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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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BOLD GROWTH

IN DISCIPLESHIP



Church Training Convention, Oct. 23, Immanuel Church, Little Rock

Arkansas Baptist



When Arkansas Baptists come to Little Rock's Immanuel Church Oct. 23 for the Church Training Convention they will find out more about Bold Growth in Discipleship through speakers, a film, and conferences for church staff and Church Training leaders. Features include a literature fair, an introduction to the DiscipleYouth Program, and a luncheon for church secretaries.

Little Rock area sets goal for OBU drive

A goal of \$1 million was approved Tuesday, Oct. 12 by more than 100 community and business leaders for the Little Rock Area phase of the Ouachita multi-million dollar Centennial Advancement Program.

The campaign received a strong boost recently with challenge grants from the Mabee Foundation of \$500,000 and from the Kresge Foundation of \$250,000. The Little Rock effort will help to claim these grants.

Serving as chairman with the campaign will be Harry Erwin, a senior partner and certified public accountant with Arthur Young & Company.

Co-Chairmen of the Initial Gifts Division will be Joe Ford, president of Allied Telephone Co.; and Jim Gattis, vice president of Systematics, Inc. Don Holbert, a Ouachita graduate and chairman of the board of Central Flying Service, will serve as chairman of the Major Gifts Division.

In accepting his leadership role in the campaign, Erwin said, "I appreciate the philosophy at Ouachita of emphasizing the development of the whole person. Although academic excellence is extremely impor-

tant at Ouachita, traditional moral and ethical values are also stressed. I am acquainted with Ouachita's historic tradition of quality and am especially impressed with its dramatic progress in recent years."

Goals for Phase I of the Centennial Campaign (1981-1983) include \$4 million for a new health, physical education and recreation complex; \$4 million for a new auditorium; and \$500,000 in increased annual operating support.

The Centennial Advancement Campaign began in the Fall of 1981 with a campaign among the trustees/former trustees of Ouachita. They set a goal of \$1 million and raised more than \$1,092,500. The Arkadelphia Area Campaign, which included the faculty/staff at Ouachita, surpassed their \$500,000 goal by raising more than \$516,000. The Development Council of Ouachita, with a goal of \$800,000, has concluded its campaign by raising more than \$801,375. The Alumni Campaign, which is seeking a base goal of \$750,000, is in the leadership stages. Their campaign will be kicked off during OBU homecoming on Nov. 13.

In this issue

3 No increase for now

A stop-gap funding measure approved by Congress included a subsidy for second class postage, meaning, at least for the time being, rates for second class mailers will not increase. With that news, ABN editor J. Everett Sneed announces that it appears subscription rates for the Arkansas Baptist will remain unchanged through 1983.

8 A success story

Pastor Bill Bennett, of First Church at Fort Smith, shares some pointers on how to make the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering a success.



(From left) Roger Harrod, director of the Little Rock area phase of Ouachita's Centennial Advancement Program; W. H. "Buddy" Sutton, master of ceremonies at an Oct. 12 luncheon meeting; Harry Erwin, campaign chairman, and Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita, gather informally at the meeting in Little Rock.

ABN photo J. Everett Sneed

Baptist Health Sunday scheduled Nov. 7

Arkansas churches are encouraged to observe Sunday, Nov. 7 as Baptist Health Sunday, said Ed. F. McDonald, director of pastoral care at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Baptist Medical System will assist churches in their observance by providing bulletin inserts and brochures on Hospice, Recover, Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute and allied health use, McDonald said.

Among themes suggested for Baptist Health Sunday are: Christians practicing good health habits; caring for the hurt, ill and injured; young people considering a health care vocation, and honoring people

and institutions providing health care in churches' respective communities. Suggested activities are testimonies, information displays, blood donor drives and blood-pressure checks.

Another possible emphasis suggested by McDonald is to increase public awareness about the hospice concept of care for the terminally ill and their families. President Reagan has proclaimed the week of Nov. 7-13 National Hospice Week. There are five hospice organizations in Arkansas, McDonald said, at Mountain Home, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Fort Smith and at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock.



The staff of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* has worked ardently to hold subscription costs at the present level. The 1983 prices will be the same. For several years, inflation, coupled with rapidly escalating postal costs, has forced us to make subscription increases, sometimes drastically.

The primary problem for the *Newsmagazine* has been second-class postage. The postage crisis began in 1970 when Congress "reformed" the U.S. Postal Service into "a quasi independent" agency, which was supposed to operate "without political interference" and in "a business-like manner."

The change of postal status brought a change in philosophy. Our forefathers strongly believed that a free exchange of ideas was essential to democracy. All publications, both profit and non-profit, being subsidized, made it possible for all groups to express opinions on subjects of interest. The new status of the postal service resulted in an emphasis on "financial self-sufficiency."

Though it did not downgrade the importance of publications, it did force all to pay their own way. To avoid the all-at-once jump in postal rates, which would have driven most publications out of business, Congress provided temporary relief.

A law was passed providing for a ten year "phase-in" of full rates for profit making second-class publications and a 16-year "phase-in" of full rates for non-profit publications. Non-profit publications were more heavily subsidized. The "phase-in" process for profit making publications ended in July, 1981. But non-profit publications were supposed to have an additional six years (till July, 1987) to adjust to the full rate.

In 1981 the Reagan administration proposed and Congress adopted the reduction of postal subsidies by almost \$6 million, including \$289 million in "revenue foregone" subsidies. This meant that non-profit publications went from Step 10 to 16 on Oct. 1, 1981.

Non-profit publications remained on Step 16 until this July, when a \$42 million emergency supplement

brought non-profit rates back to Step 13. Though the outcome remains uncertain, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have approved \$708 million revenue foregone, which should keep the postal rate at its present level (see story on non-profit postal rates on page 16).

Unless the Congress reverses itself on postal subsidies, the *Newsmagazine's* subscription rates will remain at the 1982 level. We believe there are good reasons for us to hold our subscription rates whenever possible.

First, holding the subscription prices will give the churches opportunity to budget for 1983 the increase of 1982.

Second, the severe recession, large unemployment and general economic conditions could affect the gifts to our churches. The ABN genuinely appreciates the churches and subscribers staying with the *Newsmagazine* through the years and desires to express appreciation in holding subscription prices, if possible.

Finally, it is hoped that the action of the ABN will encourage churches to keep the *Newsmagazine* in their budget or to begin sending it to all resident members.

Even though it appears that second-class postage will remain at the present level, one might ask how it is possible for the *Newsmagazine* to retain its present subscription prices in a time in which inflation continues. We are able to do so because of careful management and the business expertise of those who serve on the Board of the *Newsmagazine*.

We are hoping churches will be encouraged to place the ABN in their budget. We believe that communication is essential for every Baptist, because of our democratic organization. Without Baptist state papers sharing church and denominational news, the free exchange of viewpoints, and information about state and SBC programs, many church members would be totally uninformed of Baptist affairs. We express our appreciation for your help in communicating with Arkansas Baptists, and we pledge to you our best in providing a quality publication.

Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 40
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Board of Directors: Jon M. Stubblefield, Magnolia, chairman, Charles Chesser, Carlisle, Lyndon Finney, Little Rock; Leroy French, Fort Smith; Mrs. Jimmie Garner, Trumann; Merle Milligan, Harrison; Tommy Robertson, El Dorado; Hon. Elsjane Roy, Little Rock; and Lane Strother, Mountain Home.

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

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.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

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Woman's viewpoint

Becky Self

More than conquerors

It was November 1977, my doctor was speaking but his words were unreal, unbelievable; they wouldn't soak in at first, that small knot on my neck, that had appeared so suddenly and had seemed so insignificant, was malignant! I had been diagnosed in the latter part of the second stage of Hodkins Lymphoma. "What's the cure?" I asked. I don't think I was ready for his reply. "You mean there is no cure at this time?" Little did I know that the "cure" lay inside me all the time. This is my story just as it happened almost five years ago.

