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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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November 7, 1985

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

National Baptist youth camps
aid Christian maturity
page 8





Through "enrichment" sessions at a camp for girls from National Baptist churches, the girls are taught Christian perspectives on life and told about successful living from Christian professionals. This is the extra for National Baptist boys and girls, who also come for Bible study, recreation and worship.

Conrads appointed for service in Korea

RICHMOND, Va. — A couple with Arkansas connections was appointed for service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 8.

John and Vivian Conrad will work in South Korea, where he will be a music consultant and she will be a church and home worker. A graduate of Morehead (Ky.) State University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. More recently, he was associate pastor and minister of music at First Church, Brooksville, Fla.

Mrs. Conrad, the former Vivian Coleman, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lucien Coleman Jr. of Fort Worth. Her father is professor of adult education at Southwestern Seminary. Her parents lived for several years in Lepanto and Lunsford, where family members still reside. Mrs. Conrad also is a graduate of Morehead State University and has served as music minister in Kentucky churches.

The Conrads have four children: Joy Elizabeth, Robert Jeremy, Jonathan Edwin and Joshua David. The family will go to



John and Vivian Conrad Rockville, Va., in February for an eight-week orientation before leaving for their field of service.

Second missions teleconference airs Nov. 23

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southern Baptists all over the country will have the opportunity to become living links in a giant prayer chain Nov. 23 by participating in the second annual Foreign Missions Teleconference.

Foreign missionaries and Southern Baptist missions agency heads will be among the experts gathered in Birmingham, Ala., to broadcast prayer requests and current missions information to viewing sites around the nation.

The teleconference will be broadcast over the Baptist Telecommunication Network from 12 until 1:30 p.m. (CST). Anyone with a satellite dish may view the teleconference by tuning to Spacenet 1, channel 21-transponder 11. The BTN signal will not be scrambled at this time.

Teleconference participants will include Carolyn Weatherford, national Woman's

Missionary Union executive director; R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president; and James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president.

On furlough from Ethiopia, missionary Jerry Bedsole will take part in the live Birmingham program, along with Charlotte and Carter Davis, foreign missionaries to Granada. Phone calls will be made to several missionaries serving overseas.

Teleconference viewers will be able to participate by calling the Birmingham site with questions and comments.

For information about attending a central viewing site in your area, contact your associational WMU director or associational director of missions.

The Foreign Missions Teleconference is being sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union and the Foreign Mission Board.

BTN offers satellite dishes for no charge

NASHVILLE—A total of 250 satellite receiving dishes will be made available at no charge beginning Nov. 1, 1985, to churches agreeing to sign a five-year subscription agreement to BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network).

Included in the agreement will be a 10-foot satellite receive only antenna, a Uniden receiver, 100 feet of cable and all regular manufacturer's warranties. Churches will be responsible for shipping costs from the manufacturer, installation, additional options, on-site survey (if needed) and repair and maintenance beyond warranty.

At the end of the five-year period, churches may choose to sign another five-year

agreement, at the end of which the equipment would belong to the church; purchase the equipment for \$500; or remove and return the system to Broadman, freight paid.

Jimmy Edwards, vice-president for publishing and distribution at the Baptist Sunday School Board, said the board hopes to broaden the viewer base of BTN geographically and to all sizes of churches to show the potential benefits available through the teaching and training network.

Churches can make arrangements to use the satellite receiving equipment, valued at \$2,295, by contacting the Broadman Sales department at the Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave, North, Nashville, TN 37234.

In this issue

4 tuition vouchers opposed

With President Reagan expected to present his tuition voucher proposal soon, several education experts already have told a Senate subcommittee the proposal cannot live up to its supporter's claims.

9 tenured professor fired

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have voted to fire Farrar Patterson, the professor of preaching who was suspended from teaching earlier this year by the school's president. Though trustees narrowly refused to uphold firing him then, they acted after Patterson refused re-engagement procedures.

Correction

On page 6 of the October 31 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, Jon Stubblefield was incorrectly identified. He is pastor of Central Church, Magnolia.



Today there is much immorality in America. Drug abuse, promiscuity, theft, larceny and murder are but a few of the signs of the moral depravity of our country. Those who desire change are confronted with a variety of questions such as, Where does Christian morality begin? Is it born of good resolutions? Can it be produced through proper classroom instruction? Is it inspired by private or public appeals?

These are timely questions in a period in which special emphasis needs to be placed on a moral awakening in America. To build a better nation, we must find the proper formula on which to base it. On what are we to build a deeper national sensitivity to sin?

No movement for morality will get far without linking it first to New Testament evangelism. Men are "blind" and cannot see. They are "dead" and cannot know. Paul contrasted the state of the saved and lost as he said, "You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1).

No lasting good can come from merely complaining about the situation. It would be like expressing disgust because a deaf man could not hear a symphony orchestra. Complaints or expressions of disgust will not improve his hearing.

However, there is a way to improve the situation, the individual and the nation. This way is through the "new birth," which produces a "new life." Faith in Christ, which brings conversion, gives an individual the experience and understanding he needs for a moral awakening. When one knows Christ, he can know himself.

The apostle Paul has said, "but now in Christ ye who were sometimes far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13). Unless an individual knows Christ in a personal experience of faith, he can never set himself free from the devil's entangling web. Being unable to emancipate himself, he is certainly in no position to assist others. Conversion lays the groundwork for building a moral awakening in our land. Only as we lead people to know God through Christ, can we enable them to help others.

Before an individual can become morally aware, he must know right from wrong. He must be able to separate good from bad. Where does his measuring stick come from? True standards of right and wrong must be found. An inexperienced young carpenter once was given his first assignment. He was to saw three dozen boards the same length. He was given a measuring stick by which he was to cut the planks. He measured the first board with the measuring stick. Then he laid the measuring stick aside and

sawed the first board. He took the first board to use as his measuring stick for the second one. He used the second board as the measuring stick for the third and so on. When he had finished, he was amazed to learn his last board was six inches longer than the measuring stick which he was originally given. His error came through his failure to use the measuring stick throughout his assignment.

Any man who constantly is shifting standards is confused. With such confusion, we cannot build moral consciousness in America. The Bible is the measuring stick that gives us ultimate guidance and unchanging standards. It must be constantly taught and conscientiously followed.

The dedication of Christians to high moral living is apparent to everyone, even to the unsaved. Everyone expects Christians to have high standards of conduct. Christians must lead out, if we are to improve the moral consciousness of our country. Once an individual accepts Christ, the believer is then on the right track as he travels the high road of moral and ethical conduct.

Public morals are built on private conduct. If all individuals did right in private conduct, there would be no problem at the level of public morals. We find our answer in building acceptable public morals as we lead individuals to live righteous lives individually and privately.

Among the numerous religions of the world, Christianity calls for the highest standards of morality. Many of the world's lesser religions have no moral standards at all. Some of the infamous religions of the past actually have lowered the moral standards of their people.

How wonderful it is Christianity not only inspires men to higher righteous living, but portrays a Savior whose highest morals are an example before his people. Further, we as Christians are promised God's help as we try to reach a higher standard of moral living.

If we are to lift our nation's level of moral thinking, personal dedication is required of all Christians, even at the cost of sacrifice. Every great accomplishment requires commitment and sacrifice.

