

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

6-24-1982

June 24, 1982

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/arn_80-84



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

JUN 24 1982

Reports on the business
of the annual meeting
of the SBC



June 24, 1982
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

Convention actions reveal differing viewpoints

NEW ORLEANS, June 17 — Strong feelings on several issues were evident as Southern Baptists met here for their annual

business and inspiration sessions. But the meetings, which began Tuesday, June 15, also had overtures of commitment to unity.

In the convention sermon Wednesday William E. Hull, a Shreveport pastor, said that many Baptists probably came to the convention believing that the scenario already had been written — that Southern Baptists were going to live out a fight to the finish. "But that's not God's plan," he proclaimed. We are not called to be liberal or conservative, but we are called to be loving and crucified, Hull submitted.

Newly-elected President Jimmy Draper of Euless, Texas, told a press conference Wednesday morning that he had a dream to get Southern Baptists to talk to each other, instead of about each other. Although Dr. Draper did not have a detailed plan at that time he said he hoped to involve Southern Baptist agencies, for instance, in sitting down to talk about problems.

Draper said his experience on committees of the SBC had been that so-called conservatives and so-called moderates often shouted at each other from across a chasm and they needed to learn to communicate.

The new president, who succeeds Bailey Smith, also indicated he planned to consider Christian character and participation in denominational activities more than theological/political stance when appointing Southern Baptists to committees to do the work of the convention.

The President's power to appoint the Committee on Committees, which in turn names the committees who recommend persons for boards and agencies, has been at issue for several years.

Draper was elected on a runoff ballot with Duke K. McCall, recently retired president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In the first ballot, Draper had 46.03 percent of the vote in a field of four candidates, while McCall gathered 34.88 percent.

In the runoff, Draper got 56.97 percent or 8,331 votes, and 43.03 percent or 6,292 votes went to McCall, although some observers before the meeting had predicted a landslide for Draper.

Also nominated for president were Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church of LaFayette, La., and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport. Both received slightly more than nine percent of the vote.

Sullivan was later elected first vice president in a runoff election with U.S. Representative Albert Lee Smith (R-Ala.) of Birmingham, a candidate backed by the Moral Majority. Sullivan got 68 percent of the vote on the second ballot. Others nominated were John G. Alley of Calvary Church in Alexandria, La., and Brian Shoemaker, a student at Southern Baptist Theo-

logical Seminary.

The second vice president also was named in a runoff ballot, out of a field of eight candidates, which included a woman and a black bivocational pastor. Gene Garrison, pastor of Oklahoma City's First Church drew 52 percent of the vote in that three-way runoff.

Runoff candidates were Garrison, Ann Cravens, a messenger from Lakeside Church in Pittsburg, and Norris Sydor Jr., bivocational pastor of Riverside Church in Baltimore.

Other candidates for second vice president were Gene Watterson of Shelby, N.C.; Joe Lovelady of New Orleans; Robert E. Craig of Jackson, Tenn.; Maylan Morley of Belle Plaine, Kan.; and Dwayne Martin of Texas City, Texas.

The new president had pledged to try to work closely with the vice presidents, though reserving the right of final decision. During his press conference Jimmy Draper characterized himself as a very open person and promised to make such openness a characteristic of his administration.

Draper disavowed intentions of witch-hunting in Baptist academia or of siding with a group of Baptists who have announced intentions to change the makeup of boards of trustees to influence the teaching in the denomination's seminaries. "I don't have to disavow something I have never avowed," he said, referring to the group. Draper maintained he never had embraced the philosophy of takeover and that he always had tried to work within the system when he was on a board of trustees. He said that going through the trustees was the best method and he favored that way during his presidency. — Betty J. Kennedy

On the cover



James T. Draper, newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was born at Hartford, Ark., though he lived there only about six months before his father moved the family to Fort Worth so he could study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Drapers moved back to Arkansas in time for James to start school at Clarksville. A brother, Charles, was born while they lived at Clarksville, but they grew up in Texas.

In this issue

2-8

Southern Baptists heard widely varying viewpoints from many messengers as they met in New Orleans to conduct business in their annual meeting. Reports on that meeting begin on this page and offer information on the spirit of the convention, the facts about the business and some highlights of events that set the tone for the SBC.

12

Senior adults are the focus of a monthly column which begins this week in the ABN. Some articles over the next year will be for senior adults and some will be about this significant group in Baptist churches.

Report sources

Reports of the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans found on the following pages are the work of "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" staff members and other Southern Baptists employed in communications in the SBC.

Dallas pastor named 1983 convention preacher

NEW ORLEANS, June 15 — James L. Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Church, Dallas, was selected Tuesday to preach the annual sermon at the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh, June 12-16.

James C. Wideman, pastor of Screven Memorial Church, Portsmouth, N.H., was named alternate preacher, and William J. Reynolds, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, was selected as music director.

Division and compromise lead to trustee changes

NEW ORLEANS, June 16 — Three trustee nominees of the Committee on Boards were replaced in challenges of the committee report during heated debate Wednesday morning.

In earlier action, the report of the Committee on Committees chaired by Homer Lindsey of Jacksonville, Fla., was adopted by a show of hands, with scattered opposition.

Two nominees to the Sunday School Board from Texas, Don Dillard of Navasota and J. C. Hatfield of San Antonio, were elected in a vote by show of hands. They replaced Harlon Caton of Spring and Elton "Butch" Ikels of San Antonio.

In nominating the replacements, Kenneth Chafin of South Main Church, Houston, said, "When you put someone on the Sunday School Board it would be good if their church uses the literature of the board. I have personally checked with both of these churches and both use other literature in their Sunday Schools."

In the second challenge, Vernon Davis of Alexandria, Va., nominated Ms. Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., to replace Eddie Sellers, Morganton, N.C., as a local member on the board of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest.

In a ballot vote following a show of hands that was too close to call, the amendment to replace Sellers with Gregory passed by a vote of 5,242 to 4,485.

In nominating Gregory, Davis said no local members from Virginia have ever been nominated, although the seminary charter stipulates they may come from a 300-mile radius of Wake Forest, which would include much of Virginia.

"In fairness to Virginia and to enable the state to better support the seminary, we need another trustee," said Davis.

Debate became heated despite SBC President Bailey Smith's earlier ruling that challengers "may not speak negatively about someone you want to replace, only positively about those you want to nominate.

"This is not the place for character assassination," he said.

After the two successful challenges, Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., moved to refer the entire report back to the committee, a motion that was defeated on a ballot vote, 4,687 to 4,351.

"We are treating dangerously on the process we have always sought to follow," said Allen. "This committee needs to do their work in quietness and bring back a report. It is impossible to elect every person to every board from the floor of this convention."

Opposing the motion to refer the report back to the committee, Chafin said he would have supported it if he could be assured that the committee would honor the replacements already approved by the messengers. However, Chafin said he had been told by former president Adrian Rogers of Memphis that Rogers did not believe the committee was bound to honor the votes.

"I would rather trust this report to the messengers of this convention than to a handful of persons in a back room," said Chafin.

Rising to a point of personal privilege, Rogers said, "I'm sorry my friend Ken Chafin tried to do my speaking for me.

"Our conventions are going to be a long ride through ulcer gulch when we try to do the work of a committee. The vote is ours. Committees ought to do the work we have told them to do," said Rogers.

The amended report was adopted with virtually no opposition Thursday morning.

Larry Lewis, president of Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., and a "conservative," moved that the convention vote to approve the amended report.

Lewis said he was joined in the motion by Chafin. Before the motion by Lewis and Chafin, further challenges had been expected.

Following approval of the report, newly elected SBC President James Draper of Euless, Texas, and Committee on Boards Chairman Dan Vestal of Midland, Texas, applauded the actions of Chafin and Lewis.

I am surprised at this peaceful conclusion and feel this will help heal some wounds and let this convention end on a high note," Draper said.

Vestal said he was aware of negotiations but neither he nor the committee was involved. "I am pleased that the compromise came about to bring this decision process to a conclusion. The committee wrestled long and hard in its nominations — they were not decisions easily arrived at," Vestal said.

Lewis said he and Chafin got together after the Wednesday evening session and agreed to jointly move the previous question "rather than turn this convention into a dogfight. My opinion is that 15,000 messengers cannot function as a committee of a whole."

Calling Lewis "a very reasonable man," Chafin said he was willing for debate to end so long as the two amendments approved by messengers were upheld.

