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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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October 16, 1986

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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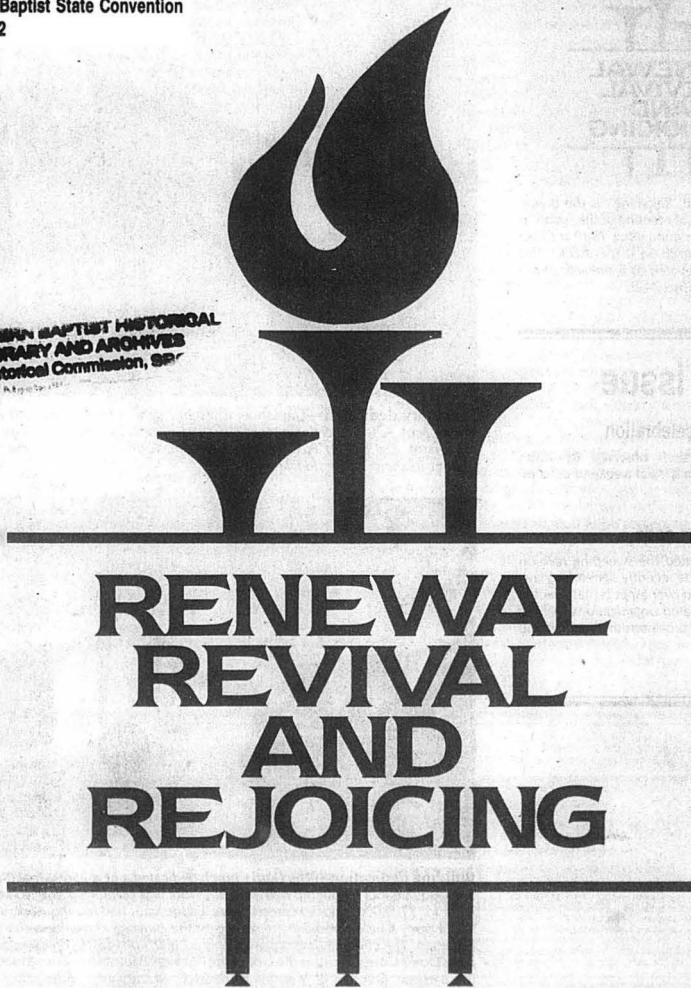
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October 16, 1986

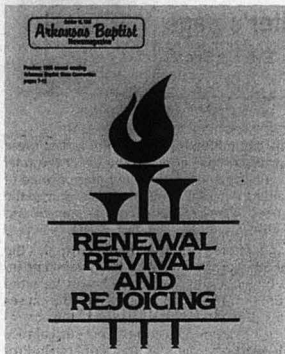
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Preview: 1986 annual meeting
Arkansas Baptist State Convention
pages 7-12

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RENEWAL REVIVAL AND REJOICING



"Renewal, Revival, Rejoicing" is the theme for the 1986 annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Nov. 18-19 at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock. This week's ABN is devoted to a preview of the annual meeting (pp. 7-12).

missionary notes

Kurt Bryant, journeyman to Costa Rica, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as a student worker (address: Apartado 1883, San Jose, Costa Rica). He considers Fort Smith his hometown.

Keith Burgett, journeyman to Peru, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as an elementary/secondary

teacher (address: Apartado 137, Cajamarca, Peru). He considers Huntington his hometown.

Bryant Pearson, journeyman to Uganda, has arrived on the field to begin his two-year term of service as a student worker (address P. O. Box 1734, Kampala, Uganda). He is a native of Russellville.



Sanctuary dedicated—Emmanuel Church, Piggott, observed its 25th anniversary service Sept. 7 by dedicating a sanctuary that will seat 280. Pastor Bill Hutchings was moderator, and E. Clay Polk was guest speaker. Former pastors and members were present to share in the dedication.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed

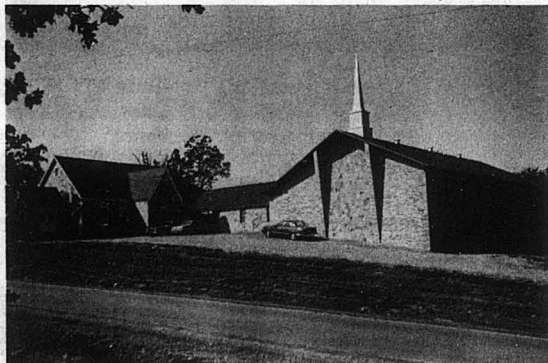
In this issue

5 centennial celebration

Kensett First Church observed its 100th anniversary with a special weekend celebration Sept. 27-28.

13 the new tax code

As Congress debated the sweeping revision of the U.S. tax code recently signed into law, controversy stirred over aspects that affected churches and related organizations. A brief article surveys the provisions that made it into the final version.



Building dedication—The Cord Church dedicated a new 250-seat auditorium and 3,200-square-foot fellowship hall Sept. 28. Work was completed with some volunteer labor for \$129,000. Prior to construction, a contractor had bid the work at \$250,000. Pastor Jerry Kausler credited the savings to the building committee chaired by E. R. Coleman. The church currently owes only \$7,000, with \$50,000 in pledges yet to be paid. Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, delivered the message. Director of Missions Eddie McCord brought the dedicatory prayer.

The 1986 annual meeting

The 1986 session of the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will consider many important and far-reaching matters. At this time, we know of no item of controversy to come before the convention. Lawson Hatfield and the program committee are to be commended for providing an outstanding inspirational program.

Among the important items of business to be considered are the adoption of a \$12.34 million budget, a unified budget proposal, a Task Force of 100 to challenge Arkansas Baptist churches financially and a recommendation to change the convention sessions of the annual convention to Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning.

The passage of the budget by the state convention is usually automatic. This year's budget should be no exception, since there are no new controversial proposals. But special note should be taken of the fact that this year's budget represents an increase of 0.76 of 1 percent over the 1986 budget. The proposed budget also includes an increase of 0.75 of 1 percent for Southern Baptist Cooperative Program causes. It should further be noted that, in order to keep this small increase, the budget provides for a slight reduction for all agencies, institutions and Executive Board programs in the amounts budgeted over 1986.

We believe that Executive Director Don Moore and the finance committee are to be commended for holding the budget at 0.76 of 1 percent increase for 1987. For several years, the churches have not provided adequate funds to meet the full Cooperative Program budget. State leadership has chosen to make this the year in which we will strive to have our budget requirements in line with the gifts of our churches.

Second, the Executive Board will recommend to the messengers at the annual meeting a new budget formula which determines the division of the Cooperative Program monies for SBC causes, as well as Arkansas agencies, institutions, and Executive Board programs. The old budget formula was designed to operate from 1983-1987. The new budget formula must be adopted at the 1986 convention, since work on the 1988 budget will begin in February of next year.

