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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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**January 28, 1982**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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JAN. 28 1982

January 28, 1982  
**Arkansas Baptist**  
NEWSMAGAZINE



**“ . . . You are all one in Christ Jesus.”**

Galatians 3:28b

**Observe Race Relations Sunday**  
**February 14, 1982**

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention



*Involvement in the problem of race relations is not optional for Christians. We are not permitted to withdraw ourselves and let happen what will. The God who has reconciled us to himself in Christ has given us "the ministry of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18), and we are therefore compelled to face the issue of race relations. Jesus said that his disciples were "the salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13) and "the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). To be salt and light in our time means that we must make some contribution toward the solution of this problem. — From the SBC Christian Life Commission's pamphlet on race relations, one in the "Issues and Answers" series.*

*Race Relations Sunday, Feb. 14, is sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.*

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## In this issue

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Two Baptist leaders want President Reagan to set up a presidential commission to deal with drinking drivers and alcohol dangers. Bailey Smith and Foy Valentine have told the President that the problem will no longer be ignored if he leads in seeking solutions.

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Baptists in America are finding that the world has come to them and they have a different kind of opportunity to bring Christ to that world.

# 'You are all one in Christ Jesus'

by David C. George

"You are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28b). This sentence from Paul to his friends in Galatia came to life for me in February, 1973. I was invited to teach the book of Galatians in a cooperative Bible conference held by the First Church (predominately white) and the First Church (predominately black) of El Dorado, Ark. Beginning one Sunday afternoon in the black church and ending on Wednesday evening in the white church, we studied together, prayed together, and ate together. We experienced oneness in Christ Jesus in a way that most of us had never realized before.

Black and white had worked together in homes and businesses, but they had not been one. They had begun to attend school together, but they had not become one. They had lived in the same town, but not as one. The fact is, this kind of oneness does not just happen in the natural course of things. According to Paul, it happens in Christ. He has the power to bring human beings together in spite of the things that separate them.

The other forces in our lives do not make for unity. National origins, economics, social life, politics, even citizenship in the American melting pot, do not create the unity the world needs. Creatures cut from their Creator by sin are too insecure and suspicious to relate freely to others outside

their own circle. Fear of people who are not "like us" grips the world.

But perfect love casts out fear. That kind of love is found in Christ. His death on the cross cuts through our fear, through all our sin. His grace gives a security unshaken by human differences. Those who know him as Lord find that this unites us to other believers in spite of human barriers that might divide us.

Even for those who are in Christ, however, this oneness is not automatic. It must be worked out with patience and persistence. It must be intentionally planned. It will not just happen. New behavior must be learned little by little. It must be reinforced by practice. Prejudice must be rooted out. Justice must be supported.

Those churches in Arkansas went on to repeat their fellowship experience in following years. Other churches in other places have taken similar steps. On Race Relations Sunday, February 14, Southern Baptists all over America will continue the work of crossing barriers of prejudice, breaking down walls of hostility, and bringing people together in his love. "You are all one in Christ Jesus."

**David C. George is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, and is a commission member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. He formerly served as pastor at First Church of Stuttgart.**



### Interested in medical missions

Twelve Arkansans attended a recent meeting in Nashville, Tenn., of the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship, a national organization of dentists and physicians interested in supporting Baptist medical missions overseas. The group, including 25 members in Arkansas, works closely with the SBC Foreign Mission Board. Some serve in medical missions as volunteers, and other members aid missionary physicians and dentists by sharing information about new procedures and offering other aid. The Arkansans, along with nearly 400 other members, heard SBC missions agency personnel and other speakers.



Every person is individually responsible before God for his eternal destiny. Salvation is by faith. Faith saves because it is the bond that unites the soul to God in Christ. Salvation is in Christ who redeems us from our sin.

But what of infants who are incapable of faith? Many theories have been set forth which require some activity on the part of parents to protect the eternal destiny of children who have not reached the age of accountability. The scripture is clear, however, that infants are recognized by God as being in a state of relative innocence. Through the grace of God in Christ they are certain of salvation. Because of this truth we should avoid pressuring children to make premature professions of faith.

First, let us examine the state of infants. All people are sinners and are in need of regeneration. This includes infants who have not reached the age of accountability (the point in an individual's life in which he is recognized by God as being responsible for his unbelief).

Infants are special objects of divine compassion and love because they do not understand sin. God's love for children is reflected in the ministry of Christ. There are several instances in which Jesus took time to express his deep love and affection for little children.

On one occasion when there were many who desired the attention of our Lord, small children were brought to him that he might put his hands on them and pray for them (Matt. 19:13). His disciples rebuffed them, but Jesus took time to bless the children.

The statement that Jesus made on this occasion is of particular significance. He said, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). Two things are evident in this statement: (1) Children, who have not reached the age of accountability are included in "the kingdom of heaven;" (2) adults who are saved by grace through faith must have the same attitude as do little children. Each individual must, as he reaches the age of accountability, accept Christ for himself.

Several misconceptions have developed regarding the salvation of infants. First, there is the idea that children are under the protection of God's salvation only if they are church members or if they have been baptized. This would be totally unfair to many children because it would make them responsible for the actions

of others over whom they had no control. Further, there is no example of infant baptism in the scriptures. Nor does the Bible anywhere give evidence that baptism or church membership will save anyone.

Fear for the eternal well being of children may, in some instances, lead Baptists to pressure young children to make a profession of faith. It is equally as wrong to restrain children from making a public profession of faith because they have not reached a certain chronological age. One has reached the age of accountability when he knows he has committed sin and is able to exercise saving faith.

Great care should be exercised in dealing with children. It is not difficult to extract a "decision" from most children for several reasons. It is a child's nature to strive to please others. Second, he is easily frightened. And, finally, he is eager to do whatever other children are doing.

These negative aspects, however, should not keep parents and Christian workers from offering children the privilege of trusting Christ. The older one becomes, the more difficult it becomes for him to trust Christ as his savior. The percentage of people saved drops with each year after they reach the age of 20. It is also significant that when a child becomes a Christian, an entire life is saved for service.

There is a proper way to discuss salvation with a child. Since the vocabulary of a child is different from that of an adult, he will express his thoughts in other words. It is necessary to allow him to express his feelings in his own words, rather than to simply ask him questions requiring a positive or negative response. In dealing with a child, one should neither over rate nor underrate his ability to understand.

Above all, in any witnessing situation it is necessary to rely upon the Holy Spirit. Mechanical or canned approaches are to be avoided. It is necessary for an individual presenting the plan of salvation to know where he is going, but every situation is different and must have divine guidance.

Parents should be aware of God's loving protection for children who are under the age of accountability. But parents and Christian workers should be alert to the salvation needs of children as they reach the age of accountability. Remember, a child, like an adult, is saved when he accepts the basic truths of the gospel and personally relates them to himself.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 81

NUMBER 4

J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. .... Editor

BETTY KENNEDY ..... Managing Editor

ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D. .... Editor Emeritus

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 cost 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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# News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Max N. Alexander were recently awarded 20 year Missionary Service Pins at the annual meeting of the Thailand Baptist Mission held at the Baptist Encampment in Pattaya, Thailand. Alexander is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He was born in Lake City, Ark., and later moved with his family to Jonesboro, Ark. His wife, Betty, is from Hazel Valley, Ark. She is a graduate of Arkansas Bible Institute (now Citadel Bible College) and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. The Alexanders were appointed in 1961 to serve in Thailand where he is business manager and she works in home and church. They have three children.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Spann, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 221, 50000 Recife, PE, Brazil). He is a native of North Little Rock, Ark. The former Bettye Brawner, she was born in Colt, Ark., and lived in Greenfield, Calif., and Wynne, Ark., while growing up. They were appointed by

the Foreign Mission Board in 1962.