Referred to the executive committee for further study and recommendations at the

annual SBC meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., next year was a motion to require the committee on boards to make public its recommendations by publishing them in Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

A separate proposal would likewise require the SBC president to disclose his appointments to the key committee on committees and committee on resolutions 30 days before the annual meeting.

Both motions resulted from the refusal of this year's committee on boards and current SBC president Bailey E. Smith of Del City, Okla., to disclose the information until Tuesday morning the first day of this year's meeting.

In a third move derailed by the action to refer, moderates sought to require the committee on boards not to nominate persons as trustees of denominational agencies who have not lived within the state they are to represent for a least one year before being nominated.

That proposal was clearly aimed at the committees on boards for the past two years, which have nominated several "inertantists" who had only recently moved to other states.

The committee on boards is composed of two representatives from each of 26 state or regional conventions. Those persons in turn receive their nominations from the committee on committees, also composed of two representatives from each of the 26. The committee on committees is appointed by the president.

A fourth proposed bylaws change, apparently not part of the "Moderate" agenda, would place responsibility for the committee on committees directly on the state conventions, requiring each unit to name its own pair of representatives.

All four proposed bylaws changes were referred after a motion by retired SBC executive secretary-treasurer Porter W. Routh of Nashville, Tenn.

Moderate leader Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., said after the referral action:

"This convention needs some bylaws that will require our committees and our president to inform us of their actions weeks in advance. We are in favor of the fullest information and its earliest possible disclosure.

If the executive committee were to approve any or all of the referred proposals, messengers to the next two annual meetings in Pittsburgh and Kansas City, Mo., would still have to approve them.

Also, a number of resolutions adopted by the body followed heated debates. Resolutions are reported in a separate story.

Messengers adopt resolutions amidst heated debate

NEW ORLEANS — The 20,000-plus messengers at the 125th annual Southern Baptist Convention continued an early trend of showing themselves to be a double-minded lot on the last day of the convention. Factions described as "moderate" and "conservative" each notched wins in often heated debate acting on the report of the convention's committee on resolutions.

Resolutions favoring a constitutional school prayer amendment, legislation to prohibit abortion except to save the physical life of the mother, the teaching of scientific creationism in public schools and tuition tax credits for parents of children in private schools all were adopted with hand clapping and whistles from the so-called conservative bloc of voters.

Their opponents, however, succeeded in watering down and finally tabling a resolution on support of Israel, substituting a reprimand to Baptist Press agencies for releasing the names of a Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees report against the committee's wishes to a directive to the committee to in the future release its reports voluntarily, and in passing a "peace with justice" resolution amended to call for mutually discernible methods of disarmament.

Other resolutions on hunger, TV programming, and opposition to a Constitutional Convention also gained approval among the 24 resolutions acted upon by the full convention body.

A total of 45 resolutions were submitted

to a 10-member committee on resolutions for study. The group selected the resolutions to be brought to the floor for debate. Resolutions approved by the messengers are not binding in any way, but are designed only to express the opinions of messengers at the time of the convention. One Arkansas, evangelist Sam Cathey from Hot Springs, was a member of the resolutions committee.

A number of volatile issues were addressed in resolutions, and several attempts were made to cease discussion on all and part of the proposed resolutions.

One, a resolution recognizing the Jews as "the chosen people of God through which he would initiate and culminate his redemptive program," urged the U.S. to "publicly and privately assure both Israel and her enemies of our resolve as a nation that Israel will dwell in her own land secure."

Opposition was voiced to the resolution, claiming that the theology of Israel worded

in the resolution was held by some, but not all Baptists, and that the resolution appeared to condone Israel's recent invasion of Lebanon. An amendment added that Southern Baptists urge the nation Israel to use peaceful means to resolve its disputes.

The resolution was finally tabled, after being referred back to the resolutions committee, when the author of the resolution admitted it was too controversial to be resolved on the floor.

A dogfight atmosphere ruled the discussion on resolutions, with a few exceptions. One resolution, "on criticism of the U.S. president," would have been an apology by the convention on behalf of James M. Dunn, head of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, for a statement he made criticizing President Reagan's stance on school prayer. The resolution was tabled, however, with little fuss.

Discussion was heated, though, before a resolution favoring a prayer amendment to

Convention speaker seeks move from controversy

NEW ORLEANS, June 16 — Former seminarian William E. Hull urged messengers to the 125th annual Southern Baptist convention to move away from the controversy over biblical inerrancy by coming to terms with who Southern Baptists are.

Preaching the convention sermon at the Superdome here, Hull, pastor of First Church, Shreveport, La., pointed to the Southern Baptist Convention logo as a tool for understanding denominational identity. The symbols of that logo are an open book (the Bible), the world and the cross.

"We have a book in our hands," Hull declared. "We have a lost world in our eyes and we have a cross of love in our hearts."

Hull, a former professor and dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said many came to the convention convinced that Southern Baptists were "going to live out a great drama of a fight to the finish between the so-called liberals and the so-called conservatives."

That scenario, Hull warned, would create good media copy, get the denomination in the headlines and feed the rumor mills, but it "is not God's plan for Southern Baptists."

Hull said the Bible is the foundation of who Baptists are.

"Baptists are first, and foremost, a People of the Word," he said.

"Outside the Bible, we know nothing normative or significant about Christ," he said. "In the Bible we know more than we could learn in a lifetime."

He addressed the issue of biblical authority which has been the focus of much of the convention's controversy.

"The Bible is authoritative because Jesus Christ said 'all authority is given unto me' and He lives through his holy Word.

"The Bible is the Word of God and when we call it the Word of God we are confessing that Jesus Christ was the Word made flesh and dwelling among us," he said. "When we say the Bible is inerrant, we are saying He inerringly leads us to the Father. When we say the Bible is infallible, we are saying he never fails to bring us to God."

Near the end of his sermon, Hull drew loud applause when he declared, "Every Baptist I know believes everything the Bible teaches about itself."

Southern Baptists' mission, Hull said, is the world. The denomination's desire to win the world for Christ is not because they are prepared historically or organizationally to accomplish it, "but because we are commanded to do it Biblically," he said.

The logo's third symbol is the cross which for Baptists, Hull said, "means that no price is too great, no sacrifice too costly, no suffering too painful to accomplish our mission of proclaiming the whole Word to the whole world."

Hull again drew applause when he declared that Southern Baptists "are not a political action movement, or a single issue pressure group or a lobbying group." Instead, "We are a group of people trying to love the world into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ."



Chris Fast of Kenner, La. and Ed Lewis, Talihina, Okla., stand on the steps of a New Orleans home to deliver a Christian witness to the resident. As it turned out the lady was also a Southern Baptist.

the U.S. Constitution was adopted. An attempt to amend the resolution to reaffirm the convention's 1980 position on prayer was defeated. The resolution favoring the teaching of scientific creationism in public schools was also passed, despite protests. Messengers arguing separation of church and state attempted to amend a resolution expressing support for tuition tax credits, but it passed as presented by the committee.

BICPA executive director Dunn, in an impromptu press conference moments after the prayer resolution passed, decried the convention's action as "a complete turnaround from our distinctive Baptist heritage."

"I think it is incredibly out of keeping with the historic Baptist thinking," he said.

Dunn interpreted the vote as reflecting the current mood of the country favoring the nationalizing of religion. Baptists are a grassroots people, he said, and political

trends have a history of showing up in Baptist thought. "We have a history of reflecting culture more than affecting culture," Dunn said.

Other resolutions thanked the host city and state convention for the annual meeting, expressed regret to president Bailey Smith about a secular newspaper breaking an embargo date on an advance of his address, committed support to another evangelistic thrust to the 1983 Convention in Pittsburgh, Penn., asked television programmers to "act in corporately responsible citizenship" in regards to programming, expressed concern about the nation's current economic condition, pledged to meet a challenge in new work areas, supported keeping the Lord's Day, expressed support for jail and prison ministries and concern for families, affirmed a stance against the sale or consumption of alcohol, pledged support for the American Bible Society and opposed the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. — Bob Allen

Smith brings messengers to feet, then knees

NEW ORLEANS, June 15 — Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith brought messengers to their feet in a standing ovation Tuesday in the Superdome and then to their knees in prayer following a clarion call to loyalty to the Bible as the "holy, infallible, inerrant Word of God."

Following the outline of his printed text, Smith told messengers to the 125th convention, "We are not great because we are Southern Baptists. We have a great loyalty to this book (Bible). The day we quit having loyalty to this great book, we shall cease being a great denomination."

