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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Officers re-elected
in annual meeting
pages 2 - 11



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November 27, 1986

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

On the cover



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Messengers re-elected all three of their officers for another year of service during the annual meeting Nov. 18-19 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. Elected were (left to right) James Bryant of Fort Smith, second vice-president; Eddie McCord of Batesville, first vice-president; and Lawson Hatfield of Fordyce, president.

Messengers celebrate 'Renewal, Revival, Rejoicing'

by Mark Kelly

The bright, jubilant strains of the Arkansas Music Men instrumental ensemble filled the sanctuary with the sounds of celebration as messengers filed into Little Rock's Geyer Springs First Church for the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Taking Psalm 85:6 as their watchword, they gathered for 12 hours of inspiration, fellowship, and business matters of concern to the 1,272 churches which constitute the convention.

At 6:30 p.m., William B. Tolar, dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, delivered the first of his three Bible studies on "Renewal, Revival, and Rejoicing."

Tolar held up the necessity of renewal to the congregation, emphasizing that one walks as either one who is dead in sin or alive in Jesus Christ. He contrasted the Apostle Paul with his contemporary, the Roman Emperor Nero. While Nero was "the flower of Roman civilization," he died a depraved, suicidal man at age 31. Paul, on the other hand, rose from an undistinguished background to become the strongest force in the early Christian church.

"It makes a difference which way you walk," Tolar asserted.

State Convention President Lawson Hatfield of Fordyce gaveled the 133rd annual session to order, and Paul Sanders, pastor of the host church, delivered a word of welcome to the messengers.

Hatfield announced the convention credentials, tellers, order of business, and resolutions committees. In quick succession, messengers heard reports from those committee chairmen, including a report of seven resolutions submitted prior to the convention.

When no additional resolutions came from the floor, messengers listened to a reading of two constitutional amendments to be considered during the meeting, one dealing with a new statement of purpose for the convention, the other an adjustment to the legal powers of the executive director of the Executive Board.

Honored guests of the convention were introduced to the assembly. The president recognized representatives of the Baptist hospitals and Southern Baptist Convention agencies, former state convention presidents, and senior ministers. Home and foreign missionaries in attendance also were noted.

At 7:45, Glendon Grober, coordinator of the partnership mission between Arkansas Baptists and Baptists in northern Brazil, took the platform to report on the project, dubbed "AMAR" after the Portuguese word for "love."

Grober shared an experience from a recent trip to the Brazilian interior. He told how an Arkansas Baptist medical team ministered to an elderly man in a remote village and then shared a testimony with him. Although he was the father of a man who had vocally opposed the team's coming to the village, the man accepted Jesus as his Savior. That trip resulted in 133 such professions of faith, Grober recalled.

He recounted for messengers the fruits of the partnership, which is entering into its third and final year. Grober pointed out one career missionary and one journeyman are now serving on foreign fields because of their participation in volunteer partnership projects in Brazil. He informed messengers that the number of churches in one northern territory had doubled because of Arkansas teams working in the area.

Grober also reeled off a list of buildings built and properties purchased through the partnership. He concluded by telling messengers the doors to Brazilian missions are still open for another year. He particularly emphasized the need for volunteer teams for the massive city-wide crusade planned

Tuesday evening

for Manaus in October 1987, in which he hopes 10,000 professions of faith may be made.

Messengers rose for congregational singing and heard stirring performances from the Arkansas Music Men and Singing Women before Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church, Houston, Texas, brought the evening sermon.

Taking Ezra 7:6, 9-10 as his text, Shook told messengers that renewal, revival, and rejoicing will begin with a return to the Word of God.

"We live in a country in desperate famine for the Word of God," Shook declared. Ignorance of God's message and apathy toward it are at the heart of this country's "strange, bizarre, and unusual" problems, he said.

The answer to those problems lies in a return to God's Word, a "re-Bible," Shook asserted. When simple folk like Ezra set their hearts to study, practice, and share the Word of God with others, they "will change everything that matters" and "we will have renewal, revival, and rejoicing," he said.

"We don't need to fight about the Bible," he explained. "We just need to believe it, study it, and practice it. When we are

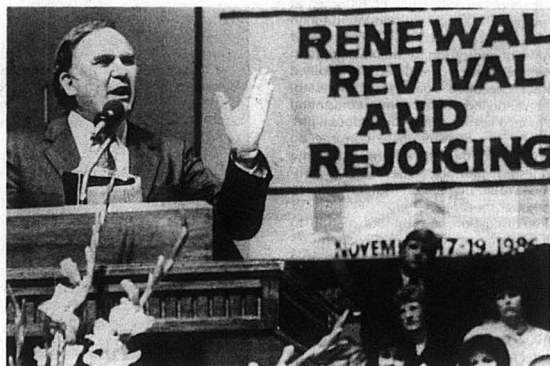
In this issue

10-11 this week, not next!

The ABN brings you the report of the pre-convention Executive Board and auxiliary meetings in the same issue as the annual meeting coverage, rather than delaying it a week as in previous years.

15-19 'Helpline,' too!

This week's ABN also includes the regular monthly "Helpline" section, which offers information about state convention helping ministries to help you plan your activities.



Damon Shook of Houston, Texas, preached on Tuesday evening.

doing that, that's all we'll have time for."

As the messengers rose for the benediction, President Hatfield informed them registration at 7 p.m. had stood at 1,015, short of the previous year's figure by 174.

A benedictory prayer was voiced by Del Medlin at 9:10 p.m.

Wednesday morning

Messengers convened Wednesday morning at 8:15 for the second session of the convention. After Wesley Forbis of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., led them in singing "I Stand Amazed In The Presence," William B. Tolar returned for the second of his Bible studies on "Renewal, Revival, and Rejoicing."

Recalling the plaintive cry of Psalm 142:4, "no man cares for my soul," Tolar illustrated the loneliness of many people with a story about the death of an elderly woman. On the last pages of her diary, entry after entry read, "No one came today."

Tolar then referred messengers to Matthew 14:13-14 for insight into Jesus' compassion for those around him. He noted that Jesus saw the people in their need, was moved with compassion, and ministered to them.

The mark of a Christian, he said, is that he has the eyes to see people in their need and then obediently moves to meet those needs without waiting until he feels like it. He encouraged his hearers to affirm, "I will see the people and be compassionate and do what I can for them."

After Tolar's study, ministerial staff new to the state were recognized and messenger's heard reports from three state convention agencies.

Johnny Biggs, executive director of Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services, shared an update on that ministry, which Arkansas Baptists have supported for 92 years. Biggs told messengers that seven associations and eight churches are now providing locations for ministry to women and children in crisis. The new emergency receiving home in Paragould received 35 referrals of battered mothers in its first four months of operation, he said.

Harry Trulove, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, reported his agency manages \$14 million in assets for Baptist causes, compared to \$1 million just 10 years ago. In three quarters of 1986, the Foundation's income from investments was seven times greater than the Cooperative Program dollars allocated for its operation.

J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, noted for messengers several changes in the Newsmagazine in response to a reader survey. He told them the ABN would reinstate a weekly "smile" column and establish a regular "sermon starter" feature in 1987.

After Shelby Bittle, pastor of Union Avenue Church in Wynne, shared a testimony of that congregation's experience in the Good News revivals last spring, ABSC President Lawson Hatfield took the platform for his president's message.

Hatfield's topic, "The Security of the Believer," was based on Romans 8:1, 35-39. He told messengers the Bible is clear on the fact that the believer is secure in God's grace

and the matter of "falling from grace" mentioned in Galatians 5 specifically refers to those who trust in the law for salvation.

He pointed to 1 John 2:19 and Matthew 7:21 as evidence that the professed Christian who lives in habitual sin has never had an experience of regeneration. He also asserted that Psalm 89:30-34 teaches that God punished his disobedient children but never completely removes his love and faithfulness.

Hatfield concluded with a challenge for Arkansas Baptists to read the Bible through in 1986-87. He noted a reading guide had been distributed at the convention and encouraged preachers to base their sermons on each week's reading assignment. He predicted churches that took up the challenge would register increases in every area of church work.

At 10:20 a.m., First Vice-president Eddie McCord opened the floor for nominations for the convention presidency. Hatfield was immediately renominated for a second term and elected by acclamation.

Hatfield then took the gavel to open the floor for nominations for first vice-president. McCord was renominated to his position and elected by acclamation.

Two candidates surfaced for the second vice-presidency when the floor was opened for nominations. James W. Bryant, pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Fort Smith, was renominated to the position by Johnny Ross of Batesville. Noble Wiles, pastor at Oxford, was nominated by Jesse Taylor, director of missions in Rocky Bayou Association. Taylor encouraged the messengers to elect Wiles as a worthy representative of all the small church and bivocational pastors in the state.

Messengers cast their ballots for second vice-president at 10:30 a.m. and moved on to hear the report of the ABSC Executive Board.

Executive Board President Ferrell Morgan of Fort Smith announced plans to name the Baptist Building library in honor of the late Huber Drumwright, ABSC executive secretary, and L.L. Collins, associate executive secretary. Funds donated in memory of Collins would be used to improve the library.

Messengers then adopted four recommendations from the Executive Board. The first was a \$12.3 million 1987 budget which directed 41.41 percent to Southern Baptist causes, an increase of .74 percent over 1986.

The second recommendation adopted added to the formula base \$50,000 and \$188,000 respectively for Southern Baptist College's four-year program and the new Church Expanded Annuity Plan.

The third proposal adopted rewrote the formula to integrate the Southern College and annuity additions and changed the formula for figuring the annual increase in gifts to the national Cooperative Program.

According to the plan, annual percentage increases in gifts channeled to the national level would be tied to the annual percentage increase in undesignated gifts to Arkansas Baptist churches. Currently the annual increase is set at .75 percent as Arkansas Baptists move toward a 50-50 distribution of Cooperative Program funds. The new proposal would guarantee a minimum .25 percent increase and allow as much as a one percent increase, depending on increases at the local church level.

The adjustment in the percentage of increase is intended to forestall a projected financial crisis in the state, according to the report. While the .75 percent national increase was mandated by the formula, similar increases were not coming at the local church level, with the result that the additional monies for national missions were being taken from state Executive Board programs and ministries. The 1987 budget actually reflected a slight decrease for state programs.

To address the brewing financial crisis which the previous proposal was intended to lessen, messengers also adopted a proposal to appoint a "Task Force of 100" composed of pastors, laypeople, and institutional leaders. The task force will seek opportunities to challenge Arkansas Baptist churches to increase their percentages of undesignated gifts channeled through the Cooperative Program.

According to the report, 230 Arkansas Baptist churches give less than five percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. Another 412 give less than 10 percent, leaving "room for improvement," according to the report.

After the recommendation was adopted,

members of the Task Force of 100 knelt at the front of the sanctuary, and W. Trueman Moore, pastor of East Side Church, voiced a prayer of dedication for their assignment.

