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March 25, 1982

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Youth . . . growing in
MAR. 25 1982



1982 State Youth
Convention
Friday, April 9

Little Rock Convention Center

March 25, 1982
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



The 1982 State Youth Convention will meet April 9 at Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock. The theme of this year's convention is "Youth . . . Growing in DiscipleLife." Featured musicians this year are "Gabriel," a recording duo from Arlington, Texas. Also featured will be the Ouachita Singers from Ouachita Baptist University, the Southern Singers from Southern Baptist College, and DiscipleYouth, a youth discipleship witness training experience for youth.

Southern Seminary head seeks support

Roy L. Honeycutt was in Little Rock March 15 to urge supporters of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to see themselves, along with the seminary, as weavers, each contributing individual strands, so they might "spin together the fabric of what God wants us to be in the decades that follow."

Dr. Honeycutt, 55, was elected the eighth president of the seminary Feb. 2, succeeding Duke K. McCall who retired after 30 years as president of Southern Baptists' oldest theological institution.

The new president met with 80 Arkansans at a luncheon in Little Rock to ask for their support in working together to "claim the world for Christ in the 1980s and 1990s."

He said he felt the most important thing he could do in his tenure was to do what he was doing that day: to reaffirm Southern's heritage and assure Baptists on his 31-city tour that James P. Boyce's three guiding principles would be hallmarks of Southern Seminary during his tenure as president.

Honeycutt told the group that the goals of Boyce, the seminary's first president, were (1) that there be a place for every per-

son, regardless of previous preparation for ministry; (2) that academic excellence be a commitment; and (3) that an abstract of principles by signed by all faculty members to provide "a common core of theological commitment that binds the seminary together."

After reviewing the school's history, Dr. Honeycutt submitted that Southern has more than a great heritage; the school has a great hope. "We cannot live on the memory of what we once were," he continued. "Rather, we must somehow turn to a new vision, a new day, a new hope."

He sees as a primary commitment affirming the seminary as a community of believers, and not just a community of learners, although the seminary's priority will be to equip students to minister effectively at the congregational level.

Honeycutt said he makes no apology for "a tightly structured curriculum brought into being four years ago despite the fact the seminary was "swimming upstream" against a trend of loosening degree requirements in other schools. Honeycutt had served as chief academic officer of the seminary since 1976. He also is a noted Old Testament scholar and popular Bible teacher.

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Religious publications were hit hardest by a Jan. 10 increase in non-profit mailing permits, but the effects are not unnoticed at the local church level. The last installment of a two-part series on the postage crunch continues.

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Many gifted women are finding that the avenues of service for them in Southern Baptist work are narrow. Christine Gregory, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, however, urges women to be active in using their gifts in the available areas of ministry and churches to be responsive to the contribution their women can make. Editor J. Everett Sneed reports on an interview with Mrs. Gregory held recently in Little Rock.



Southern Seminary president Roy L. Honeycutt (right) seated at luncheon in Little Rock. With Honeycutt (from left) are L. L. Collins, interim executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; W. O. Vaught, pastor of Little Rock Immanuel Church and member of the search committee that named Honeycutt president; Cleo Collins; and June Honeycutt.

MK Prayer Calendar

Home and foreign Missionary Kids
who attend college on the Margaret Fund

April

27 Teddy W. Reynolds (Botswana) SBC Box 13, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Beware of spiritual pride

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



One of the most devastating sins which can befall a follower of Christ is to become convinced that he is a super Christian. One may believe himself to possess special knowledge, or feel more pious than others. Some have even convinced themselves that they are perfect. Others believe themselves to have an unusual filling of the Holy Spirit. The end result is always spiritual pride which causes a person to become puffed up.

Satan sometimes uses dedicated Christians against themselves and the kingdom's work. The super Christian ideology can lead a person to tragic extremes. A friend tells of hearing a testimony in which a woman declared, "I rejoice that I am now perfect, completely sinless ... I am as good as Jesus Christ and getting better every day."

Normally, spiritual pride does not reach this point. But it always forms a fertile ground for erroneous concepts and actions.

Such folly is not new. This was one of the major problems in the church at Colosse. Some felt that they had a special knowledge from God. These people, called "Gnostics," proclaimed that all matter is evil. "Thus," they said, "the body is evil." For this reason Christ, who was sinless, only appeared to have a human body. They further maintained that all matter is eternal. So they denied the creation account. They were certain about these assertions since they were the only ones provided with this special knowledge. In his pointed answer to this and other false teachings, Paul said, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility ... vanity puffed up by his fleshly mind" (Col. 2:18).

