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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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Bivocational pastors
preparing to preach
pages 12-13

October 23, 1986

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

On the cover



ABN photo / Millie Gill

Arkansas Baptists' 450 bivocational pastors, men like James D. Byrum, pastor of Toltec Church, Scott, are faced weekly with the challenge of finding time for adequate sermon preparation amid their many responsibilities. In this month's "Helpline" feature, a church administration consultant offers his advice on the matter (pp. 12-13).

Record \$124.2 million received through CP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists contributed a record \$124,232,370.54 to their convention's Cooperative Program during the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Receipts reflect an increase of more than \$6.7 million—5.71 percent—over the \$117.5 million total for 1984-85, said Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The 1985-86 Cooperative Program goal was \$130 million. The \$124.2 million that was received covered the \$120.6 million

budget for operating expenses, paid \$3.34 million for capital needs rolled over from the 1984-85 budget and \$167,632 of \$4.5 million targeted for the 1985-86 capital needs budget.

"Coming out of years of double-digit inflation into a couple of years of low inflation has meant difficulty for Southern Baptist budgeting processes," Bennett said. "It will take another two years, perhaps more, before our SBC Cooperative Program budget will be met."

Cooperative Program report: September

Summary for September 1986

Received	\$860,782.38
Budget	\$1,020,833.33
(Under)	(\$159,986.80)

January-September gifts

Year	Over (under) budget to date	% increase over previous year
1981	\$101,546.47	11.39
1982	\$159,493.17	9.01
1983	(\$111,756.53)	10.61
1984	(\$369,742.96)	4.97
1985	(\$321,536.51)	6.84
1986	(\$520,341.68)	4.60

Because of your Cooperative Program gifts, two new churches are organized every day on the foreign mission fields. Also, we now have missionaries in 107 foreign countries. Thanks for your faithfulness in giving.— **Jimmie Sheffield**

In this issue

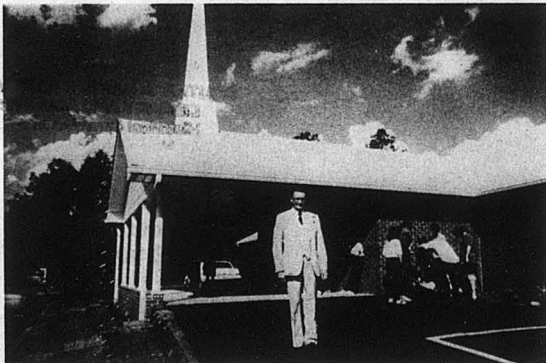
9 FairShare

Midway workers with a Mississippi-based carnival look forward to their visit to El Dorado each year. When Trinity Church sponsors its annual meal for the workers, they feel it "like home."

20-22 addressing the issues

New developments occurred recently in controversial issues involving the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Photo by Floyd Tidsworth



Building dedication—Sugarloaf Church, Heber Springs, dedicated a new building Sept. 28. A mission of First Church, Heber Springs, the congregation formerly was the Center Ridge Church. The church, which was finding it difficult to grow in its original location, relocated in a growing area at the suggestion of Director of Missions David Miller. In less than one year, the mission has grown from 36 to 104 members and has constituted into a church. The building was completed using mostly volunteer labor from mission members, First Church, and a group of Baptist builders from Texas. Pastor Lloyd Blanton led the dedication service, and David Miller delivered the message. Mayor Roy Robus represented the city. First Church was represented by Pastor Jerry Kirkpatrick, Missions Committee Chairman Ray Meador, and many members. Floyd Tidsworth Jr., spoke in behalf of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Perhaps no other institution is more important to the well being of society than marriage and the family. Yet, divorce has become common place in the last few years. Coupled with this is the fact that a recently published report indicates that 75 percent of the couples in marriages that survive consider their marriage a failure and their homes unhappy. The solution lies in marriage becoming a truly Christian institution.

If marriage is to be what God intended, it must begin with a proper commitment. Some today feel that one should enter marriage as a trial experiment. Such an approach is almost sure to bring divorce or unhappiness. Others believe that marriage is a contractual arrangement and that each party should live up to the agreements of their marriage contract. Properly viewed, marriage should be considered a covenant between husband and wife and God.

There is a striking difference between viewing marriage as a contractual arrangement or seeing it as a covenant. Contracts deal with things. Covenants deal with persons. Contracts are secular and belong to the marketplace. Covenants are sacred and belong to the realm of the spiritual. Contracts are best understood and interpreted by attorneys, judges and courts. Covenants are appropriately best by the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

It is unfortunate indeed that today some consider marriage to be a contractual arrangement. A man marries a woman and expects her to render certain services. If there are any doubts about the exact nature of the services she or he is to render to the other, they are written into the marriage agreement. In a covenant marriage, an individual does not engage the services of another. Each takes the other to love and to cherish. They are partners in life and in love.

There is a vast difference between a partnership based on agape love and a contractual arrangement in which each party is to render certain services to the other. If the arrangement is contractual, each will watch with legalistic eyes to see that each "i" is dotted and each "t" is crossed. When the marriage is a covenant arrangement based on agape love, each individual will say, "How can I serve my mate to make life easier and happier for him or her?"

There are several results which are normally produced by a covenant type marriage. First, such marriages are characterized by honesty. Honesty is more than just telling the truth. In marriage, it is being open to the truth about oneself. In the presence of the Holy Spirit, the marriage partner truthfully evaluates his or

her own strengths or weaknesses.

It goes without saying, that, unless a couple is totally honest with each other about the rudiments of life, marriage cannot be all that God intended. Honesty includes the sharing of the good and the bad. Surveys indicate that money creates more havoc in marriage than any other thing. Hence it is absolutely essential that both partners understand the family's financial situation. It is also important that financial successes and failures be jointly shared by husband and wife.

A second result of a covenant marriage relationship is vulnerability. Vulnerability means total openness with an individual's spouse. It is comparatively easy to share our mistakes with God, but it is not so easy to expose our failures to our spouse.

In most cases, this vulnerability is contagious. It will encourage a like response from an individual's mate. James, the half brother of our Lord, admonished, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." If this procedure is correct for Christians in the church, how much more important is it in a Christian covenant marriage.

Third, in a covenant marriage each mate should have the ability to express his or her needs. This means the sharing of one's joys, hopes, dreams and being able to openly talk about them. Each mate should understand the goals, successes and frustrations of his or her mate. It is only when understanding is present that a mate can help to meet the needs and wants of his or her spouse.

A covenant marriage should be marked by affirmation. This is an important key to a successful marriage. Each spouse should look for the successes of his or her mate. Successes should be affirmed or praised. The accolades and encouragement of the individual who is closest in the world is of tremendous importance. Often, the encouragement of a husband or wife can help an individual to reach new heights.

Finally, a covenant marriage will be marked by agape love. Agape love is a love that emanates directly from God. It is a love which will forgive again and again. It is a love which desires the best for another. Agape love can only be shown by one who has had a personal encounter with the living Christ.

The implications of a healthy covenant marriage are profound. The greatest gift any couple can give their children is to experience and reflect agape love in the marriage relationship. The warmth and security will nurture self-esteem in the children.

The trend of divorce and unhappy marriage can be stopped when individuals make marriage a covenant relationship.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 40
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Letters to the editor

No appointment to See

President Reagan has not honored the Southern Baptist Convention's petition, set forth in a resolution adopted in Atlanta on June 11, 1986, that he not nominate anyone to fill the position of United States ambassador to the Holy See. The resolution was forwarded to President Reagan. In addition, numerous Protestant denominations have voiced similar views to President Reagan.

On Sept. 26, 1986, the White House announced that President Reagan would nominate Frank Shakespeare, presently U. S. ambassador to Portugal, to fill this position.

What can one now do to oppose this violation of the First Amendment which prohibits governmental actions "respecting an establishment of religion?"

An individual or church can write to the two U. S. Senators representing one's state and urge them not to approve this arrangement.

Now is the urgent time—prior to election day, November 4—for one to ask senatorial candidates where they stand. Candidates should be willing to say publicly before the election whether they will approve formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See, which is an ecclesiastical entity, not a civil state. The Senate can stop this arrangement.—Hugh Wamble, Kansas City, Mo.

Is history repeating itself?

"There are elements at work that threaten the disruption of the relation of the convention and the Foreign Board to the body of the Southern Baptists. There are schemes of consolidation and centralization now urged by certain brethren who exercise a controll-

ing influence... , if they succeed in consummating, will as certainly destroy the present union of Southern Baptists... And there is a determination on the part of some, moved more by partisan than missionary zeal, to make the next... convention an ecclesiastical court and to force its decision into antagonism with Churches and Associations." (Robert A. Baker, *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People*, 1974, p. 217.)

"Dr. Teasdale prayed for the peace of Zion with a bias to one side of the mooted question manifested in his prayer; and when he had completed his prayer, someone moved that one be appointed by the chair to answer Dr. Teasdale's prayer." (Robert A. Baker, *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People*, 1974, p. 219.)

The above words were written well over 100 years ago. Yet, how familiar it seems to relate to the last few years of Southern Baptist Convention life. Do you hear... a call for peace... "on my terms"; a call for Biblical interpretation... "on my terms"; nominations to committees/boards... "on my terms"; but the real questions/answers/issues have been overlooked in the struggle because of... "on my terms"

Is Landmarkism trying to resurface under the banner of... "on my terms"? Is conservative leadership... "on my terms" having a dangerous side effect to the mission of Southern Baptist work? Isn't internal debate creating barriers to church growth and the Bold Mission Thrust?

"On my terms" should be changed to "on God's terms" in all phases of Southern Baptist life, not just in the pulpits. It's time for Southern Baptists to stand up for themselves as individuals and as a denomination—

then proceed with God's business—"soul winning!"—Charles Treadway, Heber Springs

Grateful for help

I would like to thank Bob Parker and Arkansas Baptists for providing free family counselling for Arkansas Baptist pastors, church staff and their families (even their grown, married children).

Dr. McGriff is an unusually sensitive and caring person, with a daily walk with God, that makes visiting with him (at his office at 600 Medical Towers, Little Rock, or by phone 225-1113) a real delight. His secretary is so sweet and so helpful, and his confidentiality is absolute. He has been a real help and support to me in a sometimes difficult situation. He helps me ride out the stormy waters.—Name withheld upon request

Honoring B. B. McKinney

As we honor B. B. McKinney on his 100th birthday, this comes into my mind:

I attended Ouachita Baptist College from 1937-1941. During that time B. B. McKinney visited there and attended the Life Service Group.

I was asked to attend and play the piano since he was there. Not being an accomplished pianist, I was reluctant to comply.

However, as that large, handsome, radiant man sang, all my fears subsided. He sang choruses so beautifully. Luckily, I played by ear and was able to pick them up. The only one of which I remember was "In the Highways and the Hedges." Such a thrill it was to have seen and heard B. B. McKinney!—Virginia Stone Rhodes, Waldo

Third of four articles

Reaching young adults: provide the best leadership

The little boy was standing in front of his house with a leash in his hand. At the other end of the leash was a St. Bernard dog. A passerby asked the boy, "Are you taking your dog for a walk?" "Yes, I am," the boy replied, "as soon as I find out which way he wants to go."