The new budget formula must reflect the action of the ABCS which provided for \$50,000 additional monies to be given to Southern Baptist College in 1988 and an additional \$52,000 in 1990 to assist the college in developing new four-year baccalaureate programs. These monies set aside for Southern Baptist College are to receive the normal budget increases each year. Additionally, it is projected that the new Expanded Church Annuity Plan will

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



require \$188,000 additional money in 1988.

The budget formula committee is recommending that these monies become a part of the base and thereby affect the total budget. After these monies have been removed, the balance of the Cooperative Program receipts will be divided according to the normal percentages for each agency, institution, Executive Board programs, and SBC causes.

The new formula, adopted by the Executive Board, ties the increase designated for SBC causes directly to the percentage increase in Cooperative Program gifts from churches as reported in the previous years uniform letters. Monies to the SBC causes can be increased up to 1 percent, but in no year will they be increased less than 0.25 of 1 percent. The current formula calls for 0.75 of 1 percent each year, regardless of the Cooperative Program gifts received from Arkansas Baptist churches.

We commend the budget formula committee for a job well done in a difficult situation.

A third recommendation of the Executive Board for consideration at the convention calls for the creation of a "Task Force of 100" to deal with the potential crisis created by the lack of percentage increase in Cooperative Program money received from Arkansas Baptist churches. These names are now ready to be presented to the messengers of the state convention for adoption.

A fourth recommendation to be presented by the Executive Board to the annual state convention provides for the sessions of the annual convention to be held Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning. The Pastors' Conference sessions would be convened on Monday. This recommendation further provides for the Pastors' Conference to receive \$2,500, the Religious Education Association \$900, and the Convention Wives' Conference \$900. Each organization is to operate within the funds provided, and the officers of each organization are to work together to coordinate their programs for the annual meetings.

The final recommendation to be presented by the Executive Board to the convention sets forth long range plans to be accomplished between 1988 and 1992. The areas of work in which long range plans will be presented include church program development, evangelism, ministry, fellowship and communication, new work and stewardship.

Our convention should set the stage for 1987 to be a great year of victory for the Master. As Arkansas Baptists maintain a spirit of Christian love and depend on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, our success is assured.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

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

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

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Second of four articles

Reaching young adults: start a couples Sunday School class

Picture Charlie Brown, hat pushed to one side, head hanging low, ball glove on the ground, dejected. He says, "One hundred to nothing. And we were so sincere!" Sometimes sincerity is not enough. Neither is simple commitment.

To make a commitment to reach young adults is the first step. The commitment must then be channeled into the proper organization. The key organizational structure which can facilitate reaching young adults is the Sunday School.

The initial strategy is to provide a couples class. Young married adults, especially those who have not been active in a church as adults, feel uncomfortable if you separate them when they come. A couples class will provide the opportunity for them to stay



Harbour

together. This is especially helpful when one spouse is reluctant to come.

The organizational structure also needs to provide a sense of group identity. We know young people like a crowd. So do young adults. The organizational structure needs to provide a departmental setting which encompasses a large enough group to provide a sense of strength. A department which includes two or more couples classes which meets first for a time of fellowship and then divides for class time is probably best.

As your group begins to grow, you need to follow the Flake formula for Sunday School organization. In his classic book, Arthur Flake suggested these five steps: find the people, provide the space, train the leadership, enlarge the organization, and then divide for the purpose of multiplying.

When is the best time to divide a class or a department and form a new class? No answer is applicable to all situations. Here's a general guideline: when the class or department becomes so big that newcomers

are overwhelmed, then it is time to divide.

At this point, you may feel some opposition from those in the department who don't want their fellowship to be disturbed. Prayerfully and patiently, you need to insist on following the Flake formula.

At First Church in Pensacola a few years ago we started a young adult department which soon averaged 80 per Sunday. We were convinced that it was time to divide the department and begin a new one. We laid the ground work, led then to divide, and soon enjoyed the benefits. Within a year, we had two young adult departments which were each averaging about 80 per Sunday. Division led to growth.

Once your church has made the commitment to reach young adults, organize your Sunday School to include a young adults department with a couples class or classes. The proper structure is in place. What then? I'll share the following step next week.—**Brian Harbour, pastor, Immanuel Church, Little Rock.**



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Memorable birthday gifts

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," but who would deny that receiving gifts ranks very high in any list of things that produce joy in life! Although commercialized gift days have been multiplied and highly promoted in recent years, few things in this world are more exciting than a very personal gift that is clearly an unselfish giving of one's self to another.

Some people find birthdays and birthday gifts depressing, but I have always enjoyed birthdays as a gift from God. One of the most

memorable birthdays in my lifetime was the recent 100th birthday of Ouachita Baptist University. The year of celebration ended on Sept. 6, and a barrel full of wonderful memories remain: the Ouachita Centennial Showcase with Jerry Clower; the meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention on Ouachita's campus; a unique "Christmas at Ouachita" program; Global Focus Week; an outstanding series of lectures and concerts; the publication of Mike Arrington's *A History of Ouachita Baptist University: The First 100 Years*, and (with Bill Downs) a beautiful pictorial history of Ouachita; a Foreign Mission Board film on Ouachita missionaries around the world; a televised history of Ouachita; our Centennial Commencement; a Second Century Planning Retreat; 100 OBU birthday parties around the world; and the Centennial Convocation featuring former President Jimmy Carter and the honoring of three living former presidents and 13 alumni "Centennial Achievers," followed by the burial of a time capsule of memorabilia for Ouachitians to open up in 2086.

Many wonderful gifts, large and small, were made to Ouachita during the centennial year, including a remarkable challenge gift of one-half million dollars from Frank Hickingbotham for the \$2 million "Information Age Library Project," an even larger gift of \$750,000 from the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust of

Malvern, and the over-and-above gifts of 21 "Centennial sponsors."

There is one other gift that I may remember longer than all the rest. While I was at a meeting in Singapore in July, six Ouachita graduates met for a centennial birthday dinner. With purple and gold table decorations and the miniature Ouachita Centennial flags, we shared experiences and memories about Ouachita. A Malaysian alumna, Miss Hwai-Khee Seow, expressed her appreciation for Ouachita's four-year International Scholarship that helped her to receive a music degree. She is now teaching piano in a school in Singapore, and supporting the music ministry of a local Baptist church. She handed me an envelope and said, "I want to make this small gift in return." I asked if I should open it immediately, and she said it would be all right. I was surprised—shocked would be a better word—to discover a check from her in the amount of \$750, designated for the Ouachita School of Music. I protested that she could not afford to make a gift of that size, and she simply replied, "I know what I can do."

It is still more blessed to give than to receive, but the blessing of receiving gifts for Ouachita must certainly run a very close second.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University.

Day of Prayer set

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Sunday, Oct. 19, has been designated as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee on the eve of its prayer retreat with executives of 20 SBC agencies.

Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller urged all Southern Baptists "to seek the face of God on behalf of all of those who will participate in the special prayer retreat" Oct. 20-22 at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center near Santa Fe, N.M.

Fuller said, "I call upon us all... to ask of our motives, 'Is it reconciliation we seek, or only victory?'"