Allen R. Tidwell, father of Mrs. Ronald E. West, missionary to Taiwan, died recently in Greenwood, Ark. Mrs. West may be addressed at P.O. Box 27-24, Taichung 400, Taiwan, ROC. She is the former Elinda Tidwell of Booneville, Ark., also the hometown of her husband. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Lee, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Jl. Melati 6, Purworejo, Kedu, Indonesia). He was born in Maverick, Texas, and grew up in Ballinger, Texas, and Hobbs, N.M. The former Twila Turner, she was born in Texarkana, Ark., and grew up in Illinois, Texas and Mississippi. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

Miss Gerry Odom, missionary to Taiwan, may be addressed at P.O. Box 427, Taipei 100, Taiwan, ROC. Born in El Dorado, Ark., she lived in Smackover, Ark.; Washington, Miss.; and Alvin, Texas, while growing up. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Elliff, missionaries to Zimbabwe, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 8241 Belmont, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe). He was born in Paris, Texas, and also lived in Fordyce and Little Rock, Ark., and Kansas City, Mo., while growing up. The former Jeannie Thomas, she was born in Burbank, Calif., and grew up in Little Rock, Ark. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in May 1981, he was pastor of Eastwood Church in Tulsa, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory B. Meeks, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Box 427, Taipei 100, Taiwan, ROC). He was born in Arkadelphia, Ark., and also lived in Keokuk, Iowa, and Luling, La. He considers Hot Springs, Ark., his hometown. She is the former Jackie Hunter of Paragould, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1981.

Barry Burnett, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Burnett, missionaries to Brazil, married Sonia Lindstrom on Dec. 29 in Fleming, Colo. His parents may be addressed at Caixa 941, 66000 Belem, PA, Brazil. A Texan, Burnett was born near Willis Point and grew up in the Terrell area. The former Barbara Evans, she was born in Hazelvalley, Ark., and lived in Wichita and near Haysville, Kan., while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1966.



## The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

### America, the Christian nation?

America was once a Christian nation. Established firmly upon Christian values, this nation flourished and achieved a level of prosperity and freedom unknown by any other nation.

Peoples from other lands in the world were attracted to the liberty and affluence of this country and they came to its shores by the millions. Early in our history, immigrants, coming from diverse backgrounds, readily assimilated the Christian values which prevailed, if not the faith from which they sprang. They recognized that those values had produced an extraordinary nation. They were glad to be in America and they promptly became "Americans."

Therefore, for the first 150 years of this nation's history, the citizens were united and challenged by the lofty values of the Christian faith. They embraced what Francis Schaeffer called "a consensus of values" and that consensus provided a strong unifying force in the new republic, even though many did not embrace the Christian faith itself.

In more recent years a fragmentation of values has occurred as our unifying "consensus of values" has been assaulted again and again. The contending values of natu-

ralism and humanism have taken their toll. And more recently there has been new emphasis upon pluralism and diversity that strikes right at the heart of both our unity and our shared value system. As a result of these challenges, the undergirding strength of America is being rapidly chipped away.

Today, America is morally adrift and socially fragmented. The intervention of humanistic values and an emphasis upon diversity and pluralism, are destroying the cohesion provided by a "consensus of values." Once the citizens of this nation were inspired by their shared values to work together to build a great nation. Today diversity, not unity, is emphasized. Every man is out for himself, and the nation is hanged. And it is being hanged on the gallows of cynicism, selfishness, and egoism.

America remains a great nation but the hour is late. The ship of state is listing in a universally troubled ocean. The republic can be saved only by those values which made her great. It is time for those who know that truth to stand by it, to live by it and, if necessary, to die by it.

D. Jack Nicholas is president of Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge.

## Letter to the editor

### Respect for gifts refreshing

In reading the letters of Doug Hines (Dec. 10) and Elston Morgan (Jan. 7) I find it refreshing to find Baptists who are willing to take God's Word for what it says, and have enough grace to express respect for the gifts of the Spirit.

It is true that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe, but only when under the anointing of the Spirit, does any one think that God's blessing rests upon those who persecute his gifted people and in so doing dishonor him.

"What so ever ye do unto the least of these my brethren, ye also do unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Sue Winchester was correct in saying our duty is to glorify God, but that isn't done by implying that God made a big mistake and a public nuisance by bestowing certain gifts. Love is the supreme fruit of the Spirit: God hasten the day we see more of it. — Mrs. Bernice Blair, West Fork

**Housing form for Pine Bluff Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Arkansas Baptist Conference for Women,  
April 29 & 30, & May 1**

Please reserve accommodations for: **(Please print)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Area Code & Number

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional occupants: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check out time is noon.** Reservations must be received 14 days prior to opening date of event. Cut-off date for accepting reservations is April 15, 1982.

Rooms will be held until 6:00 p.m. on the date of arrival. For later arrival, please send one night's deposit or assure your reservation with a major credit card.

**Card Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark (X) your motel and circle accommodation preference.**

| Motel  | Accommodation                |                    |                     |                     |                     |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | 1 Person<br>1 Bed            | 2 Persons<br>1 Bed | 2 Persons<br>2 Beds | 3 Persons<br>2 Beds | 4 Persons<br>2 Beds |
| 501-535-8300<br>Admiral Benbow Inn<br>1900 East Harding<br>800-238-6877  | 28.00                        | 32.00              | 34.00               | 38.00               | 42.00               |
| 501-535-7200<br>Executive Motor Inn<br>5th & Walnut Sts.<br>800-631-1601 | 28.00                        | 28.00              | 32.00               | 36.00               | 40.00               |
| 501-535-8640<br>Holiday Inn<br>2700 East Harding<br>800-238-8000         | 29.00                        | 36.00              | 36.00               | 40.00               | 44.00               |
| 501-534-4510<br>Pine Bluff Motel<br>4600 Dolly Rd.<br>800-528-1234       | 25.00<br>(Subject to change) | 32.00              | 32.00               | 36.00               | 40.00               |
| 501-535-1200<br>Riverport Inn<br>4125 Rhinehart Rd.<br>501-535-2875      | 24.00<br>(Subject to change) | 24.00              | 27.00               | 30.00               | 33.00               |
| 501-535-2875<br>Town House Motel<br>W. 6th & Hwy. 79                     | 21.00                        | 24.00              | 29.00               | 31.00               | 34.00               |

If your selection is not available, the best possible will be assigned. Changes in arrival/departure/accommodation dates should be handled directly with the motel after confirmation has been received. All reservations are subject to local sales tax.

Note: For camper and RV owners, the Pine Bluff Convention Center offers overnight camper facilities. The Center has available: Potable water, electrical hookups and dumping facilities for \$5 per 24-hour period.

**Please mail this form to the Convention & Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 8748, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71611. Phone (501) 534-3448.**

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

#### Kendell Black

died Jan. 21 of a heart attack. He was 47. Black, pastor of Conway Second Church since August of 1975, was hospitalized with a stroke Dec. 18, 1981, in Little Rock Baptist Medical Center. He was transferred Jan. 4 to Little Rock's Central Baptist Hospital where his death occurred. He had also served the West Fork, Hot Springs Lakeside and Harrison Eagle Heights Churches as pastor. He attended the University of Arkansas and had served the U.S. Navy aboard the aircraft carrier Hornet. Survivors are his wife, Bonnie; three sons, Ray, Randy and Lendell, all of Conway; his mother, Navada Pilgrim of Fayetteville, and a sister, Sherry Ward of West Fork.