Leadership does not wait to see which direction others want to go. Leadership means building a group or an organization in the direction it needs to go. Such leadership is the key to reaching young adults. Therefore, a church which wants to reach young adults will enlist the best leaders possible to work in this area.

What kind of leaders will it take?

The first characteristic is sincerity. Like

young people, young adults have a unique ability to sniff out hypocrisy. Pious pronouncements on Sunday must be confirmed by the life of the teacher during the week. Young adults are looking for somebody who is real. Genuineness of commitment is therefore the first essential characteristic.

A second important characteristic is relevance. It goes without saying that the teacher must have a deep love for and knowledge of God's Word. Added to that love for God's Word must be the ability to communicate God's Word in a clear and understandable way.

A third important characteristic for the teacher of young adults is compassion. I have heard it said before about certain leaders, "We want to know how much they care before we care how much they know." Young adults are facing great pressure in today's world. The challenge of starting a new career, beginning a family, facing the financial realities of life, developing meaningful

relationships—all of these things create problems in their lives. A teacher to whom young adults will respond is a teacher from whom they feel genuine concern.

Add to those characteristics the need for maturity. Young adults not only face pressure, they also experience instability. At times, they may feel their world is falling apart. They need someone to talk to, someone they can trust, someone who can provide some good advice. Those resources can be provided by mature Christian teachers.

It has been my practice in every church where I pastor to try to channel the very best leadership we have into teaching young adults. Leaders with a genuine faith, the ability to communicate God's Word in today's terms, a love which is moved by the needs of class members, and a maturity that is able to minister to those needs—this kind of leadership is essential in reaching young adults today.—Brian Harbour, pastor, Immanuel Church, Little Rock.



Harbour



The Southern accent

Paul A. Rhoads

Prayer and spiritual growth

Prayer and Bible study will do things in your life, in your church, and in the world that you cannot imagine until you try it.

One specific example is a person's spiritual growth. This growth will be in direct proportion to the amount of time spent in prayer and Bible study. For too many, their spiritual growth (when it takes place at all) depends upon the preacher's sermon, an occasional retreat, or a book that they happen to stumble across. A tremendous sermon may fill them with fire and cause a minor amount of growth, but its effects are short-lived and the growth is minor. Spiritual nurture of this type depends upon weekly meetings with a John the Baptist and if they happen to doze, then there is no growth that week at all. The role of the pastor is to guide and lead, not to nursemaid.

Others use the spiritual checkup method and once a year attend a retreat where they sit at the feet of some great speaker and then go away filled for the time being. The filling lasts maybe a week and the rest of the time they look back and tell everyone what a great time they had, but nothing is happening in their life now.

Perhaps they got their filling from books

that they occasionally read. The problem is they are spending their time studying about the Bible rather than reading it. They spend their time reading about prayer rather than talking to God. Whatever prayer and Bible study may be, they are ultimately something that you do rather than something you merely read about doing.

There may be a pastor or a retreat or a book that helps you in your time talking to God and studying his Word, but in the end if you are not actually involved in it then you are missing the point all together.

At one retreat I required that the student spend two 30-minute periods a day in prayer and personal Bible study. On the second morning, one student came to me to complain that he had expected me to spend more time "telling us about prayer and Bible study, not doing it."

Personal spiritual growth is directly proportional to the amount of time spent in Bible study and prayer.

Paul Rhoads, who has completed four tours with the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Korea, is teaching at Southern Baptist College this year.

Enrollment up at New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Enrollment is up substantially at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, with 1,443 students enrolled in degree programs during the first academic term.

The increase was registered "across the board," with nine of the seminary's 10 degree programs showing gains, according to Bart C. Neal, registrar and director of

admissions.

Total enrollment, including non-degree program students, was up to 1,901 as of Oct. 1. In the recently completed 1985-86 academic year, total enrollment was up 10.6 percent to 2,993.

New Orleans Seminary is owned and operated by Southern Baptists and is the fourth largest seminary in the world.

Family Christmas packet available

A Family Christmas Preparation packet is now available from the Greens Center for Christian Family Ministry at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

The packet offers a variety of suggestions for ways families can draw closer and emphasize the true meaning of the Christmas season, explains Michael Hester, director of the Greens Center.

The material was developed from a workshop held at the seminary last year to help seminary families understand and manage the Christmas season more meaningfully, according to Hester.

To obtain the packet, write to the Greens Center for Christian Family Ministry, Box 1786, Southern Seminary, Louisville, KY 40280.

Scholarship established at Southern College

WALNUT RIDGE—The family of H. L. Waters has initiated a scholarship fund in his memory at Southern Baptist College in accordance with the provisions of his will.

Waters was the first Bible professor at the college, where he served from 1941 to 1953. H. E. Williams, founder of the college

remembers Waters as "a fearless preacher of the gospel, an excellent teacher, and a man of sacrificial spirit."

The H. L. Waters Scholarship Fund will be available to young people wishing to pursue a Christian college education by attending Southern Baptist College.

Thanks, Seagram!

I never thought an article of mine would have such a title. The Seagram people, however, rendered a needed service when

several months ago newspaper advertisements called attention to the fact that one can get drunk drinking beer the same as drinking whiskey. It just takes a little more beer to have the same blood alcohol content. It has been said, "Drinking a can of beer is like having a shot of whiskey."



Parker

Many have expressed real surprise and amazement when told that beer labels don't mention the word alcohol, much less give the alcohol content as do wine and whiskey labels. Products such as hair tonics, mouthwashes, and aftershave lotions give alcoholic content, why not beer? Mothers are told not to give their children medication containing alcohol. We hear of mothers putting beer in their baby's formula for nutrition and as a sedative. More teens become alcoholics drinking beer than from any other alcoholic beverage. We are not being honest with our youth or others by failing to require such informational labeling on beer.

Beer is not a soft drink regardless of how advertised. Requiring alcoholic content on all beer containers would help underscore that fact!

If you agree, prove it by writing President Reagan, Governor Clinton, and our state and national legislators, urging them to lead in refusing to show favoritism any longer to the brewers and sellers of beer.—**Bob Parker, ABCS Christian Life Council**

Oakley added to Southern College staff

WALNUT RIDGE—The board of trustees of Southern Baptist College has voted to add Bill Oakley to the development staff. As the development officer, he will work in deferred giving, and assist in directing the New Horizon campaign.

Oakley is presently pastor of First Church, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. He has served churches in Michigan, California, Colorado, Texas, and Arkansas. He also has served on the board of trustees of the college and has helped with the annual college auction since its inception. His educational background includes Union University, William Carey College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary.



Oakley

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Ronnie W. Floyd has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Springdale First Church, effective Oct. 26. He will come there from First Church in Nederland, Texas. Floyd is a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jeana, have two sons, Joshua, six, and Nicholas, two.

Raymond Reed observed his 15th year of service as director of missions for Bartholomew Association Aug. 18-Sept. 19 by completing five associational leadership diplomas at Ouachita Baptist University. He also completed research work on the association and a study on Jehovah Witnesses. His wife, Norene, studied Spanish, completed a study course and participated in oil painting lessons.

Tommy Jacobs has resigned as pastor of Anderson-Tully Church at Trumann to enroll in New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bill Martin has resigned as pastor of Central Church, Marked Tree, to serve as pastor of a church in Missouri.

Bobby Barnett has resigned as pastor of Corners Chapel at Trumann to move to Rhode Island.

Eula Kingston was recently recognized by New Friendship Church near Paragould for her 30 years of service as church clerk. She also has served for several years as a Sunday School teacher. She was presented with a plaque and honored at a fellowship luncheon.

June Mangrum was recently selected as "Teacher of the Year" by her peers at Greene County Tech School. Mrs. Mangrum is a member, Sunday School teacher and organist at Mount Zion Church at Paragould.

Don Mangis has resigned as pastor of Cash First Church.

Andrew M. Hall completed his service as interim pastor at Berry Street Church in Springdale Oct. 12. He began serving Oct. 19 as interim pastor of Dania Heights Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

William V. Philliber began serving Oct. 5 as pastor of Runyan First Church in North Little Rock. He has served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma and others in Arkansas, including those at Mountain View, Danville, Little Rock,



Floyd



Dunavant

North Little Rock and Waldron. He has served as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission and as a member of the SBC nominating committee. He and his wife, Loreta, have one son, William Wesley Philliber of New York, and two daughters, Judy Kent of Dallas, Texas, and Patricia Shupe of North Little Rock.

Brian Harbour will be one of 50 pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention whose sermons will be included in a new Broadman book entitled *Southern Baptist Preaching Today*. Harbour is pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock.

Steve Nortier is serving Warren First Church as interim minister of music and youth.

Donnie Stephens is serving as pastor of Mount Harmony Church, Greenwood. He moved there from Cedar Creek Church, Heavener, Okla.

Mike Peterson is serving Marked Tree First Church as music and youth director. He is a second year student at Mid-America Seminary.

Raymond R. Strickland of Benton died Oct. 5 at age 78. He had served as pastor of central Arkansas churches for 52 years. He was a member of First Southern Church, Bryant, and a member of Pulaski County Ministerial Alliance. Survivors are a daughter, Pat Dennis of Benton; a sister, Dorothy Weingartner of Springdale; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Danny Hill will begin serving Nov. 1 as pastor of Everton Church. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Donald R. Dunavant has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Wynne Church. He has been serving as director of placement for Mid-America Seminary. He is a graduate of Arkansas State University and

Mid-America Seminary. Dunavant has served churches in both Mississippi and Arkansas. He has participated in mission trips to Africa and Brazil through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He and his wife, Janet, have three children, Matthew David, Micah Dawn and Adam Seth.

Audry Emberton of Clinton died Oct. 14 at age 60. He was pastor of Corinth Church at Shirley and had served as pastor of other Arkansas churches. Survivors are two sons, Audry Emberton Jr. of Bald Knob, and Tony Emberton of Clinton; three daughters, Glenda Miller of Heber Springs, Deloris Lindsey of Kansas and Mary Whisenant of Clinton; two brothers; four sisters; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

briefly

Paragould First Church will observe "High Attendance Day" Oct. 26 with dinner on the grounds and a worship service, featuring the Southern Singers from Southern Baptist College.

Jonesboro First Church has organized a hospital friendship group which ministers to the needs of families of hospital patients in the area.

McGehee First Church ordained Layne Baugh to the deacon ministry Oct. 5.

West Side Church in Little Rock ordained James Walthall and Otto Bates to the deacon ministry Oct. 5. Pastor Bill Ward served as moderator, and Glenn Hickey, Pulaski Association director of missions, was speaker.

Pleasant Ridge Church at Heber Springs ordained Gary Cresswell to the preaching ministry Oct. 19.

Lone Star Church at Heber Springs has begun construction of a new home for pastor Rick Domeres. Men of the church are serving as volunteer laborers.

Central Church in Hot Springs honored Henrietta Connor Sept. 28 in recognition of 26 years of service as financial secretary.

Booneville First Church has purchased a bus to be used in church outreach programs. The church also observed Glenn Byrd Day Oct. 12, recognizing his 50 years of service as an adult choir member.