All men must know Jesus before they can live better lives. Only as Jesus purifies men can they be pure. Then instruction, guidance and training must follow.

Our task is not complete until men are presented flawless before the throne of God's grace. At this time, it will be obvious to all they have taken on the image and the shape of the master to whom their lives have been so willingly and gladly committed.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

Daniel R. Grant

When the landscape gardener teaches the faculty

One of the hardest things for me to learn is that not all learning takes place in the classroom. Some of the most important learning takes place "out there" in the world in what people call the "college of hard knocks." Even on a college campus, much important learning takes place outside the classroom, in the dorms, the dining hall, the work places and on the athletic fields.

Recently, I was reminded it is not just our faculty members at Ouachita Baptist University who do all of the good teaching that takes place. Some of our best teaching is done by those who are not even members of the faculty. The eye-opener came when the pre-school faculty meeting at Ouachita became a learning experience with our landscape gardener as the teacher. Imagine the double amazement—even the shock—of

learning taking place in a faculty meeting, led by a non-member of the faculty.

It all happened because I had been wanting for some time to give appropriate recognition to the faithful members of our maintenance department and to introduce some of the specialists in various parts of the buildings and grounds work required to keep our university in operation.

After introducing 10 or 12 of them, and identifying their area of expertise, I asked two of them to come forward and let me interview them about the details of their work. One of these was our landscape gardener, Leland Holeman. My first question was, "What is the hardest part of your work?" Without even blinking an eye, he said, "All that digging!" After the laughter subsided, I tried a second question, "And

what is the easiest part of your work?"

The second answer did not come so quickly. He thought for a minute and then finally said, "I guess it would be loving all of God's living things." You could have heard a pin drop in that meeting as all of us let the full meaning sink in, and this was followed by a sustained and warm applause.

Since that experience at the feet of our landscape gardener, I have been more and more impressed at how much Christian work involves "a lot of digging and a lot of loving." Christian education is loving God's living things—especially the young people created in God's image—and helping them to grow more like him.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Experts deny claims of voucher proposal supporters

by Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—An anticipated voucher proposal from the Reagan administration would not live up to its supporters' claims, declared several education experts in testimony before a Senate subcommittee.

The administration's Chapter I voucher proposal is expected soon, Chester Finn, assistant secretary for educational research and improvement with the U.S. Department of Education, told the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations. That voucher plan is expected to propose providing parents with approximately \$600 per eligible child. Parents then would be able to decide in which school—public or private—to spend those dollars.

Besides the anticipated voucher plan, President Reagan repeatedly has pledged to continue pressing Congress for tuition tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools.

Supporters of a voucher plan claim it would expand student and parental choice within the country's educational system. They contend this expanded choice would lead to improvement within the system.

"Educational vouchers could provide a consumer choice for parents and accountability of educational institutions to them," testified Robert L. Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. "Vouchers would empower low-income parents to choose any public or eligible non-public school for their child with the provision that tuition would be paid where the pupil attends."

Only if vouchers were to provide 100 per-

cent of educational expenses could they provide real choice, countered Virginia state Sen. Wiley R. Mitchell Jr. Wiley, who served on a presidential panel studying federal assistance to education, testified that current educational assistance programs are working well. To take money out of those programs to move into an untested voucher program would only create "worthless pieces of paper," Wiley argued.

During the Oct. 22 hearing, several witnesses described existing state and local innovations in so-called "educational choice." Among those programs described was the Minnesota Plan, a 10-year plan designed to overhaul that state's education system from kindergarten to 12th grade.

The heart of that plan is a proposal to expand student choice in ways quite different from the various voucher schemes that have been debated in this country for more than two decades, explained Paul Berman, director of the study that proposed the Minnesota Plan. Instead, he argued, the Minnesota Plan calls for core academic education for all students through 10th grade, with choices provided for 11th and 12th graders.

"I believe a full-scale voucher system beginning in elementary or the earlier grades of secondary school would do more harm than good," testified Berman.

A Minnesota city school superintendent testified that, while he supports education choice within public schools, he does not support spending public dollars in private schools. "I would argue that strings follow money like the night follows the day; that

public funds, no matter how indirectly delivered threaten the independence of private schools; and that public investment in private schools through vouchers is more likely, over the long term, to homogenize schooling and reduce the real choices available to parents and students than to increase them," stated David A. Bennett, superintendent of the St. Paul, Minn., public schools.

Much of the discussion of the matter of choice in American schools has "revolved around mechanisms to channel public funding to private schools," testified Roxanne Bradshaw, secretary-treasurer of the National Education Association.

Bradshaw said the voucher is being advanced by those who believe a free marketplace will correct all education ills. Those proponents believe the voucher would enable parents to buy a better education for their children, she added.

"In fact, what vouchers offer is the illusion of choice with the reality of high stakes risks for the disadvantaged," Bradshaw testified. "The impact of a \$500 voucher would be negligible in the current educational market where the public school average per pupil expenditure is \$3,429 a year."

Bradshaw also argued that, if extended to private schools, vouchers have the potential of subsidizing religious organizations, thus violating the First Amendment.

Kathy Palen is assistant director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

You'll be glad to know...

...Motel rooms are still available in Arkadelphia! The fears many had that rooms would not be adequate for the convention have been dispelled. However, you should not wait until the last minute or come without a reservation. You could be disappointed. You don't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime occasion when an entire state enters into the celebration of its longest and largest investment, 100 years of Christian higher education.



Moore

Arkansas Baptists have been strongly committed and extremely successful in their endeavor. From shore to shore and on every continent, our children will be found making significant contributions. Arkansas Baptists have entered into their preparation to a very large extent through Ouachita Baptist University.

This convention will let us celebrate a century of influence, an influence whose measure can only be calculated in Heaven. It will give us an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the same noble purposes the founding fathers shared. Our presence also will allow us to express appreciation for those in the past and present who serve with genuine dedication. This should encourage those who find themselves in leadership in the most difficult times for higher education that have been seen in many years. Let's celebrate! Let's say, "Thanks!" Let's rededicate!

The first convention mentioned in the book of Acts had one thing on its agenda, "Rehearse all that God has done!" This inspires folk and honors God. This convention should be a rallying of God's people together. The great conventions of the past did that. But, as we are poised on the threshold of "Good News America" events, it should prepare us spiritually for the most significant experiences we have had in 30 years.

All of us who possibly can should gather in the most earnest spirit of prayer for real revival! The spiritual losses of this generation can only be reversed by an awakening. A terrible controversy would turn out on an overflowing attendance. Terrible spiritual conditions should produce an even larger crowd. I hope to see you there.

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Woman's viewpoint

Maurine Bunch Freeze

Successful Christian living

Christian women are seeking meaningful existence. We have a desire to live purposeful lives that are of service and blessing to others as well as rich and rewarding for ourselves. We long to experience mental, emotional and spiritual fulfillment. Whether married or single, we want to live successfully as Christian women.

Looking at success from a Christian's perspective, I have formulated a definition which I believe is scriptural. For me, success is "living in harmony with God's plan and purpose for my life."

God has a plan for each of us, and it is his will that we get in on it. We need to ask ourselves these questions: Have I discovered God's purpose for my life? Am I being who God created me to be?