At the outset of his message, Smith noted that the *Houston Chronicle* had run a page 1 story on his convention sermon a week before the convention, ignoring the requested June 15 release time.

"I really do not object to my sermon being on the front page," Smith quipped, holding the paper aloft. "I've read this newspaper many times and this is the best stuff I've ever read."

Noting that some persons had advised him he has a legal right to sue the newspaper, Smith said, "We've got more to deal with in this convention than hurt feelings. A Christian doesn't do what he has a right to do; a Christian does what Jesus would do."

Smith garnered the greatest applause for a series of statements he called "inexcusable" actions for Southern Baptists.

"It is inexcusable for a Southern Baptist

to say he is a humanist and proud of it. It is inexcusable for Southern Baptists to pray for the opening of a brewery. It is inexcusable for a Southern Baptist to say Genesis is political rhetoric and not historical fact. It is inexcusable for a Southern Baptist to teach evolution in our schools. It is inexcusable that any Southern Baptist would social drink and have no shame about it."

Smith warned that if Southern Baptists are successful in sharing the gospel with the world by the year 2000, "there are some marriages that will not work."

Elaborating, Smith said, "We cannot wed missions to liberalism; evangelism to liturgical worship; spiritual power to high church music; Holy Ghost unction to sleepy sermons; or transformed lives to skeptical preachers. We must not be bland, benign, bickering Baptists but bold, believing, Bible Baptists."

Calling for a priority on winning people to Christ instead of "the deadness of the so-called social gospel," Smith asked, "What good have we done if we make all the world fat and they go to hell?"

Smith said the greatest problem among Southern Baptists is not liberalism but a loss of vitality of faith.

"I believe this denomination has the strength and power to win the world to Jesus Christ. But if we lost our fire, who will do it?" he asked, departing from his text.

Messengers comply with registration rules

NEW ORLEANS, June 15 — Messengers are responding positively to latest efforts to "preserve the registration and balloting system" of the Southern Baptist Convention, Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, said Tuesday morning.

Porter quoted Bylaw 8 of the convention's constitution, which says, "Each messenger shall register in person by presenting a completed and signed Southern Baptist Convention messenger registration card."

This year and last, the convention credentials committee has "relaxed" the rule by accepting letters and telegrams from churches instead of official registration cards if messengers do not have the cards, Porter said.

"We are not allowing them to write their own credentials," he added. "Our constitution says that one Baptist body must relate to another Baptist body. We're only asking that churches certify to us their messengers."

Porter said some pastors have tried to certify themselves but explained that they, too, had to have official church certification because not doing so "would discriminate against laypeople."

Following a trend of increasing compliance with the bylaw, only about five percent of all messengers have attempted to register without registration cards and only one percent have tried to register without registration cards or official church letters, he said.

As of noon Tuesday, the credentials committee had received 241 telegrams from churches certifying 497 messengers, he added.

Porter said the latest version of the bylaw, enacted in 1980, is only the latest in a long series of moves designed to maintain the integrity and validity of the convention's procedure for certifying messengers to the annual meeting of the largest non-Catholic religious body in the United States.

The first major change came in 1965, when the convention began using computer ballots to tabulate votes. The previous year, persons took scraps of paper and wrote the names of candidates they supported for office, a process which led to accusations of ballot box stuffing.

In the late 1960's, convention officials were fearful that outside groups might attempt the convention and vote in an attempt to negatively affect elections. And in the early 70's, allegations circulated that churches registered more than their allotted share of messengers. Both situations led to more controls, Porter said.

The latest tightening of registration procedures was enacted after the 1979 convention in Houston, Texas, and charges of widespread voting irregularities.



An estimated 42,000 persons poured into the Louisiana Superdome for a Sunday night evangelistic meeting featuring evangelist Billy Graham and U.S. Vice President George Bush (in photo on magnification screen at top). About 2,000 responded to an invitation by Graham to accept Christ as savior and Lord. A strong evangelistic push in New Orleans in conjunction with the convention's pastors' conference was designed to set the mood for the 125th annual gathering of Southern Baptists.

Baptists adopt first \$100 million-plus budget

NEW ORLEANS, June 15 — The Southern Baptist Convention adopted its first \$100 million-plus budget Tuesday morning during the opening session of its 125th meeting at the Superdome.

The \$106 million Cooperative Program Allocation Budget was one of a series of recommendations from the convention's 67-member Executive Committee approved by messengers.

The 1982-83 budget includes \$96,635,000 allocated for the basic operating needs, \$3,365,000 for capital needs, and \$6,000,000 for a challenge phase. Total budget for 1981-82 was \$93,000,000.

After uncontested approval of the record budget, convention messengers overwhelmingly rejected an Executive Committee recommendation requiring that one of the denomination's top three elected officers be a layperson. The proposed amendment to the SBC constitution had been approved on its first reading at last year's annual meeting in Los Angeles.

Two messengers who spoke against the amendment, however, expressed concern that the proposed change would impinge on God's leadership and the will of the convention's messengers in electing officers. One messenger stressed that convention representatives "need to continue to be led by the spirit of God and not by the laws of men."

In another part of the report, Executive Committee executive secretary-treasurer Harold C. Bennett of Nashville, Tenn., noted several items referred to the Executive Committee during last year's convention. One of those motions recommended that Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, be granted agency status in order to ensure complete editorial freedom.

After considerable study, however, the Executive Committee voted earlier in the year to continue its operation of Baptist

Press. In its recommendation, the committee underscored the need for Baptist Press to function with the "freedom necessary to maintain credibility and effectiveness."

According to allocations provided in the 1982-83 budget approved by the convention, a total of more than \$66,800,000 will fund the work of the denomination's Foreign and Home Mission Boards. Another \$20.5 million will help support the convention's six seminaries.

The remainder of the \$96.6 million Cooperative Program operating budget will be divided among the other 10 SBC boards, commissions and committees. The Sunday School Board operates on revenues generated by its various services rather than Cooperative Program funds.

A set of ambitious goals in evangelism, missions, education and financial support comprised one of 13 recommendations presented by the Executive Committee during the second of two reports. Another related recommendation dealt with a report on progress toward Bold Mission Thrust program objectives for 1979-82.

After stumbling over a portion of the first recommendation of the afternoon, convention messengers rolled through the next 12 recommendations in one-half hour.

The convention approved recommendations related to contingency reserve funds for three commissions and charter revisions for two other institutions. It also established St. Louis as the site of the 1987 annual meeting and San Antonio as the 1990 site, unless that city can be made available for 1988 or 1989.

After lengthy discussion, messengers overwhelmingly defeated a brief addition to one section of the convention's constitution which would have allowed governing groups of agencies to delegate to their elected committees "such authority as the governing group deems appropriate."

Several messengers voiced concern that such wording would possibly vest too much of an institution's authority in only a handful of its board members.

After turning thumbs down on the initial part of the recommendation, messengers did approve an addition to the constitution establishing 50 percent of the members of an institution's governing group as a quorum for transacting business.

In the afternoon session, messengers approved a resolution from the Executive Committee honoring Duke K. McCall, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and president of the Baptist World Alliance, for "significant contributions" to Southern Baptists.

McCall retired early this year after three decades as president of the seminary. He and his wife, Marguerite, were presented before a standing ovation in the New Orleans Superdome.

The goals for the 1985-90 phase of Bold Mission Thrust include a 10 percent increase per year in baptisms, organization of 5,000 new churches by Sept. 30, 1990, enrollment of 10 million persons in Bible study by the same date and an increase of 3,000 new students in seminary training during 1985-90.

Other goals for 1990 include three million persons in missions education, 7,660 missionaries in the United States and abroad and 200,000 short-term mission volunteers.

A final goal called upon churches to increase gifts to the Cooperative Program by a minimum of one percentage point of each church's undesignated gifts every year.

In its report on Bold Mission Thrust implementation during 1979-82, the Executive Committee expressed gratitude for progress achieved, though only two of the program's lofty goals — gifts to special missions offerings and associational missions — were reached.

1982 convention:
committed to missions and evangelism

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Though disagreement was evident at the 1982 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, most of the messengers did conduct themselves courteously. Apparently, some would like to have controlled the actions of all of the messengers at the New Orleans convention; however, the voting proved once more that no individual can control or speak for all Southern Baptists. This, along with our total commitment to missions and evangelism, shows that we have not veered from our historic roots.

