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July 29, 1982

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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On To
College
Day



July 29, 1982

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



This year's On to College Day theme, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries, is "Serving Christ on Campus." The observance of On to College Day will be Sunday, Aug. 1 in Southern Baptist churches. This issue of the ABN includes a nine-page section devoted to the work with college students by the state convention and local churches in Arkansas.

In this issue

6-7

Five couples named missionaries or missionary associates in Richmond, Va. July 13 have Arkansas connections. These called-out Arkansans are featured in this issue of the ABN.

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Fall can be an exciting but traumatic time for the new student on campus at one of Arkansas' colleges or universities. Who is the average college student? What is his relationship to God? Or the church? What are Arkansas Baptists doing to reach him? These, and other questions, are dealt with in a special feature "On to college: Baptists' ministry to Arkansas' campuses."

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Baptist Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen has announced his retirement, effective March 1, 1984. Cothen, 61, says the retirement is for medical reasons, and denies allegations that the move is related to current conflicts in the Southern Baptist Convention.

ABN, BSU team up for on-to-college section

Baptist churches around the state will soon see their own departing for the college campus. Southern Baptist's National Student Ministries department of the Sunday School Board wants to help churches affirm, encourage and commit their students to further service in the name of Christ. That's the plan behind "On-to-college Day".

This annual emphasis in August focuses on the responsibility of the local church to support students through prayer, active concern and correspondence. It's 1982 theme is "Serving Christ on Campus".

This year the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, and the Student Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, have teamed up to provide churches and individual students with information we hope will be helpful to churches who minister to their own students away and churches helping students who come to their community for school.

College community churches proclaim their student ministries through ads and BSU directors on the campuses invite students to participate in their activities. In addition, Student Department Director Tom Logue surveys the tenor of the times on col-

lege campuses and two Arkansas pastors describe the ministries of their churches to students.

Al Staggs, minister to young adults and assistant to pastor of First Church, Bryan, Texas, urges pastors and church leaders to take three actions to help students continue to grow spiritually as they leave home and go to college.

First, Bryan said, churches should send names, home and college addresses of each student to one or more pastors of churches in the area of the college or university each will be attending.

Second, names, home and college addresses should be sent to the Baptist Student Union director on the campus where each will be attending school, Staggs noted.

Third, Staggs said churches should begin a gift subscription to *The Student* magazine for each college student from their church. Subscriptions may be mailed to the board's materials services department.

Fourth, a subscription to the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine would keep the students informed on state and denominational events.

Ouachita to launch alumni campaign

ARKADELPHIA — A base goal of \$750,000 and a challenge goal of \$1,250,000 have been set for the national alumni phase of the Ouachita at 100 Advancement Campaign at Ouachita Baptist University to begin November 13.

The kick-off luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 13, which will precede the homecoming game with Harding University, is expected to draw 500 former students. Development officer Larry Bone said the alumni campaign will run through the spring of 1983. The drive is currently in the enlistment stage for class chairmen and class captains, he said.

Campaign objectives for the overall advancement program, which will end in 1986, Ouachita's 100th birthday, include a

new health, physical education and recreation complex now under construction and a new auditorium, each at a cost of \$4 million. A third prime objective will be to provide \$500,000 in increased annual operating support, which will be accomplished by increased endowment or increased annual giving.

Projects to be funded by the increased support include endowed chairs, instructional equipment, materials and library acquisitions, scholarships for deserving students, other financial assistance for students and faculty together in joint education and service, and programs that strengthen Ouachita's role in developing staff and lay leadership for the local church and denomination.

New writer for 'lessons for living'

Gerald M. Taylor, pastor of Life Line Church in Little Rock since 1977, begins this issue as a new writer for the ABN "lessons for living" Sunday School commentary section. Taylor will write commentaries for the next four Sundays in the Bible Book lesson series.



Taylor

North Little Rock, Stamps and Monticello before coming to Life Line. He has held a number of offices, including president of the Arkansas Baptist Pastor's Conference, and is presently serving his second term on the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board.

He has conducted three Holy Land tours and has participated in revival crusades in Alaska, New Zealand and Indiana. He has been camp pastor at Siloam Springs and a frequent revival speaker. He also has a daily radio and a tape ministry.

Taylor is married to the former Catherine Murphree. They have four children, three daughters and a son.



"My eleven-year-old daughter is not old enough to make a profession of faith," an angry father shouted. "All the church wants to do is to bring babies into the congregation so they will have more numbers to count."

This man was, perhaps, most of all, protesting his own lost condition. But he was, also, posing a very important question: when is a child old enough to trust Christ as his personal Saviour?

In the past, some have held that a child must be 12 years old before reaching the age of accountability (the time when God would hold him accountable for his sin). It is somewhat difficult to determine where this idea developed. It may have come from the fact that Jesus went down to the Temple at that age. Under the Jewish law, a boy became Ben Torah (son of the law) at puberty. At that time he was responsible for fulfilling all the requirements of the law. It was for this reason that, at age 12, Jesus joined the adults in their annual pilgrimage to the Temple.

It is, also, possible that 12 years as a minimum age for trusting Christ for salvation was borrowed from those who practice the pedobaptism (baptism of infants). Many of these groups confirmed the children into full membership of the church at age 12. The confirmation frequently consists mainly of memorization of catechism with little or no emphasis on saving faith.

Paul, in Romans 1:18 to 3:26, spells out the fact that sin affects the way one thinks and acts. The sinner is one who has had ample opportunity to see God's grace in the world and reject it willfully. The very nature of sin is to alienate man from God. Sin is a going away from God. Sin turns man's whole being against God and shuts God out of man's life. Hence, the small child remains in a state of innocence. One becomes responsible before God when he knows that he commits sin and is able to exercise saving faith.

Obviously, the age of accountability varies greatly among different people. There are many factors which have an effect — the Christian training in the home, the child's native ability and the rate of maturity.

Great care should be exercised in dealing with children. It is not difficult to extract a "decision" from most children for several reasons. To begin with, it is the child's nature to strive to please others. Second, he is easily frightened. And, finally, he is eager to do whatever other children are doing. These negative aspects, however, should not keep parents and Christian workers from offering children the privilege of trusting Christ.

It is just as wrong to over-persuade or frighten a child as it is to not provide for him opportunity to trust Christ. The older one becomes, the more difficult it becomes for him to trust Christ as Saviour. The percentage of people saved drops with each year after they reach the age of 20. It is also significant that when a child becomes a Christian an entire life for service is saved.

There is a proper way to discuss salvation with a child. Since the vocabulary of a child is different from that of an adult, he will express his thoughts in simple words. It is necessary for a parent or Christian worker to communicate the plan or salvation clearly and simply without using theological or technical terms.

It is, also, necessary to allow a child to express his feelings in his own words, rather than to simply ask him questions which require a positive or negative response. When one asks questions which require "yes" or "no" answers the true feeling of the child may not be discovered. In dealing with a child, one should never overrate or underestimate his ability to understand.

Above all, in any witnessing situation it is necessary to rely upon the Holy Spirit. Tracts or memorized portions of scripture are exceedingly useful. But in any witnessing situation care must be used to meet the needs of that specific individual.

Every parent and Christian worker should be alert to the salvation needs of children as they reach the age of accountability. Remember, a child, like an adult, is saved when he accepts the basic truths of the gospel and relates them to himself. How marvellous it is when a young one truly trusts Christ!

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

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NUMBER 28

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

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Why a partial gospel?

Fundamental. Liberal. Words have no meaning without a reference point. Regarding theology — establishment, belief, practice — there should be one reference point: God's Word. Is it true for us?

Consider one issue — the "social gospel." There is no such thing. There is one gospel. The same Christ who said, "you must be born again", also said every word in Matt. 25:34-46. If those words are not clear (and overwhelming) enough, then consider the entire biblical record of God's justice, and love for people in need.

There is no gospel without salvation, but, there is no gospel without concurrent Christian response to meet people's unmet needs redemptively. A fundamental, conservative position should be *fundamental* because of adherence to the inerrant Word of God. Instead, definition and practice of our theology is based on "inerrant tradition", and influence of our culture. Thus, are we liberal, or conservative when we take the liberty to ignore the biblical record in this manner?

Locally, spouses are abused; women and children are destitute for temporary shelter; and families are without shelter or food. Thousands of poor children have no recreational facilities. What Christian facilities/programs are sponsored by churches for these with no witness? World-wide, how many missionaries are disturbed (angered?) by rich self-serving traditions of churches when there are desperate needs for hospitals, shelter, food, and worship facilities?

How has this happened? Why will it continue? It happens where spiritual leaders and followers develop a tradition, a theology, to meet their culture, their self-serving needs, and support selective parts of scripture. It continues when there is so little courage. Inerrant tradition is established

and unchallenged, and parts of God's Word — in preaching and practice — are ignored.

What am I saying? I am saying something is wrong throughout our denomination. We need self-examination of our practices, tradition, and priorities. This is not a matter of simply "Well, we can't do everything." Our theology in practice speaks loudly: The Bible speaks for itself. How close are the two? Are we like the spiritual leaders Jesus encountered whose position was: "We are not wrong, go away." — Doug McWhirter, Little Rock

Concerned about Mid-East

I have been watching events that occur in the Middle East, with much concern. The chances for the conflict spreading are unlimited. Much will depend on Divine intervention if it is to be avoided.

Our national leaders seem to be heading in the direction of leading our nation towards certain defeat, by fighting against God. Nor have we heard one word of protest from our Baptist leaders, or press. Jesus assured his listeners that all his teachings were from the Father. And, we do not have the privilege of accepting one principle and rejecting another. Jesus told his listeners in Luke 21:24 — "And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." How soon that will occur, no one knows. We can use all of our resources and manpower, still God's plan is certain for both Jew and Gentile.

Would you give a little thought towards the possibility of our certain defeat? — D. C. Ellen, Fordyce

Four Arkansans are home after serving stints as volunteer missionaries, according to Robert L. Stanley, director of the news and information services department of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Linda Anderson (address: Ouachita Baptist University, Box 783, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923) returned to the States in June. She was a volunteer teacher in Taiwan.