#### Gary Berry

has resigned as pastor of the Lonsdale Church.

#### Milton Wilson

recently resigned as pastor of Pine Bluff Matthews Memorial Church to accept the pastorate of the First Church of Woodcrest, Calif. Wilson, while in Arkansas, held both associational and state convention leadership positions.

#### Dennis Davis

is serving as pastor of the Pine Bluff Central Church. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has served churches in Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. He and his wife, Louise, have three daughters, Jody, Shannon, and Amy.

#### Rick Bowling

is pastor at the Egypt Church, coming there from Blytheville.

#### Steve Mize

was ordained to the ministry Jan. 17. Services were held at the Paragould Mount Zion Church.

#### Roy W. Neill Jr.

has been called to serve as pastor of the Grannis Church, coming there from Oklahoma.

#### Randy Gaither

is serving as pastor of the Nunley Salem Church, coming there from Oden.

#### Phil Ayres

has joined the staff of Mena Dallas Avenue Church as director of music/education/outreach. He and his wife, Freddie, came to the Mena church from Colorado.

#### Richard Maness

is pastor of the Maple Grove Church near Trumann.

#### Randy Churchwell

is serving as pastor at the Lepanto Neals Chapel, coming there from Tyrnza.

#### Gerald Taylor

observed his fourth anniversary as pastor of Little Rock Life Line Church Jan. 17.

#### Ernest Dew

has resigned as pastor of the Banner Mount Zion Church.

#### Vernon Payne

is pastor at the Quitman Palestine Church. He is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been at the Texarkana Northeast Church. Payne's wife, Sheila, is also a graduate of Howard Payne University. They have a daughter.

#### Alan Alford

was licensed to the ministry Jan. 6 by Ward First Church. Alford, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Royce Alford of Ward, enrolled Jan. 25 at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla. He has been attending the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

#### Billy Joe Scott

who recently resigned as pastor of Augusta First Church is enrolled in training at the U.S. Naval Chaplains School in Newport, R.I. He will serve as a naval chaplain, under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, at the Nuclear Submarine Base in Groton, Conn.

#### Charles David Brown

recently joined the staff of Clarksville First Church as minister of music, youth and education. A native of Knoxville, he is a recent graduate of Ouachita Baptist University with a bachelor's degree in church music. His wife, Joan, is also a graduate of OBU with a bachelor's degree in music education.

## buildings



Photo by C. V. McCarroll

### Noteburning ceremony at Black Rock First

On Sunday morning, Jan. 10, 1982, the First Church of Black Rock had a noteburning celebration. The church paid off a \$7,000 note owed on the building on Dec. 12. The members, former members and friends of the church made this possible. Burning the note are (from left) Bill Meeks, Leland Callahan, Pastor John McMullen, Pete Hickman, Lawrence Kildow, and Curtis Meeks.

## briefly

#### Little Rock Second Church

has launched a "Committed to Care" ministry project to visit all resident members. Purposes of the ministry, to be led by deacons and staff members, are to cultivate a caring fellowship, activate the inactive, reveal ministry needs and encourage greater individual involvement.

# Smith, Valentine urge panel on drunk drivers

by Tim Fields



## Arkansas 20,000th Southwestern graduate

Charles Arandle Russell (right) of Jonesboro, Ark., was honored as the 20,000th graduate in the 74-year history of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. The announcement came during winter commencement Dec. 18. Russell is congratulated by Russell H. Dilday Jr., seminary president. Russell received the master of divinity degree. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and pastor of a church in Hamilton, Texas. Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Henry Russell of Jonesboro and the grandson of Mrs. Charles H. Wilkins of Russellville, who was a student at Southwestern in 1918-19. His grandfather received the master of divinity degree in 1921 and was pastor of First Church in Newport prior to his death in 1969.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Two Southern Baptist leaders have called on President Ronald Reagan to establish a presidential commission to deal with the problem of drinking drivers and to support legislation requiring a warning label on alcoholic beverages.

Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey E. Smith and Foy Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, sent the joint letter.

"Few decisions that you make could be as constructive and well received by the American people as a decision to establish a presidential commission to recommend firm actions to deal with the problem of drinking drivers," the two leaders wrote.

"In 1982 it is expected that drinking drivers will be responsible for 25,000 deaths, 750,000 personal injuries, and \$5 to \$8 billion in economic losses. In the last decade almost 250,000 people have been killed because of drunken driving. Action now can save hundreds of thousands of lives and billions of dollars in the next 10 years," they wrote.

The two leaders told the president that a presidential commission on drinking drivers is an idea whose time has come, adding, "at least 55 senators and 248 representatives think so. Many responsible civic and state leaders think so. Legislators and voters in numerous states think so.

"We urge you not to delay on this vitally needed act of moral leadership. Few actions you could take would save more lives and money. Immediate action on your part would signal to all Americans that this grave problem of the drinking driver will no longer be ignored."

The Southern Baptist leaders also called on Reagan to actively support Senate Bill 1643 and House Bill 2251 which would require a health warning label on all containers of beverage alcohol. Both bills appear stalemated in committees.

One proposal originating in the House calls for the label to read, "Warning, using this product too fast may cause sickness or death, may impair driving ability, may create dependence or addiction, and during pregnancy may harm the unborn. Legal age required for purchase."

Smith and Valentine told the president: "The medical discoveries related to fetal alcohol syndrome, and the presence in the United States of America of approximately 12 million alcoholics are sufficient indication that beverage alcohol is an addictive drug which should at the very least be adequately labeled."

The leaders told the president that while no one individual or group is ever authorized to speak in behalf of all other members of the Southern Baptist Convention, their views are generally shared by their fellow Southern Baptists.

"The Southern Baptist Convention has adopted many resolutions in recent years dealing with the various forms of alcohol abuse, with the drinking driver being one continuing, but as yet unresolved, concern," they said.

The leaders ended their letter by saying, "We pledge ourselves to pray for you in the days and months ahead as you discharge your heavy responsibilities. May God give you strength and wisdom to lead with justice and compassion in these challenging days.

Valentine said Smith and he wrote the letter "to register our Southern Baptist outrage over the horrors which for far too long have been perpetrated against innocent victims and society by drunk and drinking drivers. In this letter we signal our strong commitment to help solve this grave problem."

## Announcing the 1982 CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP February 25-26, 1982 Ouachita Baptist University Arkadelphia, Arkansas

### Clinicians

- Bill Green, Minister of Music,  
First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas
- Dan Bagby, Pastor,  
Seventh and James Baptist Church, Waco, Texas
- Paul Hammond, OBLI
- Russell Hodges, OBLI
- Harold Jones, OBLI
- Mary Shambarger, OBLI
- Charles Wright, OBLI

For further information, please contact:  
Dr. Paul Hammond, Box 710, Ouachita Baptist University,  
Arkadelphia, AR 71923, Phone—(501) 246-4531, ext. 146

## Moon devotee wins right to sue for deprogramming

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to disturb a lower court's ruling that a member of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church had the right to sue his parents and others who made an unsuccessful attempt to "deprogram" him.

Thomas J. Ward sued his parents, brother, sister and 29 others under a federal conspiracy law for the November 1978 attempt to convince him to leave the sect. Ward said he was abducted, beaten and held for 35 days.