Very soon, as a matter of fact, almost immediately, after the initial shock of cancer, a "still, small voice" assured me all was well. I realized more than ever that my future lay in the hands of a loving heavenly Father, and all the while I had a confident assurance of his healing beginning to take place. I am now able to testify with authority that his power is truly made perfect in weakness (II Cor. 12:9). However, this is not to say that from then on it was smooth sailing. Days turned into weeks and weeks into months of sometimes painful treatments, but surprisingly the good days far outweighed the bad. Each day was special, a gift from the Lord, I felt the many prayers

of our friends, both near, and around the world. Our already close-knit little family closed ranks and our love for each other and our Lord blossomed and grew even stronger than before. The gifts and cards flowed in by the hundreds and I knew the support and good wishes were from the heart, as were my thanks.

I can't possibly write this article without letting the reader in on a little secret about my personality. I have always possessed this very healthy sense of humor and I know that the Lord used this to help both my family and I to more than cope! We all laughed an awful lot and I am sure there were times when some of those who happened to be around must have thought us to be quite crazy!

There were also times when the tears flowed freely but I will never need apologize for them for they were healing, cleansing times.

Many, many blessings came from my illness and one day I will write a story on each and every one. Yet little did I know what would be life's greatest blessings, next to God's own Son, was also to come out of this experience. You might say I saved the best for last! While all this was going on the

Lord had another surprise. He dropped this gorgeous, Christian young man right into the middle of my heart and my life. We had a wonderfully wild and crazy courtship, which is a story unto itself, and a little over a year later we were married. If my sweet husband had been the only good to come from this, I would gladly go through it all again for my Bert.

You see we believe that all things work together for good . . . (Rom. 8:28) and that in Christ nothing is impossible . . . (Luke 1:37) even to conquering death . . . (Rom. 8:37).

Becky is a homemaker in Fort Worth, Texas where she lives with her husband, Bert who is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They are active in the House Church ministry out of Gambrell Street Church. Becky sings, speaks and writes, her latest article written jointly with her husband for the Royal Service magazine. Becky has been nominated as an Outstanding Young Woman in America. Becky and Bert are native Arkansans. Since the early writing of this article the news has arrived that the Selfs are expecting their first child in March.



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

When textbooks don't tell the truth

When the recent controversy over Japanese censorship of its history textbooks (replacing the word "aggression" with "advance") was at its peak, I had the unusual experience of being in China. The story made the front page of the *China Daily* in Peking almost every day, and was the subject of numerous derisive — even bitter — cartoons, editorials, and letters to the editor.

The response of Chinese people was natural. They know very well that the Japanese army massacred Chinese men, women and children in cold blood in the "Rape of Nanking" and committed many other atrocities in the 1937-1945 war against China. An estimated 10 million Chinese lives were lost and untold economic possessions were plundered. For the Japanese Education Ministry to censor history textbooks for school children in the name of giving a more favorable image of their ancestors is telling

falsehoods in 1982 to cover up the ugly truth of cruel aggressions against China more than four decades ago. One Chinese editorial writer said, "Not only can those officials of the Education Ministry not beautify their forefathers, but they are showing their own true colors as liars and hypocrites."

What can we say about this almost universal worldwide practice of writing and re-writing our textbooks to shield our children from unflattering truth about our past? I doubt if the American record is much better, if any, than that of the Japanese. It is really true that "we learn from history that we don't learn from history?" If so, I suspect it is because we have trouble writing and teaching history that tells unpopular truths. Unfortunately, teachers, school boards, and departments of education are faced with a choice between two extremes

— history that is an uncritical whitewash of our past, and history that is cynically and destructively critical of our past. The middle road of constructive criticism is a difficult course to steer.

I was encouraged by the comment of a Japanese woman visiting in Peking when I was there. A leader in the professional organization of Japanese teachers, she said, "We will tell the truth of history to the younger generation." She added that all children need to know that "the Japanese army committed many terrible crimes in China and also brought about great suffering to the Japanese people. Our watchword is 'not sending our students to war.'"

A nation built on falsehoods is headed for trouble. Truth can be painful but the long-term benefits are abundant.

Daniel R. Grant is president of Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

Opposes 4-year proposal

Since coming to Arkansas almost 38 years ago, I have loved and supported Southern Baptist College. My very first engagement after coming to Arkansas was a happy week of speaking and counseling students at this school. In the Ouachita-Southern Campaign, I tried my best to help raise money for these schools when more than \$1 million was raised for Southern. When the Executive Board voted 40 to 23 to recommend that Southern be made a four year college, I was shocked. I believe that the Executive Board has misread the thinking of the majority of our Baptist people at this point. I oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

1. In my judgment, Arkansas Baptists are not financially able to support two four year Baptist colleges. I live by faith but I also know we must pay the bills. Jesus said in Luke 14:28 that when we build a tower, we should first sit down and count the costs.

2. In the proposed 1983 budget for Arkansas Baptists, there is no additional budget being proposed for this expansion. It is criminal to vote a program and then vote no budget to support it.

3. Southern is now proposing to take \$200,000 of federal money (a million dollars in five years) in order to fund this program. Baptists do not believe we should run our institutions on government tax money.

4. The official firm of Baird, Kurtz, and Dodson of Kansas City, hired to survey this school with this proposal in mind, said it should not be done. They further said that if it is done, the school will run a deficit as much as \$1 million in five years.

5. College enrollment is declining in Arkansas. The University of Arkansas says college enrollment will decline 10 percent in Arkansas in the next ten years.

6. Our new Executive Secretary has just taken office. I do not believe it is fair to him to unload this burden on his shoulders at the very beginning of his administration.

7. I believe Southern Baptist College can fill her very vital and important place in our Arkansas Baptist life by remaining a two year school. I submit this letter with no anger or resentment toward anyone. — **W. O. Vaught, Immanuel Church, Little Rock**

Call for challenge

This morning while having my daily Bible reading and realizing what a privilege as a Christian I have to be able to go to God's fully revealed word daily for comfort, courage, assurance and fellowship with Christ, my heart became burdened with the realization of what man has done to mutilate God's precious word in the new release of the Reader's Digest "condensed" Bible. I

cannot comprehend how Christians can let this publication go unchallenged in light of John's revelation in Chapter 22: verses 18-19. It would be interesting to note whether or not these verses have been condensed completely out of their Bible.

Since all of God's word is divinely inspired, I can hardly believe that the Readers Digest writers were operating under the same inspiration — but rather feel their "inspiration" is based on greed. Their "condensed" version is not just a different translation — but rather leaving out large portions of scripture. As much as 15 percent of the actual words of Jesus have been deleted entirely as were thought to be repetitious and/or boring to the reading audience.

Where are you Arkansas Baptists? Its time to stand up and be counted. We are some 305,000 strong. Do you realize what a financial impact we could have if every single one of you would cancel your subscription to the Readers Digest monthly publication citing the reason for your cancellation and requesting refund of any remaining issues. Do you also realize as long as you continue to support Readers Digest publications, you are also subsidizing publication of this condensed Bible. The only protest they will understand is that which we can show by withholding our support of their entire organization.

Our heavenly Father is still a worker of miracles and I believe a miracle can be accomplished in taking this book off of the market if we do our part as concerned Christians. If not, then one day we will be answering to our Lord as to why we allowed this to happen.

Will you meet my challenge and cancel your subscriptions now! — **Mrs. Beverly Strain, Little Rock**

A letter of protest

Some disturbing things have occurred in our Convention.

I protest the prostitution of our Convention to serve political goals. The ruthless tactics of political wheeler-dealers disgrace a religious body (Matt. 10:33; II Cor. 4:2; Eph. 6:12).

I protest the 180-degree turn on separation of church and state. For 300 years Baptists have been in the forefront of the fight to keep separate what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God (Gen. 1:27; 22:21; John 8:36; Gal. 5:1).

I protest the unbiblical view that the USA, rather than church, is God's new Israel. This has adulterated biblical faith with civil religion (I Pet. 2:9; Eph. 2:12-19).

I protest the shift from the Great Commission and Bold Mission to culture religion. The shifting tides of social and political movements swing right then left, but

our foundation in God never changes (Matt. 28:18-29; Heb. 13:8-9).