He urged Southern Baptists to consider the example of Christ, who "although it was us who had offended him, took the initiative in reconciliation."

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

... A day for prayer and fasting has been called! Dr. Charles Fuller, chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, issued a call from the committee for all of our Southern Baptist Churches to make Oct. 19, a day of prayer and fasting. You heard it right! The problems that exist within our fellowship cannot be solved apart from God's intervention. God has chosen to intervene in the affairs of men in



Moore

response to prayer and fasting. Jesus said difficult situations call for both. If each of us could know of the serious consequences to individual lives, to churches and to state conventions that revolve around the controversy, we would quickly rally around the throne of grace. If we really knew the impact on the Kingdom and the destiny of individuals, we would be moved to intense intercession.

"We cannot delegate the responsibility for peacemaking to someone else."

The Peace Committee will be meeting with the six seminary presidents in a Prayer Retreat, Oct. 20-22, at Glorieta Assembly. Our prayers beginning Oct. 19 and following can make the difference in our collective efforts in the Kingdom.

My interpretation of things might be helpful to you. One group, of whatever size, believes that our doctrinal base has been eroded by toleration of teachings that differ widely from our traditional biblical beliefs. Another group, of whatever size, believes our way of relating to each other and doing missions as a convention is being threatened. You can see why both sides would have such intense feelings. We need to be respectful of each other and patient, whether all agree or not.

If God changes things through prayer, then God can change things through our prayers and the Prayer Retreat Oct. 20-22. Trust me, this could be the time and occasion when God's will breaks through upon us! The strongest and most extensive missionary movement in the history of Christianity is the issue. We must not come out of this weaker.

Please call your church family to prayer and fasting October 19.

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

Kensett First celebrates 100th anniversary

ABN photos / Millie Gill

Kensett First Church celebrated 100 years of service Sept. 27-28. Anniversary activities included a Saturday evening fish fry and all-day services on Sunday. Former pastors Thomas A. Hinson, Amos Greer, Glen Giles, Doyle Neal, Charles Kitts, Bob Crabb and L. Bert Edwards were featured speakers. (Right) Pre-schoolers Sarah Bell and Stephen Settles and teacher Jackie Moore (second from left) came on Sunday morning dressed in the fashions of 100 years ago, as did other members. (Below) A memorabilia display caught the attention of Pearl Palmer (left) and Linda Thornton. (Bottom) The traditional dinner-on-the-grounds provided a time for Pastor Donald Settles to visit both members and guests. The church's history includes the loss of the first church building and its records by fire. Due to this loss, records start with the year 1925. The church recently purchased an adjoining lot for expansion.



by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people



James R. Swedenburg will begin serving Nov. 1 as director of missions for Central Association, Benton. He will move to Benton from Pittsburgh, Pa., where he has been serving as director of missions for the Greater Pittsburgh Association since

1983. A native of Alabama, he has pastored churches in Alabama, Texas and Pennsylvania. He has served as a missionary in Korea and Taiwan.

Ross Pyeatt will join the staff of Little Rock Second Church as minister of administration and senior adults. A native of Texarkana, he is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Texas, California and Virginia.

Mark Rutherford joined the staff of Otter Creek First Church in Little Rock Oct. 5 as minister of youth and education. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His responsibilities will include establishing a Wednesday evening youth Bible study time and the development of youth choir and outreach programs.

Bobby C. Pennington is serving as pastor of Hamburg First Church. A native of Crossett, he is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Louisiana and Texas.

Paul Parker began serving Oct. 5 as pastor of Victory Church in Conway. He has served as associate pastor of Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock, and as pastor of Nall's Memorial Church, Little Rock, and Holland Church near Vilonia. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and has attended Southwestern Seminary.

Loy Garner is serving as pastor of Enon Church at Monticello. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, have been serving as houseparents at Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello.

Kevin Dunn has joined the staff of Enon Church in Monticello as director of music and youth.



Pyeatt



Rutherford



Pennington



Parker

Danny Roberts is serving as pastor of Antioch Church at Hermitage. He and his wife, Kristi, are students at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Richard Ehlinger is serving as pastor of Ebenezer Church at Warren. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Linda, have a son, Brent.

Muriel Harley Flowers of Fordyce died Oct. 2 at age 77. She was a member of Fordyce First Church and a retired merchant. Survivors include her husband, Harvey B. Flowers; a son, W.H. Flowers of Pine Bluff; a sister; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

Albert M. Walker of Harrison died Oct. 1 at his home at the age of 80. He was a member and deacon in the Oregon Flat Church where his funeral services were held Oct. 4. He was a farmer and life resident of Boone County. Survivors include his wife, Ruby C. Klepper Walker of the home; four sons, Dale Walker of Bixby, Okla., John Walker of Anderson, S. C., Bob Walker of Harrison and James A. Walker of Little Rock, director of the Stewardship/Annuity Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention; one brother; and seven grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services or to the World Hunger Fund of the Oregon Flat Church.

briefly

Berry Street Church in Springdale has established the Curtis and Alean Puryear Scholarship Fund to be used to aid college and seminary students from the church. Mrs. Puryear died in June. He is a retired pastor and church treasurer.

Victory Church in Conway held its first meeting Oct. 5 in a mobile chapel provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department. The chapel has been placed on five acres of land on

Ridge Road which was purchased by the church. Faulkner Association provided pews for the chapel. Pastor Paul Parker reported 41 in attendance and four additions by letter.

New Hope Church at Jonesboro launched a Church Training program on Oct. 5 and recently added an organ to its worship center.

Providence Church at Jonesboro observed homecoming Sept. 28 with morning services, a noon meal and an afternoon program that featured music by the Frenches, Defeaters, Praise and Allison Family. Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association, was speaker. Leroy Franks is pastor.

Alsop Church at Bay celebrated its 30th homecoming Oct. 5 with Harold Ray, director of missions for Mount Zion Association, as morning worship speaker. Special music was provided by the Starlanders from Lorado. Leon Minick is pastor.

Tupelo First Church recently honored Myrtle Gardner Webb in recognition of her 89th birthday. A dinner was given in her honor at a steak house in Newport. Mrs. Webb is teacher of the Ruth Sunday School Class, has served as church clerk for many years and is still active in all phases of church work. She is a retired school teacher.

West Memphis Second Church observed homecoming Oct. 5 with former members as special guests. Music was provided by the Sojourners, the Speck Family, the Surprise Five and the Bellevue Group.

North Crossett First Church will observe homecoming Oct. 26. Lowell Snow, pastor of Three Creeks Church, will be guest speaker for the morning worship hour. A potluck dinner and afternoon music program will follow. The Promised Land Quartet will sing.

Religious educators to focus on church growth

Members of the Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association will focus on church growth when they hear Ron Lewis of Church Growth Designs, Nashville, Tenn., during their annual meeting Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 17 and 18.

The group will meet in the new fellowship hall of Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, 5615 Geyer Springs Road. The Music Men of Arkansas will perform for them on Monday evening, and the Singing Women will perform on Tuesday morning.