# Korean pastor finds the world has come to America

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Most immigrants enter the United States seeking something — political freedom, financial opportunities, chances to fulfill dreams.

But David Kim is committed to helping these new arrivals find something of more lasting value — a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"In spite of language barriers, in spite of cultural differences, people all over the world see America as the land of opportunity," says Kim, pastor of First Korean Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Md. "And they come here. The world is in America now."

For that reason, Kim believes that "The World is Here," this year's theme for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 7-14 is especially appropriate.

Figures tabulated by the United States Census Bureau underscore Kim's belief. In the last decade, approximately 4 million immigrants settled in America.

But Kim views the world's coming to America as an opportunity to bring the world to Jesus Christ.

"My church has about 900 members. About half of these had never been exposed to Jesus Christ before coming to this country," he says.

For that reason, Kim and his church take their roles as witnesses seriously.

The church sponsors a day-care center for 40 community children, the majority of whom have no connection with the church.

It also sponsors Saturday classes in the Korean language and traditions for 160 youngsters. About half of these Kim says, are not church members.

There is also a ministry to approximately 85 elderly Koreans, many of whom are not Christians. Suffering pangs of loneliness because their children work and because they cannot communicate with grandchildren who speak only English, these senior citizens eagerly await Sundays.

From 10 a.m. until after the evening services, these adults are at church enjoying good Bible study, good food, and good fellowship.

In addition, the church also supports missions through the Cooperative Program and the association.

Kim himself has been instrumental in starting six new Korean churches in Delaware, South Carolina, and Virginia.

But when Kim came to Silver Spring seven years ago, the picture was entirely different. First Korean Baptist Church did not exist.

"We formed from scratch. I made announcements in newspapers saying I was starting a new mission," he says.

He admits that in the beginning the Koreans who came to the mission were drawn there because "they wanted to meet some

of their own folks. The church provided a place of fellowship."

The new mission soon showed promise of becoming a church. However, the new immigrants who made up the tiny congregation could provide Kim with little financial support.

To get him through those early lean years, the Baptist Convention of Maryland provided aid. Kim's salary was supplemented also through the Home Mission Board's Language Pastoral Assistance plan.

Language Pastoral Assistance and Field Pastoral Assistance are provided to pastors of churches or missions to enable them to serve their churches full time until the churches can support them. Pastors have to be approved by the Home Mission Board to receive this assistance. However, they do not have to be appointed as home missionaries.

Currently 598 churches receive Field Pastoral Assistance. Approximately 400 receive Language Pastoral Assistance. This assistance is made possible through gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for

Home Missions.

Field Pastoral Assistance and Language Pastoral Assistance are conducted on a contractual basis says Lyndon Collings, staff assistant of the HMB's Missions Section. Each contract has a phase-out date.

"Contracts are renegotiated each year. Churches may receive assistance anywhere from three to seven years. For most churches it's usually around five years," Collings says.

Kim received Language Pastoral Assistance for about two years, until his church became self-supporting.

"I'm all for Language Pastoral Assistance," Kim says today. "In our case it was critical. It made us financially stronger. But more important, it gave us encouragement from the Home Mission Board. It showed they recognized our work."

Collings agrees. "Field Pastoral Assistance and Language Pastoral Assistance are critical if we're going to meet the Bold Mission Thrust goal of starting 50,000 new churches by the year 2000. It's necessary because it keeps pastors like Kim on the field."



the world is here

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 7-14, 1982

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal: \$22,000,000

# Allen asks God for patience: Right now

by Bonita Sparrow

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — If Jimmy Allen had his way, the lion would lie down with the lamb and swords would be beaten into plowshares. This minute.

"Unfortunately," Allen said wryly, "God keeps reminding me that I'm in sales. He's in management."

Jimmy R. Allen, third president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, is an activist, an innovator, a visionary who is intimidated only if he finds himself in a situation where he is not dependent on God. "Without that dependence, I'm a pushover," he acknowledged.

People who know Jimmy Allen do not consider him a pushover. But there is no shortage of those who consider him energetic. William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, told those attending Allen's installation as RTVC president: "My job tonight is to bring the charge. Me trying to charge Jimmy Allen is like a flashlight battery approaching Hoover Dam."

The consuming passion in Allen's life is "the forwarding of the reign of God in the affairs of men. I see this telecommunications assignment at the RTVC as the major opportunity of the immediate future for the forwarding of that cause."

Allen's activities in two years at the RTVC have reaped results. He has been a prime mover in raising the trust level between his agency and other SBC entities

and he conceived the American Christian Television System (ACTS), which will lead to a nationwide Baptist TV network. In August he led the RTVC to sign a \$2.1 million-a-year lease on a space satellite, the first step in making the network a reality.

Allen envisions the RTVC helping local churches gain new ways of access to the media. "I think we will put together, under the leadership of God, a delivery system with the technical ability to make good radio and television programming available to every home in America, and we will help the world to be genuinely a neighborhood of Christians," he says.

With all his responsibilities, Allen is not too busy to be sensitive to the needs of others. One staffer told what happened when she was hospitalized.

"I didn't know Dr. Allen even knew my name, but he called me several times long distance to tell me he was praying for me," she said. "When he got home, he came to visit. I had been worried about who would take care of my mother, when she called to tell me Mrs. Allen had been to see her, bringing a big bag of groceries. I quit worrying and concentrated on getting well."

Imbued with a strong sense of mission, Allen lives life in the fast lane. But he will occasionally slow down and let his soul catch up.

"Every so often, I go to the house we have down at Lake Brownwood and relax," he said. "I enjoy swimming and water skiing and boating. I like to read — any kind of good fiction except romance novels — and I enjoy live drama and all kinds of spectator sports." He is an avid Dallas Cowboys fan and "worries" over the Baylor University Bears.

Like most busy men, Allen hates to spend time shopping. "I buy clothes as quickly as possible, then get on with important things." He likes yardwork even less.

"When I was a child in Dallas, I earned spending money by mowing yards in the hot sun with a push mower," he says. "I committed myself then to never do yardwork when I grew up. I have kept that promise. I do not do yards."

What Allen does do is turn impossibilities into probabilities. His entire career seems to have followed that course.

In the 1960s, as head of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Allen led Texas Baptists to take strong stands for racial justice. The San Antonio church he pastored in the 1970s was noted for its innovative social action and evangelistic programs. He dedicated his two years as SBC president to promoting Bold Mission Thrust, the denom-

ination's effort to confront everyone in the world with the message of God by the year 2000.

He is known nationally. One of former President Carter's fact finders in Iran during the hostage crisis, Allen also has met several times with Israel's Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, and has testified before that country's Knesset on bills relating to religious freedom in Israel.

But he has paid high dues for his achievements. During those days of racial unrest, he and his wife, Wanda, received abusive phone calls and hate mail. A cross was burned into the grass at their home.

There have been serious illnesses in his family and problems with their children which created another series of painful challenges. "Wanda and I have learned, in praying and working our way through these problems, to be very candid with each other as we try to discover where we each are," he says. "I'm a telephone person, so when my schedule causes us to be apart, we're still in daily contact."

Jimmy and Wanda Allen obviously care about each other. Both have a strong sense of humor, and each has strengths from which the other draws. They make a point of having meals together. Breakfast usually ends with conversation and coffee on their patio accompanied by their Shih-Tzu, Tig (short for Tiger Euphrates).