I protest the effort of some to brush aside soul liberty and the priesthood of believers and impose a creed on us. The Bible has been our sufficient Baptist creed for 300 years (John 8:31-32; Rom. 14:2-4; I Cor. 4:3-5; II Cor. 1:24).

I protest reckless attacks on our institutions, agencies, and officials by people who offer no documentation for their charges. Jesus made love of the brethren the test of discipleship (Ex. 20:16; John 13:35; James 3:12; I John 3:13-14).

Let us say in no uncertain terms to the political power brokers: Get off our backs and let us get on with our God-given task of converting sinners and maturing saints. — **D. P. Brooks, Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.**

How sweet it is

This is a response of gratitude to your recent timely editorial on "associate ministers and staff changes". I served five years as associate pastor of First Church, Conway, and recently became senior pastor of Second Church, Conway.

How sweet it is to stay in one church long enough to learn to love people, "warts and all", and vice versa. I was an associate pastor for five years, and the last two were my most productive and enjoyable by far. Dr. John Wright offered me some advice a few weeks after I started my ministry, "Don't be looking over your shoulder." I'm glad he told me that and that God helped me to heed it.

How sweet it is to leave a church with the love and support of the church you are leaving. When I first began my ministry at this particular church, I made a simple decision. I decided to leave the church with the same number of enemies I had when I came. None! More than once I had to swallow pride and go ask for forgiveness. More than once I had to overlook petty differences, and not a few times I had to swallow some disappointment and discouragement. But I'm glad I did. Leaving with the love of the people makes it all worthwhile, and none of those aches bother me now since I did not nurse them along.

How sweet it is to go to a new church with a "good call", with a clear mind; and with the support of your wife. Several opportunities came along for me, but none of them seemed to be right. Then God opened the door wide and clear and moved us to a new ministry only six blocks away.

How sweet it is to know the Lord, to be called to serve him; and to watch him as he does "Ephesians 3:20" things without any assistance from us. — **Larry Pillow, Second Church, Conway**

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Harold G. Gateley

began serving Oct. 18 as director of missions for Washington-Madison Association. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Gateley pastored the Green Valley Church in St. Joseph, Mo., for five years prior to his 1964 appointment by the Foreign Mission Board to service in Korea. He and his wife, Audrey, served there for more than 15 years. They have three sons, a daughter, and a grandson.



Gateley

Clyde Sample

has resigned as pastor of the Mount Zion Church at Banner to move to Hooks, Texas.

Bill Tyson

has resigned as pastor of the Pines Church at Pearson to move to Conway.

Holland T. Ball

has accepted the call to serve as full-time pastor of the Military Road Church at Jacksonville. He has served the church, for the past seven months as interim pastor. During this period there has been 43 additions to the church. Ball has also served churches in Pulaski County, Conway-Perry, Buckville

and Dardanelle-Russellville Associations. He is married to the former Beverly Ruth McGehee. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Dorothy Eunice Branscum

died Oct. 6 at age 73. She was a member of the Indian Springs Church at Bryant where her husband, Ray Branscum, is pastor. Other survivors include two sons, Bill Branscum and Joe Branscum of Tulsa, Okla.; a brother, two sisters, five grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Memorials may be sent to the building fund of the Indian Springs Church.

Greg Church

has joined the staff of Otter Creek Chapel in Little Rock as youth director. He is a junior student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Jim Burleson

is serving the Windsor Park Church in Fort Smith as minister of music. A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, he went to Fort Smith from Little Rock where he was serving as crusade music coordinator for the Paul Jackson Evangelistic Association.

Carl Goodson

was elected president of the Arkansas Deans' Association at its meeting at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge Oct. 4-5. He is adjunct professor of religion and recently retired vice president for academic affairs and dean of the school of arts and sciences at Ouachita Baptist University.

Doug Dickens

has been named as the Outstanding Young Man of Garland County. He is pastor of the Hot Springs First Church and president of the Garland County Ministerial Alliance. He was chosen by the Hot Springs Jaycees for his outstanding community contributions in service to others. Among this multiple community services, he serves as secretary of the board of directors of the Ouachita Regional Counseling and Mental Health Center; on the board of directors of the YMCA; a member of the Regional Alcohol and Drug Council; a member of the Ouachita Area Council Executive Board of Boy Scouts of America. In addition, he has worked with the Red Cross, United Blood Services, the United Way, conducted three months of Grief Seminars at the Jackson House for Crisis Intervention and coordinated community religious services.

Edna Leavell Chesser

of Carlisle, age 86, died Oct. 12 in Little Rock Baptist Medical Hospital. She was a member of Carlisle First Church where a son, Charles L. Chesser, is pastor. Other survivors include four other sons, Gus Chesser of Monticello; Don Chesser of Benton; Henry Chesser of Searcy and Zane L. Chesser of Malvern; a sister; 18 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Oct. 14 at the Carlisle church with burial at Monticello Oaklawn Cemetery.

briefly

Conway Second Church

recently closed a revival crusade that resulted in 122 professions of faith, four additions by letter and 260 rededications. Paul Jackson of Little Rock was evangelist. Larry Pillow is pastor.

Crosby Church

at Searcy held deacon ordination services Sept. 12 for Jimmy Sanders and Virgil Coles.

Raynor Grove Church

at McCrory ordained its pastor, Gene Taylor, to the gospel ministry Sept. 19.

Benton First Church

men have adopted a plan to minister in emergency situations that might occur in members homes.

Otter Creek Chapel

located in Southwest Little Rock has completed its first growth emphasis, averaging 35 in Sunday School attendance. Max W. Deaton is pastoring the congregation that is meeting in the Otter Creek Racquet Club. Plans are being formulated for a first unit,

multi-purpose building for the chapel, sponsored by six Pulaski and North Pulaski County Association churches.

Wynne Church

recently sponsored a Women's Enrichment Seminar that featured Mrs. Roland Maddox of Memphis Bellevue Church as speaker. The Wynne Church has also been viewing the Dr. James Dobson film series "Focus on the Family." Viewing sessions are on Sunday evenings.

Fayetteville First Church

will hold a prayer seminar Oct. 24-27. Darrel King, special projects worker with the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, will be leader. Jere Mitchell is pastor.

□ For the last three decades global food production has steadily increased, slightly outstripping population growth and enabling more people to eat better than at any time in history, but poverty prohibits millions from obtaining food.

buildings

Rosie Church

held ground-breaking ceremonies Sept. 12 for an educational building. Participating were Leslie Rihder, interim pastor; Sharon Miller, treasurer; Pat Hooper, chairman of deacons; Betty Crutcher, Church Training director and Virgil Miller, Sunday School director.

Brookwood First Church

in Little Rock launched a building fund drive Oct. 3 for the purpose of building a 3,600 square foot educational building. Ralph Donham is chairman of fund raising and John Hibbs has been employed as construction superintendent. The Brotherhood Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention assisted by craftsman and semi-skilled building tradesmen in central Arkansas will provide volunteer labor. Neal Guthrie is state Brotherhood director and C. H. Seaton is president of Brotherhood work for Pulaski County Association. Pastor John Ashcraft reports \$30,000 accumulated toward building costs.

El Dorado First celebrates 'First Festival'

El Dorado First Church celebrated Sunday, Oct. 10 with the dedication of a \$1.7 million Christian Life Center. The dedication highlighted the third Sunday of a six-week celebration honoring the completion of the church's "master building program," the congregation's 137th birthday and the 20th anniversary of Pastor Don B. Harbuck at the church.

The 33,000 square foot structure includes a gymnasium, craft room, fellowship hall and stage and child learning center for the church's kindergarten and day care programs. Its unusual features include a seven-foot wide pedestrian bridge from the main building across Highway 167B in downtown El Dorado and an octagon-shaped rotunda with hallways leading into the various areas of the new building. Church members have raised \$1.2 million of a total \$1.85 million program, which includes \$100,000 of remodeling on the church's old building, constructed in 1922.

Harbuck became pastor at El Dorado First on Oct. 1, 1962. His 20 years in the pulpit there puts him in the company of just a handful of Arkansas pastors with tenures of 20 years and longer.