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Registration open for Boyce fall term

Registration for the first fall term of Boyce Bible School will be open through the summer, Ralph W. Davis, director of the Little Rock Center, said. It had originally been announced that registration for the term beginning Aug. 27 would be closed during August.

Another change on the schedule, Davis said, is that Maurice Hurley, professor of psychology at Ouachita Baptist University, will teach the Boyce ethics course during the first term. Davis had been scheduled to instruct the course.

For pre-registration or more information, contact Davis at 2121 N. Van Buren St., Little Rock, Ark. 72207, telephone (501) 663-4098.

Temperance leader Coulter dies

Clyde C. Coulter, a leader for temperance in Arkansas and long time head of the forerunner to the Christian Civic Foundation, died July 12 at age 94.

Coulter, of 4115 W. 16th St., Little Rock, was an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. He served the American Leprosy Mission as field secretary for seven years, and then served 19 years as state superintendent of The Temperance League of Arkansas, forerunner to the modern-day Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas Inc. The Foundation is supported by Arkansas Baptists and other denominations opposed to alcohol and drug abuse, pornography and gambling.

Funeral services were July 14.

MK Prayer Calendar

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

August

- 3 Cayla C. Garrett (Zimbabwe) 468 Midland, Little Rock, AR 72205
- 10 Gay Davidson (Botswana) OBU Box 114, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 12 Rosanne Giannetta (Italy) 120 Malibu Drive, Clarksville, TN 37040
- 14 David Coad (Upper Volta) 606 South King Hwy., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
- 14 Kimberly Magyar (Colombia) 1702 Clifton, Conway 72032
- 14 Wayne Martin (Rwanda) OBU Box 556, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
- 17 Joyce Crawford (Venezuela) 7615 Westwood, Little Rock 72204
- 19 Joy M. Moses (Republic of South Africa) Pretoria 0186, Rep. South Africa
- 22 Bruce Green (Ghana) 1204 W. Newton Ct., Tulsa, OK 74127
- 29 Kevin A. Carswell (Brazil) 6108 Mandan Road, Little Rock, AR 72210

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Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright



Mr. and Mrs. Fox



Rev. and Mrs. Johnson

Arkansans among 88 named foreign missionaries

Five couples among the 88 people named missionaries July 13 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board call Arkansas home. The missionaries were commissioned at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va., and will complete a 12-week orientation at Pine Mountain, Ga. in September before leaving for the field.

Among the new missionaries are:

—Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Cartwright, members of Bella Vista Church in Bella Vista, Ark. Cartwright is a self-employed contractor in Bella Vista, which he considers his hometown. He will serve as a mission business manager in Upper Volta. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Cartwright is the former Kay Goodwin, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Jesse W. Goodwin of Bella Vista. She will be a church and home worker. The Cartwrights have two children.

—Mr. and Mrs. Russell D. Fox. The Foxes will work as missionary associates in Honduras, he as a camp maintenance supervisor and she as a church and home worker. Fox is the son of Mary Fox of Little Rock and the late R. D. Fox. He considers Little Rock his hometown and Valley View Church his home church. He has also lived in Pine Bluff. He is a graduate of University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and also attended University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has worked as an engineer, owner, and department head in Searcy, Newport, Fayetteville, Rogers and Little Rock.

Mrs. Fox, the former Victoria Hagan of Stuttgart, is the daughter of Mrs. Mamie

Hagan of that city and the late Rodney Hagan. She attended First Church of Stuttgart while growing up. She received the diploma in nursing from Baptist Medical Center School of Nursing in Little Rock, and achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Arkansas. She has worked as a nursing instructor and evaluator at a hospital in Fayetteville.

The Foxes have served as Foreign Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteers to Guatemala. They have two grown children.

A missionary associate is a person between the ages of 35 and 60 employed for a renewable four-year term to do a particular job for which that person is equipped by education and experience.

—Rev. and Mrs. Leon R. Johnson. The Johnsons will work in Zimbabwe, where he

Growth mentality needed in churches, church administration head

NASHVILLE — A growth mentality needs to be the dominant attitude for Southern Baptist church members if the major accomplishments envisioned in Bold Mission Thrust are to become reality.

The Southern Baptist Convention is committed to reach more people in 1982-85 by starting 1,500 new churches, training one million church members to witness, increasing Sunday School enrollment to 8.5 million and increasing baptism totals in the next three years to 450,000, 500,000 and 550,000 respectively.

The pastor generally is recognized as the primary growth leader of the church, but for Bold Mission Thrust to be successful, deacons, other staff members, key church leaders and church members have to be involved.

Church Growth Thrust is an overall support emphasis sponsored by the church ad-

ministration department of the Sunday School Board to help build an attitude of growth for Southern Baptists to overcome barriers to achieve growth goals.

"The most serious barrier to the Southern Baptist Convention's reaching people is the comfortable lifestyle that our socio-economic situation has given us," stated Joe R. Stacker, head of the Sunday School Board's church administration department.

"The reason we have growth in ethnic and blue collar groups is because people are looking for hope," Stacker continued. "The middle class has found hope and security in a good salary, new car and a nice house, all of which gives a sense of self-satisfaction. That has robbed us of a concern for people's eternal security.

"People need to come to the point where they can realize that we are not 'fixed' for eternity," Stacker said. "We may be fixed

for life, but not for eternity.

"What we need is a growth mentality where a church is not afraid to change to grow," Stacker explained. "This requires a life-style evangelism of expressing love, care and concern for the physical and emotional needs to people to show them you care about their spiritual needs.

"Church members have to pay the price in time spent in evangelistic outreach to reach the community for Christ," Stacker said. "Most churches are just survivors concerned about paying the preacher, meeting building debts and providing facilities for educating children of adult church members. They have no vision or commitment to reach people who have no contact with the church.

"Southern Baptists have to pay the price to have discipline to produce the spiritual energy to get the task done and see church-



Rev. and Mrs. Parris



Mr. and Mrs. Sutton

will be a student worker and she will be a church and home worker. They consider Honolulu, Hawaii, their hometown.

Johnson was born in Piggott, Ark., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Johnson of Blytheville. He has lived in Pine Bluff and Arkadelphia. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Johnsons have one child.

—The Rev. and Mrs. Stan Parris Jr., missionaries to Venezuela, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He was born and reared in Hope, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Olen Parris of that city. First Church there is his home church.

He is a graduate of Henderson State University and Southwestern Baptist Theologi-

cal Seminary. He has worked as a teacher and assistant coach in Hope.

Mrs. Parris, the former Charlotte Wilson, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Turner of Little Rock. She lived in Dumas and Little Rock while growing up. She attended First Church in Dumas and considers First Church of Hope her home church. She also is a graduate of Henderson State University and has worked as a teacher in Hope. The Parrises have three children.

—Mr. and Mrs. Glen E. Sutton. Sutton will be an agricultural evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He considers Rison Church his home church. He worked in Rison as a district soil conservationist and is currently attending Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Sutton (Teresa) also calls Rison her home church.

Musicians are told stress is necessary

by Charles Willis

RIDGECREST, N.C. — "Stress is necessary for motivation," Felix Montgomery told participants in a session for the minister of music couple during Church Music Leadership Conference here.

In contrast to what many persons perceive as a need to eliminate stress from their lives, Montgomery, a consultant in the Sunday School Board's church administration department, said that too little stress results in lethargy.

While too much stress brings some persons who are "close to the edge" to a crisis state or to burnout, too little stress is equally bad, making persons feel that life is dull, he said. Determining just how much stress is correct to produce a feeling of challenge is an individual matter.

"What's right for me, may not be right for you," he said. "Stress is the body's non-specific response to any demand placed upon it — whether good or bad. We experience stress in the forms of distress and eustress (good stress). And the body reacts the same way, whether the pressure comes from good news, like a pay increase, or bad news, like being asked to resign."

According to Montgomery, stress occurs in three stages: The alarm stage, the body's first reaction either in joy or pain; the resistance stage, having a limited level of resistance in each person's body; and the exhaustion stage, in which resistance drops.

"Stress can motivate and challenge, age you, lay you open to illness or kill you," he said.

Montgomery recommends several approaches which can help persons manage the effects of too much stress in their lives.

"Reorganize yourself," he said, "taking better control of the ways you spend your time and energy. Manage what you can control; change your attitude toward stressors, making problems become opportunities; and build up strength and stamina through exercise and proper diet."

Persons with low self-esteem can easily become the victims of too much stress, thinking that they can get a better image of themselves by doing more work, he said. Such persons create a lot of stress within themselves, trying to meet their own expectations.

"The greatest source of self-esteem is from God's grace," he said, "which is not from works."

Stewardship crusade set for South Africa

CAPETOWN, South Africa — Fifty-two Baptist churches from a cross-section of Indian, "colored" (mixed race), black and white communities in South Africa will participate in a stewardship crusade July 25-Aug. 6.

Stacker says

es grow," Stacker said. "Baptists are giving more money, but it is easier to give money than time. At the same time there is a decline in persons involved in evangelism, teaching and other ministries."

To begin building this spirit and mindset of growth, the church administration department recommends churches plan a Spiritual Directions Weekend for church leaders. This can include only staff members and key leaders or it can be expanded to include all interested church members.

Some of the primary reasons for planning a Spiritual Directions Weekend include providing a biblical understanding of church growth, developing a supportive attitude, teaching characteristics of a growing church, understanding barriers that might hinder growth and reinforcing the confidence that the church can experience

by Jim Lowry

growth through a commitment to grow.

Church Growth Thrust can have a determining influence on Bold Mission Thrust goals by preparing key leaders for growth and convincing them success can be realized only if outreach, new work and witness training are personal commitments to all Southern Baptists.

"We have to use every opportunity to win people to Christ by ministering to the hurts of broken homes and loneliness," Stacker said.

"Key leaders have to be burdened for the lost and committed to grow to lead church members to pay the price for real growth," Stacker continued. "Churches must determine their mission in the community and then plan, organize and control financial and personal resources to accomplish that mission."