The matter which drew the most attention was the election of a new president. James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church, Euless, Tex., was elected on a second ballot. We believe that Dr. Draper will serve Southern Baptists well. He is a man of integrity and a great Bible preacher. He expressed the desire to unify all Southern Baptists. "The dream in my heart," he said, "is to get Southern Baptists talking to each other, not about each other."

Dr. Draper's evangelistic fervor and organizational ability will be valuable to him in his role as president. Both have been proven in the excellent growth which has been experienced by the churches he has served as pastor. He has, also, had a great deal of denominational experience and is a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program. Currently, his church is giving 11 percent to world missions through the Cooperative Program.

Perhaps the area which will be most helpful to Dr. Draper, as our leader, is his excellent spirit. He is gentle, honest and open.

Dr. Draper promised to have close consultation with the vice presidents. Such consultation will be beneficial to all. Dr. John Sullivan, for example, elected first vice president, has a great deal of denominational experience which will be exceedingly helpful to our denomination.

The budget and the Bold Mission goal were passed without question. These two items will probably have more impact on the work of Southern Baptists than any other decision made at the convention. The passage of the budget assures that all of the interests of Baptists will continue, while the Bold Mission goal will set our priorities in missions and evangelism through 1990.

Out-going President Bailey Smith should be commended for presiding with an even hand and a loving spirit. The differences of opinion could have proven harmful to the work of Southern Baptists had the presiding officer not moderated fairly.

Disagreement was, perhaps, most evident when the report on the boards, agencies and institutions were presented. The names of several nominees were replaced. In some instances ballots were required to determine the results so evenly divided were the messengers on this issue.

The convention, as always, had great preaching. Both Bailey Smith and William Hull are to be commended on outstanding messages. Each challenged Southern Baptists to evangelistic commitment. Dr. Hull, who preached the annual sermon, called for unity and commitment to our historic purposes. "Our logo," he said, "tells something of what it means to be a Southern Baptist." He observed that the now familiar design shows: (1) our message, the Bible; (2) our mission, the world; and (3) our motive, the cross.

The people of New Orleans are to be commended for their courtesy to those who attended the Southern Baptist Convention. A good host city greatly improves the disposition of those attending any convention. Had the local people been less courteous, the spirit of the convention would have been less congenial.

The sound in the Superdome was poor. It is exceedingly difficult to find a place large enough to accommodate the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention where all the facilities are adequate for our needs. The average number of messengers attending our conventions is increasing, though, in some years attendance has been down, the trend is upward. This year's convention was the second largest in our history (20,437 on Thursday afternoon), and the increase is to be expected as the denomination grows.

We believe that the convention closed with most messengers committed to cooperation. We believe that Dr. Draper's hope of more talk with each other and less about each other can be realized, because Southern Baptists are committed to their historic purpose of missions and evangelism.

Cooperative Program report 1982

Budget plus or minus January-May

Monthly budget	\$759,888.73	1977	- 63,482.94
May gifts	675,970.68	1978	- 28,221.93
Over (under)	(83,918.05)	1979	- 75,923.82
		1980	+ 81,152.33
Budget year-to-date	\$3,799,443.65	1981	+ 89,949.31
Gifts year-to-date	3,673,858.85	1982	-125,584.80
Over (under)	(125,584.80)		

May 1981, was an exceptional month with \$742,414.02 for Cooperative Program ministries. May 1982, due to sluggish economy and high unemployment, was also an exceptional month with gifts falling \$83,918.05 below budget. Though short of the budget to date, gifts of 6.88 percent above a year ago are ahead of May's inflation rate of 6.6 percent. January-May receipts total 96.69 percent of budget requirements.

Surinam Baptists plan to double

PARAMARIBO, Surinam — Surinamese Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries recently mapped a three-year evangelistic strategy to double the membership of the four churches of the United Baptist Organization of Surinam. This was the first strategy meeting involving both Surinamese and missionaries. Mission Service Corps volunteers Loyd Corder, retired Home Mission Board staff member, and his wife, Trudy, led sessions on the workings of Baptist associations. Corder's ventriloquist dummy, "Joe the Baptist," entertained the 27 strategy session participants.

Executive committee elects officers

NEW ORLEANS, June 16 — The Southern Baptist Convention executive committee re-elected John T. Dunaway of Corbin, Ky., as its chairman Wednesday during a second and final session held during the annual meeting of the 13.7 million member denomination.

Dunaway, pastor of First Church, assumed the post last September, filling a vacancy created when the former chairman, Howard Cobble, moved from Georgia to Kentucky and could no longer represent Georgia on the committee.

Committee members also elected Dewey Presley of Dallas, Texas, as vice chairman. They re-elected Lois Wegner of Orlando, Fla., as recording secretary and Harold Bennett of Nashville, Tenn., as executive secretary-treasurer.

All elections were without opposition. The committee adopted a series of recommendations and reports ranging from retirement programs to a proposal for a new SBC building. The only hitch in the afternoon's proceedings came in response to an appeal for denominational unity issued by

a five-member coalition of Southern Baptist laypersons.

In the group's "Statement of Lay Concerns," Andrew L. Rainey of Gulfport, Miss., decried widening disharmony within the nation's largest evangelical denomination.

The statement lamented division created by "factions (who) through their adamant positions and their evident desire to publicize their positions and beliefs are dangerously close to falling into a trap set by Satan to disrupt our Convention and keep us from performing the things we have come to New Orleans to do."

After considerable discussion, the committee unanimously approved a motion by SBC President Bailey Smith expressing gratitude for "every expression of loving concern and that we also support every effort possible to make this a peaceful convention."

In its final action, the Executive Committee adopted without discussion a motion requesting that "all press representatives honor the embargo printed on speeches re-

leased prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention until the speeches have been delivered."

The resolution was a response to a front-page story recently in the *Houston Chronicle* which quoted from the printed text of Smith's presidential address. Smith did not deliver the sermon until Tuesday morning.

In an interview following the business meeting, Smith said the story quoted his address accurately but that its release prior to the convention was a "horrible, unethical thing." He said he understood the speech was "circulated by a group of moderates."

Though he indicated that "this kind of thing has never happened to me before," Smith said he was "hurt more than surprised."

Executive Committee chairman John T. Dunaway of Corbin, Ky., who presented the motion, said the problem was one of integrity.

"The newspaper wouldn't have received the speech without someone circulating it," Dunaway said.

Foreign mission briefs

New church born in Ibadan

IBADAN, Nigeria — A new English-language Baptist church meeting at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, almost filled one of the chemistry lecture halls when he visited there in early February, says Farrell Runyan, the Foreign Mission Board's church growth consultant for Africa. The church was started by S. T. Ola Akande, general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, apparently in response to a large mosque being built on campus, says Runyan.

Sunday School clinics held in Philippines

DAVAO CITY, Philippines — In recent months 17 Sunday School clinics have been conducted on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The clinics, attended by 835 representatives from 266 churches, follow an island-wide Sunday School conference held last summer to train association leaders to conduct the clinics in each association and major geographic area of the island.

Rapid church growth continues in Mindanao

MANILA, Philippines — Baptist church growth for the Mindanao-Visayas Convention of the Philippines has increased 338 percent since 1974, according to Southern Baptist missionary statistician Jim Slack. Since 1975, 187 new churches have started

in the large southern island of the Philippines and several smaller islands to the north. Slack estimates that the total number of churches for the Philippines should pass 700, with membership at 60,000, when all 1981 statistics are compiled. 1980 records show one baptism for every 3.8 church members, making Baptist work in the Philippines the most rapidly growing in Southeast Asia.

Taiwan Baptists, missionaries plan 54 churches

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Nearly 100 Chinese Baptist pastors and lay leaders joined 18 missionaries for a March seminar on planting new churches. The group studied methods of beginning new work and pinpointed 54 towns, districts or communities as locations for churches. The seminar was part of Bold Mission Taiwan, a joint effort by Chinese Baptists, Missouri Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries to evangelize Taiwan, train leaders and start churches.

Voltaic convention taps five ethnic groups

OUAGADOUGOU, Upper Volta — In a show of unity absent in their first two convention meetings, the Baptist Convention of Upper Volta recently elected a slate of six officers representing five of the country's ethnic groups. They elected Francois Kabore, evangelist from Sanwado, as

convention president. Francois asked Baptists to start work in Sanwado and neighboring villages after seeing the need for witness there during a trip to find a wife. Today Southern Baptist missionaries and Tennessee Baptists are carrying out a major development project in the area. About 50 churches were represented in the meeting of the five-year-old convention.