The Bible is God's instruction book for successful living. God's will always is consistent with his word. He will never lead us to do anything contrary to Scripture. As Christians, we have a capacity for knowing God's will in given situations. Total surrender is required. God sometimes uses circumstances to bring us to a place of surrender. These circumstances can be very painful. He used the

fragmenting experience of divorce to lead me to a place or surrender to his will in my life. He worked in me to confess my sins, to resolve broken relationships and to make restitution where possible. As I spent time in prayer and Bible Study, I began to view life from God's perspective.

God has blessed each of us with gifts and talents to be used in his service. From what I read and sometimes hear, I could be led to believe that, as a single-again person and especially as a woman, certain gifts of the Spirit have been denied me. This is not so, according to Scripture. We have freedom in Christ regardless of sex and marital status.

As the Christmas season approaches, when we celebrate God's precious gift of his Son, we are encouraged to renew our commitment to Christ. As we surrender ourselves to him in trusting obedience, we will utilize our gifts and talents for his glory.

Maurine Bunch Freeze is a single adult consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. A member of Little Rock First Church, she is a frequent speaker at state and national single adult conferences and retreats.

Letters to the editor

Shocked and burdened

Never during my 64 years in our Lord's ministry have I been more shocked and burdened about a published letter than I am over that entitled "Marital resurrection", spiritually burdened both because it was (obviously) written by a brother minister and published in our beloved *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine, which I have cherished since the *Baptist Advance* days.

How can anyone accuse our God, who initiated marriage, of "condoning and requiring divorce?" This idea completely ignores Jesus' explanation and opinion of divorce (Matt. 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12). Therefore, God did not make the covenant of Ezra and Shecaniah (on which the above-mentioned letter was based), no more than he required it of Joseph, Moses, David or Boaz, ancestors of our Savior who would have been "put away" in the process. What thought can be more terrible? Please abolish it.

The letter stated, "Divorce is death in marriage" and "Remarriage is often resurrection." I find divorce is the death of marriage (the basis of home) and remarriage the burial of home and marriage. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). Why is not divorce death?

Jesus also said the marriage to another after divorce is adultery (Matt. 19:9; Mark 10:12). And the writer of the letter in question is "happy to be an agent of redeeming love to provide that ministry," of death and burial of marriages and homes!

Now, permit me to agree with the writer on God's ideals, "perfection" and "one mate," and that God's forgiving grace is sufficient for all our sins (except one, of course). But, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound" (Rom. 6:1)? God forbid! If we shall, why not justify murder, stealing, etc?

So, I plead that we emphasize and encourage forgiving love and prayer in the first marriages and discourage divorce and remarriages. I am sure then, the final resurrection will be more glorious. — **John M. Basinger, Jonesboro**

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed by one person, though the name may be withheld on request. Mailing address and phone number of the writer should be included. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. Letters must be marked "for publication." Only original letters will be considered.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Luther Dorsey of Warren is serving, for the second time, as interim pastor of Wilmar Church.

Joe Hunt has resigned as pastor of Anderson Church at Hope.

Roger Williams has resigned as pastor of Harmony Grove Church at Texarkana.

A. A. Brady died Oct. 24 in McKinney, Texas, at age 74. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served as pastor of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kentucky churches. He had also served as director of missions for Caddo River and Benton County associations in Arkansas.

Noah Moody is serving as pastor of Plant Church, Clinton.

Jessie A. Holloway of Newport died Oct. 17 at age 75. He was a member of Rosie Church. Survivors include three sons, three daughters, three brothers, one half-brother and several grandchildren.

Wilbur Herring, pastor emeritus of Jonesboro Central Church, is serving as interim pastor of Blytheville First Church.

Thomas Victor (Vick) Baker of Charleston died Oct. 17 in a Fort Smith hospital at age 84. He had been a member of Charleston First Church since 1920. Survivors include his wife, Kate; a daughter, Nadine Bjorkman of North Little Rock, former annuity representative for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; a son, T. J. Baker of Pasadena, Texas; a stepson, Earl D. Colvard of Paradise, Calif.; five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Alfred George Escott of Mena died Oct. 25 at age 71. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister. He had served for 20 years as pastor of Bluff Avenue Church in Fort Smith and retired in 1980, following 19 years of service, as director of missions for Ouachita Association, at which time he was named associational missionary emeritus. Survivors are his wife, Nell Escott; two daughters, Dorothy Doris of Mena and Marian R. Nichols of Tontitown; two brothers; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Ouachita Baptist Assembly, 602 DeQueen Street, Mena.

Barb Griffin, age 22, of Arkadelphia was killed in an automobile accident Oct. 28. She served as youth director for Richwoods Church in Arkadelphia, was 1984-85 state Baptist Student Union vice-president and was a leader in the BSU and other student organizations on the Ouachita Baptist University prior to her 1985 graduation. Memorial services were held on both the OBU campus and at Richwoods Church and funeral services were held in Alton, Ill., her hometown.

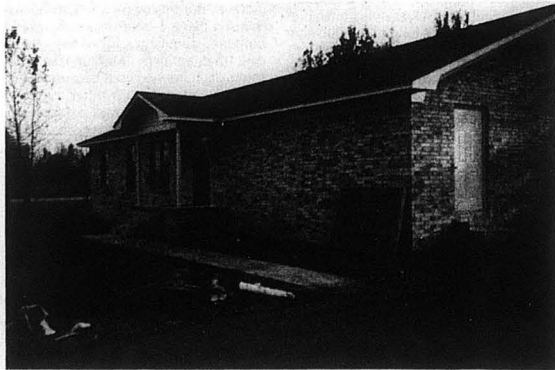
briefly

Graphic Church at Alma recently ordained Shelby Counts to the deacon ministry. Those participating in the ordination service were George W. Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, A. C. Vincent, Richard Corley, Dibrell Jackson, Mike Pollard, Mike Taylor and Claud Shephard.

Leonard Street Church in Hot Springs dedicated its new building, housing a 380 seating capacity auditorium, a kitchen and fellowship hall, Nov. 3. Vester Wolber was speaker. Bill Holcomb is serving as interim pastor.

Hot Springs Second Church ordained Jim Smith and E. T. Shuffield to the deacon ministry Oct. 27. Pastor Nick Garland was moderator.

buildings



Calvary Association, composed of 40 Southern Baptist churches, dedicated a new associational office at Judsonia Oct. 15. The dedication was a part of the association's 24th annual meeting. The 30x60 brick structure houses offices for James E. Hill Jr., director of missions, staff offices and a conference room. Jimmie Miller served as building committee chairman, assisted by Vernon Collier, Don Settles and Tommy Hendrix.

New Hope Church at Eudora celebrated its annual homecoming Oct. 10 with all-day activities, including a noon meal served in the church's newly-constructed fellowship wing. Pastor J. C. Singleton gave a special report on membership growth; the ordination of Lonnie Knight and Bill Reed to the deacon ministry; retirement of building indebtedness with a noteburning service and increased giving to mission causes.

New London Church near Strong celebrated its annual homecoming Oct. 27 with Sunday school, morning worship, a noon fellowship meal, an afternoon musical program and the launching of a fall revival. Harold Diffie is pastor.

Highland Hills Church at Texarkana ordained Jackie Kirkland and Jimmy Hickey to the deacon ministry Oct. 20.