Barcelona Road Church in Hot Springs Village has voted to subscribe to Baptist Telecommunications Network, according to Pastor Tim Reddin.

Osceola First Church will ordain Rayritchson to the deacon ministry Nov. 2

East Side Church in Fort Smith is sponsoring an adult Spiritual Life retreat Nov. 14-15. James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be speaker.

Brookwood Church in Little Rock ordained Raymond Blair, Johnny Hibbs and Thomas Sipes to the deacon ministry Sept. 28. Pastor Brad Rogge was moderator.

South Highland Church in Little Rock will launch a Children's Church ministry Oct. 26, according to Pastor James Hays.

First Penn Memorial Church in Eureka Springs has restored and re-opened the sanctuary dome. Lighted by recessed bulbs, it reveals a four-foot in diameter stained glass window and oak molding.

Bentonville First Church will observe homecoming Sept. 26 with a morning

worship service, old-fashioned dinner on the ground, and an afternoon musical program.

Jonesboro Central Church celebrated payment of a more than \$244,000 indebtedness Oct. 5 with a celebration service and noteburning service. The evening noteburning service was climaxed with observance of the Lord's Supper, according to Pastor Rex Holt.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock ordained Dennis Bonge, Mandel Brockinton, John Curtis and Clyde Price to the deacon ministry Oct. 12.

Aulds Church at Portland will be in revival Oct. 24-26 with Norris Corley of Grenada, Miss., serving as evangelist. Tommy Carpenter will direct music.

Newport Immanuel Church women will hold a seminar, beginning at 7 p.m. Oct. 28. "Victory in the midst of your circumstances" will be the discussion topic led by Carol Ann Draper of Euleless, Texas.

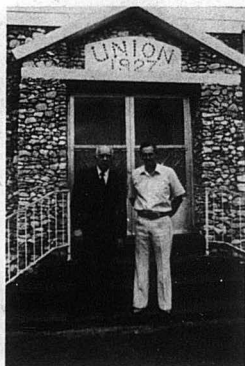
Hot Springs First Church Woman's Missionary Union is conducting a weekly homebound ministry in more than 20 homes.

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Congo Road Mission near Benton, constituted June 8 with eight members and now with an average attendance of more than 50, held its first baptismal service Sept. 28. Candidate Mike Jackson requested that an old-fashioned service be held. Pastor Jesse Holcomb held the baptism at Lonsdale Springlake.

ABN photos / Mark Kelly



Homecoming celebrated—Union Church, south of Harrison, celebrated homecoming with a weekend of activities Oct. 3-5. The activities included a Friday night roll call, a Saturday open house, and Sunday morning service followed by a noon meal and afternoon singing. Speaking to the congregation during the celebration were former pastors C. A. Johnson (1950-51), Dennis James (1952-53), Jesse Matlock (1954-55), and Leonard Herring (1969-77). L.B. Atchison, director of missions for North Arkansas Association, preached the Sunday

morning service. (Above left) church members and guests enjoyed the afternoon potluck luncheon. (Above right) Pastor Dale Taylor, who also served the church in his first pastorate 1935-39, poses with Joe Bill Dearing, a member of the church and son of Noah Dearing, Union's church clerk from 1921 to 1951. The elder Dearing was instrumental to the church's survival during that period, according to Taylor. Originally founded as the Crooked Creek Church in 1834, the congregation was reorganized in 1906.

Record crowd attends Sunday School Conference

A record crowd of more than 1,700 participated in the 1986 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual Sunday School Conference Sept. 26-27. (Below) Freddie Pike, state Sunday School director, welcomed guests to the event held at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Don Moore, ABSC executive director, challenged participants to a deeper commitment to enrolling others in Sunday School. Moore said it took 3.5 churches to reach each person enrolled in Sunday School in 1985. He also noted Arkansas' population is growing twice as fast as Arkansas Baptists are reaching people. (Right) The two-day event was highlighted by group conferences such as the one for department directors led by Pat Piland, a special worker for the SBC Sunday School Board.



ABN photos / Millie Gill



ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Building dedication—Second Church, Hot Springs, dedicated a new \$1.7 million, 30,000-square-foot fellowship-education building on Sunday, Oct. 5. "Victory in Vision," a three-year pledge program, raised \$1.4 million; at this point the church owes approximately \$270,000. The first floor serves as a multi-purpose fellowship hall and educational facility. The second floor is not complete at this time. Program personalities for the three days of dedication services included Bill Tolar, dean of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and David Miller, director of missions, Little Red River Association. Pastor Nick Garland brought the dedicatory message on his last Sunday after five years of service. He is now the pastor of First Church, Broken Arrow, Okla. Garland commended the building committee, chaired by Joe Angel, and the fund raising committee, chaired by Jean Coon.

Trinity Church, El Dorado, extends FairShare to carnival workers

by Katy Richardson

EL DORADO—Not only was there an air of excitement among the fair-goers recently, there was an air of excitement among the midway workers of the Farrow Amusement Company. This was the week the workers would be treated to a super home-cooked meal served at Trinity Church in El Dorado.

Three years ago, Alan Ellen, then pastor of the Trinity Church, located on the corner of Quaker and Trinity, and members of the congregation decided to extend their Christian ministry to include workers at the annual Union County Fair Association. When the program first started, less than 75 people turned out, but the second year more than 100 workers came to eat and hear a gospel message.

This year the church van, driven by Mike Makepeace, made many trips to the fairground, picking up workers and taking them to the church for a meal which had been prepared by Fannie Tucker and other members of the church. Men and women of the church volunteered their services to serve the meal and clean up and were on hand to greet the visitors as they came to partake of the food and fellowship.

Aromas of freshly baked bread, hams, chicken and dressing with all the trimmings, bowls of fresh vegetables, and various pies and cakes greeted the visitors as they stepped inside the fellowship hall.

Gerald Taylor, pastor since January, and his wife, greeted the workers as they arrived by bus, and men and women of the church made each visitor welcome.

Jim Bast, manager of the company,

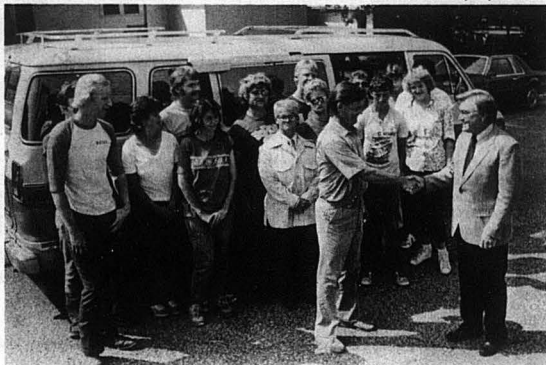


Photo by Katy Richardson

Pastor Gerald Taylor, right, extends a hand of friendship to Jim Bast and other carnival workers.

estimated that 100-125 workers would come to the church for a meal. He has been affiliated with the company for six years and said, "El Dorado is the only town on our entire fair circuit that has ever offered to do anything like this for us. In fact, people have a tendency to look down on the carnival workers, but people at Trinity have welcomed us with open arms, and we look forward to coming here every year."

Bast said his home is in Coral Springs, Fla.,

and he will return there to his family, when the Farrow Amusement Company completes its circuit and goes to Jackson, Miss., where it makes its home base. The company usually takes the winter months to repaint, refurbish, and work over the equipment to get it ready for the next fair year.

One of the workers, Richard Wilkins from Wisconsin, said, "This is my third year to come back to El Dorado with the midway. When Trinity sets the day for our noon meal, word is spread all over the fairgrounds and everyone really gets excited about coming here. We feel right at home and no one complains about our jeans or the way we are dressed. I really look forward to coming, it's sorta like going home."

And yet another worker, a woman, said, "We always pass the word along to the new members, that Trinity Church has a special meal for us during fair week. We just love it."

"This is what our church is all about," said Taylor, "ministering to those around us. Our people certainly look forward to sharing a meal and the word of Christ to everyone, and especially the workers at the fair. We feel that they are part of our family, and everyone pitches in to make sure there is enough food to serve everyone."

The workers arrive at the church in shifts because, as Bast said, "Some of the the workers have things to do that can't be left alone, so they wait until one bunch gets back, then they come to the church."

Taylor distributes Christian tracts, tapes and gives everyone a smile and invites them back for a FairShare next year.

Katy Richardson is a staff member of the El Dorado News Times.

January Bible Study Clinics 'James: Faith Works'



J. Everett Sneed



Vester Wolber



Ed Hinkson

November 3
Fayetteville First
Levy, NLR

November 4
Russellville First
Pine Bluff,
Matthew's Memorial
Cord, Fred's Fish House

November 6
Hope First
Mt. Home First

All sessions 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Books available at the clinics

Sponsored by the State Sunday School Department

BSU convention focuses on 'Christ's Church Alive'

More than 600 college and university students gathered at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Oct. 3-5 for the 1986 Baptist Student Union Convention. Speakers focused on the theme "Christ's Church Alive" as students considered God's mission and ministry for the church in their lives. Program personalities included Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Board, Charles Petty of Raleigh, N.C., John Styron of Louisville, Ky., Faye Burgess of San Leandro, Calif., and Billy White of Little Rock. Numerous seminars led by local persons challenged the thinking of the students. A record budget was adopted for the Summer Missions program, which will support an all time high of 56 students in places of service next summer. Goals were also set for hunger relief in the world. State officers, Brad Shaw, UALR, Dianne Copway, ASU, and Ursulla Lloyd, HSU, presided over sessions of the annual convention.



Photos by George Sims



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Helpline

for the local church

"Young man, would you share with me why you left a rich Southern Baptist background and heritage to become an enthusiastic leader in a nondenominational church?" That was my



Moore

question to a sharp, godly young follower of Jesus Christ. He left the group that has probably seen more people saved and more missionaries sent into the world than any people since the first century. Why? His answer gripped me. "Most of my adult life in Sunday School was spent debating what the scripture passage meant which was being studied that day. There seemed to be little real inner enrichment from study. The living out of what was studied didn't seem to be a serious concern. The group I have joined has intensive Bible study that is relished. The biggest issue of the weekly study is how we live out the truth that week. There is a fellowship surrounding our study and pilgrimage in the word of God that causes us to reinforce each other rather than debate."

It seems that we can win people to Christ, but the large, enthusiastic, nondenominational and charismatic churches attract them in their further Christian activities. You may draw your own conclusions. My conclusions run close to the young man's experience. Our fellowship is stained and strained by constant bickering and strife. Our Bible studies are too often ill-prepared, shallow, academic and ignored. No compelling goals exist in most churches, so there is little motivation for rallying the team. With so little joy and so little involvement in the natural support of each other, our members are bound to look for it elsewhere. The moment they feel they have found it, they go for it. Now, tell me. Why can't you and your church provide the excitement and ministry needed to challenge and develop your converts?

Major events coming soon!

State Convention: Record numbers of you will enjoy the annual convention in the fine facilities of the Geyer Springs First Church. It will be our first time to meet with Geyer Springs Church. Some exciting recommendations will be coming from the Executive Board. Our speakers, singers, agencies and institutions will all be sharing with us in such a way as to inspire and bless. I love what one pastor does. Jim McDaniel never goes to a convention or evangelism conference without taking some of his laymen with him. Isn't that great! I pray that Nov. 18-19 will be two of the most God blessed and God filled days of our lives.