Singapore churches begin new units

SINGAPORE — The Baptist Centre for Urban Studies, an arm of the Singapore Baptist Convention reports that Singapore churches already have started half of 10 new worship units projected for 1982. A worship unit is defined as an extension, a satellite, a new language congregation or an additional worship service in an existing church. The urban studies center provides resources for churches to start new work.

Flooding strikes Brazilian churches

MONTE CLAROS, Brazil — Heavy February flooding damaged Baptist churches in two Brazilian states and left numerous families homeless. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$2,000 in disaster relief funds to repair two churches and several missions in Minas Gerais and Goias. Another \$6,000 went to aid four flood-stricken families in Goias.



The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

The philosophical force underlying sociological law

It is not remarkable that it took almost 200 years for the Supreme Court to suddenly discover that Bible-reading and prayer in the public classroom are "unconstitutional"? Neither the Constitution nor the Supreme Court are new entities; they have both been around since the founding of the nation. Why then did almost 200 years transpire before it was suddenly discovered that the presence of Judeo-Christian symbols and influences in the classroom is unconstitutional?

Schaeffer, Ball, and others contend that the mystery can be explained by a shift in philosophical base on the part of the courts — a shift from Judeo-Christian to Humanistic, from absolute to relative, from constitutional law to sociological law.

The Christian citizen should view with alarm the contemporary transition which American law is presently undergoing and resist it with all vigor. If pressed to its logical extremes, it threatens the eradication of every vestige of the Judeo-Christian tradition and value system.

Harold O. J. Brown, after noting that the courts have made public education prog-

ressively more militantly secular, raises the following pertinent questions:

"Could such a policy be promoted by any elected officials? No. Could it pass a referendum in any state, or in the country as a whole? No. Is it in any plausible sense ordered by the Constitution or by laws? No. Does it represent the will of the people? No.

Why then do we have it? Because government by court, having turned away from the mainstream of our spiritual and ethical heritage in the Judeo-Christian tradition, is attempting to reconstitute moral principles by deriving them from, or rather reading them into, the federal constitution."

I do not wish to be misunderstood. I am not advocating specified religious rituals in the public schools. But I do regard with fear recent court decisions which have dispossessed our Judeo-Christian heritage and established in its place the notions and values of secular humanism.

I am arrested by Brown's question, "How long will it take Americans to realize that 'separation of church and state'.... in the exaggerated form which the Supreme Court

has now cast it, is a device for relegating religion and those who take it seriously to the fringes of national life?"

D. Jack Nicholas is president of Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge.

Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

What do you consider the most frequent cause of emotional stress?

It is difficult to determine a single factor in an atmosphere of emotional turmoil. Interrelated events and dysfunction can grow into a web of complicated entanglements. Problems of minor proportions can escalate to traumatic crisis when left unresolved. Such can be noted in church problems as well as in individual experience. Learning to face problems and discover resources in resolving them is an important ingredient for functional living.

Perhaps there is no single factor in emotional stress more frequent than an inadequate self-concept. For one to have an adequate self-concept it is significant that they have a sense of identity. The biblical revelation is a credible source in the discovery of an appropriate identity.

The Bible indicates the essential dignity of humanity made in the image of God and living in relationship with him and with others. In the scriptures one discovers an essential worth by an assessment of relational value. Individuals often feel rejected by others and then identify with that rejection. This is especially true if the rejection comes from a significant other where love is anticipated. Until the rejection is dealt with it is difficult for one to develop an appropriate self-concept.

Dr. Glen McGriff is director of the Ministry of Crisis Support with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Inquiries, comments or questions to be used anonymously in this column should be sent to Questions, Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Towers Building, Suite 660, 9601 Life Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.



McGriff

Southern board increases scholarship value

The Southern Baptist College board of trustees voted April 30 to increase the value of the Church-Matching Scholarship for students attending SBC this fall.

The scholarship has been valued at \$100 for the academic year, but will be \$200 for the 1982-83 year. As in the past, one-half of this award is contributed by the student's home church. This new policy permits SBC to match any gift, up to \$50 per semester, for any student regardless of religious denomination.

The Board also voted to offer "full" tuition, fees, room, and board to dependents of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and students from the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. Awards would be made from a combination of federal, state, institution, and agency funds.

Southern offers a variety of other scholarship assistance. Pastors and students should contact the financial aid office for applications or additional information. (886-6741).

MK Prayer Calendar

Home and foreign Missionary Kids who attend college on the Margaret Fund

July

- 1 John G. Wilson (S. Brazil) OBU Box 556, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 8 Randy Reynolds (Botswana) P.O. Box 34, Alicia, AR 72410
- 11 Vince Everhart (Korea) OBU Box 55, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 11 James (Chip) Wolf (Taiwan) JBU Box 2495, Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(summer address: Rt. 1, Box 210, Watts, OK 74964)
- 16 Kenny Garvin (Uganda) HSU Box H-45, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 17 Christy Lindstrom (Venezuela) OBU Box 1404, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(summer address: R.R. 2, Fleming, CO 80728)

Your state convention at work

Evangelism

The Continued Witness Training encourager process

One of the greatest needs of our evangelism is conservation and follow up. One of the most encouraging facets of the Continued Witness Training process is in the area of encouragers.

The purpose of encouragers is to help new Christians mature in the faith through Bible study, worship, and witnessing. The encourager uses the tool, "The Survival Kit for New Christians", written by Ralph W. Neighbor Jr.

The enlistment of encouragers is tremendously important. The Sunday School ideally provides encouragers who match up age-wise to each new Christian. Sunday School outreach leaders must understand the



Shell

process and willingly promote it in the need for encouragers. Commitment of encouragers to train and serve utilizing commitment cards should be required. The enlistment process demands pastor and leadership promotion and support.

Training of encouragers requires at least one hour with them personally. The questions asked and answered in the training process are as follows: Why through the Sunday School? Who is assigned an encourager? What is a survival kit? What does an encourager do and how does the encourager process work?

We believe the encourager can help revolutionize the maturing process for the new Christian. I am convinced that this is one of the most valuable assets of the CWT process.

If you want your church involved in this process, contact me at the Baptist Building. — Clarence Shell Jr., director

Christian Life Council

I am pregnant!

That was the brief but tragic message King David received from Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:5). The sad consequences of their illicit relationship are well known to students of the Bible. The worst result was David's murder of Uriah, the woman's noble husband.

God created sex to be beautiful and clean. It has too often been made ugly and dirty. Satan works at his best here. He makes illicit sex appear attractive and wonderful. He subtly deceives and rarely, to begin with, do those who stray from God's purposes view illicit sex as wrong.

Today, countless teenage girls and adult women continue to tell illicit lovers, "I am pregnant." The consequences are rarely so dramatic as those affecting David and Bathsheba. Psychiatrists, psychologists, pastors and others often attest that the tragic reap-

ing usually comes later in life. This is particularly true regarding teenage girls. Ordinarily the female bears the brunt of the consequences. Parents of young males should early instill moral principles regarding human sexuality. Best of all, they need to present living, loving examples of godly living as the Judeo-Christian ethic is honored in marriage.

Youth often justify actions by adult example. For instance, if dad or mom get their chemical highs from alcohol, why can't we? Or, why not "pot" etc...? Again, the young person reasons, if my folks don't set a proper example regarding sexual relationships, why should I?

"Train up a child in the way he should go..." (Prov. 22:6) is still good advice for adults. — Bob Parker, director

Missions: Church Extension

Pentecost Sunday: A Convention-Wide New Work Commitment Day

There are 75 million Americans who belong to no church. Your local Baptist Church and Baptist Association are encouraged to join efforts with the Church Extension Department in reaching as many of these persons as possible for Christ.

May 23, 1983 has been designated as Pentecost Sunday: a Convention-wide New Work Commitment Day. The goal is for at least 3,000 Southern Baptist Churches to commit themselves that day to starting a new church-type mission during the 1983-84 convention year. A significant number of these will be ethnic or black mission churches.

This convention-wide start new work campaign will be implemented through associational state new work campaigns, mission revivals, language missions laser penetration, Brotherhood and church planting teams, summer seminars, church planter apprentices and bi-vocational pastors.