Messengers then considered and adopted another Executive Board proposal establishing guidelines for the annual convention and its auxiliary meetings. The proposal provided for the convention to convene on Tuesday morning and continue through Wednesday morning. The Pastor's Conference would be held on Monday prior to the annual meeting.

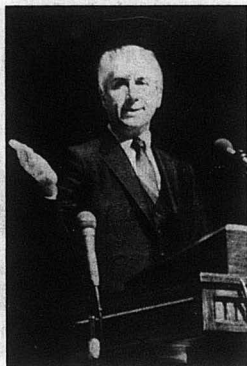
After discussion, a substitute motion to hold the convention on Tuesday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon, failed on a show of ballots. Messengers then adopted the original motion on a voice vote, although there was scattered opposition.

At 11:50 a.m., ABCS Executive Director Don Moore rose to deliver his annual report to the messengers.

Reflecting on projections that baptisms declined in Arkansas last year, despite the efforts of the statewide simultaneous revivals, Moore raised the question of responsibility for failures for reaching people with the gospel.

If people are not reached, the fault cannot be laid at the doorstep of either the state convention or the local church, Moore asserted. "Do you not like the reports?" he queried. "Do you want to change them? Then change the lives of individual Christians who make up the churches," he charged.

Beginning with Romans 12:2, Moore showed messengers that "God's answer for changing folks" lies in the process of renewing the mind. He called mental renewal "the path from the new birth to the vibrant Chris-



William B. Tolar of Southwestern Seminary taught three Bible studies.

tian life" and asserted constant renewal of the mind will transform an individual.

Without constant renewal, life becomes stale, Moore asserted, leaving a Christian with nothing new or fresh that demands to be shared. Exposing one's self to the power of God will awaken within all the new life and excitement that has been beaten down and driven underground, he declared.

As Moore concluded his message, Tellers Committee Chairman Jack Ramsey reported that messengers had elected James W. Bryant of Fort Smith for the position of second vice-president. Bryant polled 372 votes (53.8 percent) to challenger Noble Wiles 319 votes (46.2 percent).

The morning session closed at 12:23 with a benediction from Greg Stanley of Beech Street Church in Gurdon.

Wednesday afternoon

When messengers returned from their lunch break, Southwestern Seminary Dean William B. Tolar took the platform for the last of his three Bible studies.

Reading Philippians 3:5-10, Tolar identified seven points at which Paul claimed he had cause for human pride. He pointed out, however, that the apostle had found something new which transformed his understanding of the old.

What Paul had found, Tolar asserted, was a life-transforming experience with Jesus Christ which made garbage out of everything



The Resolutions Committee reported out eight items for messenger consideration.

Photos by Millie Gill



Chris Piazza was recognized for his prosecution of porn distributors.

he had known. Should man discover a cure for cancer, it would be nothing compared to the discovery of the cure for sin, he declared.

Tolar also noted Paul had discovered the righteousness of God which comes to one through faith in Christ. Even the finest athlete, standing on a rope cannot pick himself up, Tolar explained, and the finest person, standing on his own righteousness, cannot pick himself up either.

"When we meet the power great enough to turn dead men into living, then will come renewal, revival, and rejoicing," he concluded.

Messengers then received a report from John Finn, director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas. Finn and Bob Parker, director of the ABSC Christian Life Council, recognized Sgt. Monty Vickers of the Little Rock Police Department and Prosecutor Chris Piazza for their successful enforcement of statutes prohibiting hard core and child pornography in Little Rock.

Vickers noted their drive had closed all 11 outlets for such pornography in Little Rock, while only two new outlets opened. Piazza promised his office would continue to

vigorously prosecute distributors of hard core and child pornography. His declaration was greeted with a standing ovation from the messengers.

Before moving on to the annual convention sermon, messengers received and adopted the last of five recommendations from the ABSC Executive Board. The proposal contained an outline of objectives and goals for Executive Board programs and ministries from 1988 to 1992.

After a well-received performance by the Southern Baptist College Choir, R. H. Dorris, former Missions Department director and interim executive secretary, brought the convention sermon.

Dorris took Philippians 2:4-11 as his text and surprised messengers by declaring the task of the church was not to bring the world to Christ. As a fire cannot be brought to the fire station, a lost world cannot be brought to Christ, he insisted.

Instead, Christians are commissioned to take Christ to the world, Dorris asserted. Anyone who claims Christ as Savior is under constraint by the love of Jesus to do something about it, he said.

Christians who follow Jesus' example will



As always, worship through song played a vital role in the annual meeting experience.

serve others in obedience to his commission, Dorris observed. Though that involvement will cost one dearly, Jesus' exaltation clearly shows God rewards such obedience.

The world is already redeemed, but waits to be told about it, he concluded. If Christians fail to respond to their worldwide commission, however, the world may never hear that good news.

At 3:30 p.m., James W. Bryant of Fort Smith took the gavel and messengers received the report of the convention nominating committee.

One challenge was raised to the report. Jerry Kirkpatrick, pastor of First Church, Heber Springs, moved to amend the report by deleting the name of Stafford Kees of Heber Springs from the list of nominees for Southern Baptist College's trustee board.

Kirkpatrick told messengers that Kees, a former member of First Church, had been unresponsive of the Cooperative Program while a member of that church's finance committee. Kirkpatrick recommended replacing Kees with Emmett Carter, a layman from that same congregation.

The motion to amend was not opposed by the committee, and messengers adopted the report as amended.

C. Michael Anders, pastor of First Church, Sherwood, brought a testimony to messengers about Planned Growth in Giving, an emphasis which encourages individual church members and congregations to gradually increase their gifts to church and mission causes over a 15-year period.

The Sherwood congregation had experienced since 1982 a 392 percent increase in their gifts to the Cooperative Program, Anders reported. Although church growth accounted for much of the increase, Anders

told messengers that giving jumped 35 percent in 1986-86, while Sunday School attendance increased 10 percent.

After special music by Jeff Cornelson of First Church, Little Rock, Nancy Cooper, former state Woman's Missionary Union director, led in the annual Memorial Moments. She recalled for messengers the deaths of ABSC Associate Executive Secretary L.L. Collins, former North Little Rock pastor Rheubin South, and former SBC President Owen Cooper.

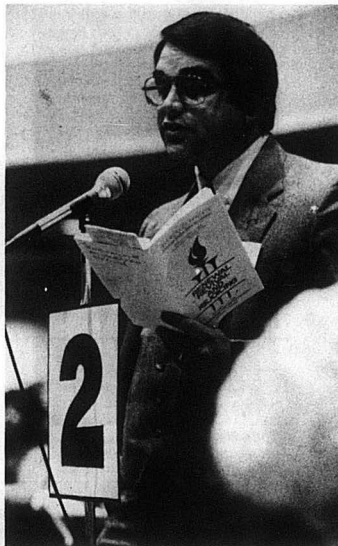
President Hatfield then took the gavel again for the presentation of the Resolutions Committee report.

Eight resolutions were adopted. One expressed appreciation for the host church and those involved in planning the annual meeting. A second reaffirmed opposition to legalized gambling and expressed dismay at favorable media coverage of such gambling without an equal emphasis on its destructive aspects.

A third resolution affirmed the work of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas in its work against drugs, gambling, and pornography. Labeling alcoholic beverages with notices of health hazards and alcohol content was the subject of the fourth resolution.

A fifth resolution recognized the contribution of farmers and encouraged prayer and ministry to farm families in the present crisis. Resolution six announced Southern Baptist opposition to "school-based clinics" which distribute contraceptives without parental consent and offer counseling which promotes sexual promiscuity.

Resolution seven denounced the Arkansas Legislature for enacting laws which allow liquor sales in dry counties through the licensing of private clubs. It urged Arkansas Bap-



Even when objections were raised, the discussion proceeded agreeably.

tists to lobby their legislators for repeal of those laws.

The eighth resolution affirmed the "historic Baptist position" in the "struggle for and defense of a free church in a free state." It called upon government leaders to seek "the mutual advantage" of both church and state in continued separation.

Under miscellaneous business, messengers dealt with three items. First, Dillard Miller of Mena proposed the 1986 annual be dedicated to L. L. Collins and Gene Devore. Messengers agreed to the suggestion.

Next, messengers gave approval to the first reading of two proposed constitutional amendments. The first involved a new statement of purpose for the state convention, focusing on assisting churches in their mission and encouraging cooperative support and involvement in world missions.

The second proposed constitutional amendment involved a change in terminology describing the authority of the executive director of the Executive Board to sign legal documents approved through state convention structures.

Messengers then heard a statement from David Miller, director of missions for Little



Messengers dealt with business and resolutions harmoniously and responsibly.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

Red River Association, Heber Springs. Miller contradicted the earlier assessment about Stafford Kees which led to Kees's replacement as a nominee to the Southern Baptist College board.

Miller told messengers his experience of Kees was that the man was supportive of the Cooperative Program. He said D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College, had joined him in suggesting Kees for the position.

After Miller's statement, an initial motion was made to rescind the previous action and return Kees to the position. Further discussion, however, resulted in a substitute motion to rescind the nomination of Emmett Carter but leave the position open and refer the matter to the Executive Board.

Messengers passed the substitute motion and adjourned for the evening meal.

Wednesday evening

Messengers made an unusually strong showing for the final session of the annual meeting Wednesday evening. Estimates indicated attendance had dropped off only about 200 for the final session, a considerable improvement over recent years.

After a prelude by the Ouachita Baptist University instrumental ensemble, messengers gave their attention to reports from their educational institutions.

D. Jack Nicholas, president of Southern Baptist College, reported that, although the fall 1985 enrollment was down, spring enrollment reached a 12-year record of 451. He noted, however, that prospects for enrollments for all colleges were dimming as the pool of high school graduates continued to decline.

Nicholas also noted Southern College finished the year with a surplus in excess of \$8,000. He reminded messengers of the academic progress made during the previous year, including the school's first senior-level courses and plans for new baccalaureate degrees in business administration and elementary education.

After Nicholas' report, a note was briefly shared that registration had reached 1,163 at 3:30 p.m. This was 26 short of last year's attendance at the Arkadelphia annual meeting.

Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University, noted for messengers the challenges the schools face. In addition to declining student populations, Cooperative Program budget shortfalls mean the institutions will find it increasingly difficult to finish in the black each year. He explained that OBU's share of this year's budget shortfall



CP Awards—Pastors of five churches received plaques at a Cooperative Program breakfast Wednesday Nov. 19, recognizing those churches contributions in five different categories to the Cooperative Program. Receiving the plaques were (left to right) Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, first in total CP gifts; Ken Williams, pastor of Immanuel Church, Carlisle, first in percentage giving of churches with a membership of 300-1,000; Al Sparkman, pastor of Crossett First Church, first in percentage giving of churches with a membership of over 1,000; Benny Grant, pastor of Sparkman First Church, first in percentage giving of churches with a membership of 300; and George O'Neal, pastor of Bella Vista Church, first in per capita giving.

will amount to \$100,000, while the surplus last year was only \$6,000.