Tickets for the Monday evening banquet cost \$6 per person and are available from Mrs. Nancy Burke, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1026, Jonesboro, AR 72401.

Garey Scott of Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff, is president of the organization.

Pastors' conference to feature variety of speakers

Focusing on the theme "Though I walk through the valley..." the Arkansas Baptist Pastor's Conference will hear a variety of speakers and inspirational music when they meet Nov. 17-18. The sessions will be held at Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock, the same place as the state convention's annual meeting.

Speakers include Curtis Coleman, a Lit-

tle Rock evangelist; Jimmy Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission; Ron Dunn, an Irving, Texas, evangelist; George Harris, pastor of Castle Hills Church, San Antonio, Texas; B. J. Sams, news anchor, KTHV (11), Little Rock; Jay Strack, a Ft. Myers, Fla., evangelist; and Don Moore, executive director of the ABSC.

Jack Price, the choir of Immanuel Church, Pine Bluff, and several soloists and ensembles will bring the special music.

Testimonies, Scripture, prayer and congregational singing also will be included.

Election of officers will be held Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. Serving the group this year are Mike Huckbee, Texarkana, president and Rex Holt Jr., Jonesboro, vice-president.

Convention wives plan time of fellowship, sharing

Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives will meet for coffee and fellowship on Nov. 18 in the old fellowship hall of Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, from 9:00-11:45 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Majorie Row-

den Kelly, writer, conference leader and wife of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention executive director. The fellowship time of sharing and inspiration will have the theme "Child of God first, wife of minister second." There will be no ticket purchase required

this year, since there is no luncheon. Child care will be provided.

Officers of the organization this year are Norma Kirkpatrick, Heber Springs, president; and Sherry Thrasher, Batesville, vice-president.

Other meetings

Directors of Missions will hold their annual preconvention meeting at a supper meal at Bowen's Cafeteria at Asher and University at 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17. Floyd Tidsworth Jr. will be the speaker.

Annuity/Stewardship department will host a fellowship dinner for annuitants, retired ministers/staff members and spouses at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Geyer Springs First Church. Don Burton from the Annuity Board will be guest speaker. Reservations should be made through the Annuity/Stewardship Department (376-4791) by Nov. 5.

Child care

Preschool child care will be offered to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Pre-registration for babies through five year olds is necessary in order to provide quality care with a planned program for preschoolers. No child care will be provided for school-age children at any session.

Complete the pre-registration form at right and return to: Linda Halbrook, Director of Preschool Ministries, Geyer Springs First Baptist Church, 5615 Geyer Springs Rd., Little Rock, AR 72209.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Halbrook at 565-3474.

President's welcome

Welcome to the 1986 session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at the Geyer Springs First Church. I hope you will be there from gavel to gavel.

Since there are only four sessions in the two days of the convention, you will miss a lot if you are not present from start to stop. Be there early and stay through to the sweet end of the whole convention. You will be glad you did!

Sermons in each session will highlight the theme of "Renewal, Revival, and Rejoicing." Hear outstanding messages by Damon Shook, Don Moore, R. H. Dorris, and Keith Parks.

An emphasis I trust will abide with the convention messengers is that of reading the Bible through in 1986-87. Let's read the Bible from Genesis 1:1 through Maps. A little humor there, with all the joy, comfort, and inspiration that accompanies his Word. Individuals may start reading at the Geyer Springs convention and finish by the next annual meeting.

A reading guide will be distributed at the convention to guide us on this pilgrimage together through the Bible. — Lawson Hatfield, president.



Hatfield

Pre-registration for preschool child care

Child's name _____ Age _____

Parent's name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please circle sessions needed:

Monday, Nov. 17	Morning 8:45-12:00	Afternoon 1:15-4:15	Evening 6:15-9:15
Tuesday, Nov. 18	Morning 8:45-12:00	Afternoon 1:15-4:00	Evening 5:45-9:15
Wednesday, Nov. 19	Morning 8:00-12:15	Afternoon 1:30-4:50	Evening 6:00-8:45

Mail to: Linda Halbrook, Geyer Springs FBC, 5615 Geyer Springs Rd., Little Rock, AR 72209

From your host . . .

In our 46-year history, this is the first time we've had the opportunity to welcome the messengers of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. We are deeply grateful to our Lord and to the State Convention for allowing us to host this 133rd annual meeting.

God has uniquely blessed our church in reaching and ministering to people. It is with great expectation and earnest prayer that we look forward to these days together. Our prayer is that this meeting will be a time of blessing and renewed dedication to our Lord and to reaching people here and around the world.



Because he cares, we care *Sanders*

Paul R. Sanders
Paul R. Sanders, pastor



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Program people

William B. Tolar, dean of the school of theology and professor of biblical backgrounds at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will lead the Bible study in the first three sessions.

O. Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church, Houston, Texas, will speak in the opening session Tuesday evening.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond,

Va., will bring the closing message on Wednesday evening.

R. H. Dorris, retired director of the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will bring the convention sermon on Wednesday afternoon.

Lawson Hatfield, pastor of First Church, Fordece, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will preside during the annual convention and bring the

president's message on Wednesday morning.

Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, Fort Smith, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board, will present the board's report on Wednesday morning.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will bring the message Wednesday morning.

Arkansas Baptist State Convention *Renewal, Revival, Rejoicing*

Tuesday evening Nov. 18, 1986 Geyer Springs First Church

"O Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known" (Hab. 3:2).

Bold indicates priority items

6:00	Prelude	Instrumental Ensemble, Music Men
6:15	Congregational Singing	Ervin Keathley
6:20	Good News America Snapshot	Randel Everett
6:25	Prayer	Everette Martin
6:30	Bible Study (Renewal)	William B. Tolar
7:00	Call to Order	Lawson Hatfield
	Welcome	Paul Sanders
	Appointment of Committees	Lawson Hatfield
	Enrollment of Messengers	Harold Elmore
	Adoption of Order of Business	Jerry Wilson
	Tellers Committee Instructions	Jack L. Ramsey
	Resolutions	Carbon Sims
	Congregational Singing	Ervin Keathley
	Announcements	Lawson Hatfield
	Recognition of Baptist Hospitals	
	Recognition of Former Presidents	
	Recognition of Senior Ministers	Dillard Miller
	Recognition of Missionaries	Betty Moore
8:00	AMAR Report	Glendon Grober
8:10	Congregational Singing	Ervin Keathley
8:15	Special Music	Music Men, Singing Women
8:30	Message (Revival)	Damon Shook
9:00	Benediction	Del Medlin

Wednesday morning Nov. 19, 1986

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint" (Is. 40:31).

