 16:13). Here is such a choice Christian that he can be called one of God's chosen ones, with a mother so dear to Paul that he can call her his mother in the faith.

We are not sure but perhaps this Rufus is the same Rufus who was the son of Simon of Cyrene and his mother, Simon's wife.

Don't you imagine that as Simon put the cross on his shoulder and looked into the eyes of Jesus that all the disappointment and bitterness he felt turned into wonder, amazement, peace and joy? He and his family may have become God's chosen because of his encounter with his Savior and Lord on that day. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Cor. 5:17)

Bible Book

The Good Shepherd

By Rex Pilcher, associate pastor, Parkway Place Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 10:1-42

Focal passage: John 10:1-18

Central truth: Jesus can be trusted to lead us to God and eternal life.

In this lesson we see Jesus lead into a discussion of the fold and the flock. The blind man has come out of the fold of the false shepherds and now is in the flock of the Good Shepherd.

Jesus identifies the religious leaders as thieves and robbers, coming to promote themselves rather than care for the sheep. Jesus came into the fold the right way, fulfilling prophecy. Because of that the people responded to Him. The Bible says those who heard Him said He taught as one having authority.

The Jews' regulations were mind-numbingly tedious, minute and strangled the spiritual life from the people. Many recognized this when Jesus spoke with real life. We must be careful today not to depend excessively on the words of others, however well-meaning they are. We should be open, but excessive dependence on their opinions prevents life from springing up in our hearts.

Jesus then presents two more of His "I am" statements. He said "I am the door." It is by going through Him that a man or woman can enter into eternal life. The religious thieves came into the fold to kill, but Jesus came as a door through which the sheep could find pasture and food.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He confronts danger and does not shrink back or think of His own personal safety. We must also be willing to get involved in the lives of one another and in the lives of those in our classes.

Having explained that He is the Good Shepherd, Jesus spoke of His impending death. He foreshadowed the ministry to the Gentiles in verse 16. There were certainly non-Jews who came to salvation while Jesus ministered. But the effort of the gospel expanded intentionally and on a broad base with the calling of Paul and the outreach to all the nations.

We are encouraged to know that Jesus never lost control of events, even those leading to death. He voluntarily laid down His life and was in control even when it appeared others were controlling His destiny.

Subscriber Services

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine offers subscription plans at three rates:

Every Resident Family Plan gives churches a premium rate when they send the Newsmagazine to all their resident households. Resident families are calculated to be at least one-fourth of the church's Sunday School enrollment. Churches who send only to members who request a subscription do not qualify for this lower rate of \$6.36 per year for each subscription.

A **Group Plan** (formerly called the

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Inc.
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, AR 72203

CAR-RT SORT **CR39
017557 CDM 2230
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
921 COMMERCE ST STE. 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Club Plan) allows church members to get a better than individual rate when 10 or more of them send their subscriptions together through their church. Subscribers through the group plan pay \$7.08 per year.

Individual subscriptions may be purchased by anyone at the rate of \$8.85 per year. These subscriptions are more costly because they require individual attention for address changes and renewal notices.

Changes of address by individuals may be made with the above form.

When inquiring about your subscription by mail, please include the address label. Or call us at (501) 376-4791, ext. 5156. Be prepared to give us your code line information.

NEWS DIGEST

One candidate, one other possible for SBC presidency

JACKSONVILLE, FL (BP)—The election of a new president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the annual meeting June 14-16 has at least one announced candidate with another candidate possible.

The candidacy of Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. was publicly endorsed in Jacksonville by two former SBC presidents: Jerry Vines and Charles Stanley.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, where the annual meeting of the SBC will be held, has been asked if he would allow his nomination and is seriously considering the possibility. Henry said he is "seeking God's will in the matter."

Wolfe, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, has received the backing of a group of 60 to 70 conservative leaders who have given Wolfe unanimous support.

Conservative leaders gather for private meeting

NASHVILLE, TN (BP/ABP)—Conservative Baptist leaders from California to Virginia gathered at a hotel in Nashville following the recent Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee meeting. The group of 40 to 50 men included at least nine Executive Committee members, including Executive Committee chairman Fred Wolfe, who is an announced candidate for the SBC presidency.

James W. Richards Jr., pastor of Southminster Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., and chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said the meeting, which was closed to the press, was of "like-minded people who meet for support and encouragement." The invitation-only group has met at least four times in the past 18 months.

CBF to create foundation to pursue charitable giving

NASHVILLE, TN (BP)—A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Foundation to raise endowment funds for the organization of Baptist moderates was approved during the 62-member CBF coordinating council meeting Feb. 18-19 in Nashville.

The council also approved a \$5.6 million budget for the first half of 1995, including \$2 million expected from its global missions offering. The CBF is then scheduled to move to a July 1-June 30-based fiscal year budget.

A one-time \$100,000 gift to the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention is included in the budget. The gift was designated by the council's global missions group, voicing appreciation for WMU's contribution to world evangelization.

WMU enlists language consultants, creates ethnic council

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP)—Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has expanded its language work with the addition of 10 volunteer consultants and the creation of the National WMU Ethnic Advisory Council.

The 10 volunteer consultants will serve on the advisory council and represent five language groups — Haitian, Chinese, Korean, Hispanic and deaf.

Council members will work with the national WMU language staff to determine and prioritize the needs of language groups, give input into WMU language materials and products and promote missions education through field servicing.

Sex-abuse verdict costs Miami church \$4.2 million

MIAMI (ABP) — A Dade County Circuit Court has levied a \$4.2 million judgment against Wayside Baptist Church of Miami for negligence in hiring a youth minister who sexually abused nearly a dozen teenage boys.

Although the youth minister, Keith Geren, was terminated from the staff and is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence for sexual battery, the jury found the church negligent not in its supervision but in its hiring practices.

A church official said the youth minister had served previously in a Florida Baptist church and his references were "squeaky clean." He acknowledged, however, that no police or other background checks were made. The church's insurance company is considering an appeal of the case.

Bobby Boyles resigns church, begins new congregation

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Oklahoma pastor Bobby Boyles, scheduled to preach the convention sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June, resigned Feb. 20 as pastor of First Baptist Church in Moore, Okla. He met three days later with about 460 supporters at an Oklahoma City motel to plan the start of "The New Southern Baptist Church."

Boyles resigned from the Moore church after deacons voted, in his absence, 32-3, that the church "would be better served by a new pastor in the future."

Boyles said he still plans to preach the convention sermon. The choir of First Church, Moore, which had been invited to sing at the SBC, is not expected to do so now.