Arkansas choir performs at Fair

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — "When we found out we were going to sing at the fair, we went wild!" remarked Robert Wight, a member of the youth choir from First Church of Dardanelle, Ark. The 29 member group, "Sonlight," performed at the Baptist pavilion at the World's Fair on June 9.

The choir's director, Joe Morris, commented that it was "Sonlight's" first tour in the two years they have been singing together. The group funded their tour by holding bake sales and car washes. The week-long tour also included performances in churches in Arkansas and across Tennessee.

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.

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



Choir director, Joe Morris, gives his choir last minute instructions. The junior and senior high school students from First Church of Dardanelle performed at the Baptist pavilion June 9.

Arkansas woman fills Baptist Memorial position

MEMPHIS — Arkansas Elta S. Jordan, former public relations coordinator at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, has joined Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, as supervisor of special materials.

Jordan will supervise the planning, editing and purchasing of printed and audio visual materials needed by the programs of the institution, Roy Jennings, director of communications, said.

In the new position in the Office of Communications, Jordan also will serve as special materials consultant to affiliate hospitals in the Baptist Memorial Health Care



Jordan

System, Inc., Jennings explained.

During her three years at LeBonheur, Jordan was responsible for printing, publications, news media relations and related art and photographic services.

A former marketing coordinator at Memphis State University, Jordan also served as women's editor for the *West Memphis Evening Times* for one year, communications coordinator of the Little Rock Bureau of Conventions and Visitors for two years, and reporter for the *Hot Springs Sentinel Record* for three years.

Jordan, 34, is a 1969 graduate of Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and journalism. She has a master's degree from Memphis State in guidance and personnel services.

Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Your response to the young minister on recognizing problems leading to breakdowns was very helpful. Could you discuss this more specifically?

In addition to the recognition of one's own vulnerability and the frequent assignment of a "God-Almighty" syndrome, there are some precipitating factors that often contribute to insidious emotional erosion.

Included in the large cluster of contributing factors is a growing degree of emotional intensity. Every individual might be compared to a finely tuned string instrument. Proper tension is exceedingly significant. Excessive pressure on the string not only causes discord, it can cause the string to snap. Ministers need to know their own emotional structure so as to "give ear" and carefully monitor their emotional and spiritual intensity.

Another important factor is going beyond and beneath the expressional symptoms to discover the root cause. Very often there is buried "a root of bitterness" that springs up in the most unlikely soil and poisons an unrelated atmosphere. Previous hurts which retain residual anger tucked away in stored memory banks can be programmed for recall at a most inappropriate time. Such "dated" emotions are often behind the obvious symptoms.

Dr. McGriff is Director of Ministry of Crisis Support for 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 Lile Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72205.



McGriff

Pastors are urged to delegate better

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The inability of pastors to delegate responsibilities wisely and clearly is one of the biggest causes of wasted time according to Joe Stacker.

"The pastor who tries to do it all will find himself burned out and washed up," explained Stacker, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, while speaking at Bible Preaching Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

"The ideal is to balance care for peo-

ple and responsibility of tasks. When you are called to a church, you are also expected to manage the church," said Stacker, who pastored churches for 24 years before joining the board in 1981.

He recommended that pastors: keep a time study log (list the hours spent with family, work and time wasters, if a task is ineffective, cut it out, if others could do it as well or better, delegate it); force yourself into a schedule (since results, not activities, are most important); and

by Jim Lowry

get ready before you move (plan through the church council and train people who are to work with you — training enables some church members to train others, developing a cycle which shares responsibility).

"The pastor has the responsibility to be a leader of leaders in the church," Stacker said. "If the pastor has an umbrella vision of the total church he can help other leaders accomplish tasks in Sunday School, church training, missions, and worship."

"The best of times; the worst of times."

by Tom Logue

One Arkansas BSU director, who has been on the campus scene a long time, summarizes what he sees on today's campus with the above quoted line from the *Tale of Two Cities*. And a survey of Arkansas' BSU directors finds that campus directors agree.



Logue

What is the average Arkansas student like? Is the typical student male or female? Black or white? An in-state student or an out-of-state student? A dorm student or a commuting student?

And of more concern to Arkansas Baptists, what religion does this typical student espouse? How active is he or she in church? And even more important, does the student's religious faith make any real difference in the way he or she lives life?

The last five years have seen an interesting change in the male-female ratio of Arkansas students. In 1976, 51.8 percent of all college students were male. Today that percentage is down to 45.8 percent. Black students compose 15.4 percent of today's enrollment — down from 16.9 percent five years ago. Percentage changes in both of these areas probably are highly influenced by the faltering economy.

If there is any group which knows what the Arkansas college student's spiritual pilgrimage is like, it is Baptist Student Union directors. Recently they were asked to list what they considered to be the primary problems confronting contemporary college students.

Most of the directors felt that nearly all of the problems of college students stem from the basic spiritual problem of a poor relationship with God. Lynn Loyd, BSU director at Southern Arkansas University, illustrates this fact in the different reactions to a bad home environment he sees in the life of the believer and the non-believer. Often the believer, Loyd notes, is able to deal creatively with the problem and accepts the fact. The non-believer, however, seems to be destroyed by his background and become either a recluse or the campus fool.

All of the directors speak of the tremendous peer pressure to conform. Even at our Baptist schools it is noted, Jackie Burton, BSU director at Southern Baptist College, says. Arliss Dickerson, BSU director at Arkansas State University, says alcohol is much more of a problem than drugs. Dickerson says drugs don't even run a close second. Fraternities have made a comeback, Dickerson says, and so many of their social functions are tied to alcohol. A lot of the sorority groups, thankfully, are still fairly straight.

Elmer Goble, Ouachita's BSU director, says that today's students are bombarded with pressures to, above all, satisfy themselves. The television keeps reminding them "we deserve a break today," "reach for the gusto," "you only live once; so get the best."

"... more than anything it's a time for commitment and faithfulness to Jesus Christ."

Danny McCauley, BSU director at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, agrees. "Media saturation has led to disorientation regarding a substantive value system." McCauley feels that students are much more ego-centered than their counterparts 10 or 15 years ago.

On the brighter side is the observation of Raye Nell Dyer, associate BSU director at the University of Arkansas. Dyer feels that students are much more concerned about developing meaningful relationships. "They are especially concerned about their relationship with their families," Dyer says, "and need guidance in learning how to confront in constructive, healthy ways as well as how to deal creatively and positively with their own feelings."

Steve Masters, the new BSU director at Arkansas Tech, feels that the number one problem of college students is the need to belong. "Many college students have never felt that they were special to anyone," Masters says. Baptists have a real opportunity to help students see they are "someone special with unique talents, abilities and gifts to share with

the world," Masters feels.

Debbie Harless, associate director at Arkansas State University, feels that one of the chief problems of today's students is the fact that they have grown up in a world looking for easy answers to complex problems. "This situation is accentuated by a fast pace and a society which thrives on being entertained," Harless says, and "the reality of God's love and the basics of the Christian life are then hard to grasp, internalize, and live out."

Mike Weaver, BSU director at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, feels that the main problem of the campus is purposelessness. When the average student reaches college, Weaver says, he "unpacks his luggage (physically and philosophically) and literally does not know where to put it." These students' concept of what to do with the rest of their lives is "determined by what is the most marketable item (computer technology or petro-engineering) and not what is God's will for them," Weaver says.

Almost all of the directors see the students involved in BSU as some of the most serious in their commitments. The number of Bible study groups — both in and out of the BSU Center — is multiplying. Students are more eager to share their faith in Jesus Christ. Both summer mission applications and appointments, as well as dollars to send summer missionaries, are at an all time high.

Perhaps one director sized it up best when he said "on the campus it's the best of times and the worst of times, but more than anything it's a time for commitment and faithfulness to Jesus Christ who has sent us to this unique mission field."

Tom Logue is director of the Student Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

COLLEGE MINISTRIES of FIRST BAPTIST CONWAY

We have a heart for students!

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Robinson & Davis Sts.

A word of welcome from BSU directors at Arkansas colleges

Lynn Loyd, Southern Arkansas University

Your college years will produce significant change and growth. Consider learning and growing on a campus with a BSU that is committed to helping you grasp the nature of the world and the God whom you serve.

SAU-BSU is students concerned about each other, reaching out in love to our campus. BSU involves students in mission, retreats, fellowships, intramurals, churchmanship, Bible study, convention and leadership training experience.

Look for the SAU-BSU "Howdy Party" August 26, and a special evening with Brad Sheffield, former Razorback, on August 30.

Arliss Dickerson, Arkansas State University

The Baptist Student Union at Arkansas State University wants you to have the best as a Christian at ASU.

Ken Medema will spend two days leading Christian concerts and worship services September 13-14.

Chester Swor will spend three days with our BSU during our Spring Inspiration Days.

Classes start Monday, August 23, and Guy Kocheil, ASU head track coach, Olympic pole vault coach and a deacon in one of our churches, will speak at the BSU's free luncheon encounter at noon at the BSU Center.

Start your classes and BSU involvement together!

James A. Smalley, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The BSU at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences invites you to be a part of our fellowship. Our building is located at 323 S. Elm, just east of the Medical Sciences Campus. Call 661-6010 or write 323 S. Elm, Little Rock, Ark. 72205 if we can help.

Our program is built around two weekly programs, a Tuesday night supper-seminar and a Monday luncheon-dialogue. Come to a welcome fellowship at our building on Sunday, August 22 at 9 p.m.

I also work with the students in the schools at the Baptist Medical Center Systems. This year an associate, Jennifer Newton, will begin her work at Baptist Medical Center.

Jackie Burton, Southern Baptist College

If the college of your choice this fall happens to be Southern Baptist College, I want to

welcome you and say "hi" — not just in this "formal" way, but I want to meet you in August when you arrive on campus.

BSU wants to and will be your special friend as you begin a new and different page in the story of your life. Our noontime programs, mission activities, dorm sharing, Bible study, revival teams, retreats, and other exciting fellowship and worship experiences are all an important part of Southern Baptist College, "The Campus of Christian Purpose."