Watch your *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, your associational office, and your state and convention periodicals for publicity and assistance to implement the Pentecost Sunday Campaign. Plan now to be a part of this crucial convention-wide emphasis. — Lehman F. Webb, director

Family and Child Care Services

Thank you for your response

On July 23, 1981, an article appeared in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* in which I asked you to provide beefs for our children. The article closed by saying, "I will be waiting for your call."

The response was immediate. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many of you.

In 11 months that have passed we have received 17 beefs. Two others are committed for delivery this summer. Money in the amount of \$2,128.87 has been given to purchase beef and pork. We have also received two hogs.

What is a meal without rice? ... especially in Arkansas. Two people have given us a total of 300 pounds of rice. I am sure others will respond accordingly as we have need.

Woodland Heights Church, Harrison, has another potato crop

coming on. I am confident others will continue to respond by giving beef, pork, and rice.

If some individual or church group wishes to become involved in this mission enterprise you may contact me at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone: 376-4791, or Charlie Belknap, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, AR 71655, phone: 367-5358. We will provide information on current needs and on butchering and delivery procedures.

Thank you, Arkansas Baptists, for your generous response. Obviously this is just a fraction of the tremendous support you provide for the hundreds of children we help annually. — Homer W. Shirley Jr., director of development

Sunday School

Sunday School planning

A church may or may not plan its program for a year in advance. But some members plan activities to be implemented in the upcoming year. Why not do it right?

One of the best ways to plan is through a church council. This council in turn looks to organizational planning groups to help design the church program and calendar of events. A key planning group is the Sunday School council. Freddie Pike says that every church has a Sunday School council, if it uses it or not. What does he mean? This means every church has a potential function-



Hatfield

ing Sunday School council. The council is made up of the pastor, director, other general officers and department directors. In larger churches age group division directors are on the council in place of department directors. In smaller churches teachers of adult and youth classes and directors of Children's and Preschool departments are on the council.

The best tool available for Sunday School planning is *The Sunday School Planbook, 1982-83*. It is free in your upcoming Associational Church Growth Workshop or can be purchased at the Baptist Book Store. This book is designed to help the Sunday School council set goals. The nine growth actions are listed and a growth spiral is in the book as well as a budget plan sheet. Plan to plan, then plan. — Lawson Hatfield, director

Arkansas all over

Lindsay W. Crain

began serving June 13 as pastor of the Westside Mission in Pine Bluff. A native of Texarkana, he attended Texarkana Community College, Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has previously served on the staff of Arkansas and Texas churches. He served in the summer of 1976 under Home Mission Board appointment in a coffee house ministry at Hampton Beach, N. H. Crain is married to the former Andress Bowman. They have one son, Caleb Andrew.

Mike Keen

has accepted a position as summer youth



Crain

director at Ward First Church. A native of Magnolia, he is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Millie Williams

was honored June 6 by Searcy First Church. She was presented with a silver tea service and a reception was given in recognition of her 25 years of service as church secretary.

Clyde Gray

is serving as pastor of the Marlbrook Church at Blevins. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Gray and his wife, Sharon, have two daughters, Jennifer and Marcie.

Wayne Smith

resigned June 1 as pastor of the Sparkman First Church following a more than four year pastorate there. He is now serving as a chaplain at Oral Roberts University.

Ben G. Pilgreen

has resigned as minister of music/senior adults at Fordyce First Church.

people

My impressions of Boyce Bible School

by Larry Maddox

I am enthusiastic in my endorsement of the Boyce Bible School Center in Little Rock. It fulfills a vital need in the area of theological education. My enthusiasm grows out of a personally gratifying experience as a teacher there this spring.

I am impressed by the efficient and effective administrative leadership of Ralph Davis, director of the center; by the quality of the faculty he enlists; and by the practical value of the subjects taught.

But most of all, I am impressed by the students who attend classes at the center. They are deeply committed to Christian ministry and are in earnest about training to improve their ministry skills. They are eager to learn, open and receptive to new ideas. They participate in class discussion with enthusiasm. They demonstrate both knowledge and ability in their assignments. They are generous with their appreciation and praise.

I am looking forward to serving on the faculty again next spring.

Dr. Larry Maddox is pastor at Second Church of Little Rock.



Maddox

briefly

Marlbrook Church

at Blevins was in revival June 14-20. Dexter Blevins of Norman, Okla., and Randy Garner of Arkadelphia were leaders. Clyde Gray is pastor.

Bethany Church

at Blytheville was in a recent revival that resulted in 10 professions of faith. Randy Markham of Kansas City, Mo., was evangelist. Gary Hyde is pastor.

White River Association

Woman's Missionary Union recently installed officers for 1982-83 in a meeting at East Side Church in Mountain Home. New officers are Phyllis Powers, director; Bonnie Margason, assistant director; Mary Lou Ross, secretary; Maxine Raymond, pianist and Bernice Boyd, music director. Directors are Lucille Price, mission action; Alice King, Baptist Women; Pat Bilyeu, Baptist Young Women; Louise Melton, Acteen; Lola Melton, Girls in Action and Martha Backus,

Mission Friend. Director of Missions Ed Powers led the prayer of dedication for those installed.

Program personalities for the day were Judy Alstatt and Debbie and Barney Larry mission volunteers.

buildings

Levy Church

in North Little Rock marked the beginning of a construction program with a groundbreaking service June 6. A two story educational building with a fellowship hall is to be constructed at a cost of approximately \$450,000. Bob Moore is serving as building committee chairman, assisted by Bill Brown, Ann Stone, Clarence Walker and Reba Wetzler. Pastor Otto J. Brown reports that a fund raising program is in progress to pay for the structure, \$230,000 pledged to date.

'Blue law' ruling worries Lord's Day group

The executive committee of the Lord's Day Alliance of Arkansas, a multi-denominational organization aimed at promoting the voluntary observance of Sunday as a "day of rest, renewal, worship and religious education," has issued a statement in response to a recent Arkansas Supreme Court ruling striking down the state's Sunday closing law.

The statement, signed by Lord's Day Alliance President Larry Maddox, pastor of Little Rock Second Church, says the court's ruling on the so-called blue law "heightens our concern at several points:"

—That the ruling will lead to Sunday becoming a "wide-open, business-as-usual" day across the state;

—That businessmen who would prefer to remain closed on Sunday will be forced to open to meet competition to maintain their share of a market; and

—That many employees will be put in a position of being forced to choose between their jobs and church attendance.

"We recognize that in our pluralistic society," the statement reads, "Sabbath ob-

servance, as imperative and as morally significant as it is, must be sustained by personal conviction and commitment aided by religious custom and teaching rather than by legislative supports."

However, the group maintains that government can legislate a uniform day of rest "solely on humanitarian grounds."

The statement applauded the owners of stores at the Central Mall and the Phoenix Village Mall in Fort Smith, who have announced they will not open Sundays despite the court's ruling. "We urge other businesses in the state to follow their example," the committee stated.

The statement emphasized that the primary purpose of the Lord's Day Alliance is to encourage voluntary observance of Sunday as the Sabbath day.

The group organized this year, electing a slate of officers at its third meeting April 14. The Alliance is scheduled to hold its first regular meeting in October. Long range plans are to seek affiliation with the century-old Lord's Day Alliance of the United States, based in Atlanta, Ga.

Two injured as robbers repelled during break-in at MK hostel

JOS, Nigeria (BP) — A Southern Baptist missionary and a teenage missionary kid were injured slightly in mid-March as they fought off robbers breaking into the MK hostel in Jos, Nigeria.

Connie Bowers, missionary-dorm parent from Georgia, was cut on the head and 16-year-old John High, son of missionaries Thomas and Kathy High of South and North Carolina, was bruised on the neck in a scuffle with the robbers.

Bowers' wife, Martha, also of Georgia, was awakened during the night by the sound of the robbers trying to break in through a hostel door. When Bowers and the older boys living at the hostel went to investigate, they met the robbers just coming in and scuffled with them. The robbers fled without taking anything.

Fourteen children — mostly Southern Baptist missionary kids — live at the hostel and attend school in Jos.

The other half of life

Senior adults ... retirement ... aging ... senior citizens ... elderly. What kind of feelings or impressions come to mind when you hear these familiar words and phrases? Are they warm, positive feelings of optimism, hope,



Holley

expectancy, and anticipation? Or, are they feelings of apprehension, uncertainty, dependency, and despondency? It all depends, doesn't it? It depends on many things ... our attitudes toward aging, our attitudes toward ourselves, our outlook on life, our circumstances in life, our relationships with other persons, and, perhaps most importantly, the quality of the faith we have cultivated throughout the years.