Harbuck, 52, a native of Shreveport, La., came to El Dorado from a four-year pastorate at First Church of Arcadia, La. Prior to that he held two pastorates in Shreveport and one in Vanleave, Miss.

He attended Baylor University, participating on debate and baseball teams, and graduated with honors from Centenary College at Shreveport in 1951. He earned the B.D. and Th.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and took continuing theological education at the University of Chicago and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has taught at Midwestern and Southern seminaries and is a member of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He has served on the Baptist Sunday School Board and on several committees.

Harbuck is the author of four books published and professional articles, and has written church curriculum materials for the Sunday School Board more than half a dozen times and has done numerous articles in SBC and other publications. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

He and his wife, the former Elizabeth Lasiter of Shreveport, are parents of three sons and a daughter.

□ The average North American consumes a ton of grain a year, five times what the average person in a less developed country consumes.



Remount Church in North Little Rock dedicated this auditorium on Sunday, Oct. 10. The new sanctuary seats 300.

North Little Rock Remount dedicates auditorium

The empty cross is a central feature of the \$170,000 auditorium dedicated Oct. 10 by the Remount Church in North Little Rock.

It highlights the front exterior, the stained glass baptistry backdrop and pew ends, signifying the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

The sanctuary, with a seating capacity of 300, includes wall-to-wall carpeting, pew cushions and stained glass windows. It has central heat and air conditioning; a choir loft and a baptistry.

Building costs of \$120,000 have been financed through a church bond program. Memorials and contributions have provided an additional \$60,000 for construction.

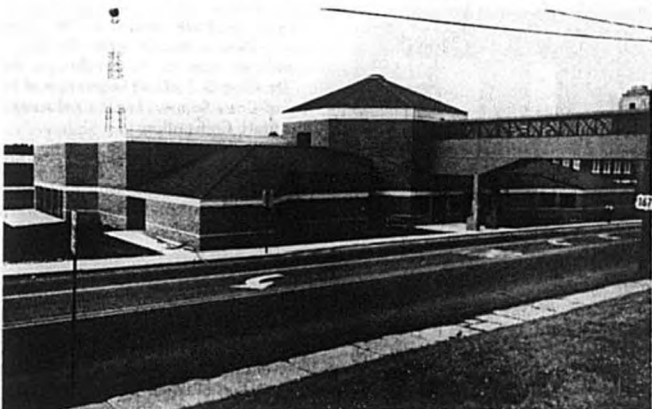
Bratton Rhoades served as building committee chairman. He was assisted by Hugh Spinks, Doug Gentry, Glenda York and

Gary Henry.

Dedication services occurred on the sixth anniversary of Pastor Tim McMinn. Members, in a time of testimony, praised him for his love and concern for people. They shared how his witness has led to an attendance increase from six to an average of 120, creating a building space need.

"It is because of your willingness to respond to God's leadership that we have grown to need this building," McMinn said in response. He also shared how members had assisted him with electrical installation, as well as helping with landscaping and clean-up operations.

Ed Walker, pastor of Crystal Valley Church in Little Rock, was dedication speaker. Guest musicians were "Fresh Start" from Wakefield Church in Little Rock.



A pedestrian bridge spans a street in downtown El Dorado, leading from El Dorado First's education building to a newly-completed \$1.7 million Christian Life Center. The church dedicated the new structure Oct. 10 during one of six Sunday emphases honoring the completion of the building, the church's 137th birthday and pastor Don Harbuck's 20th anniversary at the church.

A success story of one church

Lottie Moon offering not one-shot event

by Bill Bennett

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is not just a one shot, one time a year event in First Church, Fort Smith. This offering is closely related to the total ministry and vision of the church throughout the whole year. A total of \$85,875.03 was given to the Lottie Moon offering in 1981. This was \$33,000 above the amount given in 1980. The reasons of the success of this offering are six factors found deeply imbedded into the life of the church:

1. **Perennial evangelism** — The slogan of First Church is "Our Goal is Souls." This purpose undergirds the total ministry of the church. The church continually trains its people to share their faith in their "Schools of Evangelism." They have been in this training program for 12 years, having begun their 27th School of Evangelism Feb. 4.

2. **World vision** — The church always relates local evangelism to world missions. Several members are now serving in the foreign field, and others will be going shortly, on short term basis. Each year the church has an "International Clinic on Evangelism" which is attended by persons from several foreign countries, as well as some 35 states of the United States. The

next one is May 21-26, 1982.

3. **Annual world mission conference** — This conference is held each year prior to "White Christmas" (World Mission Sunday), at which time about a dozen Southern Baptist missionaries and their families come to the church to share about their respective mission fields. They also set up mission booths to visualize their areas of the world.

4. **Mission Savings Club** — The people are encouraged to pray and give to world missions throughout the year. A special slot on the weekly offering envelopes is marked "Mission Saving Club." People designate the amounts they can give weekly to the Lottie Moon offering. This follows precisely the instruction of Paul to the Corinthians in I Cor. 16:2.

5. **Prayer and fasting** — Much emphasis is placed on praying for missions, and as God leads, some fast for world mission advance.

6. **Unapologetic preaching and teaching** of the Bible message on evangelism and missions throughout the year.

Bill Bennett is pastor at First Church of Fort Smith.

Crucial Questions for Christians

by Glen D. McGriff

Dr. McGriff, what can a young minister do when so many different things are expected from so many people?

This problem often develops soon after the minister finishes his training and begins pastoral ministry. A large portion of the problem grows out of pre-conceived images of the ministry. Many young men "feel" a deep concern for specific expressions of Christian ministry. He has concerted his efforts to gain knowledge and acquire skills for that particular concern. His anticipation escalates as he moves to the place where "that" ministry is to occur.

In establishing a relationship with the church, the young pastor has a rude awakening. He often finds that the congregation not only has difficulty in engaging in such ministries, they have difficulty understanding what he is talking about. Many frustrations might be avoided if the congregation were better acquainted with their pastor before there is a presentation of a program of ministry.

It may also be helpful for the young minister to understand that while he is considered to be a "man of God", he is yet a man. It is important that he guard against a "God-Almighty" syndrome. The young pastor is not there to do everything. He comes to give leadership and equipping for a body of believers. He has been given gifts and abilities that are needed in the congregation. Those particular strengths may be a significant clue for the ministry needed.

Dr. Glen D. McGriff is Director of Ministry of Crisis Support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Inquiries, comments or questions to be used anonymously in this column should be sent to Questions, Ministry of Crisis Support, Medical Towers Building, Suite 660, 9601 Lile Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.

□ Ten million refugees in Somalia, Thailand, the Sudan, Zaire, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Pakistan experience severe hunger.

□ The Foreign Mission Board is the channel for all Southern Baptist Convention overseas hunger relief work and the Home Mission Board is the channel for all Southern Baptist domestic hunger work.

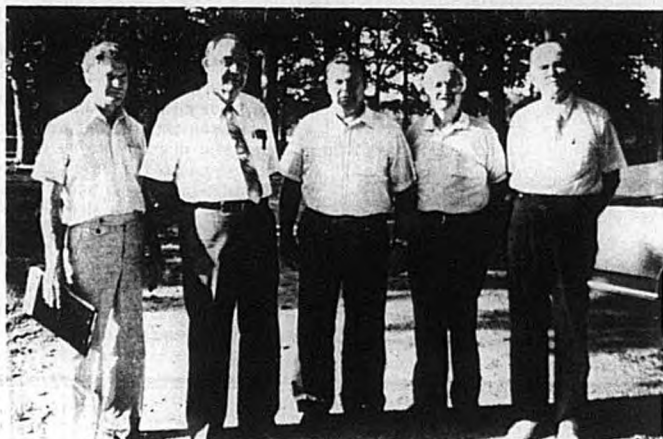


McGriff



Camp Paron was the site Oct. 4-6 for the first statewide Pastors' Retreat sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. This retreat, initiated by the late executive secretary, Huber L. Drumwright, provided pastors a time for fellowship and spiritual growth. The 27 participating were given opportunities by the keynote speakers — Damon Shook of Houston, Texas; George Harris of San Antonio, Texas and Glen McGriff of Little Rock — to share experiences that represented a broad spectrum of pastoral responsibilities. H. D. McCarty of Fayetteville was retreat chairman, assisted by Keith Loyd of Cabot and Harold Elmore of Lake Village. Discussing results are Harris and McCarty (foreground); Loyd, Shook and Elmore (seated left to right) and McGriff (standing). McCarty said of the retreat, "it fulfilled one of the greatest needs for pastors. It provided a time for them to learn to love and support one another around the person of Christ, rather than the somewhat superficial and brief encounters they have at the state convention and denominational activities."