Mike Weaver, University of Arkansas at Monticello

As a part of the University of Arkansas at Monticello family, let me welcome you to our campus. UAM is a NAIA (as opposed to NCAA) school with an annual student population of 1,800. It is proud of being the only school of forestry in the state and has proven itself to be tops in the pre-professional fields and teacher education.

In the midst of all this, the Baptist Student Union is committed to providing "maximum opportunities for growth and maximum opportunities for service" by way of directing students into worship, Bible study, mission activities, and opportunities to utilize one's God given talents in music, drama, or puppets. We feel that if given the chance we can help make your college years the most fruitful ever.

Jamie Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Welcome to the University of Arkansas and to the U of A Baptist Student Union. We are delighted that you have chosen the U of A and look forward to your coming our way. The U of A BSU has a variety of programs available to you.

These include "Lunchencounter" on Mondays at 11:30; "Wednesday Noon Bible Studies"; "BASIC", a worship service every Thursday night; BSU Choir, drama team, and puppet ministry; "Perspective" (Bible Study/discussion/opportunities), as well as retreats, conventions and many other activities designed to enhance your Christian growth and provide ministry opportunities.

BSU can be a key facet of your college experience and can enrich your life in meaningful and significant ways. So do yourself a favor this fall and try BSU. You just might find your place with us.

Steve Masters, Arkansas Tech University

Something for everyone. That is our goal at the BSU at Arkansas Tech University. Whether you are a commuter, an athlete, a freshman, a senior, an International, or in a fraternity or

The choice of many
students
at Arkansas State
University is



Dr. R. Wilbur Herring
Pastor

Central Baptist Church

Main and Cherry — Jonesboro, Arkansas

One of the Leading Southern Baptist Churches
in Arkansas

universities

sorority, we want you to be involved in BSU. Our BSU Center is located between Whataburger and Munchy's. It was built for you.

Whether you attend a Bible study, sing in the choir, perform with the puppet team, play on an intramural team, serve on a committee or do something else, we want you to be a part of a fellowship of students who are trying to grow spiritually. The BSU is here to provide you with an opportunity to meet other students in a Christian atmosphere. We don't expect you to be involved in everything, but we do want you to be involved in something at the BSU. Welcome!

Richard Boyles, University of Central Arkansas

We, from the University of Central Arkansas BSU, would like to welcome you to our campus. We hope your years here will be one of the most enjoyable times of your life.

We invite you to join us for fellowship, worship, Bible studies, retreats, early morning devotions, mission trips, prayer partners, and much more.

Our building is open for your use from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, and for special occasions on weekends.

We look forward to your coming our way and our being a help to you.

And for those of you who might not be Baptist, we say, "you don't have to be a Baptist to enjoy BSU."

Gary Glisson, Henderson State University

The Henderson State University Baptist Student Union would like to welcome you to Henderson, home of the "Reddies". We want to assure you that there are many people who care and will be there to help you in any way they can.

We will have a Welcome Party the Tuesday that classes start, followed by nightly consecutive fellowships of: Watermelon Feed; All You Can Eat Ice Cream Special; Movie Festival; Lake Party; and an introduction to the local churches.

All of this leads into our regular schedule of "Reachout" programs on Mondays and Thursdays and discipleship training on Tuesdays.

Danny McCauley, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

To those of you who have chosen University of Arkansas at Little Rock, welcome to the UALR Baptist Student Union. In your search for new friends of similar interests and life style, become a member of our group of young Christians. Fellowship, study, travel, Lunch Bunch, puppetry, recreation, retreats, regional and national conventions, sports and opportunities for service await you at your home away from home, the UALR BSU.

Plan to attend our BSU Retreat, August 13-15 at Camp Ozark. Contact Dan McCauley, 5515 W. 32nd Street, L.R., Ark. 72204, before August 1, or call (501) 562-4383.

Linda Anderson, Ouachita Baptist University

Welcome to Ouachita and to the BSU at Ouachita. I will serve as interim while Elmer Goble directs our Baptist witness at the Olympics in Los Angeles.

Plan now to attend our annual retreat at Camp Ozark, September 3-4, and make BSU a vital part of your college experience.

Rosie Simpkins, Westark Community College

The Baptist Student Union of Westark Community College at 701 N. 59th, Ft. Smith, extends to each student an invitation to make us a part of your college life. You will find very comfortable facilities where you can separate yourself from the mainstream of life as we study God's word, pray, and fellowship together. Lots of fellowship!

The BSU is not a church nor does it have a church atmosphere. It is a family situation — sharing, caring, rejoicing and learning to live in and through Christ's love. Hoping to see you soon!



Lloyd



Dickerson



Smalley



Burton



Weaver



Jones



Masters



Boyles



Glisson



McCauley



Anderson



Simpkins

You are invited

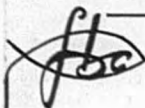
to learn with us in the college dept. at **Second Baptist Church** this fall! Our vans will provide you with transportation and our members will provide you with fellowship!

Rev. Carl Kluck, Pastor
Second Baptist Church
810 South 12th
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Welcome UAM Students Second Baptist Church Monticello

The church that cares for you
Join us each Sunday at 6 p.m.
for college supper.

John Robbins, Pastor



First Baptist Church Jonesboro

Building bridges
to A.S.U. students



A friendly welcome to students attending Southern Arkansas University from the folks of Central Baptist Church

Union and Madison
Magnolia, Arkansas
Dr. Jon M. Stubblefield, Pastor

Welcome, students, to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

For ten years the church family at Rolling Hills has shared the Christian pilgrimage with some of Arkansas' finest students. We invite you to make our's your church home away from home. Call us at 521-2660 in Fayetteville, 1400 Rolling Hills Drive.

William Brock Watson,
Pastor, Rolling Hills
Baptist Church

Invitation to Arkansas Tech University Students to consider First Baptist Church Second and Denver, Russellville as your university home church

*A Southern Baptist church
in the heart of Russellville
with Russellville and ATU at heart*

9:30 a.m. University Bible Study
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship

5:30 p.m. Christian Training
6:30 p.m. Evening Worship

Jack T. Riley, pastor
David Miller, minister of education-administration
David Branton, minister of youth and music

Second Baptist Church

CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Welcome
Students



CLYDE W. COLEMAN
PASTOR

DENNIS H. BERGFELD
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH



Coming to college in Arkadelphia this fall?

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Fellowships, Bible study, college chorale, drama programs, special ministries to the homebound, jail inmates and nursing home residents. It's all here and more. In other words . . .

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Dr. Jere Mitchell
Pastor



George Adams
Minister to Students

Here are four Good Words for students who will be attending the University of Arkansas this Fall:

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FAYETTEVILLE

Come by and meet us.

You will find...

Open arms and helping hands ...
Challenging Bible Study groups ...
Worship that is designed with the student in mind ...
Families who will make this a home away from home ...

But, most of all you will find ...

STUDENTS — like yourself
searching — caring — struggling — growing
Come! See for yourself!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — CARING FOR STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
College Avenue at Dickson Street Fayetteville, Arkansas 442-2387

The church's ministry to college students

by Emil Williams

As with every program action in the church, we should begin consideration of the college ministry with an understanding of the church's nature. We must know who we are before we decide what to do. Everything that is worthwhile in all of our ministries flows from an understanding of who we are.



Williams

There are many images of the church in the New Testament, but none of them is more meaningful to me than those that have to do with the church as family; we are called brethren. We are designated children of God. Jesus is referred to as our elder brother. God is called Father. There is reference to the household of faith. Jesus himself came into a family and the group of followers that he gathered around him in the days of his ministry was, in many ways, the model of family. These and many other terms set the church out as family. In addition, we find ourselves with all of the elements of the family making up our membership — people of all ages and conditions, from the youngest to the oldest. The church is not only modeled after the family, the church is family.

In a family there is a deep sense of belonging. All that we do with college students says, "You belong. You are a part of our family." To be sure, we have not always lived that out as consistently as I would like, but that is our intention. And I believe it should be the goal of every church that ministers to students to provide a place of belonging. This has as much to do with spirit and the action of individual members as with any structured, organized program. We encourage local members of the church family to demonstrate this spirit as students come among us — by the warmth of their welcome, by making it clear that they are among a family that is open to them, by the manner in which we speak to college students, recognizing them as persons and not allowing ourselves to be isolated from each other in our age and interest groups. These "flesh out" the church as family in live and visible ways. I do believe this is one area where we have been fairly successful in establishing this image. It grows out of who we are.

As the church is family, so we recognize the college students' needs for a family, a place of belonging. They have unique needs but they share this need with all of us — the need to belong, to be a part of a family. There are other needs that go before and follow after this need where college students and the church meet — the need for a personal rela-

tionship with God through Jesus Christ, the fundamental relationship of life, a family where this relationship can be lived out and opportunities for growth and service.

I am convinced that maintaining the church as family and recognizing the needs of college students form the two lines of concern, and where they converge the point is established from which actions should flow. We do not decide in a vacuum, but in a dynamic situation. That situation has to do with our own conception of ourselves and needs that are perceived. With that in mind, there are some new actions we want to take, some we want to discard, and others we want to reaffirm.

Some of these are once-a-year things, others are on-going; some are simple in nature and involve only a little amount of planning, others are major and call for elaborate planning, but we think they are all important and designed to fulfill our image of family. The following list suggests something of what we have done and are planning, not necessarily in order of importance:

—The addition of staff. This year we have added a young woman as a staff member who will work exclusively with college students and we believe that is vital to our growing ministry. Adequate staff is important!

—Contacting students before arrival. There is a deluge of mail that lands on every new college student, but it is important to let the new student know that we are here and we care about your coming here.

—Local students. This year we are giving more attention to local students who will be going away to school as well as those who will be remaining here to go to Arkansas State University. We feel we have a responsibility in both directions. We are trying to provide some orientation and background for students going away to school for the first time as well as encouraging students who will remain here to help us form the nucleus for ministry to the in-campus students.