Yet, despite the difficulties, the list of "good news items far exceeds the bad news items," Grant added. For example, he echoed a point Nicholas had made earlier, that Ouachita and Southern had tied for third in the nation among schools of any size, public or private, in the number of students serving as summer missionaries last summer. The schools each contributed 25 students each to summer missions.

After the congregation sang "We've A Story to Tell to the Nations," testimonies were brought by two missionaries, one volunteer and one career.

Jim Pat Bell, a member of Oak Cliff Church, Fort Smith, related his experience as part of a medical-dental mission team which recently spent two weeks in Brazil as part of the Amazon-Arkansas Partnership Mission. Their two-week trip into remote Brazilian villages resulted in 40 professions of faith, he said.

James D. Bryant, Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh on furlough in Arkansas, recounted the struggles and victories he and his family had experienced in their work. He told messengers, "You were there," because of their support for Southern Baptists' worldwide mission program.

Bryant told messengers, "Thank you. We

will pray for you as much as you pray for us. We will be here with you; will you go there personally?"

The congregation joined the adult choirs of Geyer Springs First Church in singing "I'll Tell the World" before those choirs presented a stirring arrangement of "There



Don Moore enjoys his granddaughter's company for a few moments.

Is Power" and sang "Holy Ground" and "No More Night."

The closing message was brought by Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Preaching from Acts 1:1-8, Parks noted the disciples' hope to control the kingdom of God. Rather than the restoration of Israel that they sought, however, Jesus instituted the worldwide kingdom of God.

Parks wondered aloud whether Southern Baptists, like those disciples, have convinced themselves that their "Southern Baptist kingdom" is the equivalent of the kingdom of God.

"We have not learned to be citizens of the kingdom of God," he asserted. "If we had, we would not focus so much attention and energies on ourselves."

As God wouldn't let the Jews possess the kingdom as their very own, neither will he let Southern Baptists claim exclusive rights to it, Parks declared. "God wants to use us to spread his kingdom among the people of the world. He's doing everything he can to involve us in the greatest movement of the Holy Spirit ever seen in the world."

Preachers who are not willing to seek God's will about mission service are "not fit to preach the gospel and tell young people to be willing to do God's will," Parks said flatly. "God can't bless that."

He cautioned that something is wrong when it takes 41 Southern Baptists to win one convert to Christ, reflecting that churches either are counting many members who aren't Christians or are filled with Christians who are doing what God has called them to do, that is, make disciples.

"I rejoice God has saved so many of us," Parks proclaimed, "But I weep that so many of us have forgotten what it means to be Christian."

He noted that Baptists overseas baptized one convert for every 12 church members

last year, under almost unimaginable disadvantages. He said the difference with them is that they are new enough Christians to still believe the Bible and do what it says about making disciples.

He told messengers about the Christian church in China, which grew from 700,000 members to more than 3 million in three decades of oppression. Now able to worship publicly again, Parks said thousands are coming to be baptized because they see the difference in the lives of Christians.

"When we become less concerned about our own comfort and luxury and get more concerned about our lost world, people will begin to come to us, asking, 'What do you have that makes you so different?'" Parks asserted.

Convention President Hatfield took the podium after Parks' message to thank the messengers for their participation. He singled out the appointment of the Task Force of 100 as the most significant action of the meeting and encouraged messengers once more to use the Bible reading guide to read the Bible through in 1987.

With the re-elected officers on the platform, Hatfield dismissed the assembly in prayer.



Members of the Task Force of 100 knelt as W. Trueman Moore voiced a prayer of dedication for the immense task ahead of them: challenging churches to increase percentage gifts to the Cooperative Program.

North Little Rock pastor shares 'Planned Growth in Giving' vision

Prior to the fall of 1985, Park Hill Church had used a modified Forward Program format in its annual stewardship em-

phasis and budget promotions. Following the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1983, however, our church's staff and Stewardship Committee decided in 1984 that we would try the Planned Growth in Giving approach beginning in 1985.

Our P. G. G. task force actually began its work in February of 1985, nine months prior to the five week "church event" which ran through October and into the first week of November 1985. As pastor, my primary involvement was to teach the book, *Cooperation: The Baptist Way to a Lost World*, over a four-week period in October. On the last Sunday evening of that four week study our church had a "Celebration of Cooperation" dinner

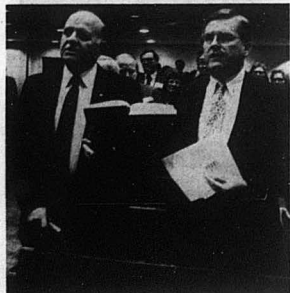
A part of the program that in place of the evening service's Cooperative Program giving night was to review our church as to in the past and to request input from the congregation what they thought that giving should be by the year 2000 A. D.

I was pleased when we voted that night to move ahead each year by 0.5 percent until we reached a Cooperative Program giving level of 20 percent in the year 2000 A. D. We used our 1985 giving of 12 percent as a base, moved up to 12.5 percent in 1986 and will be at the 13 percent level in 1987. Even though Park Hill has taken on a substantial new debt this year because of a recent building program, our gifts in 1986 are running seven percent above last year.

We feel good about our ongoing participation in P.G.G., for we believe it demonstrates our commitment to grow as Christian stewards and to join hand and heart with other Southern Baptist in a valliant attempt to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with ever person on this earth by the year 2000 A. D.—Cary Heard, pastor, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock



Heard



Keith Parks challenged messengers to do what the Bible says about missions.

A harmonious convention

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The 1986 meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, was harmonious and well-attended. The only tension which was evidenced during the meeting came at the time of the adoption of the Nominating Committee's report.

The harmony our state convention enjoyed is a result of the leadership of President Lawson Hatfield, the good preparation made by Geyer Springs Church, the excellent guidance being provided by Executive Director Don Moore and the good work of the Executive Board.

Geyer Springs deserves the applause of Arkansas Baptists. Pastor Paul Sanders and his staff provided well for the needs of messengers and guests during the 1986 state convention.

Another element which made this year's convention basically harmonious was the good natured humor used by President Lawson Hatfield and the other convention officers. Although the convention has been shortened in length, we believe all of the messengers appreciated the excellence with which the convention program had been planned and the fine preparation made by the Executive Board regarding its recommendations.

The passage of the budget by the convention means all Arkansas Baptists are doing together in our state and around the world will continue in 1987. But special note should be taken of the fact that this year's budget represents an increase of only 0.76 of 1 percent over the 1986 budget period. The budget does include an increase of 0.75 of 1 percent for the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program causes. In order to keep the small increase, the budget actually provided for a small reduction for all agencies, institutions and Executive Board programs over the 1986 budget.

The new formula adopted by the messengers, which will provide for the division of cooperative program monies for SBC causes, as well as Arkansas agencies, institutions and executive board programs will reflect the action of the ASBC to provide \$50,000 additional money to be given to Southern Baptist College in 1988 and an additional \$52,000 in 1990 to assist the college in developing new four-year baccalaureate programs. It will also provide for the new expanded church annuity plan which is estimated to require \$188,000 additional money in 1988. The budget formula committee is to be commended for a job well done.

A third recommendation of the Executive Board creates a "Task Force of 100" to deal with the potential crisis created by

the lack of percentage increase in cooperative program money received from Arkansas Baptist churches. We encourage every church to plan to have a Task Force member to speak in their church to give information regarding the Cooperative Program. If we are to accomplish the task that God has before us it is essential that our members become better informed on the Cooperative Program.

Ervin Keathley, music secretary for Arkansas Baptists, and the musicians enlisted, are to be commended for outstanding musical presentations. The music was inspiring and thrilling, and gave support to the rest of the convention program.

All three convention officers were re-elected to their respective positions. The executive board also elected the same president and vice-president. This unusual occurrence will again guarantee Arkansas Baptists will have a statesman of the highest order to lead our convention. Supporting Hatfield will be Independence Association Director of Missions Eddie McCord as first vice-president and Jim Bryant, pastor of the Grand Avenue Church, Ft. Smith, as second vice-president. This team will give top leadership to Arkansas Baptists again in 1987.

Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, has provided the Executive Board with quality leadership. He will be ably assisted by Vice-president Randall Everett, pastor of the First Church, Benton.

The inspiration in this year's convention was truly outstanding. The scholarly yet heartfelt presentations of William B. Tolar, dean of the school of theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, was of the highest quality. Commendation also goes to Executive Director Don Moore, R. H. Dorris, Damon Shook and Keith Parks. Dr. Parks' mission challenge was a fitting climax to the entire convention.

We also commend the messengers and Dr. Hatfield on their handling of the disagreement regarding the election of a trustee to Southern College's board. We believe that this was best left in the hands of the state nominating committee and the Executive Board for a final decision. This will provide opportunity for the truth to be obtained before a decision is made.

This year's convention should assist Arkansas Baptists in moving forward in service to the Lord during the coming year. It is our prayer that each Baptist will more fully commit himself to evangelism, missions and to growing in the grace and knowledge of our Saviour. Our work in 1987 will be a success as we work together and depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85

NUMBER 45

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor

Mark Kelly Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Lane Strother, Mountain Home, president; Charles Chesser, Carlisle; Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Leroy French, Fort Smith; Henry G. West, Blytheville; Marie Milligan, Harrison; Tommy Robertson, El Dorado; and the Hon. Elaine Roy, Little Rock.

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. They must be marked "for publication."

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

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Executive Board approves land sale, annuity resolutions

by J. Everett Sneed

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention convened on Nov. 18 in the Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, for a brief business meeting prior to the convening of the state convention. Items of business considered included the sale of 3.3 acres of land, a review of the recommendations to be presented to the state convention, the naming of a library and the adoption of annuity board resolutions.

The Operating Committee recommended the sale of 3.3 acres of land in Texarkana. The land was originally purchased for \$13,000 and can now be sold for \$40,000. The land originally was intended as a site for the erection of a church, but the community is now transitional and no longer suitable. The \$40,000 will be used to purchase a new church site in the Texarkana area.

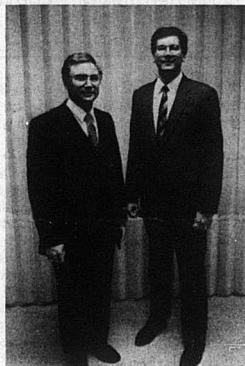
The Executive Board, under the direction of its president, Ferrell Morgan, Director of Missions for Concord Association, reviewed the recommendations to be presented to the convention.

Certificates of appreciation were given to board members who are going off from the Executive Board. The bylaws provide that an individual may serve up to two three year terms as a trustee of any entity within the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The Executive Board also adopted two resolutions prepared by the Annuity Board to assist individuals who are covered by the Southern Baptist Protection Plan. The new plan adopted provides that an annuity participant or a church or any combination of the two may make a contribution of up to the maximum allowed by law. Then the ABSC will match the contribution with a maximum of \$420. If a church failed to vote to participate in this plan the ABSC could match only up to \$210 (or \$17.50 per month). A second resolution makes it possible for the state convention to match up to a maximum of \$420 without a church voting to participate.