8:15	Congregational Singing	Wesley Forbis
	Prayer	Jim Freeman
8:20	Bible Study	William B. Tolar
8:50	Recognition of New Arkansians	Don Moore
9:05	Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	Johnny Biggs
9:15	Arkansas Baptist Foundation	Harry Trulove
9:25	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	J. Everett Sneed
9:35	Congregational Singing	Wesley Forbis
9:40	Good News America Snapshot	Shelby Bittle
9:45	Special Music	First Baptist, Fordyce
9:55	President's Message	Lawson Hatfield
10:20	Election of Officers	
10:35	Executive Board Report	Ferrell Morgan
11:20	Congregational Singing	Wesley Forbis

11:25	Special Music	Rebecca Helms
11:30	Message	Don Moore
12:00	Benediction	Greg Stanley

Wednesday afternoon Nov. 19, 1986

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

1:45	Congregational Singing	David Doty
	Prayer	Jerry Creek
1:50	Bible Study	William B. Tolar
2:20	Christian Civic Foundation	John Finn
2:30	Election of Officers (continued)	
2:45	Special Music	Southern Baptist College Choir directed by Bob Magee
2:55	Convention Sermon	R. H. Dorris
3:25	Nominating Committee	Glenn Morgan
3:35	Planned Growth in Giving	C. Michael Anders
3:45	Congregational Singing	David Doty
3:50	Special Music	Jeff Cornelisen
3:55	Memorial Moments	Nancy Cooper
4:00	Resolutions Committee	Carbon Sims
4:20	Miscellaneous Business	
4:35	Benediction	Jim Box

Wednesday evening Nov. 19, 1986

"We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners" (Ps. 20:5).

6:15	Prelude	Instrumental Ensemble Ouachita Baptist University directed by Craig Hamilton
6:30	Congregational Singing	Lee Walker
	Prayer	Zane Chesser
6:35	Southern Baptist College Report	Jack Nicholas
6:50	Special Music	Ouachita Baptist University Choir directed by Charles Wright
7:05	Ouachita Baptist University Report	Daniel R. Grant
7:20	Congregational Singing	Lee R. Walker, Jr.
7:25	Missionaries Testimonies	
	Volunteer	Jim Pat Bell
	Career(HMB or FMB)	James Bryant
7:45	Congregational Singing	Lee Walker
7:50	Special Music	Geyer Springs Choir directed by James Burleson
8:00	Message (Rejoicing)	Keith Parks
8:30	Presentation of New Officers	
	Benediction by New President	



Tolar



Shook



Parks



Dorris



Hatfield



Morgan



Moore

Convention committees

Parliamentarian

Vester Wolber
990 Carter Rd.
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Credentials Committee:

Harold Eimore, Lake Village, chairman
Carey Heard, North Little Rock
Ron Ford, North Little Rock
Dennis Dodson, Monticello
Robert McDaniel, Benton

Suggestions from the

Membership and messengers to the 1986 Convention are determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of the *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

"Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each

Tellers Committee:

Jack L. Ramsey, White Hall, chairman
Ben Rowell, Rogers
Eddie Simpson, Lonoke
Nelson Wilhelm, Waldron
Sam Atkins, Sheridan
Bert Thomas, Searcy
Al Sparkman, Crossett
Ray Meador, Judsonia
Rich Kincil, Berryville
Bill Fowler, Bearden

Credentials Committee

additional one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their finding and recommen-

Resolutions Committee:

Carbon Sims, Arkadelphia, chairman
Dillard Miller, Mena
Jim McDaniel, Brinkley
David McGowan, Conway
Billy Hammonds, Helena

Order of Business

Jerry Wilson, El Dorado, chairman
James W. Bryant, Fort Smith
John Maddox, Maumelle

dation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messengers," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. —Harold Eimore, chairman, Credentials Committee

Convention voting limited to messengers

As stated in the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, only registered messengers from Arkansas Southern Baptist churches will be privileged to vote. Alternate messengers will serve only if the elected messenger is unable to attend and if they are registered as messengers.

Voting this year will be from a book of numbered ballots. Any vote by show of hands will be taken by the display of the colored book of ballots. Each messenger is advised to put his name and address on his ballot book so that in case of loss it can be returned to the proper person.—Jack L. Ramsey, chairman, Tellers Committee

Resolutions Committee explains process

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Lawson Hatfield has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting at Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock, Nov. 18-19.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Friday, Oct. 24, 1986. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee

to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

It is understood that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to the Baptist Building, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, addressed to the attention of the committee.

Thank you for the cooperation in this important regard. —Carbon Sims, chairman, Resolution Committee

Seminary alumni plan meeting

Alumni and friends of Southern Baptist seminaries have scheduled luncheons while Arkansas Baptists are in Little Rock for the state convention's annual meeting.

All of the meetings are scheduled around the noon hour on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Geyer Springs First Church.

Southwestern Seminary will meet at 12:15 in the new fellowship hall (adult section). The speaker will be William Tolar, dean of the school of theology at Southwestern.

Southern Seminary alumni will convene at 12:05 in the fellowship hall. Donoso Escobar, assistant professor of social work at the seminary will be featured speaker.

New Orleans Seminary will meet in Rm. 206-208. Don Steward, vice-president for alumni affairs will represent the seminary.

Executive Board recommendations

1 1987 Budget

I. State causes

	1987 requests
1. Administration	\$21,163
2. Business Services	121,141
3. Annuity	12,434
4. Baptist Student Union	572,868
5. Brotherhood	100,356
6. Christian Life Council	78,086
7. Church Music	150,414
8. Church Training	200,105
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	126,083
10. Evangelism	214,518
11. Ministry of Crisis Support	89,976
12. Missions	385,108
13. Stewardship	94,924
14. Sunday School	251,505
15. Woman's Missionary Union	262,659
16. Support Services	60,527
17. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	177,325
18. Camp Paron—Operating	52,348
19. Camp Paron—Improvement Fund	30,000
20. Annuity Dues	187,500
21. Baptist Student Union—Buildings	128,000
22. Convention	86,200
23. Historical Commission	8,987
24. Non-Department Programs and Causes	258,067

Total Executive Board Programs.....\$3,950,296

25. Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care	363,764
26. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	215,583
27. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	186,926
28. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	1,928,356
(2) Southern Baptist College	482,809
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	104,091

Total State Programs.....\$7,231,105

II. Southern Baptist Convention.....\$5,110,770

Total Budget.....\$12,341,875

2 (a) Southern Baptist College

1. That in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention budget year 1988, the first \$50,000 for Southern Baptist College will become part of the base and thereby affect the total budget.

2. That in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention budget year 1989, Southern Baptist College will receive the normal budget increase.

3. That in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention budget year 1990, Southern Baptist College will receive the normal budget increase plus an additional \$52,000.

Increased annuity dues

That the projected cost of the new Church Expanded Annuity Plan, estimated to be \$188,000 in 1988, will be part of the base and thereby affect the total budget.

(b) Unified Budget Formula

I. Budget

The budget shall be based upon and governed by a weighted average of ratio between the six month increase/decrease and the yearly increase/decrease for the three preceding years. The Executive Board, upon recommendation coming out of the budget planning process, can alter the dollar amount of the total budget plus or minus fifteen percent (15%), taking into con-

sideration economic forecast and the condition of the cooperative program reserve balance.