Three mission highlights: The strategy is so simple and sound. Look at it. (1) Inform the people of mission challenges and needs. (2) Involve the people in praying about the needs. (3) Invite the people to respond with love gifts to meet the needs. The only thing wrong is that so few are involved in this spiritual process. Here is what we suggest in every church.

(1) Have a Foreign Mission Study in every church, Nov. 16-19.
(2) Have a Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Nov. 30-Dec. 7.

(3) Receive the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in November. Follow the plan. Inform the people and you can set new records this year in Foreign Mission support. November is the month to plant the seed.

"M" Night: Many of our associations still plan and have great "M" Nights. This mobilization night is needed. With so little doctrinal conviction and understanding on the part of so many of our people, it is time we recover Sunday night and use it to ground our people in the faith, as well as equip them for the fight. Let "M" Night help you inspire your people to better stewardship of the Church Training hour on Sunday night.

Pastor helps: Well, these are not limited to pastors, but they are the ones most likely to be helped by them.

November's events

by Don Moore

January Bible study clinics to help you get ready to teach the book of James in January are planned for you. Seven different locations scheduled Nov. 3, 4 and 6, make one accessible to almost everyone. See the times and places elsewhere in Helpline. These will give you a good start on your preparation.

Career assessment is a self-study experience that has literally revolutionized many men and ministries. Strengths and weaknesses are recognized. Self-acceptance is realized. Approaches to more meaningful living and ministry are formalized. Understanding of our feelings, actions and reactions are often experienced in these sessions. You could avoid burnout, termination, bitterness and defeat with the help of these sessions. The dates are Dec. 4-5. Fred McGehee will be the leader.

GA/RA highlights: It's a Missions Spectacular for GA's at Camp Paron, Nov. 1. This is for girls in grades 1-6, and their leaders. You know what great fun and mission times are had at Paron!

For RA's, it's National RA Week, with a luncheon at **Woody's Sherwood Forest** to climax it. This is a wonderful way to thank your RA boys and to honor them. You'll need reservations for this. Call 376-4791 to make reservations.

The Christian Life Council and the Arkansas Baptist World Hunger Committee urge you to attend the 1986 Interfaith Hunger Task Force Thanksgiving Ingathering, Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.-12 noon at Philander Smith College, Little Rock.

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

This monthly Helpline is a cooperative ministry of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board and the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, designed to inform about and interpret the helping ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to the churches. Pages 14-16 are produced by the ABSC Executive Board.

12-13 preparing to preach

Bivocational pastors face tremendous pressures on their time. How can they be adequately prepared to preach on Sunday morning? A church administration consultant offers his thoughts on the subject.

14-16 coming up

November holds several significant events for Arkansas Baptists, not the least of which is the study and week of prayer for foreign missions. Executive Board personnel update you on what's ahead.

Preparing to preach challenges bivocational pastor's disc

by Mark Kelly

No ministry challenges a man like the bivocational pastorate.

He works a full-time-job—many times at strenuous manual labor—to provide the necessities of life for his family. At the end of the day, he arrives home to take up the normal demands of family life and household chores. Cap all that with the responsibility for shepherding, teaching, and preaching to a congregation, and you have a fair idea of the challenges facing some 450 Arkansas Baptist pastors every week.

No one works harder or sacrifices more than the bivocational pastor to minister the gospel to congregations which otherwise would have no shepherd. And no other vocational minister is more pressed for time: time to lead, time to care, time to prepare for teaching and preaching.

With all the demands and constraints upon him, how can a bivocational pastor manage to stay fresh, find enough content, master his material, polish his presentation, and still stir his hearers two or three times a week? How can he adequately prepare to preach?

The answer to that question lies in an understanding of preaching as a "divine-human event," a church administration consultant told a group of bivocational pastors gathered in Little Rock recently.

Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., addressed the pastors in the first annual Bivocational Pastor's Conference, Oct. 3-4, at Olivet Church in Little Rock. Sponsored by the Church Administration program of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in cooperation with Stacker's department, the conference drew about 100 bivocational pastors and their wives for workshops and inspiration.

Focusing on 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, Stacker asserted the starting place must be an understanding that the preacher is but an instrument in the hands of God. While the preacher serves as God's fellow-worker, it is God alone who gives the growth.

"No one is adequate in himself to preach the Word of God," Stacker observed. "Sometimes you're standing there and a feeling of 'Why me?' hits you. You know you're not qualified to speak for God."

But preaching comes out of a sense of divine commission, a calling, not out of a sense of adequacy, he explained. For the one who stands to preach, there always comes a "moment of truth" when he realizes, "I am really beyond myself," Stacker said.

A second important realization involves the nature of the sermon itself, Stacker added. Each and every sermon must be relevant to the lives of those hearing it, or it is not adequate, he insisted.

A sermon is not a display of biblical



knowledge, but a restatement of the eternal gospel in light of people's needs today, he said. "The form of a sermon is never as important as its content," he declared, "and the content is never as important as its relevancy."

"You know you're preaching when those listening can't ignore the message," Stacker noted. "A good sermon ought to have feelings: warmth, love, conviction, affirmation. It ought to give people something specific to do; it ought to give them something specific to think about, something to 'chew on' all week."

Adequate preaching preparation grows out of a prayerfully designed plan, Stacker asserted. By examining church and community needs and integrating them with approaching events on the Christian and denominational calendars, a preacher can chart out a course for his sermons that will allow him to work ahead, he noted. Using good planning skills, he can mark out a tentative plan for the year, a plan he can always change as God leads.

As important as good planning is to adequate preparation, disciplined study habits are just as important, Stacker added.

The foundation is a regular devotional time, without which any Christian will be "weak and ineffective," Stacker said. Beyond that, the bivocational pastor also must systematically study the Scripture for his own growth—in addition to his sermon preparation—and maintain a program of

outside reading.

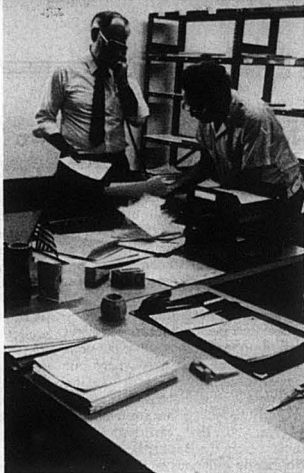
The only way to do that is to "stake out" study hours each week, he insisted. Although hard to do, declaring study hours and sticking to them is particularly important for the bivocational. "Without that time, you will always be scrambling for Sunday morning's sermon on Saturday night."

Drawing on solid resource materials also can assist greatly in sermon preparation, Stacker noted. Preachers should keep their ears open to current events for clues to important issues before their congregations. They also should be on a constant lookout for down-to-earth illustrations of biblical truths and keep a file as they discover them, he said.

Purchasing idea books and sermon starters can be helpful, as long as the materials "have integrity" and "square with your beliefs," Stacker said. He pointed out the Sunday School Board publishes a monthly magazine, *Proclaim*, which includes sermon ideas and starters. That magazine can be ordered on the form used for Sunday School literature, he explained.

Stacker told the preachers there are legitimate short-cuts they can take in sermon preparation. "Re-work your old sermons," he suggested. "Many times you can find the nuggets of truth in them and remold them in light of your new understandings."

Charting sermons that supplement the texts being studied in Sunday School can



ABN photos / Millie Gill

(Left and above) As bivocational pastor of Toltec Church, Scott, James D. Byrum plays many roles: preacher, special music director, and Sunday School teacher, among others. He also is employed as local educational agency supervisor of special services for the Lanoke, Carlisle, England and Humnoko Schools. (Right) Marcell Henderson (standing) goes over grade averages with Byrum when he visits her self-contained special services unit at Lanoke. (Top right) Byrum discusses student needs with a parent over the telephone while Don Sjostrand, another bivocational pastor who works with Byrum, goes over student records to be filed.



give direction, he noted, as can the denominational calendar or approaching observance of a church ordinance.

Reading widely outside one's ministry area and listening to tapes of outstanding preachers and teachers also can generate many good sermon ideas. One might even ask a congregation to request repeats of favorite sermons, he suggested.

In a half-joking, half-warning tone, Stacker also noted other shortcuts.

"You can always move every three years and start over on the old sermons," he smiled. "And there's always the 'Saturday Night Special' approach, but that's preaching out of panic, not letting the Holy Spirit led you.

"You also can preach someone else's sermons," he said. But using another person's sermon without giving him credit amounts to stealing, he said, and it causes a person to lose his own identity.

"Don't imitate others. Be yourself," he counseled the pastors. "God called you to preach, not to imitate someone else."

Mark Kelly is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Woman's Missionary Union

We Must Make Christ Known

The 1986 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions emphasis is WE MUST MAKE CHRIST KNOWN. God has called us from darkness into His amazing light. His call challenges us to share His light among all nations. It is vitally important that Christians realize that Christ can be known among all nations through our prayers, through unselfish giving, and through bold witnessing.

November and December offer excellent opportunities to learn more about missions work in the foreign countries where our missionaries serve. November 16-19 is the suggested date for the churchwide Foreign Mission Study. Book studies are available for adults, youth, children and preschoolers from the Baptist Book Store. This year's study will focus on the Spanish-speaking countries in South America and the various kinds of work the missionaries do in this region of our world. Dr. Warren

C. Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, says: "Mission study has influenced missions giving by our people to a significant measure. We have become more aware of the world's needs and it has encouraged our people to become personally involved in Partnership Missions and other areas of missions outreach."

The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions is November 30-December 7. This is an excellent time to present the challenge "to demonstrate the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His amazing light" found in I Peter 2:9. Prayer guides, offering envelopes and posters are available from the State WMU Office upon request. Churchwide plans for this special week are printed in the October, November, December issue of DIMENSION.

Recently a missionary in Belem, Brazil, said that she could teach her seminary

students more effectively if more money was available through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Church members are urged to give sacrificially in order that all people around the world may know Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. The national goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is \$75 million. Arkansas' goal is \$2,240,000. What is your personal goal? Our missionaries rely on our prayer support as well as our financial support through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

How can we make Christ known? We can pray for the physical and spiritual needs of the people of the world and for our missionaries as they minister and witness to them. We can pray that many will respond to God's call. We give our time and our financial resources to MAKE CHRIST KNOWN throughout all nations. — **Angela Lowe, Acteens Director**

Missions

New Missions Plan

Since Bold Mission Thrust started, a search has been on for the best organization in a Baptist church to accomplish missions in the local setting. Many lay people, pastors and directors of missions have shared their insights with the Home Mission Board. Churches that have effective missions programs have been observed.

The result has been the emerging of the Church Missions Development Program. The Home Mission Board has discovered that the church missions committee is an inadequate organization for most churches to carry out their missions goals.

The change recognizes missions work as a program, not just a committee. Committees are usually project oriented. Most Baptist churches want missions to be an ongoing program.

The Missions Development Program will work with WMU and Brotherhood if they already exist in the church. If not, the missions director will encourage their beginning. Directors of WMU and Brotherhood will serve as representatives on the missions council of the church.