Ron Ford, pastor of Central Church, North Little Rock, moved that the Executive Board express appreciation for the Executive Board employees and that if any overage over the budget is present at the end of 1987 that it be given to the employees as a bonus. In 1987 Executive Board employees received a normal in-service step but no cost of living increase. After discussion a motion was made to refer this to the Finance Committee for additional study.

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



Re-elected Nov. 19 as officers of the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention were Ferrell Morgan (left), director of missions for Concord Association, Fort Smith, president; and Randel Everett (right), pastor of First Church, Benton, vice-president.



In their pre-convention meeting Religious Education Association members elected as 1987 officers (left to right) Eddie Reed, of DeQueen First Church, president; Snookie Dixon, of Arkadelphia First Church, first vice-president; Delores Lynn, of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, secretary-treasurer; and Ken Stogsdill, of East Side Church, Fort Smith, second vice-president.



Elected as 1987 officers for the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference at their pre-convention annual meeting held at Geyer Springs First Church were Tom Harris (center), pastor of Park Place Church, Hot Springs, president, and Greg Stanley (left), pastor of Beech Street Church, Gurdon, first vice-president, and Randy Maxwell (right), pastor of West Church, Batesville, second vice-president.



Members of the Arkansas Baptist Convention Wives elected as 1987 officers Sherry Thrasher of First Church, Booneville, president, Sandy Hinkson (center) of Markham Street Church, Little Rock, secretary-treasurer, and Sheila Everett (seated) of First Church, Benton, vice-president, when they met for their annual pre-convention fellowship meeting Nov. 19 at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock.

ABSC board and committee members elected

Executive Board

Terms to expire in 1989

Ashley Al Sparkman, Crossett
Benton Dale Thompson, Rogers
Benton Tom Smith, Bentonville
Black River J. R. Hull, Diaz
Buckner Joel Faircloth, Mansfield
Caddo River Dorothy Ritter, Mt. Ida
Caroline Eddie Simpson, Lonoke
Central Tim Reddin, Hot Springs
Clear Creek Billy Kimbrough, Alma
Concord John Wikman, Ft. Smith
Concord Allen Thrasher, Booneville
Dardanelle-Russellville David McLemore, Russellville
Delta Klois Hargis, Tillar
Faulkner Delbert Stone, Conway
Greene Gary Fulton, Paragould
Harmony Sonny Simpson, Pine Bluff

Independence Eddie McCord, Batesville
Liberty Mark Coppenger, El Dorado
Mississippi William E. Piercy, Manila
Mt. Zion Alfred D. Gallant, Jonesboro
North Arkansas Curtis L. Mathis, Harrison
North Central A. Hilton Lane, Fairfield Bay
North Pulaski Ken Price, North Little Rock
Ouachita C. S. Williams, Mena
Pulaski Ledell Bailey, Little Rock
Tri-County Shelby Bittle, Wynne
Washington-Madison Keith Robbins, Fayetteville
Washington-Madison Mark Brooks, Springdale
DISTRICT 1 Mrs. Marquita Butcher, Rogers
DISTRICT 6 Mrs. Coy Tommey, McCrory
DISTRICT 7 Mrs. Jewell Moore, Hope

Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care

Terms to expire in 1989

Richard Stiltner, Hope
Ray Turnage, Little Rock
Sue Hatcher, Pine Bluff
Lee McMillan, Mena
Arthur Melson, Jr., DeQueen
Garner Johnson, Clinton

Term to expire in 1987

Craig A. Bradley, North Little Rock

Arkansas Baptist Foundation

Terms to expire in 1989

John R. Taylor, Ft. Smith
Lyndell E. Lay, Little Rock
Dale Taylor, Harrison
Tom Chapman, Monticello
Larry Kinard, El Dorado

Term to expire in 1988

Ron Cox, Springdale

Historical Commission

Terms to expire in 1989

DISTRICT 5 - Richard L. Avey, Cabot
DISTRICT 7 - Decker Barnette, Texarkana
Member at Large - Tim Reddin,
Hot Springs

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Terms to expire in 1989

DISTRICT 1 - Harold Gateley, Fayetteville
DISTRICT 2 - Don Heuer, Batesville
DISTRICT 8 - C. Phelan Boone, El Dorado

Term to expire in 1988

DISTRICT 7 - Mrs. Carroll D. Caldwell,
Texarkana

Baptist Memorial Health Care Systems, Memphis

Terms to expire in 1989

Henry West, Blytheville
James R. Wallace, North Little Rock
Ken Lilly, Fort Smith

Baptist Student Union Advisory Committee

Terms to expire in 1989

DISTRICT 2 - Mrs. Frank Shell, Clinton
DISTRICT 3 - S. Mikael Carrier, Jonesboro
DISTRICT 6 - James E. Hill, Jr., Searcy
DISTRICT 5 - Joe Howerton, Conway
DISTRICT 5 - Mrs. Jerry Davis, Sherwood
DISTRICT 8 - Mrs. James Shults, Pine Bluff

Term to expire in 1988

DISTRICT 8 - Al Sparkman, Crossett

Christian Civic Foundation

Terms to expire in 1989

J. L. Martindale, Benton
Lyn Robertson, Stamps
Hunter Douglas, Little Rock
Leroy French, Ft. Smith
Jack Reed, DeQueen

Term to expire in 1988

Mrs. Conway Sawyers, Little Rock

Ministry of Crisis Support Advisory Committee

Terms to expire in 1989

Mrs. Marvin Reynolds, Alicia
Jim Freeman, Glenwood

Ouachita Baptist University

Terms to expire in 1989

Paul Henry, Batesville
Ike Sharp, Benton
Bill Allison, Siloam Springs
Larry Kircher, Bald Knob
Lyndell Worthen, Jr., Arkadelphia
James Price, Monticello
Mrs. Judith Strother, Mt. Home
Sherwin O. Williams, Arkadelphia

Term to expire in 1988

Mrs. Joe Ford, Little Rock

Southern Baptist College

Terms to expire in 1989

Jewell Morris, Ft. Smith
Randy Maxwell, Batesville
Rick Proctor, Wynne
William V. Garner, Texarkana
John Wright, Little Rock
Bill Lewis, Pine Bluff
Francis S. Chesson, Camden

Term to expire in 1988

Bob Crafton, Rogers

Term to expire in 1987

Michael Todd, Paragould
E. R. Coleman, Cord

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Terms to expire in 1989

Roy Buckelew, Hot Springs
Raymond Higgins, El Dorado

World Hunger Committee

Terms to expire in 1989

Layne E. Smith, Fayetteville
Jim West, Booneville

1987 Convention Program Committee

Term to expire in 1989

Jerry Hogan, North Little Rock

1991 Convention

Date: November 19-20, 1991
Place: Statehouse Convention Center,
Little Rock

1987 Convention

Preacher: Trueman Moore, Ft. Smith
Alternate: Al Sparkman, Crossett



The Southern accent

Paul A. Rhoads

Accomplishing through prayer

So much can be accomplished through prayer. Particularly evangelism efforts should be bathed in prayer. A great deal can be accomplished toward the salvation of others by fervent prayer.

This does not mean prayer is a means by which we can shirk our responsibility to witness, but witnessing that is not backed by prayer is much less than it could be. There have been those who used prayer as a means to side-stepping their responsibility to witness, but their prayers are characterized by an emptiness and a polite repetition of phrases that come from the mouth and not the heart. When Christians pray, God listens. You may even find yourself becoming God's

instrument of salvation.

I held a student retreat in which each Christian student was to bring one or two non-Christian friends along. The retreat was to be geared for evangelism. However, there was a catch. Each Christian student had to pray for the student(s) they invited and had to do so for a month prior to the retreat. Of the group that was invited, only two non-Christians showed up. The reason was not because of poor turnout but was rather due to some of the best preparation possible being done. Except for those two students, all of the non-Christian students that had been invited had already accepted Christ as their Savior by the day of the retreat. Several of

the students who had been praying that someone would lead their friends to Christ found themselves being used for the very thing they were praying for.

Evangelism must continually be immersed in prayer. With prayer, miracles happen. This is not praying for "the lost of the world" but rather praying specifically for a friend, loved one, or business associate. Prayer should and must be a vital part of all evangelistic efforts. Evangelism must always be immersed in prayer.

Paul Rhoads, a former SBC foreign missionary, is on the faculty of Southern Baptist College.

International Conference brings foreign students together

Photos by George Sims



Students from 28 nations who are currently enrolled in Arkansas colleges and universities gathered at Paron Baptist Camp for the International Student Conference Nov. 7-9. "Freedom to be..." was the theme of the annual conference to which more than 1,500 students are invited. The event was hosted by the Woman's Missionary Union, Missions and Student Departments of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The students were able to have fellowship with others from their homeland, but were also able to



make new friends from the United States and other nations. Speakers for the weekend were Nell Magee, a consultant for ministries to international students from the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Dan Boling, a professor of religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, San Francisco, Calif. In addition to other program features, students participated in a colorful international talent show, to which many of them wore traditional dress from their homelands.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert A. Nichols, missionaries to Paraguay, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 1171, Asuncion, Paraguay). He is from Mountain View, and she is the former Deane Marshall of Cabot. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1958.

Kenneth and Margaret Robertson, missionaries to Senegal, report a change of address (BP 39, Bignona, Casamance, Senegal). He was born in Pine Bluff and lived in Wilmot, Pickens, and Tillar. She is the former Margaret Howard of Clark County. They were appointed in 1976.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Terry Jr., missionaries to Asia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 2 Marine Vista, #20-75 Neptune Ct., Singapore 1544). He is a native of Louisiana and she is the former Mabelee Worthen of Fordyce. They were appointed in 1968.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E. Provost, Baptist representatives to Yemen, have returned to the field (address: Box 8080, Ibb, Yemen). He was born in Jonesboro and she is the former Brenda Bryles of Pine Bluff. They were appointed in 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Wardlaw, missionaries to Japan, report a change of address (8-19-19 Noke, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka 811-11, Japan). He was born in Texarkana, and she is the former June Mills of Florida. They were appointed in 1984.

bookshelf

The Structure of Sermons

W. T. Holland
(LeRo Publishers, Orlando, Fla.)

An unusual, very helpful approach to understanding sermon structure by W. T. Holland, longtime pastor of First Church, Cape Girardeau, Mo., and former director of Boyce Bible School in Little Rock. Brian Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, calls it "a masterful book on basic homiletics." Herschel Hobbs, emeritus pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., says, "This book should appeal to beginners, non-theological seminary men, and even pastors whose barrels are used up."

Global Circuit

the foreign mission prayer line
will be in operation Nov. 28-Dec. 14
For the latest foreign missions
information and prayer requests, dial
1-800-44-FAITH

Last of four articles

Tax Reform Act of 1986: An overview

by Larry Page

This final article of a four-part series highlighting the Tax Reform Act of 1986 suggests some year-end tax strategies.

Most taxpayers will save some taxes by using as many deductions as they can in 1986. Deductions will generally be worth more because the tax rates are higher than those called for in the new act, which becomes effective Jan. 1, 1987.