West Hartford Church at Mansfield observed its 100th anniversary Oct. 27. Bob Garrett, Jimmy Barnes, missionary to Taiwan, Johnny Darr, director of missions for Buckner Association, Paul White, pastor of Calhoun Church, and John Evans were speakers. Testimonies were presented by Warren Leonard and Charles Whedbee, former pastors. J. C. White read the church history.

Harrisburg First Church celebrates 100 years of success

text and photos by Millie Gill

"Faith measures" of belief in the Bible, Christ's redemptive blood, the leadership of the Holy Spirit and in an everlasting life of fellowship with Christ were named by Captain Lovell, pastor of Harrisburg First Church, as ingredients leading to 100 years of successful ministry, when that congregation observed its centennial anniversary Oct. 27.

He praised the church for its service to the Harrisburg community and leadership in organizing four churches from missions; eight mission Sunday schools and ordaining or licensing 13 to the preaching ministry.

He also noted that from its leadership had come such outstanding supporters of ABSC and Southern Baptist Convention work as Edward Maddox, the late J.I. Cossey and H.E. Williams.

Maddox, a member with 63 years of continuous service, was recognized for his strong support to the church, Southern Baptist College, Ouachita Baptist University and Baylor University.

Cossey, a former interim pastor who led in construction of the present sanctuary, was instrumental in establishing the offering envelope system used by the SBC. He also served as editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* as it struggled to survive from 1933-1939, sometimes receiving no salary and often receiving chickens and produce as ABN subscription payment.

Williams, president-emeritus of Southern Baptist College and Harrisburg pastor from 1936-1937, was recognized for his leadership in founding and serving as first president of the college.

The church's growth has led to numerous building programs: worship centers, educational buildings and parsonages. Membership has grown from 25 to 950, with a current resident membership of 750.

There were more than 500 present for the centennial service, featuring the Singing Americans from Mainer, N.C. Congratulations were brought by Jimmie Garner, Trinity Association director of missions, Daniel R. Grant, Ouachita Baptist University president and Millie Gill, ABN representative. Others on program were former pastors Williams and John Collier of Moro.

Centennial activities were coordinated by a committee composed of Elsie Collins, Carlos Crouch, Peggy Durham, Lovell, Beth Maddox and Lee Siler.

Millie Gill is a staff writer/photographer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

The lunch hour provided a time of fellowship when First Church, Harrisburg celebrated its centennial Oct. 27. (Left) More than 500 participated in an "old-fashioned" barbecue dinner on the grounds as part of centennial activities. Pictured (top photo, left to right) are John Collier of Moro, Mrs. J. I. Cossey, Mrs. H. E. Williams, H. E. Williams and Captain Lovell, First Church pastor. Collier and Williams are former Harrisburg pastors.



Parents must provide examples for youth, ministers say

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)—In a painful indictment of some parents, youth ministers attending a national conference in Williamsburg said many youth lack a deep spiritual commitment because there are not enough positive examples in their homes.

"Many parents are so busy taking youth to band, ballgames and other entertainment, there is no time left for family," explained David Ezell, a youth and music minister at First Southern Church in Evansville, Ind. "The house is just a place to eat and sleep.

"Youth don't see their parents pray or read the Bible at home so they don't see any value in daily prayer and Bible study," Ezell said. "I guess they wonder if there's really anything to living a daily Christian life."

Southern Baptist youth ministers need to strive to create an atmosphere in church youth groups which includes commitment, trust and unity, according to numerous opinions expressed at the conference. Youth want to feel accepted instead of worrying that they have no place in the world and nobody wants them, which are commonly expressed feelings.

One youth minister shared the results of a survey he took among junior and senior high youth in his church in which a surprising 35 percent said they had experimented with premarital sex and nearly 40 percent said they either used or had tried alcohol.

When the youth minister shared the results with the parents, anonymously, there

was surprise and some disbelief. He told them counseling sessions with church youth supported the findings.

Because of the brief time available with youth, the youth ministers are convinced they cannot instill a sense of Christian devotion unless parents are involved and providing examples in the home. Several persons said they believed the behavior of youth in church frequently is an accurate reflection of the home atmosphere.

"No matter what we are doing at church, there must be spiritual examples in homes before commitments can be realized in the lives of youth," said Roger Underwood, youth minister at Forest Hills Church, Raleigh, N.C.

National Baptist camps mature Christian young people

by J. Everett Sneed

Both Robert Ferguson, director of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, and Robert Willingham, pastor of Mount Pleasant Church, Little Rock, feel that the purpose of the three National Baptist camps is to assist young people to become mature in the Lord. Willingham, who serves as camp pastor and director said, "We place major emphasis on interpersonal fellowship, fun from a Christian perspective and providing quality role models for young people to emulate."

Dr. Ferguson said, "Brother Willingham has done a masterful job in assisting us to make our three camps top quality." The planning for the camps starts in January. Top priority is given to the selection of quality individuals for speakers, counselors and worship leaders.

Like every camp, Hart of the Hills has Bible study, recreation, and worship experiences. A unique feature of this youth camp is the "enrichment" period. The purpose of the enrichment period is to encourage young people to reach their maximum potential under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The enrichment period features Christians from Human Development Services of the State of Arkansas, foreign missionaries, Christians from the Family Planning Services, who discuss sexuality from a Christian viewpoint, and outstanding Christian professionals.

Shiela Phillips, a young black attorney who is a member of the Mount Pleasant Church, Little Rock, spoke to the young people on personal discipline. She emphasized that, in order to succeed, an individual must determine priorities. The first priority is always an individual's relationship with God. After that, success is determined by goal setting and being willing to pay the price to accomplish these goals.

In addition to the enrichment period, often individuals will give their testimony in the evening service prior to the message. Sharon Johnson, an honor graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Nursing and previously a nurse at the Children's Hospital, spoke on developing proper study habits. Miss Johnson is currently seeking a master's degree at Emory University in child health care. Her parents are active members of the Mount Pleasant Church, Little Rock, and she is an active member of a Baptist church in Atlanta.

Another young woman who gave her personal testimony is Renata Edwards, who is currently seeking an M.D. degree at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. She emphasized the necessity for Christian discipline in the lives of individuals, in order to succeed in life and to magnify Christ. Her father is a National Baptist minister.

One of the featured speakers for an even-

ing service was Wendell Griffen, chairman of Worker's Compensation for Arkansas, attorney and lay preacher, who is a member of the Mount Pleasant Church, Little Rock. Griffen spoke in the young women's camp and asked them, "Where will you be 10 years from now?" After he had discussed this question with them, he pointed at his own wife in the audience who was holding their baby and said, "She was a camper here just 10 years ago." In addition to being a homemaker, Mrs. Griffen holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is a practicing psychologist in Little Rock.

Another individual who gave a personal testimony during the evening worship service was Alvin Futrell, a member of the Athletic Department at Henderson State University. Futrell, a former star of the Henderson State Reddies, emphasized that young people should not depend on athletic ability alone to achieve in life. He reminded them only a few are able to become professional ball players. And, even if a person were successful in becoming a professional athlete, his athletic career would last for a limited period in his life. His theme was to focus on long-term goals. Futrell holds a doctor of education degree from the University of Indiana and is a trustee at the Mount Plea-

sant Church, Little Rock.