Findings indicate that every church needs a person or group to work with the pastor in local mission responsibilities. A very small church may need only a director. A little larger church may add a mission survey director. Still larger churches will need project directors for resort missions, mission ministries, new work and other types of missions outreach.

The Church Missions Development Program will involve four major tasks. One, identify mission needs and opportunities. Two, develop mission strategies to meet unmet needs. Three, establish new churches. Four, support the establishing and strengthening of Brotherhood and WMU.

Every church in Arkansas will receive a "Church Missions Development Manual" in October of this year. A video to train program leaders is now available from the Missions Department. BTN broadcast a special program on the Missions Development Program on September 16, which will be repeated at a later time.

Churches are encouraged to elect a Missions Program Director and Survey Director for 1986-87. Other leaders can be added as needed. Pete Petty and Floyd Tidsworth Jr., will provide training seminars for associational and church missions leaders in the coming months. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
November 30 through December 7, 1986
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$75,000,000



Church Administration Career Assessment

Fred McGehee, consultant in the Career Guidance Section of the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board, will be in Arkansas to lead a Career Assessment Seminar on Thursday and Friday, December 4-5. The sessions will meet at the Baptist Building in Little Rock beginning at 10 o'clock on Thursday and continuing until 4 p.m. Friday.



McGehee

Career assessment provides an opportunity for pastors and staff members (and when feasible, their spouses) to engage in a process of self-evaluation of life purposes and ministry directions. Participants will clarify calling, assess ministry strengths and weaknesses and their sense of career

directions.

An assessment experience will enable pastors and staff members to choose meaningful, fulfilling career goals in personal consultation with an experienced pastor-counselor. There are many benefits of Career Assessment for ministers and their spouses. Among these benefits are (1) greater fulfillment in ministry, (2) an updating of one's call to ministry, (3) negotiation of expectations, (4) identifying your needs for support, (5) managing career transitions, (6) skill development and (7) an awareness of God's guidance.

The cost of the Career Assessment is \$35.00, which includes materials. When spouses participate, there is no additional charge.

For reservations or additional information, contact Robert Holley, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call 376-4791. — **Robert Holley, director**

Baptist Student Union News From the Campuses

The Summer Mission and World Hunger Committees of Arkansas Baptist Student Union recently met and proposed a 1987 budget of \$58,300 with \$46,100 to fund over 50 summer missionaries and \$12,200 for world hunger projects.



Logue

Forty BSU alumni from the University of Central Arkansas met recently with Richard Boyles, BSU Director at UCA, to discuss ways UCA alumni can help support the ministry budget at UCA. Former students from Texas and Oklahoma joined Arkansas students at the meeting. Present also at the meeting were Larry Pillow, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Conway and BSU Advisory Committee chairman for UCA, and Tom Logue, State BSU Director. UCA alumni interested in helping should write Richard Boyles at P. O. Box 575, UCA, Conway, AR 72032.

A new mobile BSU Center was opened

at Garland County Community College in September. Al Morris serves as BSU Director, and Rick Porter, pastor of Lakeshore Heights Baptist Church in Hot Springs, serves as chairman of the Associational Student Committee.

Arkansas' first retreat for community college students was held recently at Baptist Vista near Ozark. James Smalley, Director of Baptist Student Union at Community Colleges, reported over 50 students attended the meeting for community college students in the western section of the state: Westark Community College, North Arkansas Community College, Garland County Community College, and Rich Mountain Community College. Rick Proctor of Hot Springs was the principal speaker and Kurt Marine of Knoxville led the music.

The Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock recently received a \$5,000 gift toward remodeling of the center and the building of a caretaker's apartment as a part of the proposed remodeling project. Danny McCauley has begun his tenth year as BSU Director at UALR. — **Tom J. Logue, Director**

Evangelism Evangelism Workshop

The annual Evangelism Workshop will be at Camp Paron December 11-12. This will begin with a noon meal on the 11th and close with a noon meal on the 12th.



Shell

The theme of the workshop this year will be "Good News Arkansas - Jesus Loves You". This will be the major emphasis of evangelism in Arkansas for 1987. We will discuss the Good News Arkansas Rallies in the association and the State Evangelism Conference, The Good News Arkansas Run, that will involve each association in Arkansas, the Good News Arkansas booklet that will be used to share Christ with each lost person in the state, and the local church revival crusade.

Dr. Howard Ramsey, Director of the Personal Evangelism Department at the Home Mission Board, will be our guest. Howard is a well known and appreciated man of God to Arkansas Baptists. He will be discussing the associational strategy for personal evangelism. He also will be speaking on "Building Witnessing Relationships".

The workshop is a special associational leadership meeting. Each Director of Missions, Director of Evangelism, associational moderator, and evangelism consultants will be invited guests of the Evangelism Department.

The Bible Study teachers will be Randel Everett, First, Benton; L. B. Jordan, Red River D.O.M.; and Rex Holt, Central, Jonesboro. Jesse Reed, retired Director of Evangelism, will speak on "Witnessing During a Revival". Conway Sawyers, Director of Missions, will emphasize "Ministry is Also Evangelism".

Other Directors of Missions on the program will be Joe Atchison, "Fields White Unto Harvest"; Glenn Hickey, "Church Growth"; and Jim Hill, the closing message.

Music leaders will be Bill Howard, Salem Benton and Clarence Hill, music evangelist from Hot Springs.

Good News Arkansas - Jesus Loves You! — **Clarence Shell, director**

Brotherhood

National Fellowship of Baptist Men

One of the most exciting aspects of the Fellowship of Baptist Men is in the formation of the group. Lay people have stepped forward from one end of the convention to the other to demonstrate they are interested in lay missions service and will serve as the Lord leads and as He calls.

The administrative council of the Fellowship already has more than 100 laymen from more than 30 states.

The September council meeting, attended primarily by executive committee members, was successful. One of the truly great thrills was to hear the reports and to see what God is beginning to do with the Fellowship.

The goal of determining availability of volunteers for the Home and Foreign Mission Boards out of state and national Fellowships is beginning to take shape. It remains our most exciting goal.

The November 21-23, 1986 consultation

on specialized volunteer ministries in Atlanta, is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, Home and Foreign Mission Boards. The meeting will begin with a full meeting of our council. The council and Fellowship strategy members will provide the make up of the conference. Arkansas Baptist Men will be a part of the Fellowship.

Listed below are the events scheduled by the Brotherhood Department for 1987.

January 25 - Baptist Men's Day
March 13-14 - Arkansas Baptist Men's Fellowship Convention AND Disaster Relief Workshop BOTH AT CAMP PARON.
April 24-25 - State RA Congress at OBU
June 6-7 - RA Camp Staff Training
June 8-12 - RA Camp - 1st Week
June 12-13 - Man & Boy Mini Camp
June 15-19 - RA Camp - 2nd Week
July 5-17 - High School BYM Mission Project
August 31 - Area Brotherhood Conference

(Pine Bluff Immanuel)

September 1 - Area Brotherhood Conference (El Dorado Second)
September 3 - Area Brotherhood Conference (Texarkana Beech Street)
September 10 - Area Brotherhood Conference (NLR Central)
September 14 - Area Brotherhood Conference (Ft. Smith Grand Avenue)
September 15 - Area Brotherhood Conference (Fayetteville First)
September 17 - Area Brotherhood Conference (Harrison First)
September 28 - Area Brotherhood Conference (West Memphis First)
September 29 - Area Brotherhood Conference (Jonesboro Central)
October 31 - State RA Fellowship Luncheon (No. Little Rock)
November 1-7 - National RA Week
— Neal Guthrie, Director



Next month in Arkansas: November

November 1, GA Missions Spectacular. Camp Paron, an annual missions information and fellowship event for girls in grades 1-6 and their leaders (WMU)

November 2-8, National RA Week. SBC-wide emphasis giving churches an opportunity to recognize Royal Ambassadors and their leaders (Bhd)

November 3, January Bible Study Clinics. Fayetteville First Church, North Little Rock, Levy Church, to help

prepare those who will teach the book "James: Faith Works" during the 1987 January Bible Study emphasis (SS)

November 4, January Bible Study Clinics. Russellville First Church; Pine Bluff Matthew's Memorial Church; Fred's Fish House, Cord; see November 3 (SS)

November 6, January Bible Study Clinic. Mountain Home First Church, see November 3 (SS)

November 8, State RA Fellowship Luncheon. Woody's Sherwood Forest, 1111 W. Maryland, North Little Rock, annual luncheon for state RA chapters and their counselors, climaxing National RA Week (Bhd)

November 30-December 7, Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. annual focus on, and special offering for, Southern Baptists' international missions program (WMU)

December and January

December 4-5, Career Assessment. Baptist Building, Little Rock (CT)

December 11-12, Evangelism Workshop. Camp Paron, (Eva)

December 29-30, Joy Explo '86 Youth Evangelism Conference. Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock (Eva)

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 19-23, Area Media Library Clinics (CT)

January 25, Baptist Men's Day (Bhd)

January 26, Baptist Doctrine Study Preview (CT)

Abbreviations: Bhd - Brotherhood; CLC - Christian Life Council; CT - Church Training; Ev - Evangelism; SS - Sunday School; WMU - Woman's Missionary Union

Minister with Youth

Casas Adobes Baptist Church, a community-oriented church with over 3,000 members in a rapidly-growing suburb of Tucson, Ariz., is praying and searching for a Minister with Youth. CABC is 23 years old. Pastor Roger Barrier is 36 years old with a 10-year tenure. The church has grown from 300 to 3,000 members during his tenure. For an application, job description, and information, contact Bill Nicholson, 2131 W. Ina, Tucson, AZ 85741; telephone (602) 297-7238 or 297-2131.

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For Sale

1977 Ford Blue-Bird Church Bus, 48-passenger, 27,000 miles. Sealed bids by October 31. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 160, Murfreesboro, AR 71958; (501) 285-3723.

Admissions Representative

Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., is now accepting resumes for the position of Admissions Representative. Applicants should be outgoing, energetic, self-motivated, and must be willing to travel. Send resumes to P.O. Box 455, College City, AR 72476. No phone calls please.

We can't keep it under our hat any longer...



Royal Ambassador Fellowship Luncheon

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Woody's Sherwood Forest

1111 W. Maryland, North Little Rock
Cost: \$3.75 per person

Mail reservations by Nov. 3 to: Brotherhood Dept., P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203; (501) 376-4791

CRISES?

Wanda Stephens, M.D.
Christian Psychiatrist
501-225-9750

Bennett enters new ministry after 19 years at Fort Smith First

by J. Everett Sneed

Bill Bennett, for 19 years pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, has entered a new ministry of sharing with churches across the Southern Baptist Convention the successes he has experienced.

The new ministry, which began Oct. 1, will be supported for three years by First Church. Bennett said he had been wrestling with the decision for the last four years on whether to broaden his ministry or to remain as pastor. He said, "It has now become clear to me that it is God's unmistakable will for me to enter this new ministry."

The new ministry will include many of the programs and activities he developed while pastoring First Church: evangelistic preaching, teaching on the Holy Spirit, how to discover the Holy Spirit's gifts and to use them, warnings against false teachings, how to erect buildings debt free, how to build a pastor's class, stewardship and how to develop special day services.