ABN photo/Milne Gill



ABN photo/J. Everett Sneed

Greene County has succeeded in placing on the November ballot an opportunity for the voters to eliminate the sale of alcoholic beverages from the county. Ed Harris, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation, met with the group on July 13, to discuss procedures with the leadership. Recently, the effort was successful in placing the issue on the ballot. They needed 2,250 names but had a total of 3,177. Pictured left to right are Ethan Busby, Paragould businessman, secretary; Herschel Johnson, chairman, minister of the Church of Christ; George Fink, chairman of publicity, pastor of First Baptist Church of Marmaduke; Carroll Gibson, director of associational missions for Greene County Association, vice chairman; and Ed Harris, director of the Christian Civic Foundation.

Workers are sought for Cummins revival

Counselors and workers are being sought for a revival scheduled Nov. 11-14 at the Cummins Unit of the State Department of Corrections at Grady.

Paul Markstrom, director of institutional chaplaincies for the Assemblies of God, will be speaker for the revival, according to Dewie E. Williams, chaplaincy service director at Cummins.

Williams asks that churches give him the names of all men planning to work in the revival by Oct. 20. A planning session, mandatory for all workers, is scheduled at Cummins Chapel at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 11 and again at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12.

Last year, Williams said, 132 workers volunteered to help with the revival.

Korean fellowship in North Little Rock

The Korean-American Association is sponsoring a Korean Fellowship worship service each Sunday in North Little Rock.

Park Hill Church is providing Park Place B as a meeting place. Services include Korean language classes for children and interested Americans, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

An average of 38 have been attending

worship services that begin at 2 p.m. according to Harold Gateley, a trustee of the sponsoring organization.

Chung Pyong Hoon, a layman from Russellville, is worship leader. Dr. Tae Y. Nam, associated with the political science department at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, is organization director.

Southern College plans day for parents, pastors

Southern Baptist College will observe "Parents and Pastors Day" on Saturday, Oct. 30. This day is set aside each year to recognize the parents and pastors of the SBC students, and to invite high school students to visit the campus.

The schedule for the day will include a "fellowship hour" at 9 a.m. in the Rose Room of the Southerland-Mabee Center. A special chapel service will feature Wilbur Herring, pastor of the Central Church in Jonesboro. The Southern Singers will also

sing at this chapel service.

After lunch there will be an open house for Southerland Hall followed by a BSU service in the college chapel. A dedication and open house for Wilson Hall will begin at 2 p.m., and the visiting high school students will meet in the Maddox Fine Arts Center for a "Counselors Corner." The SBC men and women eagles will give a preview of the teams in a blue and white basketball game at 2:45.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Allison, missionaries to Botswana, have returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, Botswana). Born in Walnut Ridge, Ark., he lived there and in surrounding communities while growing up. She is the former Alta Brasell of Pine Bluff, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1960, resigned in 1964 and reappointed in 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Wayne Fuller, missionaries to Lebanon, have returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 11-5232, Beirut, Lebanon). A native of Minnesota, he was born in Remer and lived there and in Walker while growing up. She is the former Frances Anderson of Wynne, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Fite Jr., missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 76700 Ceres, GO, Brazil). He was born in Mena, Ark., and also lived in Texas. She is the former Salle Taylor of Lehman, Texas. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett A. Barnes, missionaries to Lebanon, have returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 11-2026, Beirut, Lebanon). A native of Missouri, he was born in Bismarck and also lived in Potosi. She is the former LaNell Taylor of Monnette, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1966.



Photo by John Hamilton

Pastor Holland T. Ball (left), of Military Road Church in Jacksonville, presents Rev. and Mrs. Thurman Braughton with a motorcycle bought by the church for the Braughtons to use in their work on the mission field in the Philippines. Braughton, who served as evangelist for a revival at Military Road Oct. 4-10, will return to the field in December.

Cooperative Program report: September

1981		1982
\$ 669,511.50	Budget for September	\$ 759,888.73
677,705.94	Gifts for September	768,796.17
8,194.44	Over (under)	8,907.44
\$6,025,603.50	Budget year-to-date	\$6,838,998.69
6,127,149.97	Gifts year-to-date	6,679,505.58
101,546.47	Over (under)	(159,493.11)

Gifts are 9.01 percent ahead of one year ago. At the end of September, Arkansas Baptists are giving 97.67 percent of budget requirements. Three good months are ahead and Cooperative Program budget goals can be reached.

Discounts at Ouachita to increase in 1983-84

ARKADELPHIA — Harold Johnson, director of Student Financial Aids at Ouachita Baptist University, recently announced an increase in discounts to be effective with the beginning of the 1983-84 academic year. He stated that discounts for wives and children of ministers, ministers of music, and ministers of education attending OBU will increase from \$200 per year to \$400 per year beginning in the fall of 1983.

□ Every morning, 40,000 people (30,000 of them children) awoken to die of hunger.

How to live life as a senior adult

by Bobby Shows

I've had the privilege of working with senior adults in the church for the past 16 years. Of these 16 years, I've enjoyed immensely the relationship I've had with these wonderful saints. I didn't really get



Shows

excited about senior adults, in a personal way, until my own parents retired about 10 years ago. I then began to realize that my own flesh and blood were now part of the retired segment of our society. I began to look closer at who the retired people were and how they were acting and reacting to life in general. I was interested in what motivated them, their goals and ambitions and how they might contribute to society and the church. During this period of time I have discovered some things about senior adults that I think are very interesting and may be helpful to you today.

As you noticed, the title I gave this article was "How to live life as a senior adult." In order to know what life and living are all about, one must know Jesus Christ in a personal relationship. Living the Christian life is the basis or foundation for a joyful life. The Christian life is the only life that provides a reason for joy. Who can laugh any more than a Christian? Who has more to enjoy in life than the Christian? No one, for we are the ones who have the "life abundant" (John 10:10) now as well as "life eternal" (Romans 10:9-10). But life is not always laughter, fun, and games. It's not always "good times." Life has its ups and downs. It is my feeling that enjoying life depends not on the things that happen to you, good or bad, but on how you ac-

cept those things. In other words, it's not so much what happens to you, but how you react to what happens to you. Aging is a natural process! Just because you have had the privilege of living a longer period of time than some other folks shouldn't put you in a negative state of mind. You shouldn't feel badly about yourself. It should say to you that God has provided you a very special time in which to be a person of great help to the Lord's work. Some of our maturing adults look at themselves as being "over the hill", useless, and non-productive. The Good Lord says that to grow old is a

The Bible says "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he" (Proverbs 23:17). It is the things from within that make us become what we need to be.

In different stages of our life we are able to do different things. In all of these stages of life it is my opinion that one should be free in Christ to do what he wants you to do. Jesus said, "I have come to set you free." Jesus was saying that he had come to set us free to be what he wanted us to be from the very beginning. If God has smiled upon you to provide you an extra long period of time, count that a privilege and count it as an opportunity to be "free" as a senior adult. Free to be who you were meant to be. Go out and live life today as God intended you to do and don't resort to the old cliché "I'm too old." "I have created you and cared for you since you were born. I will be your God through all your lifetime, yes, even when your hair is white with age. I made you and I will care for you. I will carry you along and be your Savior" (Isaiah 46:3-4 LNB).

Bobby Shows is director of activities at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Social Studies and a minor in psychology in 1963 and with an M.A. in Guidance Counseling and Administration in 1964. He has had further study at Southwest Missouri State University and in gerontology at North Texas State University. He has written several articles for publication in Southern Baptist magazines and has taught at Southwest Baptist College, Southwest Missouri State University and Midwestern Seminary.