Both Willingham and Ferguson cited young people who had had life-changing experiences while attending the Hart of the Hills youth camp. Last year, there were 17 professions of faith, and there have been professions of faith every year during the youth camps.

Ferguson praised Willingham for his excellent planning and involvement in the youth camp. He said, "Brother Willingham truly does an outstanding job in preparing and carrying out our youth camps. He goes far beyond the call of duty by driving buses, encouraging pastors to send their young people and even serving as a lifeguard. But perhaps his most effective involvement has been in the planning stage.

"Another person who has meant a great deal to the life of the camp was Norman H. McGill, a Ft. Smith pastor, who worked with our camp in many different capacities across the years," Ferguson continued. "Brother McGill, who recently died, will be greatly missed by those who work in the Hart of the Hills camp."

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

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Robert Ferguson, director of Cooperative Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and Robert Willingham, pastor of Mount Pleasant Church, Little Rock, discuss plans for the three National Baptist youth camps held each year at Camp Paron as a cooperative effort of Southern Baptists and National Baptists. The camps seek to help young persons mature in Christian faith through recreation, fellowship and providing "quality role models," said Willingham.

Southwestern Seminary trustees fire preaching professor

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—For the first time in their history, trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have voted to fire a tenured professor.

The action, the culmination of a bitter controversy, came Oct. 22 during a closed door session, when trustees voted 27-2 to immediately dismiss Farrar Patterson, associate professor of communications and preaching. Three trustees abstained, and four members were absent.

Patterson's firing came as a result of his alleged failure to respond to a "re-engagement" process arranged by seminary administrators. An attempt was made to fire Patterson in March, but failed on a 19-12 secret ballot vote, two votes short of the necessary two-thirds required for dismissal.

In March, Dilday had brought a six-point charge against Patterson, charging the professor was a "profane man," a poor teacher, insubordinate and a poor churchman and that he had made an "intentional distortion of the truth." During that meeting, the political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention was prominent, with accusations the dismissal was politically motivated.

Following the March meeting, the seminary administration designed a "re-engagement" plan to return Patterson to the classroom. He had been suspended from his teaching responsibilities prior to the March meeting. The plan was drafted by Dilday, Vice-President John Newport and Dean of Theology William Tolar.

Trustee Chairman Drew J. Gunnels of Mobile, Ala., said the 52-year-old Patterson,

however, would not follow the plan, would not meet with the administration about it and attempted to set his own agenda. Gunnels said the trustees, specifically following the requirements of the faculty manual, took action only on Patterson's response to the re-engagement plan. Dilday declined to comment on the matter, noting trustees "designated" Gunnels as the spokesman.

Gunnels, of Mobile, Ala., met with the news media following the two-hour closed door meeting. He said the re-engagement process "had to do with Christian Department, church attendance, classroom technique, writing procedures, basically with those things the faculty manual deals with for any faculty member."

Dilday, Gunnels said, gave a "detailed day-by-day report of the re-engagement process to the academic affairs committee on Oct. 21, the day before the trustees' dismissal action. The session lasted more than three hours, Gunnels said, and culminated in the recommendation for dismissal. Only one negative vote was registered, he said. A similar vote was registered in March.

Under conditions of the dismissal recommendation, Patterson will receive full salary and benefits—about \$40,000—through June 1986, and full medical and life insurance coverage—at a cost to the seminary of about \$5,000—through July 1987.

Gunnels, who praised the spirit of the meeting and the "tolerance" shown opposing views by various trustees, attributed the change in the vote from 19-12 in March to 27-2 in October first to the fact the issue was

response to the re-engagement policy, not the charges brought in March; and also to the fact the "board members had thought this thing through prayerfully."

Gunnels said trustees, while responsible for setting policy, leave it to the administration to run the seminary. "And that is the way it should be," he said. "It was for that reason that the re-engagement procedure went through the administration." He added the academic affairs committee tacitly agreed to the re-engagement plan in May. Gunnels said there was no vindictiveness on the part of Dilday or the board, he said. "We just upheld standards of conduct and activity established for faculty members." Failure to do so, he noted, would have been detrimental to faculty morale.

Gunnels said he views the action as vindication of Dilday's seminary leadership. The vote in March had been interpreted as being influenced by the president's involvement in Southern Baptist Convention politics. There was no discussion of that in last week's meeting, Gunnels noted.

He praised the trustee's willingness to deal with a "difficult situation" and said he would like to ask Southern Baptists "to have faith in our procedures."

"Though they are sometimes slow and cumbersome," he said, "I feel our procedures are valid at the seminary. I feel we have done what is best for the seminary."

(Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press, prepared this (BP) report with information provided by other news reports.)

Plea for investigation ignored, Patterson says

by Dan Martin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Farrar Patterson is "distressed" over his firing Oct. 22 by trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary because "my case has never been put to any kind of objective investigation."

Patterson, associate professor of preaching and communications, said trustees apparently ignored registered letters sent them, asking an investigation of "lies" told by seminary president Russell H. Dilday Jr.

Following the firing, Patterson said trustees ignored his plea for an investigation, but claimed the letter "shook" Dilday into an "attempt to bribe me with \$20,000 if I would resign prior to the trustee meeting."

Patterson told Baptist Press Dilday "showed up at my mother's house in Fort Worth uninvited and unannounced Friday (Oct. 18) and said he would pay me six months salary (about \$20,000) if I would just resign before the trustee meeting."

"He told me he had been out all over the country visiting the trustees and that I would be fired. I just didn't believe him; I didn't want to. But he was right. He did have the votes," Patterson said.

"They hung me for refusing to do his

re-entry program," Patterson said, adding he does not feel he has been given an opportunity to have his case examined by "somebody besides people who are blinded by the theological controversy."

Following the firing, Patterson told Baptist Press he had sent a registered letter to each of the 35 trustees replying to the charges against him and asking trustees for an "objective investigation" of the matter.

"I asked the trustees to investigate these lies he (Dilday) has been telling about me. I am sorry I have to call them lies, but that is what they are. I sent them a four-page registered letter which included a response to about 25 falsehoods he has told about me. I felt if the trustees read my material, they would have to investigate," Patterson said.

Patterson said: "Apparently, as far as I can tell, they ignored my letter. All I wanted was for some kind of objective investigation. I do not see how they could have read it and failed to investigate these lies against me."

Patterson said he attended several meetings "between the trustee meeting and May 30" in regard to his teaching duties. "But by the first of May I saw his plan was to get

me, no matter which way I went. He (Dilday) said he would put me back in the classroom the next day (March 21), but he never intended to do so. In fact, he has not let me back into the classroom at all."

The professor said the "re-entry program was wrong for three reasons. In the first place, neither the trustees nor the faculty manual call for it. In the second, to have submitted to it would have been an indirect admission of guilt to his false charges, and in the third, it was an abuse of his authority. He (Dilday) was discriminating against me, demanding things of me that were not required of anyone else."

Patterson declined to say whether he will pursue a lawsuit against Dilday, but said the matter "has gone far beyond re-instatement ... to libel and slander. I told the trustees I had been libeled and slandered and asked them to please investigate. They didn't deal with my request at all."

The professor added: "They haven't heard the last of this. I will press those charges against Dilday in my own way. Southern Baptists have a right to know about this whole thing. And they will."