Under Bennett's leadership, the church has grown from approximately 900 in average Sunday School attendance to almost 2,000. The church has baptized 3,432 and has had 7,081 total additions. It has also given \$3.7 million to mission causes.

Bennett says the present evangelistic program had its inception in 1970 when he was attending the U. S. Congress on Evangelism. It was there he heard James Kennedy describe his "on the job evangelism training."

Bennett said that, although he had promoted evangelism and had sent out witnessing teams for many years, this was the first he had heard of sending out an untrained witness with one who was fully trained. He later spent five days with Kennedy in a seminar in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Bennett took six men and trained them for six months, adapting the Kennedy program to make it fit with the work of Southern Baptists. There was an agreement with the six to train two others.

Since 1970, the church has conducted 38 evangelism schools, in which approximately 2,500 people have been trained in sharing their faith.

In 1980, Evangelism Explosion International asked First Church, Fort Smith, to be an international base for training. Every May since 1980, the church has conducted an international clinic in which people from all over America and a representative group from overseas have been present.

A "sowing and reaping" stewardship program was developed by Bennett in 1975. He said, "I was impressed that if I taught the joy of giving and the idea of sowing unto the Lord with the belief individuals would reap, we would be blessed. I believed we would be able to construct our buildings debt free," a concept based on 2 Corinthians 9:6.

Because of this teaching, First Church was able to have a fund raising campaign in 1970 in which church members contributed



After 19 years as pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, Bill Bennett has entered a new ministry. Above, Bennett pauses with his wife Doris in front of the church building.

\$817,000. This was a three-year pledge program which Bennett said revolutionized the giving of the church.

The first building constructed was a \$1.1 million fellowship facility, which also houses the media center and church library. The congregation entered the building debt free. Two years later, the congregation completed and furnished a preschool building debt free.

In 1982, Bennett's 15th anniversary, the church retired all of its indebtedness.

In 1985 the church committed \$2.8 million in another fund raising campaign. The church is currently erecting a new education-administration building of 57,000 square feet to accommodate 1,300 to 1,500 in Sunday School. It will be entered debt free.

The church has adopted long range plans which include the erection of a \$1 million Christian Family Center. Later the church will construct a larger worship center. The final phase of the long range planning program includes the restoration of the original chapel of the church, constructed in 1898.

Another success at First Church has been the development of a pastor's class, started in 1976 as a part of the Action Program, which seeks to enroll people in Sunday School "any time, any place."

Bennett personally called each church member not attending Sunday School and asked if they would attend if he taught the Bible verse by verse and did not call on anyone for any type of response. About 75 percent said they would come, and the class started in April 1976 with 89 in attendance.

Bennett said it became obvious there was wide interest in such a class. People of other

denominations began to express an interest in attending. Bennett opened it to everyone, advertising under the heading "Something you've always wanted and never found available until now—a verse by verse study of the Bible with no strings attached."

Such large numbers of people from other denominations attended Bennett's class, it became necessary for him to teach two pastor's classes on Sunday morning.

Bennett has also taught a class on Wednesday at noon. Called WOW (The Word on Wednesday), the class has had from 150 to 200 in attendance. From 20 to 30 minutes in length, it has been attended mostly by professional people.

Bennett credits much of the success of his pastor's classes to Ann Curtis. He said, "Ann has been faithful in communicating with the people. She shares with them what is to be done in upcoming classes and has used billboards, newspaper ads and the church marquee to advertise the classes."

Special day events has been another innovation under Bennett's leadership. The first of the special days was "White Christmas," started in 1967. In 1966, the church gave \$3,300 to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. In 1967, a goal of \$10,000 was set. The church gave \$8,300. In 1983, the church gave over \$100,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

A second special day program was "God and Country," a Christian patriotic service held on the Sunday nearest the fourth of July. The speaker for the day is always a great Christian statesman who teaches Bennett's classes and gives a testimony in the morning worship service. Bennett preaches, and public officials are invited to attend. The governor has been present for several of these services and numbers of Arkansas congressmen have attended.

Another special series of services is Holy Week. During the week preceding Easter, Bennett preaches approximately 12 times on the cross or the resurrection. The church also conducts a Jewish Fellowship Sunday on Palm Sunday.

Other special days include Pentecost Sunday, Round-Up Sunday in the fall of the year, World Missions Day, and a World Missions Conference which comes immediately before White Christmas. Bennett said, "Special days have helped to build attendance and excitement at First Church."

Bennett feels the greatest success he has experienced at First Church is the spirit of openness that has developed. He said, "The church saw a lost and needy world and has responded to the needs at home and to the ends of the earth. The congregation has always been warm and open to new ministries and to new people."

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

North Little Rock deacon ministers through disaster relief

by Gene Herrington

Photo by Gene Herrington

Wayne Ferguson, state director of disaster services for Baptist Men, knows first hand the meaning of the Master's words about "a cup of cold water."

The pleading look of a six-year-old Hispanic girl in the wake of a Texas hurricane and the look of gratitude after she got water are among the high emotional experiences of this deacon from North Little Rock's Amboy Church, who has been involved in this service ministry since its inception.

"We know of at least three professions of faith that came from our ministry," he said. "These were in the Jacksonport area, after the team had provided aid. Included a young lady and her grandfather."

Volunteer service seems inadequate to describe the dedication of Ferguson, who averages 20 hours each week—over and above actual disaster responses.

And the responses to emergencies both in Arkansas and in neighboring states have more than used his vacation time from his work-a-day world as a pressman for the Arkansas Gazette. In fact, he says he has not had a vacation since 1980 and has taken off a number of days without pay each year.

The bus, which serves as a "headquarters" for the disaster team, was secured late in 1981, and the disaster service of Arkansas Baptist Men was chartered in February 1982. The impetus behind the ministry came from Neal Guthrie, who brought the "dream" with him when he came to convention headquarters from West Memphis.

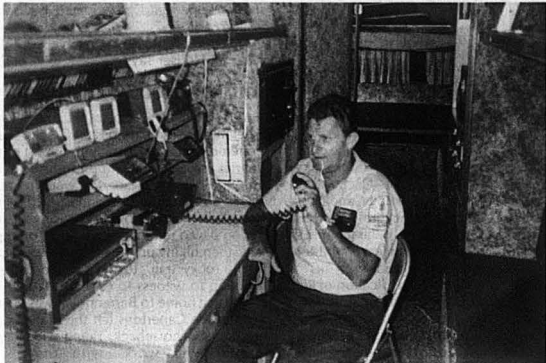
The mobile unit provides two essential services in the disaster area: communications and food services. Ferguson has been personally involved in providing 104,000 meals.

The air-conditioned bus has radio facilities to handle communications from stricken areas, carries more than 200 gallons of water and food for upward of 800 meals, plus facilities for cooking, and also has quarters for conferences with others involved in the disaster response.

"Our work is a lot like firemen," he said. "Being ready to move on short notice is essential. This means that equipment and supplies have to be checked regularly."

A native of McRae, Ferguson holds an associate degree in mechanical engineering from ASU's Beebe Branch and is a graduate of the American Technical Society in diesel engineering. He has been certified in mass feeding by the American Red Cross and in shelter management by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We are largely a faith operation," he explained. "We do not have a budget, although several congregations are regular supporters. Amboy, for example, underwrites \$1 per male member with the membership having opportunity to contribute in a special offering on Father's Day. "Depending on the Lord is an essential in



Wayne Ferguson, a layman from Amboy Church, North Little Rock, has found a different form of ministry as state director of disaster services for Baptist Men.

this ministry, and every time we respond to an emergency he proves himself," he said.

Ferguson welcomes the opportunity to appear before Baptist Men whenever his schedule permits to explain the disaster services ministry and to talk with any men who may feel called to be a part of the team.

He has dreams of two additions to the current facilities, which he thinks would give added dimension to the relief effort: a mobile facility that would essentially be an emergency child care center and another team which could provide direction for people seeking aid.

Those who have a background in social services would give disaster victims a real hand if they could give direction as to where specific help is available.

Hunger expert fears Reader's Digest article impact

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Has American famine aid to Ethiopia been massively misappropriated?

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, questioned both the content and the timing of an article in the October issue of Reader's Digest titled "Famine Aid: Were We Duped?"

Rony Brauman of Doctors Without Borders, a non-profit, humanitarian French group that worked in Ethiopia, wrote that money, food and equipment intended for starving people were "hijacked" by authorities of the Marxist-backed government. Much of the food, he charged, was used "like bait in a trap" to lure starving people into deportation centers in a massive, politically-motivated resettlement project.

Parham said while abuses have occurred,

Ferguson pointed out that whenever possible the unit is set up as near a church as possible, and when the church is able to provide the needed services, such as food preparation, the mobile unit moves on.

He is proud on his associates and their state of readiness. "Recently at a workshop in Amboy Church we simulated an emergency, and were set up in Russellville 59 minutes after receiving the call."

At some Baptist Men's programs, the mobile unit is used to serve the meeting so that the attendees can know first hand the kind of meals that the unit dispenses.

Gene Herrington, a former managing editor of the Arkansas Democrat, is a member of Olivet Church, Little Rock.

the article makes "sweeping statements based either on incomplete information or complete misunderstanding."

"Either way," he said, "the editors of Reader's Digest have masked a complex situation in simplicity. Seeds of doubt have been scattered which, if not crushed, will yield a whirlwind of unnecessary skepticism about hunger relief efforts."

John Cheyne, senior consultant for human needs ministries at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said the Reader's Digest article "does not represent what Southern Baptists are doing."

Southern Baptists who contribute to their denomination's program of hunger relief "can be assured that all funding and all commodities go directly to the needy people and are administered by our own missionary staff," Cheyne said.

Midwestern trustees find Sparkman's views acceptable

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees Oct. 13 voted 21-11 that professor G. Temp Sparkman is teaching within the context of the seminary articles of faith.

The trustees acknowledged Sparkman's writings are controversial, but concluded that, based on written responses to specific stated concerns, Sparkman's theological views "are nevertheless within the context of the seminary's articles of faith.

Sparkman has been under fire for more than nine years about his writings. Critics charge that in his books, "Being a Disciple," and "Salvation and Nurture," Sparkman espouses universalism, the idea all people are rightly related to God without faith in Jesus Christ. He also is charged with being outside mainline Baptist teachings related to baptism, the Lord's Supper and the age at which an individual is capable of making a profession of faith.

In presenting the matter to trustees, Midwestern President Milton Ferguson noted this was the third time the Sparkman controversy had come before them.

"It is apparent that the books are susceptible to significant misunderstanding and misinterpretation," Ferguson told the board members. "Some Southern Baptists have genuine concern about the writings being outside the 'Baptist Faith and Message.'"

He said another reason the controversy persists is because of "organized, intentional attacks on Sparkman's writing as evidence of liberalism in Southern Baptist seminaries." "We didn't manufacture this controversy," he said. "We did not intend to be here but

this is where we are today."

Treuet Gannon, pastor of Smokerise Church in Stone Mountain, Ga., and chairman of the trustees' instructional committee, explained his committee had met four times since the April board meeting to find a way out of the controversy. Two of the meetings were with Sparkman.

Following a presentation from Sparkman on his beliefs, trustees discussed the recommendation for more than three hours. Seventeen trustees spoke on the issue.