II. Southern Baptist Convention Causes

The percent increase designated for the Southern Baptist Convention causes shall be equal to the percentage increase to the Cooperative Program from the total undesignated gifts to the churches as reported in the previous year's annual letters. The increase can increase up to one percent (1%), but in no year will the increase be less than one-fourth of one percent (1/4 of 1%).

III. State Causes

1. Christian Education shall receive an increase of eighty-seven percent (87%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the percentage decrease for state causes plus thirteen percent (13%) of the percentage decrease.

2. Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services shall receive an increase of seventy-nine percent (79%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes plus twentyone percent (21%) of the percentage decrease.

3. The Arkansas Baptist Foundation shall receive an increase of seventy-five percent (75%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in

the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes plus twenty-five percent (25%) of the percentage decrease.

4. The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine shall receive an increase of seventy percent (70%) of the percentage increase designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes. If there should be a decrease in the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes, the decrease in allocation to this category shall be equal to that of the decrease for state causes plus thirty percent (30%) of the percentage decrease.

5. The Executive Board programs shall receive the remainder of the amount designated for Arkansas Baptist State Convention causes after the amounts for 1-4 above have been determined.

IV. Coverages

All funds received over the sum of II and III shall be placed in a Cooperative Program reserve fund. This fund shall be used to supplement Cooperative Program receipts in the event of shortage in any given month or year.

V. New Programs and/or Ministries

In keeping with the Unified Budget concept, the funding of programs or ministry changes approved by the Convention in annual session shall be accomplished by adjusting proportionately the base of the total budget to allow new base monies for the approved change.

VI. Budget Formula Period

This formula will be operative beginning in the budget year 1988 through the budget year 1992 at which time a review will be made by the Executive Board.

3 Task Force of 100

Having studied the financial condition of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention as it relates to Cooperative Program receipts (supply side), and the appeal for those receipts by Arkansas Baptist State Convention agencies, institutions, boards, and our commitment to a 50/50 division of receipts for Southern Baptist Convention causes (demand side), it has been evident to the Budget Formula Study Committee that a financial crisis is in the making, and that immediate measures should be taken to avert said crisis and its potentially harmful effects on the ministries of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention approve the Task Force of 100 which will be presented to the Convention by the Committee of 10, as was authorized in the August 28 Executive Board meeting. The Task Force of 100 will be made up of Convention pastors, laypersons, agency and institutional leaders to address in the churches, upon invitation, the crisis that exists in mission support.

Schedule of events:

- February/March 1987, train task force
- December 1988-89, enlist churches to schedule Task Force members
- January 1987, prepare promotion plan to make churches aware of project
- April 1987 - March 1989, make presentations to churches
- April 1988-89, conduct evaluations

4 Annual Convention

The Executive Board recommends the following to become effective in 1987:

1. The purpose of the meetings related to the annual convention of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, shall be the inspiration of our people toward cooperatively fulfilling the Great Commission.

2. The annual convention sessions be held Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning. The Pastors Conference sessions would be held on Monday.

3. The funding for the Pastors' Conference be \$2,500, Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association \$900 and Convention Wives' Conference \$900, beginning with the 1987 Budget and that no offers be received.

4. The presidents of the State Convention and related organizations work together to coordinate their programs for the annual meeting.

5. The officers of the respective organizations shall be responsible for operating within the funds provided and shall submit requests for all expenditures to the Director of Business Services of the Convention and

complete a final report following the annual meeting.
6. The Transition Program Committee be encouraged to plan the programs to maximize the time given for business and inspiration.

The elimination of anything not necessary to convention procedures is strongly encouraged.

5 Long-range Planning

Challenge 1988-1992
A Design for Dynamic Churches

Church Program Development

Objective: To assist churches and missions to establish or strengthen programs that will enable them to perform their functions of worship, witness, education and ministry.

Goal 1: To provide assistance to 75% of our churches in church program development by December 31, 1992. The progression by which this goal will be achieved is: 55% by 1988, 60% by 1989, 65% by 1990, 70% by 1991, 75% by 1992.

Goal 2: To identify and offer assistance to every church in transition by December 31, 1992. The progression by which we shall achieve this goal is: 20% by 1988, 40% by 1989, 60% by 1990, 80% by 1991, 100% by 1992.

Evangelism

Objective: To provide assistance and encouragement to all churches in evangelizing every person in Arkansas.

Goal 1: To involve state and local leadership in training 5,000 persons in personal witnessing annually.
Goal 2: To reach a baptism rate of 17,000 annually by September 30, 1992. The progression by which this goal shall be achieved is: 13,950 by 1988, 14,650 by 1989, 15,400 by 1990, 16,150 by 1991, 17,000 by 1992.

Goal 3: To have baptisms in at least 92% of our churches by September 30, 1992. The progression by which this goal shall be achieved is: 84% by 1988, 86% by 1989, 88% by 1990, 90% by 1991, 92% by 1992.

Goal 4: To involve 75% of key associational leadership in evangelism training annually.

Fellowship and Communication

Objective: To create and maintain two-way com-

munication and fellowship between the churches and the state convention.

Goal 1: Conduct a state staff fellowship visit with each pastor in his ministry setting bi-annually.

Goal 2: To personally represent the Arkansas Baptist Convention to all churches tri-annually.

Ministry

Objective: To assist churches and associations to develop, implement, and strengthen ministries to meet the local, county, and state needs.

Goal 1: To assist at least ten associations per year to identify ministry needs in their area.

Goal 2: To assist each association in the implementation of at least one ministry project by December 31, 1992. The progression by which this goal shall be achieved is: 20% by 1988, 40% by 1989, 60% by 1990, 80% by 1991, 100% by 1992.

Goal 3: To lead 75% of the associations to adopt the Associational Missions Department Program by September 30, 1992. The progression by which this goal will be achieved is: 35% by 1988, 45% by 1989, 55% by 1990, 65% by 1991, 75% by 1992.

New Work

Objective: To have a Southern Baptist Church within the reach of every person in Arkansas compatible with their culture and/or location.

Goal 1: To assist churches and associations in starting an average of 30 missions each year.

Goal 2: To encourage and assist new congregations in such a way as to reduce the loss rate on new congregations in Arkansas to 25% of the starting rate.

Stewardship

Objective: To assist the churches in understanding and practicing the principles of biblical stewardship.

Goal 1: To increase the number of churches that have budgets by 2% annually.

Goal 2: To increase per capita giving by 7% each year.

Goal 3: To increase by 50 annually the number of churches and missions participating in each special mission offering (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Dixie Jackson).

Goal 4: To annually lead 30% of the churches to increase Cooperative Program giving.

Goal 5: To increase the number of churches participating in Planned Growth in Giving by 10% annually.

Constitution Changes

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will recommend to the State Convention in its annual meeting the following changes:

Article II - The Purpose

That the present article be deleted and the following statement of purpose be substituted: "The purpose of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is to assist the churches of the Convention in fulfilling their mission, and to encourage cooperative support of and involvement in our worldwide mission enterprise."

The second paragraph will remain the same.