Your state convention at work

Missions

Mobile home parks

Three of the Mission Models involve mobile home courts. One mission is located in the park. Its goal is just to reach the 400 families who live in the park.



Tidsworth

Two of the models are seeking to reach mobile home residents plus the larger community. We are learning from these models. One lesson is that reaching mobile home families requires a special approach.

One of our goals for 1986 will be to start missions in mobile home parks where needed over Arkansas. A special "task force" is working with associations to identify places where new congregations are needed.

A mission seminar will be provided to assist those involved in mobile home court missions. Principles and actions will be shared from the mission models.

Pray with us about reaching the 360,000 people who live in mobile homes in Arkansas. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr.**, church extension director

Evangelism

Continuing cultivation

There are some absolutes in making a good garden. Each year, as early as possible, I break the ground and then plant the seed. For the plants to do as well as we desire, they must have fertilizer and water. Also, I can't leave them without cultivation. The weeds have a tendency to grow faster than the plants, so cultivation must be continuous.



Shell

Today, we are considering continuing cultivation as we prepare for the great spiritual awakening in the Good News revivals. In January, in our cultivation process, we will be in the year when we expect God to move across our land and anoint each church in spiritual revival. Each prospect we found in the People Search should have a visit. They should be made aware of the efforts Southern Baptists are making to tell all Americans, "Good news, God loves you." Be aware that this person may be ready to make a commitment of his or her life to Christ. The visitor should be spiritually alert and hopeful that this is the time the prospect will be saved.

This is an excellent time to explain the

church's ministries. Make them aware of your pastor and staff and how God is using them. Special groups who meet, such as Golden Age Christians, youth or preschool should be explained. The prospect should be made aware that by becoming a Christian, he or she can make a tremendous contribution to the church and the cause of Christ. — **Clarence Shell**, director

Christian Life Council Green monkeys

Somewhere in the widespread discussion about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) a type of green monkey in



Parker

Africa was credited with being the primary source of transmitting the disease. Whatever or whoever is blamed about AIDS, let's be honest! Satan is the source of AIDS as of all types of sexual diseases.

Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell and other well known preachers have pronounced AIDS and Herpes as evidence of God's judgment on sexually liberated America. Long before these lived and preached, however, God's Word has been full of teachings regarding sexual sins.

One cannot and must not ignore God's teachings regarding this aspect of man's relationship with others. Human sexuality has through the centuries been one of demonic targeting.

In some ways people in our day are getting "smarter" but they also are getting "dumber" as satanic schemes are projected. There is often a close relationship with alcohol and other drugs. Normal behavior patterns are changed when mind-altering drugs are used.

By the way, the SPCA (Society For Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals) would

be terribly upset if even the green monkeys were arbitrarily pressured or forced to drink alcohol in any form. Yet, people? That's another story. For, you see, animals don't spend money, at least not directly. — **Bob Parker**, director

Family and Child Care

Prayers are appreciated

The day at the office began just as an ordinary day with the opening of the morning mail. As usual, there were copies of correspondence from every area of our work, which depicts Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services reaching out to help people. It is alarming sometimes to see the almost overwhelming needs of people, but it is gratifying to see our opportunities to minister to the hurts of children and their families in the name of Christ. It is particularly reassuring to see correspondence to Arkansas Baptists who have joined with us prayerfully and financially, in this ministry. We become laborers together.

However, on this day, mail opening was an uplifting experience. There it was, a letter from one of our pastors, which read:

"Each week our church selects a missionary who receives special prayer. Realizing how important your work is in Family and Child Care Services, we remembered you and your work with a very special prayer. Continue your good work and may God richly bless you."

What a blessing to know these dear people were praying especially for me and our work. I remarked to my secretary, "No wonder I had such a good week." One thing that makes this work such a joy is the people whom we represent and who make our ministry to children possible. To have prayerful co-laborers is to have powerful co-laborers. To these and others who remember our staff in your prayers, we say thank you. "Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening." — **Johnny G. Biggs**, executive director

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Moore tells seminary students not to give up on SBC

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—“Don’t you give up on the Southern Baptist Convention. We have our problems, but they are not new to us, and we’re going to be all right,” the first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention told students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., during a chapel address.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, told students: “There will be Southern Baptist churches here until the Lord comes back and there will a Southern Baptist Convention. There will be mission boards and there will be institutions supported in prayer and with offerings.

“So you stay in there and believe in those who work along side you because we’re

going to be there together. I don’t know what is going on. But I do know what the outcome is going to be, because I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.” Moore said in reference to the seven-year controversy within the SBC.

“I believe in his promise that the gates of hell shall not prevail against his church, and I believe in the people I know as Southern Baptists,” he said.

Moore, who was in North Carolina to speak at the seminary and at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, began his seminary address by telling students: “I am a conservative Baptist. I want you to know I believe the Bible and there is no way anyone can believe more of the Bible or believe the Bible more than I do.”

The Tennessee native then delivered a message from Luke 9:57-62. He told the

seminarians, “In my judgment, the most prevalent sin among Southern Baptists today is the sin of disobedience, sinful disobedience to the things we do understand about the Word of God.”

“I do not really have any problems with those passages of Scripture I do not understand. The problems I have are with those I do understand and do nothing about,” Moore said.

“I don’t know how the ax head floated. The Bible said it did, and I believe that. I have no worry about that at all. What I worry about is that Jesus said to me, ‘If they compel you to go a mile, go two.’ When I don’t do that, I have a guilty conscience,” he said.

“There is no substitute that God will accept from you and from me for our lack of obedience. The Lord needs committed people in the critical hour we find ourselves,” he said.

Later, speaking to 200 dinner guests at Wake Forest University, Moore said, “Some of us who are leaders in this convention and in our churches, both pastors and laypeople, are going to have to learn we really do need each other. When we understand that we’ll begin to work together as Christian people should to get on with Bold Mission Thrust and to get on with taking care of Kingdom business,” he said.

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House panel hears testimony about rural hunger

WASHINGTON (BP)—Only five days before a group of Southern Baptists were to go into Appalachian hollows to investigate domestic hunger firsthand, a House committee heard testimony on rural hunger and poverty in America.

Appalachian residents and hunger experts painted a poignant picture of life in that 13-state region for members of the House Select Committee on Hunger Oct. 22.

A single mother of four recalled the odyssey that led her from her childhood home in rural Tennessee to Florida with its promise of a better life and finally back to her beloved Appalachian mountains.

Letta Casey and two of her children now live in a small house on an acre of mountainous ground in Roses Creek Hollow, Tenn. She and 13-year-old Henry Lee and nine-year-old J.J. tend a garden to supplement \$153 in food stamps each month.

"During August, if we hadn't had our garden we would have starved, not just been hungry, but starved," Casey testified. "With our garden and food stamps we manage pretty well most months. What really saddens me is to think of the people who only draw food stamps for a living."

Casey described how her neighbors, most of whom have no transportation, are forced to shop at small rural groceries, which have to pay more—and therefore charge more—for their merchandise than large in-town supermarkets.

Climbing rent and utility expenses also siphon food money away from many of her neighbors' budgets, Casey continued. She added, however, since her house has no electricity or running water, she doesn't "have to waste money on those bills."