"I'm proud of the process we used," Ferguson later told the board members. "We are part of the reconciliation process within the Southern Baptist Convention. Reconciliation is more than just smiling and saying, 'I love you.' Reconciliation is openly and honestly facing differences and working through them as Christian brothers."

Gannon told the board members that before reaching its recommendations, the instructional committee had considered every charge raised against Sparkman.

Kerry Powell, pastor of First Church of Forest City, Ark., and a member of the instructional committee agreed. "We have faced every issue. That is right. Even though I voted against the recommendation, I agree that the trustees have faced the issues and voted to affirm Sparkman," he said.

The trustee action is not likely to bring an end to the controversy, according to trustee Sid Peterson, pastor of Stone Road Church of Bakersfield, Calif. Peterson already has asked to bring a minority report when Midwestern Seminary reports to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Powell said he thinks the controversy might die down if Sparkman doesn't write anything else. "I've always thought when the church voted on something, that settled the issue. As trustees, we are the responsible body. We have examined the issues and voted. My side didn't win but for me that settles it."

Midwestern initiates correlated degree plan

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—A dozen students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are participating in a new degree plan, seminary President Milton Ferguson announced.

The program of study, Master of Divinity: Correlated, was initiated this fall as a five-year pilot project. A first for any Southern Baptist seminary, it is open to graduates of Baptist colleges who have majored in religion, maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average and been recommended for the program by their college religion department.

Academic Dean Larry Baker said the goal "is to provide the student the opportunity to build on what he already has and fashion his degree in a more personal manner."

Baker remarked, "For the student, one major benefit is that he is not, by design, repeating work that he may have had previously. He builds on the studies he's already had and moves ahead."

The program also promises to be of benefit to participating Baptist colleges.

"Rather than creating a two-year program, this is actually expanding a three-year program to a six-year program, with four years taking place at the undergraduate level, noted Daniel Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. "It puts the spotlight on our undergraduate Baptist colleges to strengthen our pre-seminary classes."

In addition to the Master of Divinity: Correlated degree, Midwestern also has implemented a related Master of Divinity: Concentrated degree, which also was designed for the Baptist college graduate with a religion major.

Faculty Vacancy Acquisitions / Periodicals Librarian Wayland Baptist University


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Soaring spirit overpowers

SUMBAWANGA, Tanzania (BP)—Enos isn't crawling to heaven. But because he crawls many others will go there with him.

Three years ago when a Baptist church was started in Sumbawanga, Tanzania, Enos was one of the first converts. And despite two withered, completely useless legs, he responded not only to God's offer of salvation but also to God's call to service.

Today, even without a missionary working in the area on a regular basis, 11 churches exist in and around Sumbawanga, and Enos has started six of them. Sometimes he travels by bus, but often he crawls, pulling himself with his arms, to cover the miles to minister and preach to his congregations.

"How does one preach dedication of life to someone like Enos?" asks Jim Houser, a Southern Baptist missionary working as a general evangelist in Tanzania. He preached in Sumbawanga this summer and met Enos after the African church planter crawl-

ed into the church, sat on the front row and "sang, clapped and participated with enthusiasm and joy."

"We Baptists from America have so much to learn," Houser says.

Gold offered for witness

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (BP)—The gospel means so much to Raul Castillo that he offered gold to two Southern Baptist missionaries if they would witness to his father.

But Bob and Joan Caperton wouldn't accept his gold. Instead, the couple from Alvin, Texas, gladly traveled four hours—driving an hour on paved roads and two hours on dirt roads, then hiking up the mountain along a muddy, rocky trail—to the Castillo coffee plantation to witness to Castillo's father.

Returning home to Barranquilla was even tougher. The Capertons left the plantation after dark on horseback, riding with Raul Castillo, who works with them in Barranquilla.

"I couldn't even see the horse in front of me," Caperton says adding, "You couldn't see in front of your nose." On horseback, they had to cross a river without a bridge.

The coffee grower didn't accept Christ, but the Capertons felt they planted a gospel seed. They witnessed for an hour—praying, singing hymns and reading a Bible they left with him.

Castillo, who is separated from his Christian wife, was receptive, Caperton says.

The coffee grower showed them the plantation as children raked coffee beans on the ground to remove the husks. They were inspired by the "beautiful farm," Caperton says. "Everything was green, and there was a beautiful waterfall. He lives up on a knoll, with the river circling around him and his coffee all around his house."

They stood on the patio "overlooking all of this beauty," Caperton says, and sang "How Great Thou Art."

Home Mission Board says, 'no aid to women pastors'

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have affirmed a long-standing policy that ordination is not a requirement for missionary service, but they have voted not to give future financial support to any woman who is pastor of a local church.

The 85-member board approved a report from a 10-member committee assigned to study the board's policies concerning ordination during its October meeting.

About a dozen board members voted against the new policy after a motion to delete the provision prohibiting funds to women pastors was defeated.

In other major actions, the board adopted a motion calling for a major emphasis on reaching the cities of America with the gospel, heard a progress report from a new search committee appointed to nominate a president for the board, adopted a record \$73.2 million 1987 budget and gave a standing ovation to a plea for unity by the board's acting president.

The new policy on ordination permits appointment of ordained women as missionaries and endorsement of ordained women as chaplains, but it prohibits future use of mission board funds to support any woman as pastor of a local church.

The action in October marked the third time in two years the board had affirmed its policy that ordination is a local-church matter and should not be considered in the appointment of missionaries. This policy was reaffirmed in the March board meetings of 1984 and 1985.

In their report to the board, the committee recommended no changes be made in the board's relationship to ordained women

already serving.

Opposition to the committee's recommendations came from Jim Strickland, pastor of First Church of Cartersville, Ga. Strickland said the proposal would compromise the board's integrity on the autonomy of the local church.

"We say on one hand that it (ordination) is the prerogative of the local church, but on the other hand, we are voting economic reprisals against the local church which believes God has led them to call a woman pastor, if this is approved," argued Strickland. "We are crossing a line here that there is no precedent for in the entire Southern Baptist Convention. We dare not approve this."

Bob Banks, executive vice-president who has functioned as interim president since the resignation of William G. Tanner in June, told the board the staff is planning a major presentation at the March 1987, board meeting on the challenge of reaching the cities. Banks also called for unity and reconciliation among board members.

Banks urged board members to care enough and dare to become an example of reconciliation to the entire convention. "The needs are too great, the opportunities too important and the time factor too critical for us not to make every conceivable effort to pull together in moving forward to do the work that the Father has given us to do," he said. "There are issues. But the great overriding issue is a lost and dying nation, a lost and dying world."

Board members also adopted a record \$73,190,555 budget for 1987, added new staff members and appointed 25 missionaries during the meeting.

The new budget represents an increase of

\$5 million, or 7.4 percent, over the 1986 budget. Nearly \$25 million will come from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, while \$29 million is expected to be given through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In personnel matters, the board promoted two existing staff members and elected two new employees. Robert Edgar Wiley, associate director of the associational missions division, was promoted to director of the division. He succeeds Jim Lewis, who has joined the staff of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Dale Wesley Cross, director of metropolitan evangelism strategy in the associational evangelism department, was promoted to director of the department. Cross succeeds Ken Carter, who was elevated to director of the evangelism development division.

New staff member Billy D. Donovan of Oklahoma City was elected director of the department of institutional and business-industrial chaplaincy. Donovan succeeds Huey Perry, who previously was named director of the division. Donovan currently is administrator of religious programs for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

Ronald G. Barker of Atlanta was elected associate director of the personal evangelism department. Previously a national consultant in Continuous Witness Training for the board, Barker's responsibilities will include national implementation of the program.

In other matters, the board appointed eight missionaries, four missionary associates, six church planter apprentices, one national consultant and approved six individuals for language pastoral assistance.

Law professor blasts states for lottery 'shell game'

TAMPA, Fla. (BP)—Calling a state-run lottery a "fiscal shell game," a Notre Dame University law professor criticized state governments for enticing their citizens to gamble.

G. Robert Blakey, a former federal prosecutor, told anti-gambling leaders that a state's share of lottery revenues does not always end up where it is intended to go.

Voters in six states are being asked to authorize government-run lotteries in November, joining the 23 states that already operate such games of chance.

Blakey was one of three experts on gambling featured during the annual meeting of the National Coalition on Legalized Gambling in Tampa, Fla. The other speakers discussed compulsive gambling and strategies to block the spread of lotteries.

The two-day conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, attracted 23 anti-gambling leaders from eight states, including officials of various religious groups actively opposing lottery legislation and referenda.

Blakey told the group his study of the 23 states with lotteries shows revenues never really benefit the intended causes. "Money that would go to the school system from a general fund is simply displaced by the revenue from the lottery, and it's then freed up for spending elsewhere," he explained, calling the funding procedure a "shell game" and accusing lottery proponents of "violating the principles of truth in advertising."

Such deception, he added, often is a prelude to corruption that arises once a state

begins operating a lottery. "They won't tell you the truth or how much money they're raising or how they're spending it," he said.

Blakey gave participants an abbreviated history of lotteries, which he said were outlawed in the 19th century because of corruption and scandal.

While anti-lottery forces may have all the data on their side, Blakey said, they have been unable to come up with effective slogans to marshal public support. Proponents, meanwhile, can "get a lot of mileage" by portraying a lottery as benefiting education, he said.

The law professor expressed concern over the moral misperception created by a government-run lottery, which he said conveys the message "it's better to succeed by chance rather than succeed by work."

SBC Task force sees need for 'adjustments'

Baptist Joint Committee approves new representation plan

WASHINGTON (BP)—A new plan which would revise the way nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada are represented on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was approved during the fall meeting of the committee.

The plan, which would increase Southern Baptist participation from 15 members to 18 members, was approved with only two negative votes after an effort was made to refer it back to the three-member study committee that proposed the revisions.

Samuel L. Currin, a U.S. attorney in Raleigh, N. C., and a Southern Baptist representative on the BJCPA, made a motion to refer the plan back to the three-member Study Committee on Baptist Joint Committee Representation to allow study of the possibility "of membership based on financial contributions."

Currin told the committee, "I don't believe we can sell... a plan that has us contributing 90 percent of the funding and having only a third of the representation."

The plan was proposed by the three-member committee, made up of William Cober, associate general secretary for national ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U. S. A.; Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; and John Binder, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference.

In presenting the plan, Cober said, "We believe it is critical that we maintain a united witness of nine great Baptist communions and that speaking on behalf of our nine groups has real power," he added.

Cober said the study committee adopted three basic principles: "First, each member denomination shall be adequately represented. Second, no denomination shall have more than one-third of the members of a 54-member Baptist Joint Committee. Third, there shall be a relationship between finan-

cial contributions and the number of denominational representatives."

The plan automatically allows each Baptist group one member. Additional representatives are gained by contributing to the BJCPA operating budget. It provides that for each quarter of a percent of the budget—about \$1,150—contributed, member bodies gain one member, up to a total of eight beyond the first representative. Then, for each additional five percent of the operating budget contributed, another member is gained, up to a total of nine beyond the first nine.

The only body which would be entitled to the full complement of 18 members would be the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently the SBC is entitled to 15 members.