—On-campus presence. One of the ways that we seek to establish some visibility on the campus is through the use of a welcome booth where we use students as well as adults from the church. It is another way to say, "The church is here." (I do admit that the large number of churches who provide this kind of service presents a somewhat confusing picture to students that churches are competing for them.)

—Publicity. We think some of the best money that is spent is for good publicity. At the same time, the worst is money spent on poor publicity. Again this year we are making an effort to provide attractive publicity — posters, mail-outs, hand-outs, material to be left in dormitory rooms, all as appealing as possible and designed to gain attention. Get-

ting their attention with a publicity piece is very difficult.

—Get-acquainted fellowship. We attempt to have some kind of time together with students with entertainment, fun and challenge at the beginning of the school year on some time other than Sunday. Last year, an on-campus activity on Saturday night with Grady Nutt was highly successful in terms of numbers, but we believe it is more important to have such a meeting at the church. It establishes a direction.

—Welcome dinner and pastor's reception. We will have a church dinner Aug. 29, the first Sunday after classes begin, for students and faculty members, where there will be an opportunity to introduce staff, university department workers, and the image of family is very important. That same evening students will be at the parsonage for fellowship with the pastor's family. It is vital to establish our own openness and availability to university students.

—Fall revival. This is not an established part of our schedule but this year we will have a special four-day meeting within a month after school begins and will focus on university students and youth — a time of special enlistment.

—Greeters. We are coming to believe it is more and more important to use college students to welcome their fellow-students before Sunday School and the worship service, to hand out name cards and to help students to find their places. We sometimes forget how strange a new church can be and an easily recognizable, visible college student greeting other college students is helpful. Most of the students come from small towns and a great many of them from rural areas and with churches of corresponding size. Therefore, we believe it is reassuring to offer friendship and welcome to students who may be a little reluctant to enter a church that is much larger than the one they are accustomed to.

—Participation in worship. We use college students regularly in some role in worship throughout the year, but especially the first few weeks in the fall. Summer missionaries who have been a part of our church family have returned and the sharing of their experiences is very helpful. There are others who have been involved in Christian ministry through the summer whose experiences are informative to other college students. In addition, we use college students for special music, testimonies, ushers and are open to using them in any way we can in the worship service.

—Renewed emphasis on Bible study. College students are a changing breed. One generation will be particularly interested in the great social issues while others seem to be primarily interested in their personal needs. This

Student ministry: practical side

Many Arkansas churches would have an inspiring story to tell about their ministries to students on the state's college campuses. The articles published here are an attempt to be representative of Arkansas churches. The two writers were enlisted by the ABN to show that both large and small churches can successfully reach out to students.

Explaining their church's methods are Emil Williams, pastor of Jonesboro First Church, and Mark Baber, pastor of Richwoods Church at Arkadelphia.

Ministry to students a joy and challenge

by Mark G. Baber

In January of 1979, when I accepted the call of Richwoods Church to become the church's first full time pastor, I in no way anticipated the joy and challenge that would come with ministry to college students. Yet, in the three-and-one-half-year journey that we have shared together, my life and the church's life have been significantly blessed by the many college students who have come our way.



Baber

There is abundant joy in ministry with lively college students, young enough to have fun, yet old enough to think soberly about many of life's most crucial issues. Coupled with the joy of ministering to college students is the awesome challenge that students pose to a pastor and a church. During the last three years I have spent many hours sharing with individual students about the crucial decisions of marriage, missions, seminaries and other graduate school and career opportunities. To realize that you are influencing people is indeed awe inspiring.

At Richwoods our approach to recruiting college members has really been quite passive. We have operated on the principle that a satisfied customer will come back and that he or she will be your best advertisement. Therefore, most of the students who are involved at Richwoods heard about us from their peers. Our only structured advertisement is a letter we send every fall to each new student at O.B.U. This letter informs them of our location and schedule and invites them to visit us as they consider a church home while in college. Then as students visit the church I try to write each one of them a personal letter and see them on campus during weekly visits.

At Richwoods we believe that if the fellowship is genuine, the worship is warm, the preaching and teaching is well prepared and timely that we will continue to have a fair share of the many local college students.

As a pastor who recently finished my college education I can remember that life on a college campus is characterized by incredible busyness. There are many worthy demands placed upon the time of college students. With this in mind, we do not attempt a full scale program of activities for students like a church would provide for junior and senior high school youth. We do, however, make pointed attempts at ministering to the unique needs of college students.

Each year we schedule a college retreat. Our retreats serve several purposes. They

provide an opportunity for outreach as we invite unenlisted students to attend. The retreats also provide inspiration, fellowship, and the opportunity to get acquainted on a more intimate basis than can be obtained in the formality of Sunday worship. These retreats have unified our college department and helped it grow.

We have discovered that many college students really like to feel they are a vital part of the church, though they will only be around for portions of four years. Thus, whenever we can, we elect students to positions of responsibility in Sunday School, Church Training, Children's Choir and to membership on various church committees. Our experience in this has been largely positive. Students have, for the most part, served responsibly any time they have been asked to do so.

One activity that has been a tremendous blessing to the life of our church is the College Choir. During the school year our College Choir sings every Sunday night. On occasion they combine with the Adult Choir to provide excellent leadership in worship. Our College Choir rehearses on Sunday afternoon after which they have a meal. The church sometimes provides the meal but often the members of the choir do all of the preparation themselves.

Another attempt to encourage students to become a vital part of our church is "Students-in-Homes-Day". On this day many of the church families invite from two to six students into their homes for "home cookin'" and an afternoon of fellowship. This annual activity has been a rousing success as hungry students delight at food which far exceeds the usual college cafeteria variety. But, more than the food, the opportunity to get to know other church members who live and work in the Arkadelphia area has been one of the most appealing features of the activity. Each year I have observed after our "Students-in-Homes-Day" that our congregation tends to mesh more naturally into a loving, caring and unified body.

I am overwhelmingly convinced that college students will worship, work, serve, give and significantly bless the congregation that will demonstrate open armed and warm hearted acceptance toward them. Students are no different from non-students in that they love to be loved.

The new school year is fast approaching and for that the pastor and people at Richwoods are grateful. We can't wait to get our members back from their three month vacation. We like the joy, we welcome the challenge, we value the relationships that come with the special privilege of ministering to college students.

generation of college students seems to be characterized by a deeper interest in Bible study. We are renewing our emphasis in this area and seeking to provide the best we can in mature leadership in Bible study, both on Sunday and weekday.

—Adoption program and international students. If the church family is to really be family, then it must be in its family units as well as the total group. So, we give opportunity for all students who would like to be involved in such a program to be "adopted." We ask families in our church to take one or two students to be guests in their home on special occasions, to be available to help in special needs and to be their family away from home. This has established some very deep relationships. The number of international students on the campus is growing rapidly and we are seeking to establish a program with them similar to the adoption program. (This may be the most vital mission field available to us in the years ahead.)

—Preaching. Perhaps I am not the one to make any evaluation at this point. I would only say that our intention is to make the preaching, as a part of the worship service and the worship service in its entirety, as relevant to college students and their needs as we possibly can. All that we do by way of promotion and publicity and enlistment is to no avail if we fail at this point.

I have certainly not meant to imply that all of these things have worked as well as they should. They are just some things that we do. There are others — personal things, private things — that encourage students that can't be measured in numbers and can't be seen. We live with the fact that the success of college ministry is not always visible or immediate. The ordinary standards of judgment cannot be applied and we must wait for eternity to know whether we have really been successful. It is the image of the church as family and the needs of students which that image presents to us that determines us, while we wait.

On to college:
Baptists' ministry
to Arkansas'
campuses

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College & Career CT Leader,
Dr. Jeff Holland

Cothen will request medical retirement

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen announced July 20 he is asking the Board's trustees for medical retirement effective March 1, 1984.

Cothen, 61, said, "This entire matter has been discussed in detail with the officers of the trustees and with the Plans and Policies Committee of the Trustee Board. The planning process was underway long before the Southern Baptist Convention meeting" in June in New Orleans, La.

Cothen emphasized there is "no relationship" between his request for medical retirement and current conflicts within the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said he was notifying the trustees 18 months in advance of his retirement date "to allow ample time for an orderly transition which will include the selection of a search committee, the election of a new president and a time of orientation to the job before March, 1984."

Cothen noted that the process he outlined is almost identical to that followed upon the 1975 retirement of his predecessor, James L. Sullivan.

The president of the institution with a 1982 budget of more than \$125 million said he had planned to make a formal announcement of his retirement request at the Aug. 3-4 meeting of the trustees.

"The release of the erroneous story by the Nashville Banner (June 20) made it nec-



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student adoption program
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Pastor



S. Mikael Carrier
music evangelists



Weston and Davis

**Minister of youth/
campus outreach**



Dave McKinney

HMB 'Evangelism Planbook' available to churches

ATLANTA, GA — The 1982-85 *Evangelism Planbook*, designed to assist pastors and churches develop a strategy to improve evangelistic efforts, has been released by the Home Mission Board and is available through state evangelism directors.

According to Fred White, director of the Home Mission Board Direct Evangelism Division and author of the book, one copy will be made available to every church through their state evangelism director. Any of the material in the planbook may be duplicated for church staff and leaders.

"We want to help churches develop an evangelism strategy and provide suggested resources to implement that strategy. The book includes specific tasks to make an evangelistic impact in the local church," White said.

The book's format was based on a survey of Southern Baptist pastors from all areas, and begins with a motivation for evangelism and plans for developing a church strategy of evangelism.

A coordinated plan, built around Bold Mission Thrust, specifically deals with the 1982-85 Southern Baptist emphases on reaching people, developing believers and strengthening families. The plan includes Southern Baptist witnessing processes sponsored by the Sunday School, Church Training and Family Ministries departments of the Sunday School Board, the Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, the Stewardship Commission and the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board.