State and local sales tax. Under the new act, the state and local sales tax deduction is gone. If an individual is planning to purchase any big items, such as appliances, automobiles or furniture, in the near future, such a purchase in 1986 would allow the use of the sales tax deduction.

Individual retirement accounts. Many taxpayers won't be permitted tax deductible contributions to their IRA accounts because of their income levels. However, this year's contribution, which can be made up to April 15, 1987, is deductible from 1986 taxable income.

Miscellaneous deductions. The cost of professional and union dues, tax return preparation fees, investment expenses, employee business expenses, and the other miscellaneous deductions are fully deductible in 1986. However, beginning in 1987, these deductions are permitted only to the extent they exceed 2 percent of adjusted gross income. A taxpayer should pay as many of these expenses as possible in 1986.

Medical expenses. If substantial medical expenses are to be paid in the near future, a taxpayer would benefit from paying those expenses this year, since the new act raises the floor on deductible medical expenses. Under current law these expenses are deductible to the extent they exceed 5 percent of adjusted gross income. Beginning in 1987 that figure is 7.5 percent.

Charitable deductions. The new law continues to allow the income, gift, and estate tax charitable deductions. The most significant change in this area is the loss of the charitable income tax deduction for nonitemizers. Therefore, those taxpayers who take the standard deduction should make the gifts they planned for the future this year, in order to take advantage of the deductions allowed for their gifts.

Many taxpayers are making gifts they had planned for future years in 1986, so that their deductions can offset the higher tax brackets of the current law. For example, a taxpayer in the top bracket under current law (50 percent), making a charitable gift of \$20,000, saves \$10,000 in income taxes. The same gift in 1987 by a taxpayer in the 38.5 percent bracket, the highest transitional rate for that year, will save only \$7,700 in income taxes.

Some gifts of long term appreciated property may be subject to the alternative minimum tax starting in 1987. The alternative minimum tax is payable, in addition to all other tax liabilities, generally to the extent that it exceeds the individual's regular tax liability. The tax is imposed at a flat rate on alternative minimum taxable income in excess of an exemption amount. If a taxpayer may be subject to the minimum tax, it might be wise to contribute the appreciated property in 1986 before the new rules become effective.

A gift paying life income. Charitable gifts can be made in a variety of ways: cash, real property, appreciated securities and tangible personal property. There is one type of charitable gift that can provide you and a survivor with income. Assets are transferred to an irrevocable charitable remainder trust which pays you an income for life and, at your death, the assets go to an area of the Lord's work you select.

An income tax deduction is allowed at the time the trust is created and an estate tax deduction is permitted afterward. Some of the other benefits this arrangement often allows are an increase on the yield of investments, avoidance of payment of tax on the gains of a sale of appreciated property, savings on income and estate taxes, savings on probate costs, and income for a survivor, such as a spouse or child.

There are a number of plans which pay life income to you and provide the other benefits mentioned above. The one best suited for you depends upon your circumstances.

We would be pleased to provide additional information about charitable gifts. For more information, please contact your Arkansas Baptist Foundation at P. O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call at (501) 376-0732.

Larry Page is vice-president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.

First, Little Rock, ranks fourth in study awards

NASHVILLE—First Church, Little Rock, ranked fourth among the top 25 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention receiving study course awards with 1,059, according to statistics compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In Arkansas, First Church, Sherwood, was

second with 446 awards and Elmdale Church, Springdale, was third with 391.

First Church, Moore, Okla., led all SBC churches in awards with 1,640. Parkwood Hills Church, Decatur, Ga., was second with 1,438, and Immanuel Church, Somerset, Ky., with third with 1,168.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

David Hodge is serving as pastor of Friendly Hope Church near Jonesboro, coming there from Big Creek Church in Life. He and his wife, Terry, have two children, Hillary, and Andrew. Hodge attended Southern Baptist College and is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

Bob Wilson has resigned as pastor of Osceola First Church, effective Nov. 30. He has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Berclair Church in Memphis.

Jay Wells of Fort Smith is serving as interim pastor of Haw Creek Church at Waldron.

Danny Staggs of Waldron is serving as pastor of Cedar Creek Church in Buckner Association. He formerly served as pastor of Abbott Church.

Skip Kelley has resigned as pastor of Huntington Church to serve as pastor of Bethel Church, Gould.

John Ashcraft of Little Rock is serving as interim pastor of Calvary Church, Timbo.

Phillip Whitlock has joined the staff of Old Walnut Ridge Church at Walnut Ridge as minister of music and youth. He is a student at Southern Baptist College. Whitlock, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Whitlock of First Church, Salem, is married to the former C. J. Blevins of Maynard.

Charles Steven Bell has joined the staff of Conway First Church as minister of youth, coming there from the staff of Windsor Park Church in Fort Smith where he served for three years as youth pastor. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia at Athens and Mid-America Seminary. He is married to the former Jamie Vaughn of Georgia. They have two children, Haley Elizabeth and Katie Joanne.

Jerry Taylor is serving as pastor of Alexander First Church, coming there from Canaan Church of Spearville, La. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and is currently enrolled in the master's degree program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Taylor has served churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Alaska. He is married to the former Bonnie Tarpley. They have three daughters, Angela, Nanci, and Melanie.

James Nowlin was recently ordained to the preaching ministry by Broadmoor

Church in Brinkley. He is serving as pastor of Petty's Chapel at Marianna and is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

Kevin Kellogg has joined the staff of Brinkley Broadmoor Church as youth director. A native of Guthrie, Okla, he is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

briefly

Camden First Church ordained Bill Bustin and Marvin Murphree to the deacon ministry Nov. 16.

Pleasant Grove Church 3 at Waldron celebrated payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service Nov. 23, according to Pastor Porter Black.

Parks Church observed payment of its indebtedness with a noteburning service Nov. 23.

Dayton Church at Mansfield has experienced growth recently through increased Sunday School attendance, professions of faith and additions by letter.

Needham Church at Jonesboro observed its 29th anniversary Nov. 23 when James Wells, a former pastor, was the morning worship speaker. Don Allred is pastor.

Philadelphia Church at Jonesboro ordained Keith Bowman, Jerry Broadaway and Robert Horn to the deacon ministry Nov. 23. Pastor Roy Hargrave was moderator.

Dermott Church ordained Fred L. Hoffman, Jimmy Parker and Robert Willingham to the deacon ministry Nov. 16. Pastor George E. Pirtle was moderator.

Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock ordained John Gaither to the deacon ministry Nov. 23 with Pastor Don Moseley serving as moderator.

Wynne Church has launched a men's Bible study that will meet each Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the church's fellowship hall.

Sugarloaf Chapel is constructing a new education wing on the west end of its present building. B. J. Sams of Little Rock, news anchorman for Channel 11, was guest speaker Nov. 23.

Old Walnut Ridge Church in Walnut Ridge will begin its 105th year of service with homecoming Saturday, Nov. 29. A 4 p.m. fellowship will launch activities that include a 6 p.m. Thanksgiving potluck meal and a 7 p.m. program of music and testimonies. Former members and pastors along with friends of the church are to be special guests, according to Pastor Glenn A. Rogers.

Springdale First Church held a Pastor-Church Dedication Service Nov. 9 in recognition of its new pastor, Ronnie W. Floyd. Program personality included Cliff Palmer, recently retired pastor, and Harold O'Chester.

Pulaski Association has voted to cooperate with Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Home Mission Board in sponsoring a chaplaincy ministry for the Little Rock Fire Department. Ray Branscum will begin serving Dec. 1 in the part-time chaplaincy position.

Lavaca First Church ordained Randall Ray Hogan to the preaching ministry Nov. 23.



Siloam Springs First Church recently sponsored an outing for 20 Royal Ambassadors and six of their counselors. The group hiked and hunted for fossils near Flint Ridge, Okla.

Helpline

for the local church

What good things happen in December! Isn't it a great month! Snow, sometimes! Duck hunting! Deer hunting! Quail hunting! Parties! Banquets! Christmas! And, what else? Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering! There are a lot of fun things that happen in December, but most of them have little lasting or redemptive value. Eternally speaking, our foreign mission education and offering efforts probably have more far reaching effects than anything else we do in December.



Moore

It is such a joy to give to the support of the Lord's work, especially missions. Kyela is a remote district of Tanzania. Our missionaries, Doug and Evelyn Knapp, have seen 40,212 believers baptized there in the last nine years. Isn't that great? One-half their support comes from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. On the other hand, our first missionaries in Thailand worked 19 years without a convert. The last 18 years have seen 98 congregations developed with just over 2,000 members. That could only happen by the aid of our foreign mission offering.

When I read of Joe Mefford and his wife retiring after 33 years of missionary service, it thrilled me to know they would retire in the foreign country where they had lived. I was glad to know I had supported people whose heart had become so entwined with the people they had given their lives to serve.

Mabel Summers has been a part of our responsibility. I have not met her nor have most of you. She became our responsibility when she laid down her life to obey Christ in Beirut, Lebanon, and asked Southern Baptists to support her. We agreed to do that 35 years ago. We haven't failed. She hasn't failed. Her years of service as our missionary ended with her recent retirement. Mabel Summers has never been willing to evacuate Beirut even once during these war-torn, dangerous times. Even in retirement she will not leave those she went to claim for Christ. She will continue to witness there on her meager retirement income.

The missionaries dependence upon us is a strong motivation to continue to give. Our desire to enter into their labors and rewards is a strong incentive, too. Our confidence that God blesses those who bless his people is not a small part of prompting us to give. The bedrock, fundamental basis for giving is that the Lord has called and commanded us to give.

Do you know anyone who has really gotten ahead by cutting back on their tithes? Does the same principle apply to the church that applies to individuals—that is, they really do not gain by keeping, but by giving? There is considerable evidence that churches that cut back on missions giving to meet their own needs, end up in more financial trouble than when they made the decision to cut back. I really do not know of an individual or a church which has wrecked their finances from giving too much to missions.

As we enter into this festive and enjoyable season, it is so easy to be so given to the pleasant and personal aspects of it, that we forget the lost throughout the earth who have not tasted the "heavenly gift." Then, too, we may forget our faithful missionaries, most of whom will spend Christmas away from family and friends. I think it is time we did something heroic, significant, drastic. The last three or four years we have dragged our feet and fallen short of the Lottie Moon offering goal. Let's break that trend and put missions on the top shelf in December and go over our goals.

Let me tell you how. First, inform the people of what God is doing through our foreign missionaries. Second, let the pastor preach good Bible messages on missions two or three times. Third, let the two or three men in every church, who know they have the following of the church, determine to use their example and enthusiasm to get the rest of the church to give.

Let's focus on missions!

by Don Moore

Fourth, set a challenging goal and keep it before the people so that they can see the progress they are making toward their goal. Fifth, challenge the people to do something sacrificial and costly.