Although problems with their children have ironed themselves out (one son graduates this year from Golden Gate Seminary, the other two are living and working in San Antonio), the Allens have learned from that suffering and understand the pain of other parents in similar situations.

"I think the Father helps you work through to a sense of limited liability and you reach the time when you've done all you know to do to share what you believe, in a loving way, with the child," he says. "Then that child has to make his own judgments and becomes liable for those decisions. You cannot be liable for everything that people around you ultimately decide to do. You have to be as faithful as you know how to be with the responsibilities that you have."

Allen says God has been teaching him a number of things. "I'm a very impatient man who has had to learn patience with processes and with people. I have a constant prayer that my sense of urgency can be geared to other people's sense of pace. That is not always easy."

Asked how he would most want to be remembered, he quickly said, "As a man who loved Jesus Christ and wanted everything to be in tune with what Jesus wants."



Jimmy and Wanda Allen at breakfast with Tig, their Shih Tzu.

# Sorrels, FMB reconciled; Foundation launches fund

by Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Paralyzed former Mission Service Corps volunteer Bob Sorrels and four members of Washington's Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church traveled to Richmond to tell Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks that "the hurt is gone" and to express "a strong desire for reconciliation."

"We felt we did not act as God would have us act, but out of our own frustration," Sorrels said of a conflict which followed a FMB decision not to provide long-term support for Sorrels.

He was paralyzed from the shoulders down in an automobile accident in April 1980, less than a week after he arrived in Nigeria to serve for a year as an accountant. The accident killed veteran missionary Bill Bender and Nigerian Baptist Seminary professor Titus Oluqafemi.

A group called "Friends of Bob Sorrels," including Bill Vickers and Barbara Cobb, who attended the meeting in Parks' office, sent letters to a number of Southern Baptist leaders criticizing the board's "inadequate" disability program for volunteers and urging Baptists to persuade the board to take remedial action for Sorrels.

The letters created widespread news coverage which quoted Sorrels as saying he felt

"abandoned," by the board and its leaders.

"That resulted in a lot of misunderstanding, with people taking sides; none of us want that," Sorrels told Parks at the Jan. 5 meeting. "It doesn't bring glory to God for Christians to have bitterness and conflict over a difference of opinion. This is not a case of the good guys against the bad guys."

Walt Tomme, associate pastor of the Capitol Hill Metro Church, and Vinton Koons, finance chairman, told Parks they felt Sorrels' needs could be best met by setting up a fund to raise support for his continued rehabilitation.

Koons said the District of Columbia Baptist Convention Foundation, 1100 Seventeenth St., N.W., Suite 412, Washington, D.C. 20036, will administer the fund and receive contributions from those who wish to help Sorrels. Koons is president of the foundation's board of trustees.

"The fund is a good way to solve the problem," said Sorrels, 30, who now lives in Norman, Okla., and has long-term needs for support, special equipment and rehabilitation. Besides \$5,000 already spent on his support in Nigeria, Capitol Hill Metropolitan church has voted \$10,000 to buy him a special van, which the State of Oklahoma

will equip.

Parks, who accepted an invitation to preach at the Washington church, March 7, called the reconciliation and the news of the fund "an answer to prayer by many of us that this situation would be resolved and Bob's needs would be met."

He and John Mills, the board's director for west Africa, told the group that many missionaries, staff members and board members have said they would make personal contributions if such a fund is established.

Parks said the board would gladly endorse such an effort, although, under Southern Baptist Convention guidelines, it cannot directly initiate, administer or promote such a fund.

Parks told the group the board has initiated discussions with the SBC Annuity Board to find a way to develop a disability package for other Southern Baptist volunteers — a task which he said will be difficult because the volunteers don't have an employed, salaried relationship with an organization as most such disability insurance requires.

"Although it's difficult to set up, we're working on it," Parks said. "Your situation has caused us to do something."

Sorrels said the meeting with Parks came about because Tomme, who joined the church staff after the conflict developed, "felt burdened that nothing positive could result unless we came to seek reconciliation."

He, Vickers and Cobb said Tomme led in Bible study and prayer which caused them to realize they must act under God's guidance and not out of bitterness and frustration.

Tomme, they said, began the move toward reconciliation and helped set up the visit with Parks, "but the Lord really generated this meeting."

"The hurt is gone," Sorrels said. "I feel like a great burden has been lifted off of me."

## Foreign mission briefs

### Women launch prayer effort

MANILA, Philippines — More than 600 Baptist women met Dec. 18 in Manila, Philippines, to pray for the Partnership Crusade planned for Feb. 21-28. The women, who represented most of the churches participating in the evangelistic crusade, hope to launch a united prayer effort among themselves in preparation for the crusade. The February effort is being planned jointly by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Metro Manila Southern Baptist Churches.

### Surinam Baptists share Christ

PARAMARIBO, Surinam — Anticipating

large crowds for Independence Day celebrations Nov. 25, Baptists representing four churches and the United Baptist Organization of Surinam set up a large "funeral" tent in which to share their faith in God. By the end of the day, they had distributed 1,050 packets and hundreds of pieces of loose literature, and witnessed personally to many passersby. The Christian literature distribution was the first such project for the newly formed association, though Southern Baptist missionaries in Surinam have used the approach frequently since 1973, according to missionary press representative Leo Waldrop.

## News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. W. Stewart Pickle, missionaries to Ecuador, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 328, Cuenca, Ecuador). Born in Memphis, Tenn., he grew up in Siloam Springs, Ark. The former C. L. Smith, she was born in Cossack, N.Y., and also lived in Bentonville, Ark., and Union Springs and Camillus, N.Y. They were appointed by the Foreign

Mission Board in 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin L. Fox, missionaries to the Philippines, have returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 99, Davao City, Philippines 9501). They are natives of Arkansas. He is from Gentry; she is the former Margaret Cotton of Paris. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

## 1982 tours

**12-day Holy Land, Jordan, Greece** departs April 19. **12-day England, Scotland, Wales** departs June 21. **15-day Grand European Tour** departs August 2. Write for info. 12 years of tour experience. **Don Wildman Tours**, P.O. Box 1398, Tupelo, Miss. 38801. Phone 601/844-5036.

# A tree grows in Bracogoa

by Greta Pinkston

DALOA, Ivory Coast — As we headed for the village of Bracogoa, rain pounded steadily on the car top. A nagging worry persisted because although the meeting place there was under a big tree, it wasn't big enough to keep the spot dry.

But my worries were groundless. The rain had stopped by the time we arrived in the village, already in full swing of market day.

We passed by a large array of colorful items spread on the ground or on low tables — tomatoes, little green eggplants, onions, hot peppers, oranges and tangerines, plantain bananas, ignames (a tubular, starchy staple) and freshly cut rice. Further on, chickens were penned in woven grass cages.

Across the road was a hodgepodge of low, red mud-brick houses and palmfront pavilions used as outdoor kitchens, sitting here and there on a slight rise. The dense forest crept up behind the last house. We wound our way among the houses, skirting racks of coffee and cocoa drying, wash pots, sleeping dogs and playing children.

Women glanced up from their usual morning work — slicing ignames or stirring an iron kettle of boiling rice. "Na gu, Ayoo!" (My child, welcome), they called after us.

From every direction, people began coming toward our "church" under the tree. Gray-haired men, bent



with age, young mothers with babies tied to their backs, and small children pushing each other, vying for the best spot, all streamed to the place.

Young girls carrying water buckets or firewood on their heads passed by the circle but returned in a few minutes without their burdens. Young boys halted their marble game and joined the circle. Most brought three-legged chairs, low benches or pieces of stump to sit on. They offered their best to the pastor and translator.