Questions or comments on this column for and about senior adults should be sent to Senior Adults, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

For and about



senior adults

"crown of glory" (Proverbs 16:31). It is my feeling that as long as God gives one life, that person can be a useful servant if that person will allow the Holy Spirit to live within him. I hope that as you read this you can see yourself as a useful vessel, capable of fulfilling God's will in your life. You see, "we are what we think about all day long." Your state of mind must be positive and not negative. Just because one has wrinkles and his "get along" has "got up and gone," and because he may not be able to see as clearly or hear as well as he once could, doesn't mean there is not a way in which he can be useful on this earth.

Your state convention at work

Family and Child Care

Thanks to our summer missionaries

Thanks from Arkansas Baptist Home for Children go out to the summer missionaries, Jetta Foster, Mark Lewis, and Teddy Reynolds, for serving so faithfully and diligently this summer.

After a summer of hard work each will be going his own way. Jetta, formerly a student at Southern Baptist College, will be entering Ouachita Baptist University this fall. Teddy Reynolds will serve as BSU president at Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge this fall and Mark Lewis will serve as BSU president at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia.

Summer missionaries have always played a vital role in the summer program at the Home and have always found their way into the hearts of the young people and staff.

The Arkansas Baptist Home staff and children coordinated a

vespers program to include a farewell party for the summer missionaries on Wednesday night recently. Each missionary shared the feelings and experiences that had helped them to grow during the summer months, as well as words of encouragement to the youth they were leaving. It was a special time of caring and sharing. After the share time they shifted gears and presented skits by Arkansas Baptist Home youth about some of the comical experiences that happened this summer. The overall theme was "How to Survive a Summer at the Baptist Home". At the close of the program, the BSU summer missionaries were presented engraved ID bracelets. It was the Home's way of saying, "We're so glad God allowed our lives to touch this summer." — **Eula Armstrong, director of special activities, Arkansas Baptist Home for Children**

Christian Life Council

Eagles don't fly in flocks

That's the interesting slogan said to be in multi-millionaire Ross Perot's office in Dallas.

Certainly there are times when the Christian should "flock" or assemble together. That's biblical (Heb. 10:25). In order to function properly, members of a New Testament church must on many occasions come together. Warm Christian fellowship requires such. Dynamic, effective worship experiences occur when a good group of believers gather for the purpose of Christian celebration.

Spiritual warfare against forces of evil is often done best as faithful, well armed soldiers of the cross unite in resolve and purpose. But then, on the other hand, there are times when Christians face circumstances requiring solitary commitment. The strong temptation today, as was true during early Roman empire days, is

to conform or flock in accordance to so called acceptable social behavior.

When it comes to such moral issues as alcohol and other dangerous drugs, pornography and gambling, the child of God must ever bear in mind that he is not to be an ordinary "bird of a feather for flocking together." The effective Christian, like an eagle, must soar far above the devastating storm producing evils of this world. The American eagle is a proud symbol of independence. "Flockers" such as turkeys, ducks, geese and even chickens often end in the frying pan or boiler because of their anxiety to stick together. The truth of Romans 12:1-2 will help all Christians become eagles that don't fly in unnecessary flocks. — **Bob Parker, director**

Neil urges female parity in missions

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Anne Neil, visiting professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has urged female parity with men within the mission fields of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During a Missions Day program at the seminary she noted 54.4 percent of SBC missionaries are women and advocated full participation by women in all aspects of missionary work including staff positions of the convention's Foreign Mission Board.

The title of Neil's address, "Many Other Women," came from Luke 8:3: "Among them were many other women who used their own resources to help Jesus and his disciples." Neil asked, "How socially acceptable was it for these women to be following Jesus?" and added, "I feel sure they did not do so without a price!"

In a brief summary of the history of women in Baptist missionary work from the Boston Female Society of the early 1800s through the present day, she noted women were limited to fund raising activities until they were first appointed to the mission field in any significant numbers in the 1880s. Today, she said, "women are teaching at all

levels from kindergarten to seminary. Others are music and religious education consultants, general evangelists, women and children's workers, campus ministers, publication workers, mass media programmers, social workers and specialists in other areas. They are homemakers, wives and mothers."

Neil expressed concern the number of single women missionaries has dropped drastically among Baptists, other Protestants and Catholics since 1950. She said this could be due in part to the struggle for parity in homeland churches during those years.

"Married women," she stated, "who have the credentials and so choose may be appointed on the basis of specific work assignment. However, the trend is still for women to be appointed under the broad category of 'home and church.'"

Neil stated a further concern that, "in recent years some women have expressed what may be described as a 'subtle' unconscious bypassing of women, rather than outright discrimination, on the part of the Foreign Mission Board. Some married women have been 'put off' by the practice of not being examined as thoroughly as either

husbands or single women. Some of these women have felt they have not received much recognition."

However, Neil conveyed an optimistic outlook for the future, "there is planned intent (at the Foreign Mission Board) to open more avenues to single women" in such areas as church planting and field evangelism. She said there would be more capitalizing on "the gifts and skills of married women."

Neil quoted Jesse Fletcher, former director of the mission support division of the Foreign Mission Board and now president of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas: "Since in Christ there is neither male nor female it follows that the Holy Spirit would not discriminate in the distribution of gifts for service. Surely God not only calls, but also equips, all saints, male and female, for the task of mission."

Prior to retirement in 1981 Neil and her husband, Lloyd, served as missionaries in Ghana and Nigeria. While her husband was involved with administrative and business management functions, her work included nursing education, seminary education, working with women and campus ministry.

SBC growth unique compared to other major denominations

NEW YORK (BP) — Southern Baptists, with increases in membership and territory in the last decade, are unique among mainline U.S. denominations, according to a new church membership study.

Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1980, a cooperative, interdenominational research effort, reveals growth in adherents (full members, their children and other regular participants) in Judeo-Christian religious groups in the U.S. is lagging slightly behind population growth for the first time in 30 years. All mainline denominations except the SBC have experienced significant decreases. Earlier studies were done in 1952 and 1971.

The study, based on data from 111 church bodies (denominations) with 231,708 congregations reporting a membership of 112.5 million, shows Southern Baptists have congregations in 76 percent of the counties in the U.S.

Baptists (Southern Baptists and nine other church bodies) are numerically predominant in more U.S. counties than any other religious group. Baptists have more than 25 percent of the adherents in 1,164 counties, followed by Catholics (963), Methodists (374) and Lutherans (277).

Researchers calculate the 112.5 million adherents counted in the study represent 49.7 percent of the total U.S. population and 91 percent of the adherents of some

religious group. The conclusion that approximately half of all Americans do not adhere to a religious group conforms to numerous other similar surveys.

Two research analysts from the University of Connecticut, William M. Newman and Peter L. Halvorson, said the data indicates an increasing pluralism in U.S. religion because of the mixture of denominational groups representing diverse cultural and ethnic groups.

According to the researchers, the 35 groups which submitted data for the study represent the "overwhelming majority" of all adherents. "The study is the best estimate of church adherence we have," the researchers said, comparing its quality to that of the U.S. census.

The churches were outrunning the population in the years between 1952 and 1971, the researchers said. However, in the years between 1971 and 1980 the population increased at a rate of 4.6 percent while religious adherence increased by only 4.1 percent.

The analysts saw a trend reflecting U.S. population shifts which positively affected the growth of denominations that are already strong where the migrants are headed, such as the Sunbelt area.

The two said many people join a local church when they move in order to "plug-in" to the local culture, instead of carrying

their denominational identity with them.