It was one of the great shocks of my year to learn that 260 churches in our Arkansas Baptist family did not take an offering for foreign missions in 1985. Beloved brethren and friends, challenge each other to give this year. For some churches a \$50 goal might be challenging. For others \$50,000 is not too challenging. Can't someone in every church take it upon themselves to challenge their church to receive an offering this year?

Two significant events

Church schedules and personal schedules are such that we are not planning many events in December, nor do you call on us in December. We use December as a time of preparation for the busier times of the year. Yet, two things are very noteworthy.

(1) The Career Assessment Conference being conducted Dec. 4-5. You may not be able to get in at this late date. But, we would appreciate your prayers. We would hope your interest will carry over so that you would make plans to attend the next one. Evaluation of your personal and professional ministry under careful supervision is the purpose of this meeting.

(2) Joy Explo '86 is our Youth Evangelism Conference, Dec. 29-30, at Geyer Springs First Church. It is for junior and senior high. Rick Stanley is the featured speaker. Inspiration and instruction on how to win your friends and campus to Christ will be provided for our youth. This is a great holiday activity for our youth ministries.

This monthly Helpline is a cooperative ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and the *Arkansas Baptist News magazine*, designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to the churches. Pages 12-15 are produced by the ABSC Executive Board.

Notice

Due to the space needed to cover the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at Geyer Springs First Church Nov. 18-19, there will be no Helpline feature this month.

19 calendar

Events of interest for pastors, church workers, and laymen from December through March listed in the Helpline calendar on page 19.

Stewardship/Annuity

Missionary-in-residence

Charles A. Hampton, missionary to South Africa, joined the Stewardship/Annuity Department as a missionary-in-residence November 15. Mr. Hampton will serve one year in this position.

Hampton and his wife, Evelyn, were born in Arkansas and grew up in Fordyce, Monticello and Helena.

The Hamptons received undergraduate degrees from Ouachita Baptist University. They both received graduate degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mr. Hampton did additional study at Texas Christian University.

Before appointment by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976, Brother Hampton served churches in Arkansas and California. Mrs. Hampton was a Bible and English



Hampton

teacher at Baymonte Christian High School in Scotts Valley, California prior to her appointment.

Mr. and Mrs. Hampton live in Cape Town, South Africa. He is a church planter and developer. She is a church and home worker and promotes Christian education. Their work in the Cape Town area has been blessed "far beyond any dream we could have ever had."

The missionary-in-residence is available to any Arkansas Baptist church. The Hamptons will encourage the churches in their mission support and share first-hand information on the vital link between churches and mission fields.

Churches, mission groups, or associations may contact the Hamptons through the Stewardship/Annuity Department. Their calendar is filled through 1986 but they do have openings for conferences, speaking engagements, Bible studies or revivals in 1987. — James A. Walker, director

Sunday School

Growth Spiral Workshops Scheduled

Eighteen Growth Spiral Workshops are scheduled for 1987. Nine will be held in January: January 12-Jonesboro, Walnut Street-Monticello, First - Blytheville, First January 13-Brinkley, First - Pine Bluff, Immanuel - Hot Springs, Second January 15-Hope, First - West Memphis, Calvary - Searcy, First.

The workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:45 p.m.



Hinkson

Conferences are planned for general officers and workers with adults, youth, children, and preschoolers.

The Growth Spiral Workshops will give you the 'how to's' on growing your Sunday School.

Nine workshops are scheduled for August in Mena, Rogers, Batesville, Little Rock, Fort Smith, Harrison, Mountain Home, El Dorado, and Russellville. Plan to attend the one in your area. — Ed Hinkson

Evangelism

Joy Explo '86

The Youth Evangelism Conference will be held this year on December 29-30 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, Little Rock. I am excited about what God is going to do!

Just look at some of the exciting features during the conference. (1) We will have a full half-day conference for youth workers. (2) We have reserved a convention hotel, the Hampton Inn, for a fee of

\$29.00 per night on any room. The hotel is located close to the church and is close to all those famous restaurants where youth like to eat. All of the featured conference personnel will be there and will be available to you at a reception on Monday evening after the services. (3) We are work-



Lagrone

ing very hard to be televised on the ACTS Network. We are praying that God will multiply our evangelistic efforts through the media to thousands across our state. (4) We will also have Super Summer registrations available. This will be your first opportunity to pick one up. The speaker for this year's Super Summer will be Rick Ousley. Our praise leader will be Al Denson.

Featured during our conference this year will be Rick Stanley, an evangelist that God is using in a great and mighty way. His testimony will be very timely to your youth group and the exhortation he will bring will challenge us to live the Christian life. Jerry Pipes will be preaching. The main emphasis of his ministry is building self esteem in the young people and being complete in Jesus Christ. He will also be available, along with Rick, on Monday night during the reception time to share and fellowship with the youth leadership.

Cruise will be appearing Monday after-

noon and Monday night. We are excited about the dynamic sounds they will bring to our event.

Phil and Russ, a Christian comedy team; Brian Kinder, our praise leader; and other music groups and speakers will be added. You can see it will be an exciting time for you and your young people.

If you need additional posters, hotel information or other materials, please contact our office. Join me in praying for this event. Pray that God will stir us once again. Pray that it will be a great kickoff to tremendous revival across our state. Pray that God will save young people. Just pray that every word breathed, every note sung, everything that is done will be done for the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. The crowds will be big, so come early. — James Lagrone, associate

Student Department

Missionaries respond first

Among the first to respond to our drive among our BSU alumni for an endowment fund to provide program money (we have less than two dollars per student per year) were our Southern Baptist career missionaries who have graduated from the University of Arkansas. It was not a surprise for these missionaries have been responsive to our special BSU needs for many years.



Jones

Our BSU alumni of the University of Arkansas are involved in an effort to raise an endowment of at least \$250,000 to support the ministry of the Baptist Student Union on the UofA campus. Co-Chairmen of the project are former University of Arkansas BSU Presidents, Dale Jones of Houston, Texas, and Jim Maloch of Little Rock.

One hundred and forty-seven persons have made pledges and gifts totaling more than \$177,000. Gifts total more than \$104,000. Pledges are to be paid over a five year period.

Earnings from the endowment will provide resources for improving and expanding the BSU's ministry. The budget of the UofA BSU is considerably less than that of the BSU's on comparable sized campuses in surrounding states. And, its present budget provides less money per student than any other BSU budget in Arkansas.

I am grateful to University of Arkansas alumni and friends who have given support for special BSU needs during the past 35 years, and I'm pleased with, and thankful for, their generous support of the endowment. This says to me that God has used BSU in significant ways, in the lives of many persons, and that they want to see its ministry continued, improved, and expanded. — **Jamie Jones, BSU director, University of Arkansas**

Evangelism

Super Summer Arkansas '87

Super Summer Arkansas will be held at Ouachita Baptist University June 29 - July 3, 1987. This is a high school level experience designed to introduce Arkansas young people to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The speaker this summer will be Rick Ousley and the praise time leader will be Al Denson. Registrations forms will be available at Joy Explo, December 29-30, but no registrations will be accepted until January 1, 1987. This year there will be a \$15.00 non-refundable deposit required with each registration. Super Summer Arkansas total cost will be \$50.00 per youth for all registrations received between January 1 and March 1, 1987. The total cost will be \$60.00 for each youth for registrations received between March 2 and June 1, 1987. No registration will be accepted after June 1, 1987.

Be sure to get the information for Super Summer Arkansas at the Arkansas Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference, December 29-30, at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church. Start planning now to bring your high school age young people to Super Summer Arkansas 1987! — **Pat Batchelor, chairman, Super Summer Steering Committee**

Administration

The Cooperative Program

The Cooperative Program provides for many ministries within Arkansas as well as around the world. Let's look at some of these things in Arkansas in which you were involved through your church's gifts to the cooperative program.



Sheffield

For example you provided support for work at our two migrant centers. You ministered to thousands through these two centers. 321 migrants made professions of faith this past year.

Through the work of five chaplains in corrective and rehabilitation centers you were involved in 341 professions of faith. You were involved in ethnic work with 50 congregations. You were involved in ministering to thousands of Baptist students

through our BSU programs.

You have been involved in helping to start fourteen new churches in 1986. More will be started before the year is over.

You provided the resources for your Executive Board staff to conduct over 700 leadership training conferences during the first seven months of 1986. You have been involved in helping many churches to conduct revivals and assisting in witness training throughout the state.

You have been personally involved in ministering to hundreds of orphans and abused children as well as parents through the Arkansas Family and Child Care ministry. Through the Arkansas Baptist Foundation you have assisted in training people in Estate Planning. You also helped to manage large estates for individuals and institutions. You helped to provide needed financial resources that enable the ARKANSAS BAPTIST NEWSMAGAZINE to produce a weekly magazine that informs and inspires us.

You have helped Southern Baptist College and Ouachita Baptist University as they have been involved in educating over 1800 students. For every dollar your church gives to the Cooperative Program, almost twenty cents goes to these two fine schools that are committed to excellence in higher education.

Did you realize how much you get involved in Arkansas? I hope you will feel grateful for the privilege of this involvement but also challenged to do more than ever before in your personal contributions to the Lord through your church. You can count on the fact that your church's Cooperative Program gifts will be used wisely and effectively around the world but also in Arkansas! — **Jimmie Sheffield, associate executive director**

Church Training Church Training and Missions

Does it surprise you to discover a relationship between Church Training and Missions? It really should not. For many years Church Training provided "Fifth Sunday" mission study materials, providing an emphasis on missions education four Sundays each year. The Church Training adult curriculum continues to provide the Daily Bible Reading suggestions and Missionary Prayer Calendar. Church Training will continue to offer support to the missions education programs of the church in new and exciting ways. We are pleased to lend our support to the efforts of Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood in keeping churches informed about missions.

The Baptist Sunday School Board, Women's Missionary Union, the Brotherhood Commission and the Home and Foreign Mission Boards have been working to develop a missions education strategy. As an outgrowth of that joint effort, the Church Training Program will offer a special mission study in the December dated curriculum materials for Adults, Youth and Children. Missions will be taught in these age groups through a biblical, doctrinal and historical perspective. Encourage your adults, youth and children to be a part of these studies in December through the regular dated materials.

And that's not all! Throughout the church year, each fifth Sunday session will focus on missions. This will be true for adult, youth and children who are using the dated curriculum materials.

Church Training is happy to be a part of the missions education team and give strong support to this emphasis. Don't miss this opportunity in your church. — Robert Holley, director



Holley

Music

Music Men to Brazil

The Amazon/Arkansas link-up (AMAR) has been underway now for nearly two years. Surely there are few Arkansas Baptists who are not aware of what God has been able to do there through the Brazilian Christians, the missionaries and the volunteers from Arkansas. Each person who has gone comes back with glowing reports of how God was able to use his/her halting efforts to His glory among a very receptive people.

Perhaps Dr. Glendon Grober is most responsible for helping us catch a vision of this mission effort. His experience there for 30 years and his willingness to come back and work with us has provided the spark that God has used to ignite a flame in our hearts.