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- * A refreshing and highly successful, nationally noted outreach to athletes and coaches of all sports at the U of A. UBC's Senior Pastor has served as Chaplain of the Razorbacks since 1968
- * Over two hundred young people have entered vocational Christian ministry from UBC, serving now as pastors, missionaries, staff members, teachers or presently as seminary students
- * UBC has adopted the goal of sending 300 of their members into vocational service, primarily world missions, by 1985
- * The Christian Counseling Center, under the full-time direction of a Pastor, has touched scores of students since its founding in 1978

An excellent staff of seven gifted pastors plus support personnel led by H.D. McCarty, in his 18th year of ministry at UBC

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Dr. H.D. McCarty
Senior Pastor

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Pastor Scott Gardner
Students

Dr. Mike Compton
Youth

Dr. George Eby
Christian Counseling
Center

High Court term historic in church-state relations

by Stan Hastley

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the significance of the recently completed term of the U.S. Supreme Court, Baptist Press is providing a two-part series on the major church-state decisions. This is the first of two parts.

WASHINGTON (BP) — In one of the most significant years for church-state relations in its 192-year history, the Supreme Court issued major rulings and took other actions on religious exercises in public institutions and government aid to religion in its just concluded term.

Headlining the high court's church-state actions was an 8-1 decision last December upholding the right of students at state-supported universities and colleges to conduct worship services on campus. That ruling struck down a policy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City banning worship and religious teaching in campus buildings or on campus property.

Adopted by university trustees in 1972 and implemented five years later, the policy was challenged in federal court by Cornerstone, a non-denominational group of evangelical Christian students who claimed the ban violated their rights of free speech and free exercise of religion.

Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., writing for the court majority, declared the ban unconstitutional in that it violated the students' First Amendment rights of free speech and association.

He emphasized, however, that the court had consciously sidestepped what many observers believed to be the central constitutional issue in the case, that of free exercise.

Siding with the students in the high court test were several religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case. (80-689, *Widmar v. Vincent*)

Precisely one week after the *Widmar* decision, however, the high court handed a defeat to a group of Guilderland, N.Y., high school students seeking to hold prayer meetings at their school before school hours.

The students lost their case when the justices unanimously declined to review two lower federal court rulings disallowing their free exercise claims. They had asked the high court to hear their appeal of those rulings, claiming that the Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision against them "ignores the fundamental right of millions of students to be free of governmental control of their associations and the free flow of ideas."

They also claimed that in the use of school property for religious purposes, "a high school, during school hours, is identical to a college or university."

But the justices clearly disagreed with that line of reasoning although, as is customary, they gave no reasons for denying the appeal. Their refusal to review the case left standing the lower court's ruling which held that the prayer meetings "would create an improper appearance of official support, and the prohibition against impermissibly advancing religion would be violated." (80-1396, *Brandon v. Board of Education of Guilderland School District*)

In a third case dealing with religion in schools, the high court unanimously affirmed another court of appeals striking down a Louisiana law which authorized local school boards to provide for a period of prayer at the beginning of each school day.

After the 1980 law was passed by the state legislature, the school board in Jefferson Parish announced it would begin permitting prayer led by students and teachers and issued guidelines to govern the one-minute proceeding.

Among the guidelines were provisions that students with their parents' written permission first volunteer orally to lead in prayer. If no student volunteered on a given day, the teacher was authorized to lead the prayer. Students not wishing to participate were to be excused to another location with the understanding that upon their return the whole class was required to observe another one-minute period, this one for silent meditation.

Three parents challenged the state law and local regulations in a federal district court, where their complaint was dismissed. But on review, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the parents.

By affirming the Fifth Circuit, the high court gave its stamp of approval to the reasoning of the lower panel's decision. (81-1031, *Treen v. Karen B.*)

High court justices also disposed of a pair of challenges by Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the country's most noted atheist, by refusing to disturb lower court rulings upholding the legality of invocations at city council meetings and of Christian and Jewish holiday displays in the rotunda of a state capitol.

O'Hair had challenged the custom of opening each meeting of the Austin, Texas, city council with prayer and the practice of displaying a nativity scene and a Jewish menorah in the Texas state capitol, also in Austin, where O'Hair's headquarters are located. (80-1907, *O'Hair v. Cooke*; 80-1908, *O'Hair v. Clements*)

Although the Supreme Court handled fewer than the normal load of cases dealing with government aid to religious institutions, one of them turned out to be a blockbuster of a decision.

In that case, a badly divided high court ruled that Americans United for Separation of Church and State did not have legal standing to sue the federal government for donating surplus land and buildings to an Assemblies of God college in Pennsylvania.

In a 5-4 opinion the high court held that the Silver Spring, Md.-based group failed to prove, either as taxpayers or as citizens, that it was actually injured by the transfer of a 77-acre plot of ground valued at \$1.3 million to Valley Forge Christian College.

Americans United argued before the high court that the gift of land and buildings violated the no establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment. The 35-year-old separationist organization also said it brought the suit on behalf of each of its individual members, none of whom wished to be taxed for the support of a religious body.

But Justice William H. Rehnquist, the high court's most conservative member, ruled that the federal government has the right under Article IV of the Constitution to dispose of land which it owns and said that Americans United failed to prove "any injury of any kind, economic or otherwise, sufficient to confer standing (to sue)."

Rehnquist also decreed what he called "the philosophy that the business of the federal courts is correcting constitutional errors," a philosophy, he added, which "has no place in our constitutional scheme" nor is made "more palatable when the underlying merits concern the establishment (of religion) clause."

Because it dealt with an organization's ability to sue the government for infringing the constitutional rights of its members, the Americans United decision will have significance well beyond the actual arguments in the case. Some constitutional scholars are assessing it as a major new victory for the "strict constructionist" wing of the court determined to discourage or bar institutional plaintiffs from going to court with class action suits. (80-327, *Valley Forge Christian College v. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Inc.*)

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Parks tells Foreign Mission Board how SBC issues affect missions

by Bob Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — President R. Keith Parks told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in July he feels compelled to speak out against polarizing issues within the convention that "are not our first priority."

Quoting from articles he has written for missionaries and for the board's magazine, "The Commission", Parks said his statements are being made "out of a deep and growing concern about us as a people, a people called Southern Baptists."

"Missions is the spiritual magnet that has held iron-willed Southern Baptists together,"

he emphasized. Yet, he added, "I came away from this convention (in New Orleans) with a feeling there had been an unconscious shifting of our focus."

Parks said he believes that both he and elected members of the board, as well as its staff, have an obligation to speak out against "anything that would hinder the foreign missions expression" of the denomination.

He read a column he has written for the September issue of The Commission entitled "Caesar and Missions." The column points to Baptists' historic commitment to the separation of church and state, based on Jesus' distinction between "that which is Caesar's" and "that which is God's."

"We have struggled throughout our history to prevent government from encroaching on our freedom," he said. "Yet the majority voting at a session in New Orleans voluntarily endorsed what could lead to government encroachment. This trend has serious implications for foreign missions."

Although Parks did not refer to it specifically, observers interpreted his remarks as being addressed to a convention resolution, adopted by a 3- to -1 margin, which endorsed a constitutional amendment supporting prayer in the public schools. It was the first such convention stand since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down compulsory religious exercises in public schools 20 years ago.

An attempt also was made to pass a resolution in support of Israel, but this resolution was tabled after Parks said it would adversely affect the board's work in other parts of the Middle East.

"Certainly we as individuals must be involved in our country in the political processes as Christian citizens," he said. "Our diversity will guarantee that participation will be across the political spectrum. But our convention will change its nature if it begins to support any specific political position."

Such convention actions, Parks said, can jeopardize the work of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. He said missionaries serve as guests under foreign governments. They do not intervene in the political processes overseas, nor do they represent the political position of the United States.

"Any implication of political connections compromises our singular ministry to a lost world," he explained.

Despite his warnings, Parks said he is optimistic and has "great confidence in the people called Southern Baptists."

"As they understand and are given the full range of possibilities and options, the common good sense of Southern Baptists will prevail," he predicted. "But I am convinced that we must lay out before them the interpretation of what could happen unless we do consider all the options."

'Captain Kangaroo' back; Hollis praises CBS

by Duann Kier

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A decision by CBS to move the long-running "Captain Kangaroo" television series to a weekend time slot will provide a wholesome alternative to the often violent cartoon programs for children, says a Southern Baptist family specialist.

"CBS has made an especially positive programming move by making 'Captain Kangaroo' more accessible to children. This change is a giant leap forward for weekend television," Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said.

"Captain Kangaroo," created in 1955 by Bob Keeshan who is also executive producer of the series, for some time has been limited to a 6:30-7:00 a.m. time slot on weekdays, causing a decline in the program's audience.

The program is now scheduled to return in late September or early October to its original one-hour length at a time when more young viewers are available (7-8 a.m. on Saturday and 8-9 a.m. on Sunday).

"I congratulate CBS for improving the quality of weekend television and I congratulate Keeshan for his 27-year positive influence on American children and their families," Hollis said.

Keeshan will also produce three or four after-school children's specials for the network.

"I am excited about expanding into after-school production," Keeshan said. "There are so many important and interesting subjects that should be explored through children's television. 'Availability to children is all we've ever wanted, and it's all I've ever worked for.'"

In a recent address at the annual Christian Life Commission seminar on strengthening families, Keeshan said, "I believe parental intervention is vital in children's choices of television programs and in the amount of time children watch television."

"Just as the love of God should be a way of life affecting all we do every minute of the day, parenting is a consuming calling, requiring sacrifice, love, and concern which are not to be addressed only when convenient," he stressed.

Hollis urged Southern Baptists to demonstrate wide support for the weekend "Captain Kangaroo" program and for the afternoon specials.

"CBS will be watching to see if we're watching," Hollis pointed out. "This is a golden opportunity for parents to guide their children toward better television viewing and at the same time send a signal to the networks that we support positive television programming."



Does it make a difference what we believe about prayer or how we pray?

FOREVER, AMEN. is an inspirational writing about the Lord's Prayer. In a highly readable style Dr. Davis considers the meaning of the Model Prayer. "Does God Answer Prayers?" "The Intention of Heaven," "The Meaning of Our Father," and "The Risk of Prayer" are some of the intriguing chapter titles that provide insight. \$3.25

Earl C. Davis is pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. He writes curriculum and periodicals for The Sunday School Board and is an active denominational leader.