As the group sang, a tiny gray-headed woman came toward the cir-

cle under the tree, feeling her way with the aid of a gnarled stick. Balanced on her head was a cement block. Using the stick to steady herself, she slowly lowered the block and squatted on it — her chair.

The preacher stood in the middle of the circle of upturned faces. Parents quieted their children, even sending some away from the group. From time to time everyone had to scoot over a bit to make room in the circle for latecomers.

After the final prayer, small groups formed so some of the people could talk or pray with the pastor or with other Christians.

The little old lady lifted her cement block onto her head. Someone stopped her to tell her the pastor's wife wanted to shake her hand. She turned helplessly from side to side, displaying her blindness for the first time. As I touched her hand and spoke, her face broke into a wide, toothless smile. Then, to my surprise, she enveloped me in a hug — that cement block rocking within inches of my nose!

As we returned to town, the rain came down again. The Lord had stayed the rain long enough for his word to be preached under the big tree in Bracogoa.

Greta Pinkston, an Arkansan, is a Southern Baptist missionary in Ivory Coast.

## Full-time employment

Dedicated couples wanted as house parents at Circle H Youth Ranch, Nimrod, Ark. Each couple will care for 8 homeless children.

Call or write: Don Grendell, Administrator, Star Route 1, Box 78, Plainview, Ark. 72857, phone (501) 432-5221.

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## European Baptist leader taking relief to Poland

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (BP) — Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, was scheduled to lead a team from Danish Church Aid to transport food and medical supplies to Warsaw, Poland, Jan. 7.

Wumpelmann is the free church (non-state) representative to the Danish Church Aid Board. It will be his first visit to Poland since the declaration of martial law there Dec. 13.

The general secretary said drivers of

trucks carrying church-originated relief supplies have encountered only expected delays at control points while proceeding to church distribution centers in Poland.

"Baptists in the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) have another 100,000 deutsche mark (about \$44,000) ready for the next shipment," Wumpelmann said. This is in addition to the \$265,000 sent from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the equivalent of \$25,324 sent from Great Britain, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Denmark.

Eight trucks of supplies from Baptists have made it across the border. John R. Cheyne, the Foreign Mission Board's relief ministries consultant, is scheduled to meet with Wumpelmann and others in Frankfurt, West Germany, Jan. 30, to discuss other urgent needs in Poland and to plan for the next three to six months.

## For sale or trade

1971 Dodge 66-passenger bus, preferably trade for smaller bus of comparable value. **Enterprise Baptist Church, Ft. Smith, Ark. Phone 646-1095.**

## Reagan seeks anti-bias law aimed at private schools

by Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)—Reacting to a firestorm of criticism from civil rights leaders, President Reagan will ask Congress to pass legislation denying tax exemption to private schools that practice race discrimination.

Reagan evidently was caught by surprise at the intense protests to a Jan. 7 announcement that the Internal Revenue Service will no longer deny tax exemption to any private school — sectarian or non-sectarian — which discriminates in its admissions policy.

That announcement, approved in advance by top administration officials, was made public in a memorandum to the Supreme Court. The document asked the court to declare moot the issue of admissions bias in a pair of highly publicized cases currently awaiting oral argument.

The cases were initiated by Bob Jones University and Goldsboro Christian Schools after the IRS revoked the tax exemption of the fundamentalist Greenville, S.C., univer-

sity and denied exempt status to the Goldsboro, N.C., schools.

Reagan's request for legislation does not reverse the memorandum to the Supreme Court as some are interpreting. The memorandum still illustrates the administration's desire to stop the IRS's 12-year policy through which, in effect, it assumed legislative authority it did not have.

By asking for legislation that would deny tax exemption to schools that discriminate, Reagan is asking for the same effect but through appropriate legislative channels.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washington agency that monitors legislation for nine Baptist bodies, agrees only in part with Reagan's memorandum to the Supreme Court. Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn and General Counsel John W. Baker say it goes too far because it will allow tax exemption for all private schools which may discriminate, not just religious schools.

Dunn and Baker wanted the Supreme

Court to hear to the Bob Jones and Goldsboro cases and issue a narrow ruling based on religious liberty questions alone.

Public debate over the cases and the IRS decision to restore tax exemption has centered on racism. But two religious groups, the United Presbyterian Church and the American Baptist Churches, have argued that Bob Jones University was entitled to tax exemption on First Amendment grounds.

In their friend-of-the-court brief, written by Baker, they asked the court to rule that the IRS policy of requiring proof of nondiscrimination not apply to religious schools whose admissions policies are based on religious convictions.

Of Reagan's memorandum to the Supreme Court removing the IRS tax exempting policy for discrimination, Dunn declared, "It represents an acknowledgement that the Internal Revenue Service cannot arbitrarily and arrogantly establish and enforce national policy at the expense of religious liberty guarantees."

## Reagan race proposal stirs mixed reaction in Congress

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Reagan's announced support for legislation denying tax exempt status to private schools which practice racial discrimination is drawing mixed reactions from congressional leaders.

While both Republicans and Democrats welcomed the president's support for such legislation, the announcement only partially muted the concerns of some Democrats over his reversal of a 12-year-old Internal Revenue Service policy prohibiting tax exemption to private schools that discriminate on the basis of race.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., welcomed Reagan's support for legislation on the issue but warned that "the president's words do not undo the damage" caused by what Kennedy called the administration's "shocking action" of withdrawing the IRS regulations. The result, he said, restores "racist tax subsidies" until Congress acts to correct it.

Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. appeared even less satisfied with administration actions. "What this country needs is not more legislation but the clear and unmistakable commitment of the president of

the United States to enforce the law," he said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., who announced plans to introduce his own legislation said Congress should work with the president to "ensure through law that the federal government does not subsidize racial discrimination through the tax code."

Republican leaders hailed Reagan's announcement, with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., indicating he would introduce the administration's bill as soon as it is drafted.

Dole called Congress "the proper forum" to set tax exemption policy. He predicted the matter would receive "priority attention" by Congress and his committee which he said would open hearings soon after Congress reconvenes Jan. 25.

It remains to be seen whether the administration's proposal will be as sweeping as the IRS policy it is designed to replace. Sen. J. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., has already raised reservations about how far such legislation should go.

Thurmond said, "Any legislation that is proposed should in no way infringe upon freedom of religious belief and expression."

The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said "sincerely held religious beliefs" were at issue in the Bob Jones University case — a tax exemption dispute pending before the Supreme Court when the IRS reversed its long-held policy.

Thurmond had hailed the IRS decision because of his view that Congress, rather than "bureaucratic agencies," should make laws and set public policy.

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## Southern Seminary library passes 500,000-volume mark

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — For the first time in their history, Southern Baptists have a 500,000-volume theological library, the largest of its kind. The James P. Boyce Centennial Library at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has recorded holdings of 549,045, making it the largest collection of theological materials in the Southern Baptist Convention, and one of the two or three largest such libraries in the world.

Second in size is the Fleming Library at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, with 475,773 volumes. Southwestern has approximately 118

volumes for each of its 4,000 students, whereas Southern has about 203 volumes for each of its 2,700 students.

In church music collections, Southern Seminary heads the list of seminary libraries with 118,978 volumes. It also has the largest collection of Baptist history material (such as church and associational minutes).

## Glorieta accepting 1982 summer staff applications

GLORIETA, N.M. — Glorieta Baptist Conference Center is accepting applications for employment on the 1982 summer staff, according to Allen Maxey, personnel services coordinator.