The link-up has one more year to go, and will be concluded with an evangelistic crusade in the 70,000 seat soccer stadium in Manaus, October 23-26, 1987. Dr. Grober has challenged the Music Men of Arkansas to provide a 50-voice choir for this stadium crusade and to participate in the scripture distribution and local church evangelism during the follow-up week.



Keathley

We accept the challenge, believing that God will provide our needs through His people. It will mean a sacrifice of time as well as resources. The men will need to be gone from October 20 through November 2, a period covering two Wednesdays and two Sundays. This is the busiest time of year for music directors, so it will require a deep commitment to missions on the part of the music director and the church.

Your music man needs your encouragement and support in this worthy project. He may be reluctant to ask the church for the time off or for the financial help he needs, so I want to appeal to you pastors and lay persons and ask you to take the initiative in presenting this mission opportunity to your church. Those who have gone agree that it is not a vacation, but that it is a refreshing, though tiring, time.

We need to have a minimum of 50 committed to go by the Evangelism Conference, January 26-27, 1987. What a wonderful Christmas present this would make for a staff member you appreciate. Send him to Brazil and then expect to share in his life-changing experiences when he returns.

Please pray with us about this, then take action as God directs. — Ervin Keathley, state music secretary



If you're Southern Baptist, you're a part of something big! Not to brag, but you're part of the biggest program of overseas Christian missions in the world.

Next month in Arkansas: December

December 4-5. Career Assessment. Baptist Building, Little Rock; pastors, church staff members, and their spouses evaluate their personal and professional ministries (CT)

December 11-12. Evangelism Workshop. Camp Paron; helping directors of missions and associational leadership plan for the 1987 Good News Arkansas evangelism emphasis (Eva)

December 29-30. Joy Explo '86 Youth Evangelism Conference. Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock; annual teaching and inspiration event for junior and senior high youth (Eva)

January

January 12. Growth Spiral Workshops. Jonesboro Walnut Street Church, Monticello First Church, Blytheville First Church (SS)

January 13. Growth Spiral Workshops. Brinkley First Church, Pine Bluff Immanuel Church, Hot Springs Second Church (SS)

January 15. Growth Spiral Workshops.

Hope First Church, West Memphis Calvary Church, Searcy First Church (SS)

January 18. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CLC)

January 19. Area Media Library Clinic. North Little Rock Central Church (CT)
January 20. Area Media Library Clinic. Fort Smith First Church (CT)

January 21. Area Media Library Clinic. Wynne Church (CT)

January 22. Area Media Library Clinic. El Dorado Immanuel Church (CT)

January 25. Baptist Men's Day (Bhd)

January 26. Baptist Doctrine Study Preview (CT)

February

February 2. State Vacation Bible School Clinic. North Little Rock Central Church (SS)

February 2-3. ASSIST Training. North Little Rock First Church (SS)

February 8-14. Focus on WMU (WMU)

February 9. Regional Tax Seminars. Fayetteville First Church; Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock (S/A)

February 10. Regional Tax Seminar.

Hot Springs Grand Avenue Church (S/A)

February 15-18. Home Mission Study (WMU)

February 16-17. Shared Ministry Conference. Little Rock (CT)

February 19. Small Sunday School Leadership Updates. Waldron Temple Church, Melbourne Belview Church, Dierks First Church, Jacksonville

Millity Road Church, Russellville Bakers Creek Church (SS)

February 19-20. Shared Ministry Conference. El Dorado (CT)

February 27-28. State Single Adult Conference. Little Rock Pulaski Heights Church (CT)

February 27-28. Volunteer/Part-time Music Leader Retreat. Camp Paron (M)

March

March 1-8. Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU)

March 6-7. State Handbell Festival. Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church (M)

March 17-18. WMU Annual Meeting.

Camden First Church (WMU)

March 23. Church Building Conference. Mt. Ida First Church (SS)

March 24. Church Building Conference. Fayetteville Sang Avenue Church (SS)

March 26. Church Building

Conference. Gassville First Church (SS)

March 27. Church Building Conference. Little Rock Calvary Church (SS)

March 28. Youth Choir Festival. Little Rock Immanuel Church (M)

Abbreviations: Bhd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; M - Music; SS - Sunday School; S/A - Stewardship/Annuity; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

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Task force reports on mobile home communities

Eugene Ray and the task force he chaired discovered 25 manufactured home communities that need church-type missions. These parks have more than 100 family units. Another 175 parks have less than 100 families. Many of these need some type of outreach ministry in the park.

The greatest concentration of parks was in the urban areas. Little Rock and North Little Rock are first in the state with about 50 parks.

The task force discovered that the number of people living in manufactured homes in Arkansas had increased by 235 percent in 10 years. It is expected that 100,000 people

will live in mobile homes by 1990.

The task force also identified guidelines for effective sponsorship of a church-type mission in a manufactured home community. These guidelines are included in a printed booklet available from each associational office or from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Church Extension Program.

Other members of the task force are: Jack Ramsey, White Hall; Joe Taylor, Paragould; Neal Stevens, Marion; James Zeltner, Fort Smith; and Kent Williams, Cotton Plant. Pete Church and Roy Nix also assisted in the survey.

Entire mission converted when lay pastor preaches

DALLAS (BP)—When the East Texas plumber preached at the North Texas Hispanic mission, the whole congregation became Christians.

When Roysie City, Texas, Hispanic Mission met for its second service, eight persons were present not counting the preacher, and there were eight professions of faith in Christ.

"I could feel the Holy Spirit there. God gave me the right words to speak that could touch the people's hearts," says Jesse Polo, lay pastor of the mission.

Polo, who is neither licensed to preach nor ordained, works four days each week as a plumber in Mount Pleasant, Texas. Each Friday, he drives 80 miles west on Interstate 30 to Roysie City, where he visits prospects and conducts Sunday services for the mission.

"I went to visit one lady who was sick," he says. "When I walked in to see her, her face lit up and she said, 'Brother Jesse! To these people, I'm their pastor!'"

"I feel called to come witness to the people here, to show to these Spanish-speaking people that we care," says Polo, a native of Mexico City who has lived in Texas 12 years. "I know their beliefs and the way they think. They know I understand them. They feel the warmth here at the mission. They feel loved."

Cooperative Program report: October

January-October gifts

	Year	Budget (under)	% increase over previous year
Summary for October 1986			
Received	1981	\$103,505.12	10.96
Budget	1982	\$147,128.96	9.61
(Under)	1983	(\$ 62,003.04)	11.00
	1984	(\$355,773.24)	4.84
	1985	(\$357,585.83)	6.15
	1986	(\$578,348.08)	4.60

We have two months to catch up on our Cooperative Program gifts for 1986. Let's pray that God will give us victory. Thanks for your faithfulness in giving. — Jimmie Sheffield, ABSC associate executive director

One meaning, 10,000 applications, Rogers asserts

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—"The Bible has only one meaning but 10,000 applications," Adrian Rogers told students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Nov. 18.

Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Bellvue Church in Memphis, Tenn., spoke to an overflow chapel crowd at the Fort Worth, Texas, school.

Rogers told students he always asks three questions of Scripture: "What did it mean then? What does it mean now? What does it mean to me personally?"

He said those questions should not lead a person to find additional meanings of the passage, but proper applications. "The Bible has only one meaning, but 10,000 applications," he insisted.

After chapel Rogers and Southwestern President Dillard spoke to news media about the "Glorieta Statement" issued in October by the six SBC seminary presidents. In that statement, the presidents acknowledged there have been problems at some schools and affirmed the Bible as "not errant in any area of reality."

Rogers praised the presidents' statement as "in some ways stronger than the Baptist Faith and Message. 'I'm grateful for the statement that the Bible is without error in any area of reality.'"

But Rogers said he is concerned about interpretations part of the statement has since been given, noting, "I've heard it put

in a somewhat different perspective lately."

Rogers later explained he was referring to comments made by President Roy Honeycutt to his faculty as Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He quoted Honeycutt as saying, "Inerrancy is not the way we interpret our high view of Scripture here at Southern Seminary," adding Honeycutt also said, "We do not believe the Bible is inerrant, but we do believe the Bible is not errant in any area of reality."

"What I thought was a very strong statement at Glorieta has been interpreted," Rogers said. "Baptists will only come together as we come together on a statement of what Scripture means."

Dillard said the six seminary presidents are "not reluctant to face problems, adding their Glorieta Statement was a 'good-faith effort to express what we believe.'"

"We struggled with terminology," he admitted. "We do have problems with the term 'inerrancy' as a result of its historical roots." That word has become politicized and has a root meaning associated with a human standard of perfection, he said: "The term 'inerrant' had too many qualifications. We wanted a term with a more positive tone to it. We take the Bible as it is. It does not mislead us."

Rogers said the presidents did not need to use the word "inerrant," noting, "We have tried to say you don't have to use our word."

Nelson elected Missouri's interim executive director

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Thomas W. Nelson, retired executive director of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, has been elected interim executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention in a special called session of the MBC Executive Board held following the Nov. 7 memorial service for the late Rheubin L. South. South, who died of leukemia Nov. 6, had been MBC executive director since 1975.

Prior to South's election as executive director in 1975, Nelson served 11 months as interim executive director.



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Religious leaders mount anti-pornography effort

by David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)—In what one speaker dubbed an "ecumenical miracle," 250 representatives of America's religious community met Nov. 13-14 to lift a united voice of protest against hardcore pornography.

The meeting of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography included representation from nearly every major religious body in the United States: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mormon and Greek Orthodox.

While representation was diverse, the stated purpose of the conference was intentionally narrow: to mount "a vigorous and responsible effort to attack and eliminate hardcore and child pornography."

That message, along with an appeal for help, was delivered to President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese by 21 leaders of the alliance in a private White House meeting during the final session of the conference. The delegation included Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers and SBC Home Mission Board language missions director Oscar Romo, both members of the organization's

executive committee.

While noting many participants have concerns about other kinds of pornography, conference speakers repeatedly emphasized the coalition's targets are "illegal obscenity," pornographic materials which lie outside the protection of the First Amendment.

"We're not talking about air-brushed nudity portrayed in men's magazines," declared one speaker. "We're talking about material that clearly exceeds the definitions of obscenity established by the Supreme Court."

"We are against censorship," alliance Chairman Kirk told a news conference following the visit with the president. "But we are for enforcement of obscenity laws."

Throughout the conference, veterans of anti-pornography efforts voiced frustration over the federal government's unresponsiveness, especially in prosecuting obscenity violations.

In a half-day briefing preceding the conference, family life leader James Dobson, a member of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, noted the "salient find-

ing" of the commission was "the absolute paralysis" of government in dealing with the \$8 billion pornography industry.

While reiterating their commitment to First Amendment protections, speakers also documented the justification for an all-out assault on hardcore pornography. They occasionally used audio-visual presentations to illustrate descriptions of magazines and video cassettes depicting graphic sexual violence against women and sexual abuse of children.

They described materials picturing homosexual and heterosexual involvement of children as young as age three, incest, bestiality, torture and rape.