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Your state convention at work

Sunday School

Plan to grow with October Outreach Month

Participation in October Outreach Month will provide your Sunday School an opportunity to train workers in outreach, discover and enroll prospects in Sunday School, and reach a high attendance goal.

Literature Distribution on October 1-2 will give teachers an opportunity to visit in the homes of members and prospects and distribute literature for the upcoming quarter.

Outreach/Witness Training and Visitation on each Thursday in the month will provide training in effective visiting and witnessing. At least 45 minutes should be spent in training and 60 minutes in actual visitation each Thursday.

On Enrollment Commitment Day, October 10, each Sunday



Rattton
Thursday.

School worker and each adult and youth member will be challenged to set a personal goal for the number of persons he will enroll during the year.

The Nationwide Bold People Search scheduled for October 17 will challenge every church in the Southern Baptist Convention to discover persons who are not enrolled in Bible study and reach persons for Christ and church membership.

Enrollment Days, October 21-31 is an 11-day period given to intensive visitation and enrollment, based on information gathered in the People Search.

October Outreach Month will be climaxed on October 31 with High Attendance Day — Great Day in the Morning.

Plan for growth and outreach. Plan to have October Outreach Month in your church. — **Pat Rattton, preschool consultant**

Evangelism

Your personal testimony

Your personal testimony will communicate great truths to a lost person. It is first-hand information to the non-Christian. It catches the attention of the non-Christian. It holds the interest of the non-Christian. It helps the non-Christian to see himself. It helps the non-Christian to understand that Christ makes the difference in life. It helps the non-Christian to see Christ at work in someone's life today.

The testimony is a bridge to introduce the gospel. This helps the non-Christian to know he can receive Jesus Christ as Lord and savior. It helps the Christian witness in the transition to the gospel



Shell

presentation with the question, "Has anything like this ever happened to you?"

Each witness should prepare to give his personal testimony. It is important to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit to guide in the preparation. The testimony should be kept short. It should be kept to the point reporting what has happened to you. It is good to re-live it as you tell it. Always avoid self and negative remarks.

The personal testimony should include the following essentials: My life before receiving Christ; how I realized I needed Christ; how I became a Christian; how Christ helps me in my daily life.

Many times the apostle Paul shared his experiences with Christ. You and I will do well to do likewise. — **Clarence Shell Jr., director**

Christian Life Council

No satisfying Bacchus

The Little Rock news media recently reported the Arkansas Regional Red Cross Blood Services telling of the seriously low supplies of blood in hospitals over the state. While such shortages often occur, especially during the summer, there is never a shortage of blood donated to Bacchus, the god of pleasure. For example, most of those who consume beer, wine and whiskey do so "recreationally." Consequently, every year in America approximately 26,000 persons are killed in traffic accidents where drinking is involved. That is a lot of blood shed for recreational purposes.

A short time ago an undertaker estimated an average of three quarts of blood in the human body. That would include every age

group. Figure it out for yourself; three times 26,000 is 78,000 quarts of blood shed on the streets and highways and in the embalming process because of drinking drivers. This does not include the blood shed by those who are injured in those accidents. Neither does it include the blood shed by murder and other deaths caused by those who worship "recreationally" at the feet of Bacchus. How long are our city, county, state and national governmental, medical, educational and religious leaders going to basically ignore such bloodletting and worship? The answer is, as long as we, as a nation, give obeisance to a god which demands such blood sacrifice for a pittance of tax revenue. What a ridiculous swap! — **Bob Parker, director**

Cooperative Program Report: June

1981		1982
\$ 669,221.07	Gifts for June	\$ 777,988.83
<u>669,511.50</u>	Budget for June	<u>759,888.73</u>
(290.43)	Over (under)	18,100.10
\$4,106,727.88	Gifts year-to-date	\$4,451,847.68
<u>4,017,069.00</u>	Budget year-to-date	<u>4,559,332.50</u>
89,658.88	Over (under)	(107,484.82)

Arkansas Baptist churches gave 102.38 percent of the budget during June. This is the third month during 1982 when budget receipts exceeded budget requirements. Gifts are 8.28 percent above last year and are 97.6 percent of the budget goal to date.

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How would you feel if you found yourself in the middle of over 7,000 youth in an area of a hundred or so acres. To the casual observer that may sound like some type of concentration camp, but to those involved, it means only one thing — FUN!

That's just what Arkansas Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs in Hot Springs on Saturday, September 11, is — lots of fun for Baptist youth from all over Arkansas. This year marks the second year for Baptist Youth Day and it will probably again be the largest gathering of Southern Baptist Youth in Arkansas.

Baptist Youth Day will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 6 p.m. A rally will be conducted on the parking lot from 2:30-4 p.m. and the



Nutt

park will reopen from 4 until 6 p.m. The rally will feature Christian humorist Grady Nutt, the music of Weston and Davis, and ventriloquist Clyde Spurgin and Archie, better known as "Captain DiscipleLife."

The design of the day is to provide awareness of DiscipleLife; the emphasis in Youth Church Training: An interpretation of DiscipleLife, the discipleship/evangelism course through Youth Church Training, will be presented throughout the day. In addition, youth choirs will be performing in the park along with our featured guests. All this is available at a very low ticket price for this exclusive event.

For ticket information or information about your youth choir or music group performing at Baptist Youth Day, contact Bill Falkner, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, phone — 376-4791. — **Bill Falkner, associate**

Foreign mission briefs

Church inaugurated in six languages

ASUNCION, Paraguay — Some 1,000 people speaking six languages inaugurated the new sanctuary of the Indigenous Maka Church on the island home of Paraguay's Maka tribe. Worshipers at the May 16 dedication of the brick church, built with Korean Baptist contributions, heard Korean from pastor Kwang Chul Ko (a Korean Baptist missionary) and Don Kim, former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention; English from missionary guests; Spanish and Guarani, the predominant languages of Paraguay; and the indigenous tongues of the Maka and Toba tribes. About 230 of the 400-member Maka tribe, including the principal tribal chief, are members of the church.

Foreign missionaries at World's Fair

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A number of Southern Baptist Foreign missionaries on furlough in the United States have volunteered to work at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn. Before the fair closes Oct. 31, at least 28 missionaries on leave from 11 countries are scheduled to serve as hosts and hostesses at the Southern Baptist pavilion, where more than 3,000 visitors a day see musical performances and a display of Bibles printed in many languages. The missionaries are also presenting Christ to workers and visitors at international pavilions of countries and language groups they serve overseas.

Evangelistic results highlight conference

KYELA, Tanzania — Reports that more than 3,700 people became Christians in two regions of Tanzania last year were high-

lighted at a recent evangelism conference at the Huruma Baptist Conference Center, Iringa, Tanzania. Charles Mwaipolo, Tanzania pastor from Mwanza, reported that more than 2,000 became Christians and a number of churches were started as part of the Sukuma Project, which is designed to start churches among Tanzania's four million Sukuma people. In the Kyela Association, Southern Baptist missionary Doug Knapp reported more than 1,700 baptisms and 30 new preaching points. About 1,100 made professions of faith during revivals in the Kyela area led by volunteers from the United States.

Bookstore blossoms in Ibague

IBAGUE, Colombia — A Christian bookstore which opened recently in Ibague, Colombia, a city of 400,000 people, tripled its sales during its second week and tripled them again the third week. First Church of Ibague was seeking new ways to minister to the community when a local believer offered the church rent-free space in a downtown commercial center. At the request of pastor Jose Zabala, Southern Baptist missionaries Ellis and Judy Leagans agreed to be directors of a bookstore on the property. Two young women staff the store, which provides services to churches and believers, and a Christian witness to every person who comes in.

Okinawa Baptists condemn atomic arms

URASOE CITY, Okinawa — During their 1982 annual meeting Okinawan Baptists condemned the existence and use of atomic weapons. "As Japanese people who have experienced the destruction of atomic weaponry, especially as residents of Okinawa who experienced the tragedy of World War II, we strongly protest the existence of

atomic weapons," read a declaration adopted at the meeting. The declaration appealed for the "destruction and prohibition" of all such weaponry, which "despises the dignity of human life."

Lunch hour becomes hour of decision

TAIPEI, Republic of China — Noontime English classes begun in downtown Taipei by Southern Baptist missionaries have become effective soul-winning tools. One young student has been baptized, and more than 50 others have accepted Christ and entered "inquirers classes" where they study Christian doctrine.

First Thai Baptist student center opens

BANGKOK, Thailand — The first Thai Baptist student center and male hostel opened recently in Bangkok. Eight young men are living in the 10-resident hostel. Though they are not required to be Christians, they must agree to attend Christian meetings conducted there six nights a week. The center also is to be an outreach and meeting place for the 40,000 students who live in the neighborhood and attend 300,000-student Ramkhamhaeng University.

Films prompt 386 decisions for Christ

BANGKOK, Thailand — In a recent 12-month period, 386 people accepted Christ as their savior after seeing a Christian film from the Thailand Baptist mass communications film library. An additional 91 dedicated themselves in some way during film programs. Records indicate films were shown more than 1,100 times during the year.

International Apollos: A learning teacher

by Gene Petty, Ouachita Baptist University
Basic passages: Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor. 3:5-9
Central truth: A genuine teacher is always a student and a student is sometimes a teacher when the opportunity comes.

Although mentioned briefly in the scriptures, we know a lot about the early Christian teacher, Apollos. Luke tells us in the Book of Acts that he was an Alexandrian Jew which indicates he was progressive and open in his theological disposition and not closed like most of the Judaen Jews. This would have made Apollos open to the gospel whenever and wherever he heard it preached. It would also help explain his openness to the implications of the gospel and to growing doctrine in the faith. Acts also tells us that he was mighty in the scriptures which is also a reflection of his birth in Alexandria where the Old Testament was translated from Hebrew into Greek and where many important manuscripts have been discovered indicating a strong interest in the Word of God.