Many are now approaching the senior adult years with a positive and optimistic outlook and with a feeling that these can be the most exciting and fulfilling years of their lives. Robert Browning expressed a healthy attitude toward aging when he wrote, "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be."

This more recent, positive outlook on aging is reflected in some of the recent books for and about senior adults, books such as *The Time of Your Life*, by Myron and Mary Maddin; *Alive!* and

by Robert Holley

Past 65!, by Franklin Segler; *No Rocking Chair for Me!*, by Harold Dye; and *Threescore and Ten ... Wow!*, by Agnes Pylant. These writers, all senior adults, underscore what seems to be a growing feeling of excitement and fulfillment in the senior adult years.

For and about



senior adults

Senior adults are taking on added significance as a rapidly growing segment of our society. Every day 5,000 persons are added to the ranks of the senior adults, resulting in a net gain of 1,500 per day. In Arkansas there are over 300,000 persons age 65 and over. They make up a fifth of the electorate in our state. There are over two and one-half million senior adult Southern Baptists. It has been estimated that eight percent of all older persons are members of a Baptist church.

Senior adults certainly constitute a group to be reckoned with ... to be un-

derstood, and challenged, and ministered to. They are also the most responsive and most appreciative group in our churches. Baptists are coming alive to the opportunities for ministry to and with senior adults. We are recognizing their unique needs, potential, energies, and gifts.

And many senior adults are discovering that, as Browning wrote, "Our times are in his hand who saith, 'A whole is planned, youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!'" They are also discovering anew that, "... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31).

This is the first in a series of articles for and about senior adults in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. The next three articles will be written by Horace Kerr, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Senior Adult Ministry and author of *How to Minister to Senior Adults in the Church*.

Robert Holley is director of the Church Training Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and is Senior Adult Consultant for the State Convention.

Questions or comments on this column for and about senior adults should be sent to Senior Adults, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

International

Judas: A friend who betrayed

by Lynwood Henderson, Calvary Church of West Memphis

Basic passages: Matthew 27:3-5; Mark 14:10-11, 17-21; 43-46; John 12:3-6; 13:21-30
Focal passages: John 12:3-6; 13:21-30

Central truth: Each of us must determine whether or not Christ will be alive and real.

1. Outward appearances do not always reflect that which is inside. Many times we seem to desire or do the right thing but our motivation is wrong. The money for which the ointment could have been sold would have, indeed, been helpful in relieving the plight of the poor. The question is whether that was Judas' real reason for objecting to the use to which it was put. A kiss for one who was greatly admired would be a wonderful tribute, but we know that was not Judas' purpose in this act.

So many times our actions are acceptable but our motivation is wrong.

2. Judas had great opportunity. He appeared to be one of the true followers of Jesus. But opportunity not responded can be a means of judgment rather than justification.

In our day and in our country, we are blessed with a great proliferation of churches but, it is feared, that we do not allow these opportunities to be means of blessings to others in the reaching of the lost but havens of personal retreat from a sinful world which needs the message we have.

3. The betrayal of Jesus is continued by those who pretend but do not perform. It has been said so many times that we have hardened to it but it's still true, there are many professors who are not possessors. A knowledge of the things about Jesus is not equal to a personal relationship with him. Judas knew much about Jesus, even to knowing where he would go to pray, but it is evident from his actions that he did not intimately know Jesus at all.

Many today seem to feel that having their name on a church roll or having been baptized settles their relationship to God in Christ. They pretend but they do not perform because they profess that which they do not possess.

The lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian teaching, Uniform Series, copyright by the International Council of Education. Used by permission.

Wholesale

Restaurant, deli and concession equipment: ice machines, dishwashers, ranges, refrigerators, ice cream, slush and popcorn machines. Almo Wholesale, 2315 Cantrell Rd., Little Rock. Ph: 372-0506 or 1-800-482-9026.

Life and Work

Worship and renewal

by Jimmy W. Anderson, First Church of Leachville

Basic passages: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 31:9-13

Focal passages: Deuteronomy 31:12-13a; 26: 1-4, 9-11a

Central truth: The people of God need times of renewal in worship.

Any relationship, once it has begun, must have some interaction between those involved. If contact is not maintained, what may have been good and important will fade to a dim memory. This is true even of your relationship to God. The people of God must worship regularly and experience periodic renewal.

The word of God must be proclaimed and taught (31:12-13). Moses instructed that the law be read publicly to everyone every seven years. The Bible must be preached and taught to every Christian that he might grow and his life be pleasing to God. Such preaching and teaching enables us to examine ourselves and to seek renewal when it is needed.

God's people are to publicly acknowledge his hand in their success (26:9-11). Moses required the reciting of a creed when the first fruit offering was brought. Testimony of what God has done in one's life is good for both hearer and speaker. Such recounting of God's acts is an experience of worship and encourages commitment and rededication.

God must remain first in the lives of his people (26:1-4). Israel was to bring a portion of the first items harvested as an offering. This reminded them of the debt of God and put him first. There is a real need for this spirit and attitude to be recaptured in our churches today. It can be done through worship and renewal. We must remember from whence God has brought us and respond accordingly.

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. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Passenger

Van

headquarters
Nice late models
5 passenger to 15 passenger
Special prices to churches

QUALITY

AUTO SALES

(501) 268-4490

1500 E. Race, Searcy, Ark. 72143

Bible Book

Consequences of David's census

Basic passage: II Samuel 24:1-25

Focal passages: II Samuel 24: 1, 10, 15-18, 22, 24-25

Central truth: What seems right and the better part of wisdom may turn out to be offensive to God.

There is no evidence that David sought for God's direction before he instructed the commander of his army to take a census. The task of taking a census took nearly 10 months.

David did not experience a feeling that he had made a mistake until the census was complete. God's prophet came to him to deliver God's message of displeasure and judgment. The punishment resulted in the loss of the lives of 70,000 men. David was moved to make intercession. He later made an offering in seeking peace with God.

How often do we say something or do something before we ask for God's leadership. David was king. Does this mean his decisions were more important? In this case as in many others, more lives were involved than just the person making the decision.

In whatever decision one makes the time will arrive when God's message comes as to his approval or disapproval. We will have to acknowledge to God our mistakes. There is a judgment when we make mistakes by failing to see God's will first. There must be reconciliation.

Ministers sometimes change churches without knowing God's will. Church members vote on church business without seeking God's will. People are passed up in the local ministry of our churches without our asking God if he has expected us to touch them where they need help.

Is God judging us for this today? Yes! It shows in declining attendances, fewer people being saved, in a contentious spirit in our fellowship, and in the unwillingness on the part of people to get involved. Will we acknowledge our sins as David did?

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. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Hughes pew cushions

Reversible or attached
Quality, comfort and beauty

We believe we can
save your church money

3 weeks delivery on fabric in stock
For free estimate call collect

Eugene Hughes, 353-6556
Route 2, Box 159A
Gurdon, Ark. 71743

Cooperative Program continues record pace through May

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — May mission giving through the national Cooperative Program increased 10.9 percent over May 1981, with a total of \$7,780,027 being distributed by the SBC Executive Committee to the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

May gifts, pushed year to date totals to \$62,619,196, a strong 15.2 percent ahead of

Final Lottie Moon total exceeds \$50.7 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Final receipts for the 1981 Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions totaled \$50,784,173, or 1.6 percent over the \$50 million goal.

Gifts exceeded 1980's total by more than \$6 million and represent a 13.6 percent increase. The 1980 total was \$44,700,339, or 99.3 percent of the \$45 million goal.

The 1982 offering goal is \$58 million. Books closed May 31 on the 1981 offering. Any money received after that date will be applied to the 1982 offering.

World's Fair lodging

Reasonable rates, 1 & 2-bedroom furnished apts. — Accommodations for four to 34, eight miles from fair. Phone: (615) 693-9406.

the first eight months of last fiscal year.

Designated gifts, primarily for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering for home missions, were \$9,983,147 in May 12.5 percent ahead of May 1981.

To date, designated gifts of \$68,172,808 are 13.6 percent of that category for 1981.

Total designated and undesignated gifts for the first eight months of the fiscal year are \$130,792,005, up 14.4 percent over the same period in 1981.



Specialists in church construction

6920 Dahlia Drive
Little Rock, Ark. 72209

Financing available

For information call:

H. W. Roper (501) 562-4582

Irby Watson (501) 847-8565

See the Great Passion Play

(May-Oct), Groups: Stay & Save at Keller's Country Dorm Resort.