America has a problem of hunger and a problem with hunger, testified Robert A. Couto, director of Vanderbilt University's Center for Health Service. The problem of hunger stems from the lack of a definition of hunger and few and inadequate measures

of it, he explained. The second problem comes from hunger's being an anomaly in a country known for its wealth, he added.

Couto offered several solutions, of which providing employment at decent wages led the list. He also suggested a new program, based on a Head Start model, that would utilize community residents and organizations to meet the needs of low-income families through services and education.

"To ignore the hunger of some of our citizens because the many are satisfied is to starve the sensitivity that distinguishes us as humans and the concern that distinguishes us as Americans," Couto testified. "Without that sensitivity and concern, it is not our bodies that go hungry but our souls."

Jane Threatt, president of In Our Own

Way, described her organization's plan to send representatives from more than 30 national organizations and agencies, including the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, into three communities in late October to take a closer look at hunger in Appalachia. Through this Appalachian project, Threatt testified, projects and programs will be developed between grassroots people and resource holders to help alleviate hunger.

"When I think of hunger, I think first of Appalachia, not because the hunger and devastation are greater in Appalachia, but because they are closer," Threatt stated. "It seems to me that as we reach out to the suffering countries of Africa, we must look through the window of Appalachia."

Southern Baptists join Appalachian project

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptists' interest in helping alleviate hunger in Appalachia was evidenced by the participation of WMU leaders from several state conventions in a project designed to provide an up-close look at hunger in Appalachia.

The project, which was sponsored by the Washington-based In Our Own Way, sent

a task force into three Appalachian communities to visit with rural Appalachian women about the problem of hunger. The project, which took place in late October, concluded with a session in Knoxville, Tenn., during which project participants and Appalachian residents worked to develop solutions to the hunger problem.

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Seminary to acquire new site for center

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—In their fall meeting, the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees approved acquisition of a new site for its Southern California center.

Property will be acquired from the Brea Center Church in Brea, Calif. The seminary eventually will relocate from its leased space in Garden Grove, Calif. Pastor Don L. Powell extended the offer to Golden Gate after a unanimous quorum vote by the church. The church will have continued use of the property for its regular programs.

"This site will amply accommodate the church's need and provide space for additional parking and new construction," according to board chairman O.Q. (Dick) Quick. Golden Gate will assume the existing indebtedness to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and conduct appropriate studies for presentation to the trustees regarding construction of facilities.

Located on Randolph Avenue, the location is conveniently accessible from major highways in the greater Los Angeles area and is near a highly-developed shopping center.



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"Even so it is not the will of your father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." Matt. 18:14

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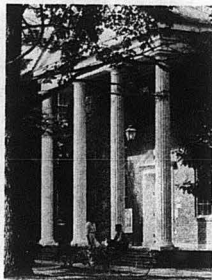


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- Dr. Marion G. "Bud" Fray is the chairman of the religion department and the holder of the W.O. Vaught Chair of Bible at OBU. Fray served for many years as a Southern Baptist Convention missionary to Africa.
- Ouachita consistently ranks in the top three or four colleges and universities in the nation, both public and private, in producing new Southern Baptist missionaries.
- The Japan Exchange Program with Seinan Gakuin University founded by Southern Baptist missionaries in Fukuoka provides a two-way opportunity for Christian witnessing and education with an international dimension.
- A second international exchange program was begun more recently between Ouachita and the Nigerian Baptist Convention and its seminary in Ogbomoso.
- Under the leadership of Baptist Student Union Director Mark Baber, and several strong predecessors, the Student Religious Activities Program at Ouachita has become one of the best in the country.
- The strictly voluntary Noonday tradition continues to be strong as students gather each day in Berry Chapel to share their commitment to Christ.
- Ouachita gives unequivocal and unapologetic support for required chapel and required courses in Old Testament and New Testament for all students at a time when all state colleges and many church-related colleges have abandoned such requirements.
- Ouachita has held the line against the trend toward coed dorms, inter-visitation and the acceptance of alcoholic beverages and other drugs as inevitable among American young people.
- A significant number of student groups are engaged in Christian witnessing on and off

campus through music, drama, preaching and lay witnessing.

- An outstanding Christian Focus Week with administrative support reaches the entire campus each year.
- A stronger program has been developed for educating and training students committed to church-related vocations. The outstanding tradition of the OBU "CONTACT!" teams, Christian drama groups, and Christian music groups is just a part of this program.
- The Missionary-in-Residence Program, established in 1971, each year brings a missionary family on furlough to live on campus.
- Between 250 and 300 Ouachita students are preparing for the preaching and pastoral ministry.
- At the latest count, 1,400 Ouachita graduates were working or had previously worked in church-related occupations, including 750 in the pastoral ministry, many executive directors of State Baptist Conventions, more than 200 missionaries and 400 in a variety of other church-related jobs.
- A Center for Christian Ministries involving students, faculty and staff has been established to stimulate and coordinate Ouachita's varied services to the churches and denomination.
- Riley Library is the repository of archival material for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The library also houses SBC, ABSC and Association minutes and various church minutes, and provides research material and services for churches and individuals.
- Ouachita has 17 international students from 10 foreign nations and 34 "missionary kids," one of the highest percentages of such students in the U.S. among Southern Baptist Convention colleges and universities.

At the heart of all that Ouachita seeks to accomplish, we strive to meet the challenge of Jesus Christ who said, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."



For more information on Centennial events please write: Centennial, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923

International

Keeping priorities straight

by James McDaniel, First Church, Brinkley

Basic passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-21

Focal passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Central truth: Christians should give priority to practicing Christ-like virtues rather than to accumulating material possessions.

As a young pastor, I was traveling to an associational meeting with three other pastors, one of whom was elderly and a very wise and godly man. In the course of our travel, our conversation led to discussing a very prosperous land owner. The elder pastor remarked about the landowner: "He's basically satisfied with what he owns. All he wants is the field that joins him."

Such is the way of life for many committed to the god of greed. The apprentice believes he will be content as a journeyman, the journeyman as a master and on it goes. The young boy believes he will be content when he gets his driver's license, then he wants a car, then a larger and faster car, then two cars, etc. Many are living under the delusion that, after accumulating just a few more material possessions, they will begin serving the Lord. Their intentions are to give the Lord his day and his money. However, a little more never satisfies.

There isn't anything inherently wrong with owning a field, receiving a promotion or possessing a driver's license; but believing they will bring contentment is wrong. Paul warns the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It is frequently the cause of one erring from the faith and often the causal factor in men piercing themselves through with many sorrows.

While it is not wrong for a Christian to have wealth, his priority should be on seeking those things which are of a heavenly nature. His energies should be given over to fighting the good fight of faith. Psalm 37:4 promises: "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thy heart." A Christian's first priority should be to love the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. His second priority should be to love his neighbor as himself. As he applies himself to these priorities, the Lord will grant contentment.

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Life and Work

Needing leadership

by Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Judges 2:1 to 3:6; 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

Focal passage: Judges 2:7,10-11,16-19, 21:25

Central truth: God's people need wise and faithful leadership to help them meet the challenges of a new environment.

This study examines how God responded when his people faced the pressures of a changing environment.