Article V - Officers

That section three of this article become section four and the following be section three: "The Executive Director of the Executive Board is authorized to execute and sign all official and legal documents involving transactions in agreement with the Constitution and Bylaws and/or approved by the Convention, the Executive Board or its Operating Committee."

Carl Overton, chairman
Dillard Miller
Richard Johnson

John Holston
Marvin James
Johnny Jackson

BTN Brings You Live Coverage of the Foreign Mission Teleconference

Missionaries from all around the world will share testimonies about their work during the annual **Foreign Mission Teleconference** November 22 from 12:00-1:30 pm (CST). Don't miss the LIVE, unscripted transmission. ** You'll receive the opportunity to call in with any questions or comments you may have.

Other Special BTN Programs for November

Thanksgiving with the Emersons

This 30-minute drama, being aired November 3 at 11:15 am and on November 6 at 3:00 pm (CST), illustrates the meaning of Thanksgiving when a small crisis brings a family and their friends closer together.

PLUS—The first installment of

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These are actual firsthand experiences of BTN subscribers who are successfully and productively using the messages. It is being aired November 3 at 11:45 am and on November 12 at 3:15 pm (CST).

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Congress gives final approval to sweeping tax code revision

WASHINGTON (BP)—The wide-sweeping revision of the federal tax code hammered out by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and signed by President Ronald Reagan contains several provisions that will affect churches, church-related institutions and ministers.

The law will retain the tax-exempt status of church pension and welfare groups, in-

cluding the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board.

The new code also will restore clergy housing benefits. Revocation of IRS Ruling 83-3 will enable ministers receiving housing allowances who failed to claim deductions for interest and real estate taxes paid since 1983 to file amended tax returns seeking refunds.

The new law package will end the eligibility of non-itemizing taxpayers to claim deductions for charitable contributions. That benefit, which has been available to non-itemizers for the past three years, will end Dec. 31, 1986.

Other provisions of H.R. 3838 that will affect church-related institutions and employees include:

—denying a participant in a pension plan—such as offered by the Annuity Board—from deducting contributions to individual retirement accounts.

—adding non-discrimination rules that will require employers to equalize benefits for employees at all compensation levels, set more restrictive limits on the amounts that can be credited to an employee's retirement program, and revise the system under which ministers and churches can participate in the Social Security system.

—imposing new penalty taxes on most early withdrawals from pension plans.

—restricting the amount of "catch-up" contributions a participant may make to a retirement income account to make up for years in which he was able to contribute little or nothing.

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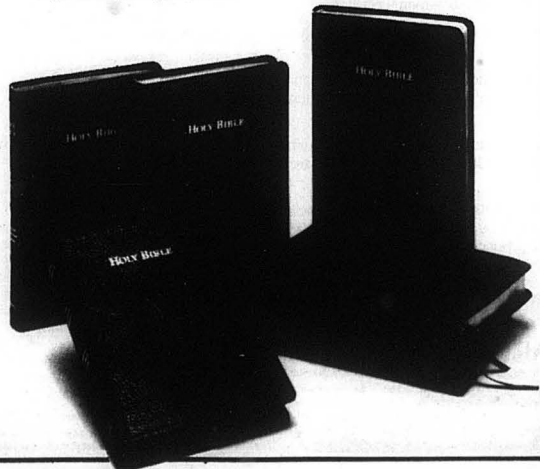
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Chaplain endorsed

ATLANTA (BP)—William and Dottie Stricklin of Pine Bluff, Ark., were among 46 chaplains and their spouses recently endorsed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in services at Lithonia, Ga.

Stricklin is chaplaincy administrator for the Arkansas Department of Correction in Pine Bluff. He succeeds veteran chaplain Devie Williams, who retired in July.

The board does not appoint chaplains, but it does endorse them to a particular place of service.

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Georgetown College

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Standing The Test Of Time.

From the time it was opened in 1920 until 1966, our hospital System was operated by Arkansas Baptist State Convention. In 1966, in order to accept federal funds, provide state-of-the-art medical service and yet not violate the principles of the separation of church and state, the System separated from the Convention.

In the two decades since that time, however, we at the Baptist Medical System have worked to ensure that our organization retains the Christian values and principles it was founded upon. As proof of that commitment, we offer our Values Statement.

BELIEF

We believe healthcare is more than a business; it is primarily a healing ministry and a personal witness of Christian faith.

MISSION

BMS exists through our member institutions, their employees, and medical staffs to provide quality patient-centered services, promote and protect the voluntary healthcare system, provide quality health education, and respond to the changing health needs of the citizens of Arkansas with an attitude of Christian compassion and personal concern. Maintaining Baptist Medical System's position of leadership in the delivery of healthcare in Arkansas is supportive of our mission.

VALUES

In fulfilling our mission, we place special emphasis on the values of service, honesty, respect, stewardship, and performance.

Service—Quality service is the foundation of any successful business, and is even more essential in the provision of healthcare. Our success is dependent on each employee's desire and commitment to serve his fellowman.

Honesty—Adherence to the moral values of fairness, integrity, and honor in all relationships is a major priority.

Respect—All people are to be treated as individuals, with courtesy and thoughtfulness. Respect for each person's dignity and worth is essential. Patients are to be treated with concern and compassion.

Stewardship—We prudently commit our resources, using our talents and strengths in an effective and efficient manner. Our facilities and equipment are maintained with special pride.

Performance—Desired characteristics of BMS employees include initiative, dedication, talent, and knowledge tempered by common sense. The highest possible performance from all employees is expected, but never at the expense of our values. It is imperative that complacency and mediocrity be avoided, through innovation and progress.

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Convention Uniform

Building for the future

by Erwin L. McDonald, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine editor emeritus

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 7

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 7:4-16

Central truth: We build for the future when we follow God's will, not our own.

During troubled centuries between Joshua and David, the tribes were led by such strong personalities as Gideon, Jephthah, Samson and Samuel, who were known as judges. Under Samuel, the people insisted on having a king. They were given Saul, whose reign quickly turned into tragedy for him and the nation (1 Sam. 15:26-29).

(1) Nathan belatedly finds God's will

With Saul's death, David became king of Judah, and eventually, of all Israel (2 Sam. 2:4; 5:1-3). He became conscience stricken at the thought of living in a palace while the Ark of the Covenant continued to be housed in a tent. When he told the prophet Nathan about his desire to build a temple, the prophet readily agreed. But God revealed to Nathan that this was not the time to build, and Nathan took the word back to David.

(2) God's greater plan for David

David had to learn that God sometimes says no to our prayers because he has something for us far greater than that for which we are asking. David was wanting to build a house (temple) for the Lord, but the Lord was promising him a house (dynasty). Apparently the erstwhile shepherd, who, with the Lord's help, had become one of world renown, had become overly ambitious. God seems to have wanted him to settle down.