Eileen Lindner, associate general secretary for the National Council of Churches, reminded conference participants that "it is our job—our right—to work as citizens to curtail this great threat to the human family and especially the women and children."

David Wilkinson is director of news services for the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Parks visits China, finds spiritual depth in Christians

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Christians of China "have as much to offer us as we have to offer them," insisted Southern Baptist mission leader R. Keith Parks, back from a two-week visit to China.

Chinese Christians, he discovered, also have something many believers in the West lack: a great spiritual depth born of hardship.

"I went to China to try to learn from them," Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board reported upon his return. "I feel the Christians there have learned something about the Christian experience because of what they've been through that most of us have not learned."

Parks and his wife, Helen Jean, visited Christian leaders, pastors and churches in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Nanjing, Xian and Beijing in late October and early November.

Southern Baptists now relate to Chinese Christians through Cooperative Services International, an office formed in 1985 to help the denomination assist Christians and

others in countries where missionaries do not work. Christian missionaries, including Southern Baptists, left China early in the Communist era.

China suffered during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, and Chinese Christians suffered with their nation. Radicals persecuted intellectuals, artists, religious people and many other groups during those years. China now openly acknowledges the period was a national tragedy.

During their visit, Parks and his wife made a point of asking individual Christians which Bible passages had helped them most during the dark days. "I think without exception they all mentioned the 23rd Psalm," he said.

But Parks found most Christians eager to talk about today's freedoms rather than yesterday's repression.

"One of the most striking things is that none of them dwell on their difficulties during the Cultural Revolution," he observed. "Under prodding they'll tell you a little bit

They all emphasize the fact that China suffered. It wasn't just the Christians suffering. All intellectuals suffered—universities, seminaries, churches. It was not directed at Christians per se."

The fact that Christians did suffer along with millions of others, however, accomplished something the church had long prayed for. "It caused the Christians to be identified with the Chinese people," Parks said.

Parks said he had expected to feel an overwhelming emotional impact on his first visit to China. Instead, he felt "unexpectedly at home" there, perhaps because of his many years of mission work among Chinese elsewhere in Asia.

"But the cumulative experience was as moving as any I've ever had," he reflected. "These people, who have been through the fire and have been refined, share the quality of their experience in such an unassuming way. On occasion it would just move us to tears."

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Rejoicing in the law

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passages: Nehemiah 8:1-12; Psalm 119

Focal passages: Nehemiah 8:1-3; Psalm 119:105-112

Central truth: People who heed God's Word find that God's Word provides guidance and joy for their lives.

This tremendous lesson that the Israelites kept learning and forgetting is one that we modern Christians find high on our very own success/failure list. The lesson aim is to lead all of us to decide, each individually, on at least one way each of us will aspire, this week, to improve in our attentiveness to God's Word. It's one thing to be able to quote the Scriptures, but it's something else to live by them. Look again at the central truth.

(1) Ezra reads the Law (Neh. 8:1-3)

On this occasion there was no concern for comfort. Nobody complained that the air-conditioning was either too high or too low, and, amazingly, no one seemed to feel that the hours-long service was too long! They were eager to hear Ezra's reading of the Scriptures, from early morning to mid-day!

Verses 9-12 reveal that the first reaction of the people was to weep, possibly at the thought of how many of God's laws they had not kept. But their leaders called them to rejoicing, because they now heard and understood the law.

(2) Tribute to God's law (Ps. 119:105-112)

Note the words the Psalmist used to describe God's law: "word," "promise," "commandments," "statutes," "judgments," "precepts."

Ezra set an excellent example for Bible teachers of all time. Not only did he read God's word, but he made sure that he and the people understood it and how to apply it to their everyday lives. The history of the Bible is "his story," and as such is far more relevant to our daily lives than the latest media reports of what is happening in the world around us.

Let us come back to what we started with, the specific aim of this lesson. No doubt many of us need to be more fully committed to the Bible study provided through the Sunday Schools of our churches on a regular basis from week to week. If you are one who has waited till Saturday night or Sunday morning to decide whether you will attend Bible class, why not make that decision once and for all? Decide, "Yes!"

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

Life and Work

Future promises

by Bradley A. Rogge, Brookwood First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: Genesis 9:1-29

Focal passage: Genesis 9:1,3-6,13

Central truth: God promises to preserve his people and provide for their future needs.

The 60s: "What's wrong with these young people? What's all this free love stuff?"

The 70s: "What's wrong with these young people? This 'me' generation is so self-centered."

The 80s: "Why are our teenagers killing themselves?"

The answer to the question of the 80s may be that today's young people have found the world and all of its institutions, including the church, as corrupt and void of hope. The question of the 80s may boil down to a complete sense of hopelessness and certain world destruction.

The answer to the question is the same answer of the 60s and 70s. Knowing and believing the promises of God.

Our lesson points out two very important lessons for us today. The first is that God, even in the face of world destruction, seeks to preserve life. We are made in the image of God. As such, God protects human life. God provides for man's physical need (vv. 2-3) and protects us from ourselves (v.6). God's promise is to preserve and protect life, not to destroy it.

Secondly, God provides signs to remind people of his promises. In the days of Noah, God's sign was the rainbow. Today the sign is Christ. Christ came to give us abundant life and an abundant life hereafter.

This is the best time in human history to live. We have at our fingertips the greatest amount of knowledge about our Lord than at any other time period in history. In him we can find hope and purpose.

As we begin our Foreign Missions Week of Prayer, let us pray that this message of hope and peace and promise will flood the earth.

Maybe as the 80s come to a close, we can hope for a new question to be raised for the 90s: "What is wrong with these young people today? All they seem to want to do is talk about this Jesus who says he is the hope of mankind." Let us pray so and work toward it.

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Bible Book

Jesus as Messiah

by Robert A. Parker, Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 7:1-52

Focal passage: John 7:37-38

Central truth: Despite what anyone thinks or believes about Jesus of Nazareth, he is the Messiah, the one sent from God in order for men to have both eternal and abundant life.

On the Day of Atonement, the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood where he could easily be seen publicly and proclaimed loudly that any one who thirsted after God should come to him and drink. He wanted all to know at the climax of that great ancient Jewish feast that he was the fulfillment of their messianic expectations.

In this chapter of John's gospel, we find opposition recorded to what Jesus was declaring about himself being the promised Messiah. There is still much opposition to what he lovingly and earnestly declared. The challenge he gave still goes for man to know the truth about Jesus' saving power. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself!"

Of all doctrine or teachings of both the Old and New Covenants, the most important concerns Jesus, God the Father's greatest demonstration of his love.

Those who depend upon their own feeble efforts to merit the approval of man, including self, and God, if they believe in a supreme being, need our earnest prayers. They need the Holy Spirit's convicting power regarding God's plan for man in Christ.

People today, and until Jesus returns, must decide who he really is. Thank God for those who sincerely accept him and bow their knees to him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The great majority of the world's teeming millions are lost without light or freedom. Many of these live in the community where we live and in some instances in our own homes.

While hundreds of missionaries are sent to far off places, too often we ourselves fail to go across the street to tell a lost neighbor or friend about the light and freedom that comes through Jesus Christ.

Pray for the salvation of those who lack light and freedom as they dwell in the devastating bondage of various social addictions. Help them to know that Jesus Christ is our and their only hope.

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Baptists help Honduran farmers

by Stanley Stamps

CHOLUTUCA, Honduras (BP)—More than 200 families in 22 southern Honduras communities are benefiting from a Baptist project designed to help them replant crops lost to a drought earlier this year.

The project, sponsored by the Honduras Baptist Convention and financed by Southern Baptist hunger funds, will help an estimated 2,000 people before year's end.

Local Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries are providing bean and corn seeds for replanting the customary second harvest, made possible by late rains. The early harvest, which normally follows the spring rains, was a 90 percent loss this year because of inadequate rains and unusually high temperatures in the southwestern region bordering El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Each participating family receives seeds adapted to the peculiar growing conditions in the area to plant a plot of about two acres. Baptists also supply basic grain supplements twice each month to the families to help them until the second crop can be harvested.

Provisions, including corn, beans, rice and shortening, are purchased on the local market. Francisco Flores, pastor of First Church in Choluteca, is supervising the project.

Baptist church blossoms in French tire center

by George Gera

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France (BP)—“Hello, are you the Mormons?”

“No, we're Baptists,” Southern Baptist missionary John Perkins replied. “Can we help you?”

Mormons, Baptists—it made little difference to the caller: “I teach a religion class to high school students, and we're discussing sect groups in France. Would it be possible to meet with you?”

Perkins consented, knowing that non-Catholic groups in France often are labeled as sects, but trusting that the meeting would allow for a Christian witness.

The missionary subsequently got an opportunity to explain his faith in front of 100 high school students. And he gave each a copy of the Gospel of John and a tract relating the plan of salvation.

Perkins' presentation also caused the teacher to change his outlook. “I see now that you're not a sect,” he remarked, “but really a valid Christian group.”

Such encounters are a way of life for Perkins and his wife, Sarah, who in 1984 established the first Baptist church in Clermont-Ferrand, a city best known as the world headquarters for the makers of Michelin tires.

As a rule, French people do not understand why an American missionary couple would come to their country, Perkins says.

After years of experience with this type of recurring emergency, Baptists chose the replanting approach rather than setting up regular relief distribution or food-for-work projects. Those approaches create a false sense of security and have fewer long-range results, said Southern Baptist missionary and social ministry coordinator Jim Palmer.

About 75 percent of the people receiving assistance are Baptists, Palmer said, but evangelism is part of the project objective. The families live in remote communities not touched by government or benevolent agencies. They live on the land and depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Southern Baptist missionary Ralph Wilson said light rains have fallen in the region recently, enough to stimulate hope. But he noted that in the last 12 years annual rainfall has been erratic, with a normal year followed by a dry year, which in turn may be followed by a rainy year marked by floods. Early or late harvests, sometimes both, have been damaged severely or lost.

Government sources estimate more than 300,000 people have been affected by the most recent drought.

Stanley Stamps is a Southern Baptist missionary in Honduras.

Some observers say France has become “de-Christianized.” It's a country strong on individualism and intellectual analysis. As one Frenchman told Perkins, “We may discuss religion, but we don't get personally involved with it.”

Even so, the missionaries remain busy, building friendships, coping with disappointments and rejoicing at opportunities for leading those looking for something to believe in to Jesus Christ.

When Sarah Perkins started a conversation with the wife of a new department store manager in Clermont-Ferrand, the woman observed that their husbands' work is similar: each is opening a new enterprise in the city.

Contact with this woman and several other professional women gave Mrs. Perkins an opportunity to start a women's English conversation group. “The trust level is high in the group and they really share their struggles,” she says.

Baptists in France say it takes 10 or more years to establish a vibrant congregation, but the Perkinses are convinced that among Clermont-Ferrand's 250,000 people there are many who will find hope in the midst of their struggles through the Baptist church's Christian message.

George Gera is a Southern Baptist missionary press representative in France.

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