(1) Faithful leaders develop faithful people (Judg. 2:7)

As long as the leaders of Israel "had seen all the great works of the Lord," Israel remained true to God. But when these died and another generation arose that had not known first-hand about God's great works, Israel went after false gods.

(2) The temptations of a new generation (Judg. 2:10-11)

In their new surroundings, the Israelites became an agricultural rather than a nomadic people and soon were misled into worshipping the pagan god Balam of fertility. The process of settling in the new land turned out to be one of absorbing, not replacing, the local customs.

(3) God provides leaders for his people (Judg. 2:16-19)

Repeated here is the sad story of what happened over and over among the Israelites. First, the people sinned and God sent judgment upon them. Then they repented, crying out to God for deliverance, and God heard them and came to their rescue, sending judges to serve them. But the people soon would lapse back into sin, starting the cycle all over.

The story of punishment and redemption, as found in the Book of Judges, gives us just a little foregleam of what Christ provided for us on the cross.

(4) The lack of leadership (Judg. 21:25)

Four times in Judges these doleful words ring out: "In those days, there was no king in Israel." The fact there was no king and "every man did what was right in his own sight" may have thrown light on the situation, but it certainly did not justify it. Although they had no earthly king for a time, God did not desert them. Eventually, he permitted them to have such a king as David.

God needs leaders in every generation to meet the needs of his people. Let us listen carefully for his call and respond with the total commitment of our lives to him.

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Bible Book

Judgment on the nations

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes

Basic passage: Ezekiel 25:1 to 32:32

Focal passage: Ezekiel 26:2-3; 28:1-7; 24-26

Central truth: Ezekiel's pronouncement of God's judgment demonstrates that those who oppose God's purpose will be punished and his people ultimately will be victorious.

There is a great truth to be learned from these chapters that warn of God's judgment coming upon foreign nations. Chapter 25 deals with Israel's closest neighbors and her oldest enemies. Chapters 26-28 deal with Tyre, a nation that once was friendly to Israel during the time of David and Solomon, but had grown proud and arrogant because of her success in trading and commerce. Great world powers such as Egypt and Assyria also came in for their share of judgment in chapters 29-32.

What does all of this tell us about God? He is the Lord of the whole world, not just the God of Israel. There is no nation beyond the reach of his judgment, and he plays no favorites where judgment on sin is concerned. He condemns and punishes wickedness everywhere he finds it, among his people or among the nations of the world.

More space is given to the denunciation of Tyre than of any other nation. Tyre was grossly materialistic and pursued profit, regardless of the cost to other people. The king of Tyre was consumed with pride and boasted of his accomplishments, even to the point of regarding himself as a god. For this arrogance, God's judgment fell on Tyre.

There is another truth, greater than the first, to be learned from God's dealing with his people, Israel. Israel had caused her own downfall by her stubborn disobedience, just as many people today bring trouble and defeat to themselves by their own sinful choices. But there is hope. God is willing to forgive and to restore. It is not the man who is down that is out, but the man who does not try to get up. God was not through with Israel, and neither is he through with us, regardless of sin.

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Southern Baptists start 874 new Sunday Schools

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists started 874 new Sunday schools during the 1984-85 church year for a total of 9,326 new Sunday schools reported since an emphasis on new starts began in 1977.

Texas reported 311 Sunday schools while Florida had the second highest total with 72.

Four conventions met their goals for new Sunday school starts for the year. Ohio had a goal of 30 and started 35 new Sunday schools. New England met its goal of 25 new Sunday schools. Kansas/Nebraska topped its goal of 10 with 17 new Sunday schools while Alaska started 12 new Sunday schools with a goal of eight.

There were 1,151 new Sunday schools started during the 1983-84 church year. Sunday school starts have topped the goal of 1,000 per year for the seven years prior to

1984-85. The highest total was in 1978-79 when Southern Baptists started 1,273 new Sunday schools.

Bold Mission Thrust goals for 1985-90 call for starting 8,000 new Sunday schools, including 2,000 ethnic Sunday schools, said Jerri Herring, growth consultant at the Sunday School Board.

The goal for 1985-86 is 1,200 new Sunday schools. State conventions also are setting goals for the year and for the next five years. Alabama has reported a plan to start 733 new Sunday schools in the next five years, Herring said.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will provide funds for contract workers in new Sunday school work. "We would like to have at least two Sunday school contract workers in each state," Herring said.

Earthquakes spawn church-starting project

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Amid the rubble of two major earthquakes, Mexico City Baptists have launched a project challenging every Baptist church in the city to organize a new church during the next year.

The "September 19th Project" — named for the date of the first of two earthquakes which struck Mexico City—emerged as Baptists recognized the many new opportunities for ministry beyond immediate earthquake relief work.

Southern Baptist representative Craig Johnson, urban missions director for the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, said he hopes Mexico City's 55 Baptist churches will see the project not just as something to start, "but as something to finish as well. We have faith that God is going to start the churches. We hope the number will be at least 50. He may be planning on many more."

The project fits in with Mexican Baptists' national goal of growing to 2,000 churches by the year 2000. There were 556 churches at the end of 1984. Mexican Baptists already were aiming to start 100 churches nationwide by the end of 1986. In light of the many

needs and opportunities created by the earthquakes, the even more ambitious goal of 50 new churches in Mexico City alone is seen as realistic.

In other earthquake-related developments, Southern Baptist representative Eldon Sturgeon completed a survey of deaths and damage suffered by Mexico City Baptists. Three Baptists are now known dead: 22-year-old Noemi Avila Betancour, a nurse earlier reported missing and presumed dead in the ruins of a hospital; Angel Alfaro, a 17-year-old student, and Jose Luna Marin, a sailor whose age was unknown. Still missing and presumed dead is a Baptist doctor from Guadalajara who was staying at the Regis Hotel in downtown Mexico City Sept. 19 when it collapsed.

Four Baptist families lost their homes. Four Baptists saw their businesses destroyed or severely damaged. Five others lost their jobs.

Nazareth Church was extensively damaged, as was a house used for worship by a mission of Christ the Light of the World Church. At least seven other Baptist churches sustained minor damages.

Baptists initiate letter campaign, court appeal

JERUSALEM (BP)—The Narkis Street Church intends to present its case for rebuilding to both Israel's prime minister and High Court.

The Jerusalem congregation—a victim of arsonists three years ago—is sticking by its rebuilding plans, despite an adverse ruling by an Israeli district planning commission.

"We all feel this is a moral issue that we've got to stand on," said Robert Lindsey, pastor of the congregation of 300 and a longtime Southern Baptist representative in Israel.

Church leaders have launched a letter-writing campaign to urge Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to intervene in their behalf. They are asking Southern Baptist pastors and church members to participate in the effort. "Just a simple letter" to Peres

in Jerusalem is sufficient, Lindsey said.

Church leaders also have approved the preparation of an appeal to the High Court, Israel's highest judicial body.

Explaining the inherent moral issue, the pastor said, "First, our chapel was burned down by what we call religious terrorists, fanatics. Everybody is against terrorists today and that's exactly what they are." No arrests were made after the Oct. 7, 1982, fire that gutted the 60-seat chapel.

"And secondly, political-religious pressure has kept us from being able to rebuild according to our needs," Lindsey said.

In essence, "... we are suffering a limitation on our religious freedom. The same kind of thing could happen to some other Christian church (in Israel)."