After Currin's motion was rejected, committee members voted to approve the new representation plan with only Currin and Albert Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist representative from Birmingham, Ala., voting against it.

They had been joined in the effort to have it referred by J. I. Ginnings, a Southern Baptist representative from Wichita Falls, Texas. When it came to a vote on the plan, Ginnings told the committee he would vote for it. "It appears to me this [participation in the BJCPA] is more of a Southern Baptist problem," he said. "I don't believe this issue will be resolved here. I am going to vote for it."

'Adjustments' necessary

Meanwhile, the special SBC committee appointed in September to study the relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has determined the relationship will have to be adjusted if the 14.5-million-member denomination continues to participate in the organization.

Although the nature and scope of the ad-

justment were not spelled out, the study committee's chairman, Gary Young, told Baptist Press it is a "given" that if the current relationship "were satisfactory, our committee would not be in existence."

Young, pastor of First Southern Church of Phoenix, Ariz., said the committee began its study by considering the three options open to the SBC: the "status quo," a "revised status quo" and an "exclusive Southern Baptist presence."

"We [the committee] have a given that if the status quo were satisfactory, our committee would not be in existence. Therefore, the basic question is, 'How can Southern Baptists best be represented in Washington?'" he said.

The fact-finding committee held its first full meeting Oct. 3-4 in Dallas, where it held "brainstorming" sessions before coming up with three "basic assumptions" and two "basic issues."

The three basic assumptions adopted by the committee were: (1) "We are united in our belief Southern Baptists should have a presence in Washington, D. C.;" (2) "We are united in our support and defense of the U. S. Constitution's First Amendment provision which states that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.;" (3) "We are united in our desire that the Southern Baptist Convention have the most effective and efficient voice possible in Washington."

The two basic issues phrased as questions were: (1) "Is the Baptist Joint Committee, or can the Baptist Joint Committee, be the most effective and efficient voice of Southern Baptists in Washington?"; and (2) "What are the factors to be considered in the establishment of 'an exclusive Southern Baptist Convention presence' in Washington?"

Convention Uniform

A kingdom divided

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: 1 Kings 11:1 to 12:33

Focal passage: 1 Kings 12:13-17, 20, 26-29

Central truth: Wrong decisions grow out of wrong attitudes and wrong advice.

The tragic division of the kingdom of Israel, coming less than a century after David, was used of God in judgment for the unfaithfulness of his people.

(1) Successor to Solomon (1 Kings 12:1-15)

Upon the death of Solomon, reported in the last verses of 1 Kings 11, his spoiled and willful son Rehoboam came to the throne. As a gesture toward the northern tribes, among whom he sensed much discontent, he chose the northern city of Shechem, rather than Jerusalem, as the place to proclaim himself king. He sought the counsel of two age groups of leaders, the elderly and those, like himself, in their 40s. The senior citizens urged him to remove the heavy burdens his father had placed upon them. But the younger leaders, thinking, perhaps, to feather their own nests, advised him to be even more oppressive in his rule than Solomon had been. His decision to go with the crass advice of the young men soon led to revolt.

(2) Jereboam leads the rebels (1 Kings 12:16-20)

Jereboam, who had been in exile in Egypt, upon hearing of the turn of events in Israel, returned home and was quickly chosen by the 10 Northern Tribes to be their king and lead their rebellion. Only the small tribe of Benjamin remained loyal to Judah. From this time forward, the term Israel is used in two senses, as indicated in verses 16 and 17, being the name for the Northern Kingdom as well as the designation for all of the chosen people. To know which is meant, it is necessary to consider the context.

(3) Using religion for political purposes (1 Kings 12:26-33)

Fearing that trips to Jerusalem by his subjects from the new kingdom of Israel might undermine his reign, Jereboam set up new places of worship, at Bethel and at Dan. Then he repeated the sin of Aaron, making golden calves and offering them to the people as "... thy gods... which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (v. 28).

The use of religion for political purposes is as polluting in our day as it was in Old Testament times, being still one of the most common forms of idolatry.

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Life and Work

Rebellion

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

Basic passage: Genesis 3:1-13

Focal passage: Genesis 3:1-13

Central truth: Sin is rebellion against God.

Where does sin begin? Our text gives us a clue to this question. The serpent was used by Satan to cause Eve to question God's commandment and motive. Asking a question is not a sin. The sin came when Eve began to believe that God had cheated her and her husband out of something wonderful.

This is one of the main excuses I have heard from people who wanted to delay making a commitment to God. They feel that they will miss some great experience. They fail to understand that there is no greater experience than an encounter with God.

Unfortunately, a fact of life is that sinners influence others to sin. Eve rebelled and then invited Adam to sin also. Sinners do not like to sin alone. If they can influence another to sin, especially a Christian, it seems like some kind of approval to continue to sin. As Christians, we must be aware and not be influenced by those who would be evil.

But when a person sins, God shows his love and mercy because he seeks out that sinner and wants to find a way to resolve the problem that separates the sinner from God. It was God who came seeking the hiding Adam and Eve. It is not God's will that any should perish. God always wants what is best for his children.

Adam and Eve showed a very human trait of looking for someone else to blame for the mistake they made. God said, "Adam, what happened?" Adam said, "God, Eve made me do it." Eve then said, "Wait Lord, the snake made me do it."

The reality is that each of us is responsible for our own sin. We choose to sin. The power of Satan can be great but God's is greater; and if we listen, God's voice will guide us through any forest of temptation that is presented.

One final thought. Walter Brueggemann, in his book on Genesis said: "The serpent is the first in the Bible to seem knowing and critical about God and to practice theology in the place of obedience" (p. 48). Satan still tries to get good people to do good things but for the wrong reasons.

We must always be sensitive to God's voice; and he seeks the sheep that have wandered away.

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Bible Book

The way to the new birth

by Woodrow W. Dishongh, Lancaster Road Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: John 3:1-36

Focal passage: John 3:1-7, 14-21

Central truth: Eternal life comes through faith in Jesus.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, a man of wealth, a member of the Sanhedrin, comes to Jesus asking questions. Jesus knew him so well that he answered him (v. 3) before the question was asked. "Born again" may also be rendered "born from above." In verse 4 Nicodemus could well be saying "the radical change you say is necessary, I know is necessary, but so impossible!" We face this problem. We want to be changed and cannot change ourselves and don't know where to go. Many scriptures speak of rebirth. Peter tells us of the God who has begotten us to a living hope. Titus speaks of the "washing of regeneration" and Paul says that if we are in Christ we are created "all over" again.

Rebirth was known to the Jew for when a proselyte came to Judaism he was accepted by prayer, sacrifice and baptism and was thought of as reborn. Greeks also knew, for in Christ's day they had faith in "mystery religion." Part of their basic belief said "there can be no salvation without regeneration." They offered mystic union with God and when the union was made they spoke of it was "being twice born." Understanding Nicodemus's position helps us realize that participation in a religious institution does not necessarily give new birth.

John's gospel gives us some close related thoughts... rebirth, kingdom of God, sonship, eternal life, all relate. To be in the kingdom is to submit to God's will. To be a son one must believe, and if we believe we obey and love. Eternal life is not just life forever, rather it is a higher life, or really "life in God."

We are to believe in Jesus and this believing is to accept Jesus as all that God declared him to be. Nicodemus had difficulty here, for the Jews thought of God as a "God of Law." They thought of God as a judge, thus hard to accept him as a loving father who wanted fellowship with his children. Jesus did not come to condemn, and Christ's death did not change God's attitude toward man. God gave his son for us. He who believes is saved. He who disbelieves is condemned. He who acts with hostility toward Jesus shows signs of living darkness rather than light.

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McDonough to be nominated executive director

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will be nominated as executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia during its annual meeting Nov. 11-12.

The association's General Board cleared the way for the action when it unanimously approved the recommendation of its Executive Director Search Committee Oct. 7 in Richmond.

If elected by messengers to the November meeting, McDonough, 50, will become executive director-elect of both the association and the General Board Jan. 1, 1987, and assume full responsibilities March 1.

He would succeed Richard M. Stephenson, who will retire Feb. 28, 1987, after 19 years as executive of the 600,000-member Virginia fellowship.

"We are Virginia Baptists in spirit,"

McDonough told an applauding board following the vote. He and his wife, Joan, were present for all but the brief discussion that followed the search committee's detailed presentation.

James W. Ellis, chairman of the search committee, said, "We have made a choice based on the needs of the office, upon the merit of the nominee, and what we understand to be the will of God in our lives. The man we present today is, I believe, God's choice for Virginia Baptists."

A native of Mount Vernon, Texas, McDonough has held church staff positions in Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas, and several posts at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He has been executive vice-president at the SBC Executive Committee since 1981. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Texas pastor admonishes activists to be Christian

WASHINGTON (BP)—Christians should exercise their freedom and be involved in politics and government, but their actions should be characterized by integrity, compassion and humility, a Texas pastor told participants at the 20th National Religious Liberty Conference.

The theme of the three-day meeting, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, was "Intersecting Values."

Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Church of Midland, Texas, spoke on the role of churches and Christians at the intersection of a free state and a free church. He listed three "pastoral admonitions" for Christian involvement in politics, saying persons "must be careful not to engage in politics with the attitude that the end justifies the means."

He noted he has observed Christians on all sides of the political spectrum whose actions did not match their statements about their faith: "Our goal is redemption and reconciliation, not winning at any price. In our zeal to influence government, let us be careful that we never sacrifice character."

In the second place, Vestal urged, Christians must "be careful not to reduce or identify Christianity with any political program, not to equate social/political causes with the eternal kingdom of God." Many Christians have been guilty of taking stands on issues and then implying or stating outright that those who disagree with them "are less than Christian," he explained.

"In our zeal to influence government, let us be very careful to avoid equating our own social/political agendas with the gospel and be very careful not to label those who disagree with us as less than Christian," he urged. "As we practice zeal, let us practice charity."

In a third admonition, Vestal said Christians involved in politics "must be very careful not to assume God is on your side." Christians must be honest with themselves

and with others in acknowledging their search for truth is inevitably influenced by their prejudices and presuppositions, he noted.

"We must be careful in making God the champion of our cause, of acting as though we alone have discovered divine providence. As we practice zeal, let us practice Christian humility," he insisted. "Integrity, compassion and humility—these are the essence of biblical faith. And in this intersection of liberty and citizenship, we would do well to believe these truths deeply, articulate them lovingly and practice them consistently."

Vestal praised the Baptist heritage of championing a free church in a free state, even when the cause was unpopular.

He said a free church is characterized by five tenets: each person makes a free choice to enter into a relationship with God, each is free to respond individually to the Holy Spirit, members of the church determine its life and ministry, they reject a state church and they see the church's mission fulfilled under the premise of freedom.

At the same time, a free state "is one that recognizes a pluralistic society and then attempts to protect that pluralism. The rights and privileges of each are guaranteed," he said.

In championing a free church and a free state, Baptists have advocated involvement in government while practicing the tenets of the gospel, he noted, explaining, "We have never believed that separation of church and state should separate church from government, Christ from culture or faith from life."

The Religious Liberty Conference was held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, an organization of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada. At 50 years old, the BJCPA is the nation's oldest religious liberty watchdog group.