Rt. 1, Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632.

Tickets, lodging, meals & recreation just \$17 each. Phone 501/253-8418.

World's Fair motel (new)

Each unit has two bedrooms and kitchen — 3 double beds — 35 miles to fair site #72
Phone (615) 376-6572

Balance

The sound, video and lighting system in your sanctuary should be balanced to provide the best environment possible for your worship service.

We'll provide custom designed systems to match the interior beauty of your church:

For a free consultation, call Jack Langston on our toll free number: 1-800-654-6744.



ford audio-video

4800 West I-40 Oklahoma City, OK 73126 (405) 946-9966
4715 East 41st Tulsa, OK 74135 (918) 663-4730

Quality World's Fair housing for \$12 per night

Sleep up to 10 in comfort for \$120 per night, if reservation confirmed by June 30. Perfect for church groups, family reunions, or friends traveling together. Mossy Creek Park is located in Jefferson City, Tenn., Home of Carson-Newman College, 28 miles from Fair on four-lane U.S. 11E. Park is owned and operated by local Chevrolet dealer.

Housing consists of 14 X 60 brand new mobile homes, fully air conditioned, two large bedrooms with two double beds in each, large living room and kitchen with double sofa bed, two full baths. Home is compartmentalized for privacy. Daily maid service. Five restaurants within two blocks. Parking accommodates 20 buses. Transportation available hourly to and from Fair.

High quality combined with low price sells anything. The response to our previous ad has been tremendous so we've decided to continue our 10 percent discount off our regular low price of \$150 until the Fair ends. As an added incentive for early registrations, we're giving an extra 10 percent discount for a total of 20 percent discount off our low regular price of \$150 as long as space lasts. This extra 10 percent will be for registrations made and confirmed with payment by June 30. The registrations may be for any month through October, but must be payment confirmed by June 30 to get the 20 percent discount. This offer good only so long as space lasts.

Call L. H. Tarr at (615) 475-3838 for reservations.

Write: P.O. Box 512,
Jefferson City, TN 37760

BSU Third Century Campaign



THE ONLY STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR BSU IN OUR CONVENTION'S 130 YEAR HISTORY

Contributed to date: **\$955,351.51**

REGISTER NOW!!

GA Mother-Daughter Camp

(for girls in grades 1-3 and their moms)

★ JULY 16-17 ★

CAMP PARON

SPONSORED BY ARKANSAS WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth G. Robertson, missionaries to Senegal, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: BP 3330, Dakar, Senegal). A native of Arkan-

sas, he was born in Pine Bluff and lived in Wilmot, Pickens and Tillar. The former Margaret Howard, she is a native of Clark County, Ark. They were appointed by the

Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Benjamin Kirby, missionaries to Venezuela, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado 8, Guanare, Portuguesa, Venezuela 3310A). He is a native of Little Rock, Ark. The former Charlotte Halbert, she was born in Little Rock and grew up in Star City, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

DRINKERS THINK THEY'RE GOOD DRIVERS. WE KNOW BETTER!

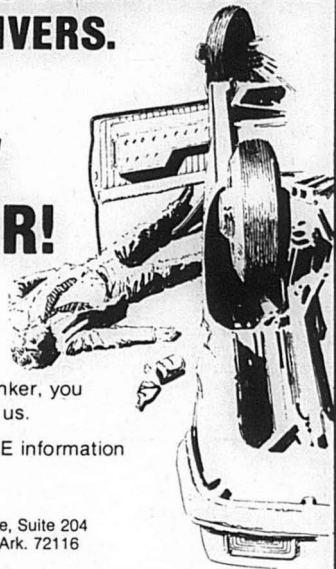
That's why we specialize in the Non-Drinker.

If you're a Non-Drinker, you should get to know us.

AUTO INSURANCE information with no obligation:

Ken W. Dyson
2500 McCain Place, Suite 204
North Little Rock, Ark. 72116
(501) 758-8340

Preferred Risk Mutual INSURANCE COMPANY
West Des Moines, Iowa



Bicycle rider promotes hunger offering

Malcolm Greenway, a 1978 graduate of Arkansas State University, is currently engaged in a bicycle trip from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. It is his hope that individuals will pledge from a mill per mile to a cent per mile for world hunger. Greenway said, "I have made several trips of this type but nothing quite so ambitious." Greenway, who was active in Baptist Student Union work, said, "It was because of BSU that I had a renewal experience and took a second look at the church." Greenway left on this trip on June 15.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

Arkansas' third largest publication,
meeting the information needs of Arkansas Baptists.

VOLUME 81

NUMBER 24

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betsy Kennedy Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Jon M. Stubblefield, Magnolia, chairman; Charles Chesser, Carlisle; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Leroy French, Fort Smith; Mrs. Jimmie Garner, Trumann; Merle Milligan, Harrison; Tommy Robertson, El Dorado; Hon. Elsjane Roy, Little Rock; and Lane Strother, Mountain Home.

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons.

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (USPS 031-280) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Inc., 525 West Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$6.36 per year (individual), \$5.40 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$6.00 per year (Group Plan) and \$13.00 per year (foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203

Baptist Pavilion 'success' says director after month

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Over 65,000 people visited the Baptist Pavilion at the 1982 World's Fair during the first month of operation.

Large crowds indicate the centrally located pavilion is an "overwhelming success" said David Peach, executive director of Baptist Ministries to the fair.

"The pavilion has been filled for almost every performance," he said. "Several decisions have been made and scripture portions in 15 different languages have been distributed."

Daily activities scheduled for the only religious pavilion on the 72-acre fair site include music, drama, media presentations, puppetry and a display of old Bibles.

Southern Baptist church and college

choirs from 10 states have performed on the pavilion stage.

Five live performances delivered by the pavilion's music and drama team, PowerSource, also are a daily feature. An average of 2,500 daily visitors exhibit a generally positive response to the 30-minute, scripture-based performance and other pavilion features.

The pavilion's 248 air conditioned seats attract many scorched fairgoers to frequent showings of the 16-projector slide presentation "The Word Is Energy." "It was a little technical," felt a Virginia woman. "I'm not an educated person, but I got a good feeling from it, about energy and that God is all energy."

Approximately 200 people per day enter the lobby at the pavilion's back entrance

which contains the old Bibles, including one dating from 1500. "I'd love to spend about three hours looking at that Bible display case," enthused one North Carolinian.

Since the fair opened May 1, over 500 volunteers from Tennessee, South Carolina, California, Georgia, Florida and other states have manned the Baptist Pavilion.

Eight groups, including Baptist Student Unions from the University of Houston, University of Southern Arkansas and Memphis State University, have participated in off-site ministries. They cleaned grounds of a nearby retirement home and inner-city mission and a local Baptist academy. Contacts with international fair employees are being made and fellowships with Japanese and Chinese are scheduled later in June.

Are you moving?

Please give us two weeks advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address below and send to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P O Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____



Several members of the senior high choir from First Church of Mountain Home seem to be waiting for their director's instructions before their performance at the World's Fair. The choir sang at the Baptist pavilion at the fair on June 2.

Arkansas choir performs at World's Fair

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — "To say that I've sung at the World's Fair, that's really something to say," commented Ron Burk, a member of the senior high youth choir from First Church of Mountain Home, Ark. The choir sang at the Baptist pavilion at the fair on June 2.

Barney Larry, the choir's director, explained that the 84 member choir was on its annual tour and would give six other concerts in cities across Tenn. Each choir member made monthly payments of \$15 to pay his or her way on the 2,100 mile tour. The choir is the first of four choirs from Arkansas to perform at the Baptist pavilion dur-

ing the fair.

After arriving at the fair site, the choir members familiarized themselves with the Baptist pavilion and stage. Before giving their two 20 minute performances, the choir members watched the musical, "Love, You Spoke a Word" by PowerSource, the pavilion's musical-drama team. They also watched the multi-image presentation of "The Word Is ... Energy" at the pavilion.

Baptist ministries auditioned 247 choirs from cassette tapes and selected 145 to perform at the Baptist pavilion during the fair. The 145 choirs represent 16 states.

Baptists start first social work venture

SINGAPORE — Singapore Baptist churches' first cooperative social work venture has culminated in the opening of the Baptist Golden Age Home. Residents meet each morning for prayer and Bible study led by two of the residents who formerly worked as Bible teachers. Three from this group have already made professions of faith in Christ as Saviors.