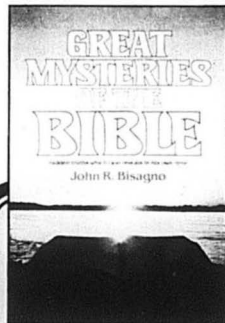
Applicants must be between 18 and 65 years of age and be available to work from May 31 through Labor Day weekend.

Available positions include food services, day camp, housekeeping, registration, business offices and auditorium and conference room operations.

The conference center provides an extensive program of activities for the staff, including Bible study, recreation, music and mission opportunities.

Information may be obtained by writing to Summer Employment, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535.

The year-round conference center is owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.



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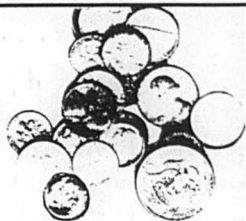
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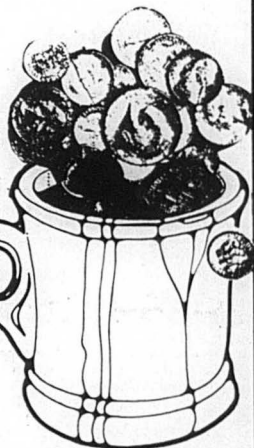
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\$22,000,000**

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# Your state convention at work

## Student Department

### "I'm trying to be unselfish"

Our one and only grandchild, Amy, was being urged to share Christmas toys with a younger friend. She was being prompted by me, whom she calls "Pa Paw," and Ethel, whom she calls "Gagee."

A frown crossed Amy's face and before releasing the doll she hugged it one more time and said to us quite convincingly, "I'm trying to be unselfish."

Really, I guess that's all most of us do, or can do. Unselfishness doesn't come easily for me. Almost every day's mail brings a request from a struggling BSU somewhere. In the deep south we are blessed with BSU directors and Baptist Student Centers.

Some of the requests are from people we know and love who serve in tough places,



Logue

like Benny Clark and Terry Proffitt in Salt Lake City, Utah; Teresa Dawson in St. George, Utah; and Don Finley in Billings, S.D.

We will be sending \$10,000 to these and other pioneer BSUs this year. That's not much considering the need, but it's over 10 percent of what the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign will earn.

Don't misunderstand me; there are tremendous needs on campuses in Arkansas. And we are trying to meet those needs.

Amy is right.

Even in meeting spiritual needs, it's hard to be unselfish. — Tom J. Logue, director

## Language missions

### Baptist deaf leadership conference planned

First Church of Little Rock will be the setting for this year's Baptist Deaf Leadership Conference to be held the weekend of March 26-28. The conference will train deaf and hearing leadership and will be coupled with a deaf-led evangelistic crusade.

Program persons will include Carter Bearden, himself deaf, who is the National Consultant on Deafness with the Home Mission Board; Rev. and Mrs. George Joslin, consultants with Multi-Media Evangelism; Mrs. Vest Bice, interpreter for the deaf in Dallas, Texas; and Conway Sawyers, director of missions for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The conference will be a cooperative effort of the First Church of Little Rock and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Department of Missions.

All are welcome to attend. For further information, call 376-4791 or write: Randy Cash, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. — Randy Cash, Language missions director

## Church Administration

### Pastors and staff to consider church growth

"Pastoral Leadership for Growing Churches" is the title of a conference to be held in two areas of our state in late February. The conference, for pastors and church staff members, will be led by Bruce Grubbs, consultant in the Church Administration Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board.



Grubbs

The conference will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 22-23, at the Immanuel Church in Little Rock and on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 25-26, at Grand Avenue Church in Ft. Smith. In each location the conference is two days in length. The conference will meet from 1 until 5 p.m. and from 7 until 9 p.m. on the first day and from 8:30 a.m. until noon on the second day.

This conference will help pastors and church staff members understand growth and develop the personal and organizational skills to lead a church to grow. The conference recognizes that pastors and staff leaders are key factors in the growth of a church. Their effectiveness in leading growth is dependent upon their having a comprehensive view of growth and the skills to lead growth.

Bruce Grubbs, who will lead both conferences, is author of *Helping a Small Church Grow* and *Reaching People, the Pastor's Manual for Church Growth*. A small registration fee is required to cover conference materials. For additional information write Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, 72203. — Robert Holley

## Cooperative Program report for 1981:

| 1980           |                     | 1981           |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| \$624,477.41   | December Gifts      | \$804,927.69   |
| 591,258.12     | December Budget     | 669,511.50     |
| +33,219.29     |                     | +135,416.19    |
| \$7,425,032.43 | Gifts Year-to-Date  | \$8,329,844.63 |
| 7,095,097.00   | Budget Year-to-Date | 8,034,138.00   |
| +329,935.43    |                     | +295,706.63    |

Baptists break records! December was a record breaker for Cooperative Program gifts. For the first time the churches' gifts exceeded \$800,000. The \$8,329,844.63 is also a new high and is 12.19 percent above 1980 gifts. Arkansas Baptists gave \$904,812.20 more in 1981 than in 1980. — James A. Walker, director

## Have you had a 'say'

in the final distribution of your estate?

With a will you can remember your family and other Christian causes. See your attorney and contact your **Baptist Foundation** at Box 552, Little Rock 72203.

Please send me information on a Christian Will.

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## International A new life-style

by W. T. Holland, Boyce Bible School  
Basic passages: Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 6:27-38

Focal passage: Luke 6:27-38  
Basic truth: The key to a new life style as a Christian is love, love that responds to hate with good will; love whose generosity blesses others expecting no blessing in return; love that is merciful and kind to the non-deserving; and love whose reward is to receive in its own coin.

1. Love refuses to retaliate (v. 27-30). Loving our enemies means that we are to do them good, bless those who curse us, pray for those who treat us ill, repudiate resistance to the offensive, be generous to the grasping, liberal to the beggars, and understanding to the borrowers.

Asked by Jefferson Davis his opinion of General Whiting, Robert E. Lee commended his fellow-soldier highly. An aide, who had overheard the conversation, asked, "General, don't you realize the unkind things General Whiting is saying about you?" General Lee replied, "I understood the President wanted my opinion of General Whiting, not General Whiting's opinion of me."

2. Love receives in its own coin (v. 31-38). Learning that a certain member, now aged and ill, hated him, a pastor purposed in his heart that he would love this man regardless. He visited him repeatedly. Learning of this brother's high regard for Will Rogers the pastor read to him, a chapter at each visit, from a biography of Rogers, always following with a carefully selected Bible passage and a warm-hearted prayer. Soon this brother looked forward eagerly to his pastor's visits. Weeks later, realizing that death was near, he pledged his wife to have his pastor do his funeral, saying, "I love that man because he loved me when I hated him."

The lesson treatment is based on the International Bible Lesson for Christian teaching, Uniform Series, copyright by the International Council of Education. Used by permission.

## Life and Work Marriage or singleness

by Cary Heard, Park Hill, N. Little Rock  
Basic passage: I Corinthians 7  
Focal passage: I Corinthians 7:1-7, 32-35  
Basic truth: Marriage or singleness is not merely a matter of personal preference, but of one's gift from God and how we may best serve him.

