

# Area woman speaks at Baptist conference

■ Church News

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Angela Morgan of Tahlequah spoke at the 88th annual General Baptist Women's Conference, July 20-21, in Springfield, Ill.

The conference theme was "Praying Women ... Commit Themselves to Prayer."

More than 400 women from across the United States attended.

Morgan spoke about her experiences at the North American Baptist Women's Union 10th Continental Assembly, Oct. 1-4, 1997, in San Diego.

She also sang the assembly's theme song, "Reaching Out."

Highlights of the women's conference included testimonies and speakers, including national and international missionaries; and a musical presentation, "Nation: It's Time to Pray."

A San Antonio, Texas, area praise and worship team provided the conference music, including the theme song, "On Eagle's Wings."

The Women's Prayer Warrior ministry was also expanded at the conference.

Morgan is one of several area women involved with the group.

Participants commit to pray at a specific time for 30 minutes each week for a year.

Together they pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Morgan also served as an area delegate to the General Association of General Baptists, which followed the women's conference, July 21-23.

The theme was "Harvest: A Time for Joy and Great Challenge."

One worship service's attendance

was 400 people.

The denomination is one of 60 participating in the Celebrate Jesus 2000 nationwide effort.

Those who participate aim to pray for and share Christ with every person in the nation by the year 2000, through community rallies, door-to-door visiting and mailing efforts.

General Baptist Women's Ministries will sponsor Conference 2000, a celebration of prayer open to all women, March 23-26, 2000, in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

## New Life Pentecostal

A glorious presence of the Lord was felt in our midst as services opened for Sunday morning, Aug. 9.

Brother Ridenhour taught "From Doubt to Faith," from Habakkuk 2:1-11. Faith is the antidote to doubt and fear; fear has torment, but faith can overcome it.

Habakkuk was puzzled over why God had not brought his promised judgment upon the people.

He was not aware of Josiah's repentance and God's mercy on the people.

It is part of our human nature to doubt — because of our human nature, we have temptations as well as doubts. Doubts start out as questions — of God's authority, of his word, which is forever settled in heaven, of his faithfulness and his unchangeableness.

He pardons our iniquities and delights in mercy.

Even when he is angry with us, when we repent, he forgets his anger, for he knows we are human.

He does not want us to be lost, for he is not willing that any should perish.

The enemy of our souls, in trying to cause doubt, wants us to think God is unfair and tries to trick us into being lost; he presents questions to us, causing us to doubt God's word and his promises.

The first question in the Bible: "Hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" brought the first lie — "Ye shall not surely die." When God's requirements are questioned, doubt comes.

We must be born again of the water and of the spirit — there is no alternative.

We must do well in this life to hear

# First Uratia: Acme of religious living

## Wednesday Witness

### First Uratia Book Study Club

Although the average mortal cannot hope to attain the high perfection of character which Jesus Nazareth acquired while sojourning in the flesh, it is altogether possible for every mortal believer to develop a strong and unified personality along the perfected lines of the Jesus personality.

The unique feature of the master's personality was not so much its perfection, as its symmetry, its exquisite and balanced unification.

The most effective presentation of Jesus consists in following the example of the one who said, as he gestured toward the master standing before his accusers, "Behold the man!"

The unfailing kindness of Jesus touched the hearts of men, but his stalwart strength of character amazed his followers. He was truly sincere; there was nothing of the hypocrite in him.

He was free from affectation; he was always so refreshingly genuine.

He never stooped to pretense, and he never resorted to shamming. He lived the truth, even as he taught it. He was the truth.

He was constrained to proclaim saving truth to his generation, even though such sincerity sometimes caused pain. He was unquestioningly loyal to all truth.

But the master was so reasonable, so approachable. He was so practical in all his ministry, while all his plans were characterized by such sanctified common sense.

He was so free from all freakish, erratic and eccentric tendencies. He was never capricious, whimsical, or hysterical.

In all his teaching and in everything he did, there was always an ex-

quisite discrimination associated with an extraordinary sense of propriety.

The son of man was always a well-poised personality. Even his enemies maintained a wholesome respect for him; they even feared him.

Jesus was unafraid. He was surcharged with divine enthusiasm, but he never became fanatical. He was emotionally active but never flighty.

He was imaginative but always practical. He frankly faced the realities of life, but he was never dull or prosaic.

He was courageous but never reckless; prudent but never cowardly. He was sympathetic but not sentimental; unique but not eccentric. He was pious but not sanctimonious. And he was so well-poised because he was so perfectly unified.

Jesus' originality was unstifled. He was not bound by tradition or handicapped by enslavement to narrow conventionality. He spoke with undoubted confidence and taught with

absolute authority.

But his superb originality did not cause him to overlook the gems of truth in the teachings of his predecessor and contemporaries. And the most original of his teachings was the emphasis of love and mercy in the place of fear and sacrifice.

Jesus was very broad in his outlook. He exhorted his followers to preach the gospel to all peoples. He was free from all narrow-mindedness.

His sympathetic heart embraced all mankind, even a universe. Always his invitation was, "Whosoever will, let him come."

Members of the First Uratia Book Study Group of Cherokee County invites the public to join them every Thursday from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, at the corner of College and Delaware.

For more information about the *Uratia Book*, call (800) 767-LOVE.