(3) An everlasting kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16)

David's longing to build a house for the Lord, denied him, would be achieved through his son, Solomon, after the father's death. One of the last things David did as king was to provide gifts for the building of the temple and to enlist the people's support for his son (1 Chron. 29:1-9). David's kingdom ended with Zedekiah (2 Kings 25:4-7), but it was revived by Christ, himself of the line of David, in the setting up of a kingdom to which "there shall be no end" (Luke 1:33).

God reminded David that Israel had a God, even though they didn't have a permanent structure called God's house.

We need to remember always that God's real temple is not a building but his people (1 Cor. 6:19).

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

Life and Work

Responsible relationships

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

Basic passage: Genesis 2:15-25

Focal passage: Genesis 2:15-25

Central truth: Persons are created for responsible relationships.

Adam had been provided everything. He had been placed in the Garden of Eden where all his needs had been met except one. He was lonely.

Loneliness is still very much with us today. A great segment of our population is made up of single adults. Those who have careers in the making or those who have lost a spouse thru death or divorce. Regardless of why a person is single, most have the same problem. The problem of loneliness.

God understands. He understood Adam's need and because God understood, he created Eve.

Eve was the last of God's creation. Everything had been provided before she came from Adam's rib. If man is the head of the house, truly woman is his crown. God presented man that crown and Eve became Adam's partner in life.

God still provides the proper partner for each of us. Shakespeare wrote, "God is the best maker of marriages." Marriage should be for life. This may seem like an old fashioned idea; but there is nothing wrong with ideas that bring people in a closer relationship with God and with man.

The basic problem in many relationships may be that we have lost the understanding that any relationship brings to it responsibility. If any relationship is to succeed, it will take the combined efforts of those involved.

God realized that man needed someone. "It is not good for man to live alone" (GNB Gen. 2:18). Under God's direction, there is no reason for us to feel lonely or for marriage to be a constant battlefield. Pray that personal relationships will always be positive and under divine direction.

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Bible Book

Jesus' public ministry

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

Basic passage: John 2:1-25

Focal passage: John 2:3-4,7-11,13-16,18-22

Central truth: Jesus shows his power which evidences his ability and right to be Lord of life.

Attending the wedding feast in this village near Nazareth to which Mary and Jesus were invited provides opportunity for Jesus to openly begin his ministry. Wine was an essential for a Jewish feast. The rabbi said, "there is no joy without wine." As the supply ran out Mary informed Jesus of the plight. His answer, "What have I to do with you" sounded a bit abrupt. However, it was a common conversational phrase of that day which if spoken in anger meant total disagreement, but if spoken gently suggested misunderstanding rather than reproach. He was really saying "Don't worry, leave things to me, I'll settle it my way." His use of "woman" was rough, however, it was the same word he used on the cross when he addressed Mary and gave her to John's care. Mary had confidence regardless of how he spoke and his response here may help us as adults to live in an awareness that Christ's purposes are different and more beneficial than ours. We should be challenged to submit our lives to his care.

The miracle was performed in an humble home at a time of joy. His desire for us is happiness and his manifestation of his glory here expresses love and concern for the home.

After a short stay in Capernaum he comes to Jerusalem to find the money changers making profit off the poor and humble when they came to change their coins into Galilean shekles with which the Temple tax had to be paid. Jesus was moved to flaming anger because the Temple was being desecrated. God had said through Isaiah that he did not delight in the blood of bullocks so Christ may have wanted them to be aware that the whole idea of animal sacrifice was irrelevant. He is saying that the sacrifice of an animal can not make one right with God. We identify here for we may not sacrifice an animal but we identify service for God with stained glass windows and with carved wood. These may be offerings of a truly loving heart, but if they are a substitute for real devotion they make God sick. Jesus is the only sacrifice that can make us right with God, and then only on our acceptance of him.

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Editors pass resolution on open board meetings

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Editors of Southern Baptist state convention newsmagazines have passed a resolution which brands as "absolutely unacceptable" closed sessions of Southern Baptist Convention board meetings.

The Southern Baptist Press Association, comprised of editors of 37 state periodicals, unanimously passed the resolution during its late-September meeting, said Lynn P. Clayton, president of the organization and editor in Louisiana.

The resolution stresses the association's members "view with deep concern the practice of a board, commission or committee having meetings, for the purpose of discussing or conducting business, that are closed to any Southern Baptists."

It continues by urging "Baptist agencies at every level to review their bylaws to make certain that 'executive sessions' and closed business discussions are absolutely unacceptable except when sensitive personnel matters are concerned." It requests "assurances be given to Southern Baptists that full and accurate reports be issued of all actions

taken in their behalf by every board, commission and committee related to" the SBC.

The editors' action was prompted by recent closed board meetings at SBC agencies and institutions, Clayton said. He specifically cited closed meetings at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The resolution, drafted by Clayton and Richard T. McCartney of Oklahoma, lists four reasons for open meetings:

— "Southern Baptists believe that a democratic polity is the form of government nearest to the New Testament model;

— "Democracy functions best when people have free access to facts concerning (SBC) agencies and institutions and can make informed decisions;

— "Baptists consistently have affirmed their belief in the axiom, 'Trust the Lord and tell the people'; and

— "A free flow of information is possible when Baptist business is conducted in full view of all Southern Baptists."

Seal to head Louisiana Baptists' WMU

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—Nelda Seal of Bogalusa, La., has been elected director of the Louisiana Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, succeeding Kathryn Carpenter who will retire Oct. 31 after 43 years in the office.

She is "an experienced and dedicated leader in the Louisiana WMU and has a long history of effective involvement with her local church, First Church of Bogalusa," said Don Mabry, Louisiana missions director.

The new leader is a self-employed speech pathologist in Bogalusa. She was elected vice president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in 1985 and is a member of the organization's finance committee.

Seal is the widow of Lavelle Seal. She is mother of two sons, Timothy and Ryan, both students.

Seal, 53, has held numerous leadership positions, including being president of Louisiana Baptist WMU, member of the LBC Church Site Corporation, member of the LBC Committee on Convention Arrangements and director of the Washington Association WMU.

Seal is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Presidents defer plans for Rigdon retirement

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Raymond Rigdon's plans for "life after the seminaries" will have to wait.

He has been employed by all of the Southern Baptist seminaries since 1969, when he became director of the Seminary Extension Department. In 1982 the department was merged into the new Seminary External Education Division and Rigdon was named executive director of the division.

Earlier this year Rigdon informed the seminary presidents of his intention to retire next spring. He and his wife began making plans for travel and new vocational challenges.

When the presidents met in Nashville, Tenn., in late September, however, they unanimously urged Rigdon to extend his leadership for at least another year. After two days of consideration, he agreed to their

request.

"I feel a little like a child in May looking forward to summer vacation, only to be told that classes had been extended until Thanksgiving," Rigdon told division employees the following day. "But I agreed to stay on with the understanding that we would be free to press forward with plans and projects on the drawing board for the division."

The seminary presidents cited several factors in asking Rigdon to continue. "This is a strategic time for theological education in our convention," said Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., citing important seminary extension projects currently underway. "We feel we need someone with Raymond Rigdon's experience and solid leadership skills... in these days."