1. There are numerous considerations to be taken into account as a Christian considers marriage and/or singleness. The first is that these are the only two legitimate choices for a Christian. Any other "arrangement" is forbidden. That makes singleness a very difficult commitment to keep and, indeed, it can only be kept as one has God's gift for it (v. 7). Likewise, one also must have God's gift for marriage, for it too places demands upon us (v. 3-4, 32-35). If a man or woman cannot accept these obligations, then marriage is not for them.

2. Apparently Paul saw singleness as offering a greater degree of freedom to serve Christ. For that reason he said, "A man does well not to marry" (v. 1), and "I would prefer that all of you were as I am" (v. 7), and "I would like you to be free from worry" (v. 32), that is the worry of being "pulled in two directions" (v. 34). Every Christian husband and wife knows the tug of war between family responsibilities, or "wordly matters" (v. 33, 34), and the obligation to be more involved in the Lord's work.

3. Paul was careful to stop short of making the decision of marriage or singleness for the Corinthians. He acknowledged that he was not in a position either to give orders (v. 6) or place restrictions on them (v. 35). His job was to point them to the fact that they must have God's gift for either option (v. 7) and then to encourage them to serve the Lord without reservation (v. 35) whatever God's choice for them might be.

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## Bible Book Right understanding of rewards

by Tommy Robertson, director of missions, Liberty Association  
Basic passage: Matthew 20:1-34  
Basic truth: God rewards not on the basis of what man thinks, but according to his own purpose and grace.

1. Every child of God receives the same basic reward from the God of life. The parable of Jesus concerning the landowner who hired people to work in his vineyard shows the goodness and impartiality of the man. Even the ones who went to work at the eleventh hour received the same wage as those who went early in the morning. The denarius paid the laborers is representative of eternal life given to every believer, regardless of when they enter the kingdom. The Lord has called his people to him from those days when the apostles first responded and will continue to call until the close of the age, and those who come at the eleventh hour will receive life eternal, just as the apostles.

2. Reward is not based on privilege in the kingdom of God. It is almost incomprehensible that close followers of Jesus could hear him solemnly state that he was going to the cross and then ask for places of privilege in his coming kingdom. All they could think about was having positions of authority and power and privilege, but they refused to see the truth. God will reward his children for faithful service, but we should not serve him just to be blessed more than others. We must forget privilege and leave the dispensing of rewards solely to God's sovereignty and grace.

3. Greatness in the kingdom of God is not based on power and authority. The disciples looked for greatness in the kingdom, but their concept of greatness was sadly mistaken. Jesus told them that greatness was not measured in God's kingdom as in the world. A person is not great in the Lord's work because others serve him, but because he is willing to serve others. Jesus is the greatest example of this standard, for he came not to be served, but to serve.

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## Johnson named director of Satellite Department

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Michael D. Johnson, administrative assistant in the office of the provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected as the first full-time director of the new Seminary Satellite Department.

Johnson will assume his post in the Seminary External Education Division June 1. He was elected by the division's governing board, composed of the presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

In his position at Southern, Johnson has worked closely with Provost Roy L. Honeycutt in administering off-campus seminary

## SBC annual meeting top 1981 news story

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles — preceded by furor and followed by seeming harmony — has been voted the top Baptist Press news story of 1981.

Editors of 34 state Baptist newspapers and personnel in five Baptist Press bureaus from around the United States were polled to determine their selections of the most significant Baptist news stories of the year.

The Baptist Press list includes stories of particular significance and newsworthiness to Baptists, and does not include other stories, such as nuclear energy, weapons proliferation, or Reagan economics.

The 1981 annual meeting of the SBC was preceded by name-calling and in-fighting, which led some observers — both within and without the denomination — to predict a split might occur in the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Factions formed, and rumors flew. Meetings were held and divisions drawn in advance of the June meeting. For the first time in recent history, an incumbent president was challenged in what is usually an unopposed second term.

However, when the convention was over, Bailey E. Smith of Del City, Okla., had been re-elected president, a long-standing doctrinal document had been reaffirmed, and seeming harmony prevailed.

The second top news story of the year concerned the establishment of the American Christian Television System (ACTS), a proposed television network based on satellites and low-power television stations.

The system, announced at the beginning of the year by Jimmy R. Allen, president of the denomination's Radio and Television Commission, was still in the planning stages when the year ended.

Simultaneously, the denomination's Sunday School Board worked to establish a satellite system to feed churches, associations, state conventions and others.

Lawsuits impacting various agencies was voted the third top story.

During the year, a woman secretary filed suit against the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Brotherhood Commission and three Brotherhood executives charging sexual harassment and seeking \$3 million in damages.

In the summer, a five-year-old lawsuit against the Baptist Sunday School Board by a former board personnel officer was settled when the BSSB paid Donald Burnett \$600,000 in damages.

A jury in a Nashville court awarded Burnett \$400,000, but the judge reduced the damages to \$60,000.

Two other Baptist entities — Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas — also went to court.

They were featured in federal Equal Em-

ployment Opportunities Commission disputes over employment records and practices.

Bailey Smith figured in the fourth as well as the first top story of the year. Smith made news in 1980 when he told a national political rally that "God doesn't hear the prayer of a Jew," and later said he thought Jews "have funny looking noses."

The remarks led to widely publicized meetings between Smith and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. During 1981, Smith and a contingent of Southern Baptist leaders toured Israel under sponsorship of the ADL, and relations between Southern Baptists and Jews seemed on the upswing.

The other top 10 stories are:

Five: Furor followed publicized remarks of Robert Bratcher, one of the main translators of the *Good News for Modern Man* version of the Bible. Bratcher, of Chapel Hill, N.C., said in March that belief in an inerrant Bible is either "willful ignorance" or "intellectual dishonesty." He later "resigned" from the American Bible Society, where he was research associate.

Six: Leadership changes saw Abner McCall retire as president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, to be replaced by Herbert Reynolds, Duke K. McCall announced his retirement as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and A. Harold Cole stepped down as executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, replaced by Ray P. Rust, president of Anderson College. Also, James H. Landes of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Roy Gresham of the Maryland Baptist Convention announced their retirements, and J. Marse Grant, editor of the *Biblical Recorder*, journal of the North Carolina convention, announced he will leave his post in 1982.

Seven: After a slight increase in 1980, statistics indicate Southern Baptists baptized fewer converts in 1981. Still, the statistics indicated Southern Baptists are baptizing an average of 1,000 persons a day.

Eight: In January, an intruder brutally murdered Ethyl Louise Robbins, 68, the wife of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary professor Ray Robbins, in her campus apartment. Nearly a year later, no suspects had been apprehended.

Nine: Southern Baptists continue their efforts to alleviate world hunger. The denomination's Foreign Mission Board sought ways to improve delivery of the funds and contributions continue to increase.

Ten: In February, Gene Medaris resigned as editor of the *Indiana Baptist*, journal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, after he was censured by the executive board. His censure and resignation were upheld by the board and, later, the chairman of the board, David Simpson, was named editor of the 9,500 circulation weekly newspaper.

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studies programs in Baltimore, Md., Detroit, Mich. and Jackson, Tenn. His new duties will include processing applications for new satellites to be jointly sponsored by all six seminaries through the new department. Once approved and activated, the satellites will receive assistance from Johnson in curriculum planning and the maintenance of permanent student records.

Johnson has completed course requirements for the Ed.D. degree at Southern Seminary and currently is at work on his dissertation. He holds degrees from Southern and the University of Kentucky. In 1982 he was listed among the "Outstanding Young Men in America."

His wife, Teresa Louise, is an M.A. candidate at the University of Louisville. They have one child, Jeremy.