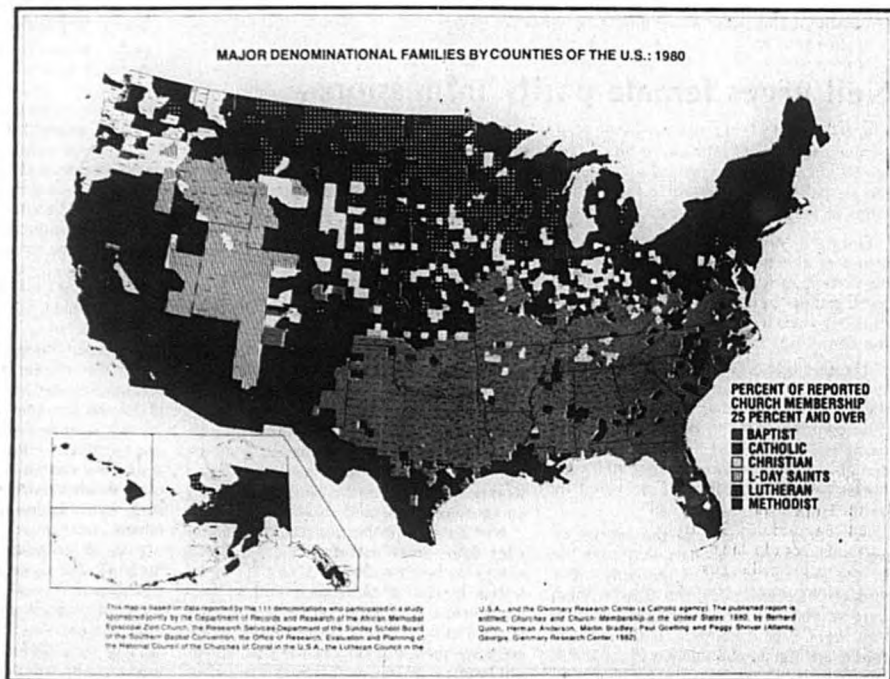
A trend toward smaller congregations was also evident. Some denominations, while declining in total adherents, list more congregations and more counties of representation.

Southern Baptists stand in contrast to this trend, also, because the number of churches with fewer than 300 members has dropped steadily over the period of the three membership studies.

Concerning the failure of religious adherents to keep pace with population growth, the analysts said there may be a message that fewer people are enamored with major religions in this culture and the present generation of middle adults may view religion as something less than useful to them than have earlier generations.

Martin Bradley, manager of the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and a member of the executive committee of the study, said the new study shows Southern Baptists to be a significant factor in the U.S. religious scene.

Bradley said the 320-page report, which provides information on the number of churches and members on national, regional, state and county bases, is the most thorough geographical examination of religious bodies available. He said the study



should be valuable to Southern Baptists to examine the religious makeup of individual counties and areas to determine the need for new worship groups.

For purposes of the study, adherents were defined as all members, including full members, their children and the estimated number of other regular participants who are not considered as communicant, confirmed or full members. For Southern Baptists and 54 other church bodies which have a category only for full members, adherents were estimated according to a formula. Southern Baptist membership is reported as 13,369,848 in the study, while the estimate

of adherents is 16,281,692.

In the new study, 17 church bodies have one million or more adherents, accounting for 91.9 percent of the total number of adherents. Twenty-five bodies in the 100,000-999,999 range represent 6.9 percent while the remaining 69 bodies comprise 1.2 percent of the total.

The 76 percent of the representation of congregations in U.S. counties for Southern Baptists ranked fourth in the study. The 2,383 total for Southern Baptists leaves more than 700 counties without a Southern Baptist congregation. Bradley said some of these counties are sparsely populated, how-

ever, and different Baptist groups have churches in many of the others.

United Methodists have congregations in 2,986 counties or county equivalents, followed by Catholics, 2,881, Assemblies of God, 2,452, and Southern Baptists.

Baptist groups included in the study are American Baptist Association, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Baptist General Conference, Baptist Missionary Association of America, Bethel Ministerial Association, Inc., Conservative Baptist Association of America, North American Baptist Conference, Separate Baptists in Christ, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference and Southern Baptist Convention.

Cothen says Bible belief not 'only' vital doctrine

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Grady Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, delivered a personal emancipation proclamation and political statement to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention at dedication services for the newest Baptist Book Store Sept. 14.

While theological orthodoxy is "infinitely important" there is more to it than believing the Bible, Cothen told 200 people at the

dedication banquet on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Belief in the Bible is "paramount" but there are issues on the other side of orthodoxy, including soul competency of the believer, free exercise of democracy and equal participation in a free church in a free state, he pointed out.

Soul competency includes freedom from coercion, Cothen said. Looking at Southern

Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. seated beside him, Cothen said he suspected Draper has been subjected to intense persuasion efforts since he was elected in June.

Evidently still upset over hardball political tactics appearing in Southern Baptist life for the first time, Cothen said at the New Orleans meeting of the SBC last summer, "we almost gave up the idea of having messengers in favor of delegates — the instructed ones."

Criticized with other SBC executives by one publication for voting "against the majority" on a number of resolutions that reversed long standing Baptist positions, Cothen said, "my bones trembled inside me and I thought if the direction of the SBC changes with every resolution we will have total and abysmal chaos in five years."

In effect declaring himself free from the restraints denominational office places on personal expression, Cothen said, "I'm about to retire so I say what I think. If they want to retire me early that's all right too. I'm ready to go fishing anytime."

If there is not equal participation in a church, if the pastor is a ruling autocrat, the membership dies for lack of spiritual exercise, Cothen said. "Autocracy may get things done, but it won't grow saints," he said.

Cothen emphasized the importance of a free church in a free state and said Southern Baptists "may be the last bastion of hope" to keep the church and religion in their proper spheres. "It frightens the daylights out of me" that a White House staff person admitted trying to influence the resolution process at the New Orleans annual meeting, he said.

"I distrust religious decisions by politicians as much as I distrust political decisions by religious professionals," Cothen added.

Cothen referred to the bookstore by saying: "Let there never come a day in Baptist life when we try to tell one another what to read; or come a day when we pile books together and burn them because we're afraid of error."

BSU Third Century Campaign

Park Hill, NLR, and Central, Magnolia, lead

We are grateful for every church participating in the campaign, but today we want to give special thanks and congratulations to the top leaders, Park Hill Baptist Church of North Little Rock and Central Baptist Church of Magnolia.

I'm grateful that my own church, First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, is currently the third largest contributor.

Without the generous giving of the churches below, our BSU Third Century Campaign would never have reached its goal.

The twenty largest contributing churches gave a fourth of the campaign as of September 30. — Jamie Jones, director BSU Third Century Campaign



Jones

Church	Amount
1. Park Hill, NLR	\$23,333.36
2. Central, Magnolia	18,845.00
3. Fayetteville, First	18,063.38
4. Pulaski Heights, LR	15,379.94
5. Mountain Home, First	14,404.64
6. Jonesboro, First	14,399.97
7. Geyer Springs, First	14,015.00
8. Hot Springs, Second	14,000.00
9. Baring Cross, NLR	12,750.47
10. Stuttgart, First	11,164.00
11. Immanuel, LR	10,800.00
12. Arkadelphia, First	10,545.09
13. Hope, First	10,528.25
14. East Side, Ft. Smith	10,086.63
15. El Dorado, First	10,000.00
16. Jacksonville, First	9,995.72
17. Immanuel, El Dorado	9,572.50
18. Grand Avenue, Ft. Smith	9,180.00
19. Conway, Second	9,020.22
20. Batesville, First	8,809.92

International Proclaim liberty

by Jerry Hogan, Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Leviticus 25

Focal passages: Leviticus 25:1-2, 8-12, 23-24

Central truth: God's ownership proclaims liberty

It is well-established in the scripture that all of God's creation needs relief from the pressures and demands of the world. (Rom. 8:22) "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

The law of the sabbath year goes back to the earliest periods of Israel's establishment in the promised land. The major reason for this was to provide food for Israel's poor and to give the soil time to refresh itself. The owner of the land was not permitted to harvest during this year of natural growth.

The year of jubilee also is believed to be very early in origination. During this year all property had to be restored to its original condition and rightful owner. This promoted the right of every man to own land and restricted the wealthy from accumulating all property, as this was not pleasing to God. The land in actuality was God's, and the people of Israel were merely stewards.

The prominent application is that all that we have is the Lord's and we are to be just and generous with his possessions. Isaiah conveys the woe to them that join house to house and lay field to field without regard to others. Their lives will be desolate.

Oppression never brings joy to the oppressor or the oppressed. It is in giving and sharing that we find true joy and satisfaction. Liberty and justice for all has its firm foundation in the nature of God.