Luke also tells us that he was an eloquent preacher and diligent teacher of the word of God and that he shared the gospel with a fervent spirit. His reputation as an effective teacher and preacher spread throughout all the Mediterranean world. All this knowledge about Apollos helps us understand the significance of this great teacher being taught by two humble tentmakers! Acts 18:26 says they took him unto them and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. The amazing aspect of this verse is that Apollos let them! The fact that Apollos was open to the instruction of the humble tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, is verified in Acts 18:28 where we read that he mightily convinced the Jews and that publically, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Greatness is often seen in submissive-ness. The willingness of Apollos to learn from the unlearned formally gives evidence of his true greatness. When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth he called Apollos a fellow laborer, who like himself was not important. What was important was God who gave the increase. Our willingness to learn from whatever source indicates our true nature.

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.

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Life and Work Resisting sin

by C. A. Johnson, Walnut Street, Jonesboro
Basic passages: Hebrews 3:7 to 4:13;
10:26-31; 12:1
Focal passages: Hebrews 3:12-15; 4:1-2, 6,
11; 10:26-49

Central truth: In the light of our knowledge of God made known by Jesus Christ, sin becomes a serious matter which must be resisted mightily.

1. Sin hardens the heart. God has made man an offer — the blessings of a life which is far more than the life he can live without God. To obtain these blessings man must do two things. (a) Trust — believe that what God says he can do, he will do. (b) Obey God. However, the offer has a limit. Sin causes man to ignore the limit.

2. Sin is deceitful. Sin is a refusal to be controlled by God and it deceives in various ways. It looks pleasant and allures with glamor and charms. Sin is a promiser of great success. It stifles man's conscience, blinds his eyes and hardens his heart and says all will be well. Sin gives man unlimited self-confidence and causes him to be forgetful of unpleasant warnings.

3. Sin hardens by delayed judgment. People around us keep sinning and are not immediately punished and we are lulled into a false peace. Sin hardens by seeming to be harmless, promising good. Before it is committed, sin looks so fair! Man's conscience is slowly stupefied until there is no hope.

4. Sin may rob one of the rest of God. The rest and peace of God is offered to men. However, this peace and rest will not be reached automatically. Man may hear the good news and do nothing about it and thus miss the promise of God. It is not just hearing the gospel that brings salvation, but appropriating that gospel through faith.

5. The wilful sin of apostasy is taking Christ's love and trampling that love underfoot. The sacredness of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross is disregarded. This sin ignores the pleadings, invitations, commands of the Spirit as one goes his own way. This sin defies, wounds, and violates the heart of God. The greater is man's knowledge, the greater the sin. If under the old law, apostasy was a terrible thing, now that Christ has come, it becomes doubly terrible.

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Bible Book Lament of loneliness

by Gerald Taylor, Life Line Church, Little Rock

Basic passages: Psalm 40; 42; 51
Focal passages: Psalm 42; 53:1-3

Central truth: Man is not to live under his circumstances but under the grace and power of God.

Psalm 40 is doubtless a Psalm composed while reflecting upon trials which occurred in the life of David. He is pictured in a pit (v. 2) from which he is delivered by prayer (v. 1-3). The Psalm is also Messianic in content in that he "came to do thy will" (v. 8), which is quoted in Hebrews 10:5-9 and applied to the Messiah. Psalm 40 and Psalm 70 shows a remarkable resemblance even ending with the same words.

Psalm 42 was probably drawn from the history of David, during the time of Absalom's rebellion and David's flight into exile (II Sam. 15-18). Psalm 51 was doubtless written by David after his great sin against God. Psalm 42 divides itself into two parts: verses 1-5 and verses 6-11.

In Psalm 42:1-5 we have: (1) the resource of the Psalmist (v. 1, 2) a thirsting for God; (2) the remorse because of reproach (v. 3); (3) the remembrance of days in the house of God (v. 4); (4) the resolve to trust God through adversity (v. 5).

Verses 6-11 we see (1) the cry of despondency (v. 6-7); (2) the certainty of God's help (v. 8-9); (3) the continued reproach (v. 10); (4) the call for hope in God (v. 11).

In Psalm 51:1-3, we see (1) the character of God toward sinners (v. 1); (2) the cleansing requested (v. 2); (3) the confession made (v. 3).

We must not be overwhelmed by trouble. When we sincerely seek God with our burdens, regardless of how deep or discouraging they may be, God is ready to help.

Circumstances may not change suddenly, but God is greater than circumstances. He alone is the ultimate source of consolation. Apply God's word to your troubles, even loneliness, and you will find "grace to help in time of need."

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Nominations sought for boards, committees

Members of the Nominating Committee for the 1982 Arkansas Baptist State Convention want Arkansas Baptists to submit names of persons for that committee to consider when they bring the convention nominations for state committees and boards.

This recommendation will not insure nomination, but the committee will consider each recommendation. The commit-

tee will not contact any person recommended until they approve the nominations.

The Nominating Committee will hold their first meeting Sept. 16 and need all recommendations no later than Sept. 9. Members of the committee are Merle Milligan, chairman, Dennis Dodson, James Evans, R. Wendell Ross, Eddie Simpson, William Philiber, Ernest Howell, Leo Hughes, and Jimmy Wallace.

Sept. 9 is the deadline for recommendations

I recommend the following person:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Approximate age: _____ Lay-Person: () Minister: ()

Occupation: _____

Holds Church Membership in _____ Church _____

Church Address: _____

Association _____

Major Activity in Church or Association _____

Prior service on Boards and Committees _____

Your specific reason for recommending this person: _____

Check the board, committee or commission on which you believe this person could best serve.

Boards of trustees

- () Executive Board
- () Family & Child Care Services
- () Foundation
- () Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis
- () Christian Civic Foundation
- () Ouachita Baptist University
- () Southern Baptist College
- () "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine"

Committees and commissions

- () History Commission
- () BSU Advisory Committee
- () Ministry of Crisis Support Advisory Committee
- () Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- () World Hunger Committee
- () Convention Program Committee

Mail this sheet to:
Merle Milligan
18 Mimosa Dr.
Harrison, Ark. 72601

Signed _____
(Name of person making this recommendation)

Address _____

City and State _____

Telephone _____

Baptist TelNet Taping begins

RIDGECREST, N.C. — More than 60 conference sessions at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center are being video taped this summer in preparation for launching the Sunday School Board's satellite telecommunications network in 1984.

Baptist TelNet will beam training, informational and inspirational programs to churches, associations and state conventions.

"We are experimenting with settings and techniques to learn how to obtain quality tapes in the conference center setting," said Joe Denney, telecommunications manager.

Denny said some tapes also may be edit-

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ed into network programs. Four technicians — a director-producer, director-engineer and two production specialists — work out of a portable production center housed in a van.

Conferences are taped at various locations on the conference center campus.

A conference on choral conducting held during church music week and led by Robert L. Burton, professor of conducting and ensemble activities, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, was the first session taped.

Witnessing stereotypes must go if we win world, Chafin says

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — If Southern Baptists want to win the world to Christ they must abandon stereotypes of evangelism, says Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Church of Houston.

Chafin, who addressed 1,400 women at the Woman's Missionary Union Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, said the most common stereotype is that of grabbing people by their lapels and forcing them to listen to a testimony.

Chafin urged the women to abandon that approach because "you don't have to love people to do that."

"The easiest way in the world to become a witness is to pray for God to give you a person to love and to minister to," Chafin said. "The people who will be won are the people who are in your world," adding that once a genuine interest in a person has been established, the way is open for a Christian to witness.

Chafin also urged women to help new believers mature in their faith. "A weakness of Southern Baptists is that they are more interested in baptizing people than in developing new believers," he said. "But it is a lifelong process for all of us to grow and mature in Jesus Christ."

Chafin also called for the women to abandon feelings that great things are done by other people in other places.

"You are gifted. If you are where people are, God can use you to reach people," he said.

Also urging women to use their spiritual gifts was Dorothy Sample, of Flint, Mich., national president of Woman's Missionary Union.

"God's call is a personal call," she said.

"He has called every one of us to do something. We need to allow the spirit of God to stir up our gifts."

Saying that approximately 80 percent of the four billion people in the world have never heard the gospel, Sample challenged the women to accept the responsibility of mission leadership.

She warned women not to be "so busy going and doing that we don't minister to the bleeding and hurting along the way. Take time to be involved in the lives of people in their daily walking."

Bold Mission Thrust may be God's way of opening up new avenues for women to use their gifts, said Elaine Dickson, manager of direct sales for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

(Bold Mission Thrust is Southern Baptists plan to present the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.)

Referring to approximately 500,000 girls and teenagers currently enrolled in WMU organizations, Dickson said, "It is possible that God is planning to use these young women in ways we never dreamed possible."

Dickson spoke on the role WMU played in starting theological education for women 75 years ago with the establishment of the Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now a part of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary).

She called for women to be like 19th century WMU leaders who "did not demand freedom from oppression — 'instead, they were women who dared assert their accountability for the world missions task and claimed their freedom to do something in the kingdom of God.'"

Symposium to address small town situation

ATLANTA, GA — A symposium examining sociological and demographic factors impacting churches in small towns will be held at the University of Georgia in Athens, March 1-3, 1983, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The three-day "Rural-Urban Symposium: Small Town" will feature demographers, sociologists, theologians and environmental ethicists in dialogue and conversation, and will include several related field visits, according to Robert Wiley, associate director of the Rural-Urban Missions Department, Home Mission Board.

Guest speakers include Calvin Beale, a demographer with the United States Department of Agriculture. Beale is credited with observing the major turn-around in non-metropolitan growth rate in the United States in the 1970's. Author Douglas Walworth of the Albany Institute will also address the symposium. He is an author and

consultant in the field of Church Development.

For a church to be most effective, Wiley explained, persons working with that church must be aware of and understand the many sociological factors affecting it, including politics, city and county government, society functions, historical formations, zoning and city planning processes.

The symposium will examine those factors and determine methods for churches to interpret and use the data.

The symposium is designed for pastors, directors of missions and associational and state convention personnel who relate to churches in towns with population of 1,000 to 1,200.

Persons interested in participating should write or call Robert Wiley, Rural-Urban Missions Department, SBC Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367, telephone (404) 873-4041.