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Life and Work Growing in righteousness

by Tommy J. Carney, First Church of Mountain Home

Basic passage: I John 3:1-10

Focal passages: I John 3:7, 10

Central truth: In order to grow in righteousness one must be made right and then do what's right.

The child of God, because he is born of God (2:29) and because he is possessed by a purifying hope (3:3), lives a life of righteousness and purity, thus identifying himself as a member of God's family. The point which John makes in verse 29, of chapter two is that the son will be like the father. If God the Father is righteous, the child of God will manifest the same characteristic. Righteousness will be the habitual practice of his life proving that he is born of God.

There is in scripture a vast difference between what is sometimes called imputed righteousness and practical righteousness.

1. Imputed righteousness — Imputed righteousness is righteousness that has been put to our account through faith in Christ's finished work. "For he (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (II Cor. 5:21). The righteousness of God is not imputed to the world; the righteousness of God is imputed only to those who have received Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

2. Practical righteousness — We are not only made right but we are also to do that which is right. When we imitate the righteousness of Christ and strive to live as near the great example as possible, then and then only are we growing in righteousness. In verse 7, John states it this way "If you do what's right then you are right." In verse 10, John says "If you don't do right then you are not of God."

A righteous person is one who does right. One is what he does, and the model for what he does is Jesus. Jesus is the model of righteousness, the devil is the model of sin. Those who have been begotten of God into a new life do not make a practice of doing wrong, but practice doing what's right.

If we are to grow in righteousness then we must be like Jesus. How can we be like Jesus? One way is in disposition. Jesus hated sin; He was full of love and tenderness; dependent upon the father; passion for souls; loved the works of God; man of prayer; and he gave his life serving others.

If we are made right and if we do right then we will grow in righteousness.

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Bible Book A confidence that overcomes

by Jerry S. Warmath, Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: II Corinthians 4:1-5:10

Focal passages: II Corinthians 4:7-12; 5:1-10

Central truth: Paul meets hardship and suffering with strength because of his confidence in the gospel.

When we as Christians consider the privileges we enjoy as followers of Christ, we can become prideful. However, though the privileges are great, every Christian is mortal-subject to the limitations of earthly life, sometimes a victim of circumstances, involved with all in this earthly life which brings hardship and suffering.

So the Christian is like a person with a precious treasure (the gospel), but the treasure is contained in an earthen vessel. What this means is that our human weaknesses are intermingled with God's glory.

We may be persecuted by men, but we are not abandoned by God. We may be knocked down but are knocked out. The reason Paul could adopt such a positive view was that he was able to face everything with confidence in the power of God who raised Jesus from the dead. He believed that even if death took him, the God who raised up Jesus could and would do the same for him. Paul is certain that he would be able to draw on a power that was sufficient for life, a power that was greater than death, a power that is available today.

And so the apostle could look upon death as that time when this earthly house of ours (the physical body) will be done with and will be replaced with a heavenly life and heavenly abode. Therefore, because of his certainty of a life with Christ after death, Paul had the confidence to endure the hardships of this earthly life. He knew the Holy Spirit's presence as a current reality.

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Denominational leaders meet to 'define' problems

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. and eight other leaders met Oct. 5 to discuss ways to help the 13.8 million member denomination "get past the controversy which have been in."

While declining to discuss the specific details of the meeting, Draper told Baptist Press the participants "discussed inerrancy, theology, the program, the schools, education... the whole things. It was an honest discussion of what we felt the controversy was about, why we were having problems, why we were having tensions. We talked about the Southern Baptist Convention as each of us saw it."

Meeting with Draper at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport complex were: William Hull, pastor of First Church of Shreveport, La.; Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies; Adrian Rogers, past president of the SBC and pastor of Bellevue Church of Memphis, Tenn.; Fred Wolfe, president of the SBC Pastors Confer-

ence and pastor of Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala.; Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Also participating were John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Church of Shreveport, and first vice president of the SBC, and Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church of Oklahoma City and second vice president of the SBC.

Declining to participate was Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Church of Houston, and a leader of the moderate-conservative faction of the denomination. "He (Draper) invited me and I had intended to go. I decided for personal reasons not to participate," Chafin said, but did not amplify.

Draper said: "We had a good meeting. It was honest and candid. Everybody made strong statements. There was a willingness on the part of everybody to discuss what we had been doing." He noted he had invited a small group because he "knew the smaller the group the more progress we could make."

He added the group agreed "there are points beyond which we cannot go" (but) said there is still room for negotiation.

Dilday said he was "pleased with any effort like this to get groups of people in our convention together. I feel it is always helpful in a time of disagreement and tension to sit down across the table and share in an open way."

He specified he participated not as an official representative of the seminary but as an "individual."

Patterson, identified as a leader of a movement to turn the denomination to a more conservative stance, said the meeting was amicable, frank and honest. "Nobody became combative... that was a very definite plus, demonstrating widely disparate views can come together and talk."

Rogers said it was "productive and helped us to clear our minds as to how the various ones in the room perceived the problem. I believe before we can solve the difficulties, we have got to have a clear understanding of what they are. I felt it was a worthwhile meeting."

Draper and Patterson were hesitant to label the meeting "productive," both noting it is "too soon to tell." But Patterson commented: "I feel it is productive when folks who disagree are sitting down talking."

Draper said he is planning another meeting, but with an expanded participation. "We will probably triple the number of participants," he said, noting no date has been set for such a meeting, but indicating it may be in late October or early November.

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Congress preserves current non-profit postal rates

WASHINGTON (BP) — The stop-gap funding measure approved by Congress before it adjourned for the Nov. 2 general election maintains, for the time being, existing non-profit postal rates.

The measure will fund federal agencies and programs through Dec. 17, by which time Congress must pass the regular appropriations bills for fiscal 1983 or be forced to come up with another stop-gap measure.

Rates for non-profit mailers such as Baptist state papers performed like a roller coaster during 1982. In January, due to a shortfall in another continuing appropriations measure Congress passed in late 1981, non-profit rates jumped from step 10 to step 16 of a 16-year phasing process begun in 1970 to gradually move preferred mail rates toward the full attributable costs by 1987. The increase doubled the postage costs of most Baptist state papers.

Then, when Congress included a \$42 million postal subsidy in an emergency supplemental appropriations measure last July, non-profit rates were brought back to step

13.

Non-profit rates are expected to climb again when Congress enacts the regular funding bill for the Postal Service, but not nearly as drastically as the January 1982, increase.

Consideration of fiscal 1983 funding bills for the Postal Service and other government departments is anticipated when Congress reconvenes in a lame duck session Nov. 29. Though the outcome remains uncertain, both Senate and House appropriations committees have approved \$708 million revenue foregone subsidy for the Postal Service — a figure which would put rates somewhere between step 14 and 15. President Reagan had requested only \$500 million for the subsidy, a figure which would have pushed rates beyond the January 1982 levels.

Final approval of the postal subsidy figure remains uncertain, however, since the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill of which it is a part exceeds President Reagan's spending request for these agencies.

BJCPA reaffirms support of free exercise rights

WASHINGTON (BP) — A reaffirmation of the free exercise of religion rights guaranteed by the First Amendment highlighted a two-day meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs executive committee.

In a unanimously-adopted statement the Baptist Joint Committee underscored its "determination to safeguard the genuine free exercise rights of every U.S. citizen."

The statement further requested staff of the Washington, D.C.-based agency to "seek proper legislative and judicial avenues to protect and enhance the free exercise of religion of all citizens including that of elementary and secondary school children."

In another action the committee affirmed the Baptist Joint Committee's participation

in the Brooks Hays Memorial Fund — an endowment set up to honor the late Baptist statesman and former congressman from Arkansas.

In addition to the BJCPA the Hays fund will be managed by representatives of Calvary Church, Washington, D.C.; Second Church, Little Rock, Ark.; the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Former Members of Congress Organization and the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Interest from the fund will benefit these organizations and churches according to its chairman, Fred Schwengel, president of the Capitol Historical Society.

The BJCPA also agreed to focus on an affirmation of Baptist identity and heritage during its biennial religious liberty conference scheduled Oct. 3-4, 1983.

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