A super piety can have at least two devastating effects. First, it can curtail Christian growth. When an individual is born into the kingdom of God they begin a spiritual pilgrimage in which they grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord. If an individual believes that he has already attained perfection or near perfection there is no more need for him to strive for Christian growth.

Second, a belief that one has already attained a champion Christian status can be devastating when an individual

realizes some imperfection in his life. Every Christian needs to have the assurance of his acceptance once and for all with a Holy God in spite of the sin that occurs in his life. To acknowledge that one sins is not to be construed as condoning of sin. It should be the objective of every Christian to become more and more Christlike day by day. But every Christian should realize that Christ's offer, when accepted, provides a permanent relationship with God through Christ.

There are several contemporary events which have produced an overemphasis on personal revelations and experiences. The first, was a sterile approach to Christianity in the late '50's and early '60's which almost completely denied that God deals with man in our present age. This rationalistic method almost ruled out all emotions. In our reaction to this approach, some have moved too far in the opposite direction.

A second factor in the development of the present day problem is an emphasis made by existential theologians who maintain that there is no truth apart from personal experience. Often, the results of this philosophy is to place personal experience above the scriptures. When one's personal experience seems to conflict with the Bible, he should re-examine his personal experience.

To combat this overemphasis on God's personal dealings with man, one should carefully and regularly read God's Word. When one is truly close to God, he will recognize the presence of sin in his life. When Paul saw himself as he was, he felt that he was the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). On another occasion he said, "For that which I do I allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I" (Rom. 7:15).

Finally, great care should be exercised to not overemphasize or exaggerate any Bible doctrine. Any time a single teaching of the scripture is continually overstated in one's thinking it should serve as a danger signal.

Each of us should recognize the awesome effects of spiritual pride. As we see Christ in his holiness and sinlessness, we can see ourselves as we really are, sinners in need of God's marvelous grace.

Arkansas Baptist

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Betty Kennedy Managing Editor

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

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The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

Can an amoral America survive?

Articles in this column some weeks ago lamented the decline of the Judeo-Christian value system as the guiding light of this nation. In previous columns, I have also decried its replacement by humanistic values which now comprise the official, established doctrine in our schools, our governments, and our courts.

Motivated by burning hatred for Christianity and its moral absolutes, the advocates of the "new amorality" have guided this nation into its promised utopia of sexual permissiveness, provocative sex education from kindergarten on, co-educational and co-habitational college dormitories, casual marriage, fractured family, instant divorce, homosexuality and group marriages as alternate life styles, blatant obscenity, pornography including even child pornography, unparalleled political corruption, the curse of recreational drug use and crime so utterly rampant as to be totally out of control.

Anyone who presumes that our country can survive another two or three decades of the "new amorality" is simply not rational. It is patently clear that the "new amorality" has made frightening progress toward debilitating the moral fabric of this great

land will certainly destroy this republic if its influence is allowed to continue.

The "new amorality" must be repudiated — by individuals, by families, by communities, by states, by our schools, by our churches, our legislatures, and our courts.

The view that America is in jeopardy because of her immorality finds support in unlikely places. In writing to Adlai Stevenson, John Steinbeck said, "If I wanted to destroy a nation, I would give it too much and I would have it on its knees, miserable, greedy, and sick . . . I am troubled by the cynical immorality of my country. I do not think it can survive on this basis and unless some kind of catastrophe strikes us, we are lost. By our very attitudes, we are drawing catastrophe to ourselves."

America can still be a great nation — morally, politically, and economically the strongest in the world. Or America can live just as the legions of hell would have us live. But we can not do both. As John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence said shortly after the Revolutionary War, "A republic once equally poised must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty."

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

Military missions tour set by state singers

A group of Arkansans will sing in Great Britain, France, Switzerland, and West Germany on a Military Mission Tour in late June and early July. The director, Amon Baker, minister of Music at Little Rock's Immanuel Church, sees the trip as a Bold Mission Thrust activity.

The tour group has scheduled two concerts with the U.S. Air Force Band in Europe: One at Ramstein Air Base in West Germany, and the other at Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, West Germany. Faith Church is said to be the largest English-speaking Baptist Church outside the U.S. Its members are American military and business personnel.

Other concerts among the 14 scheduled include one at a Baptist church in London, possibly one in a Baptist Church in Paris and mini concerts in all the major cathedrals in Europe.

The group will be part of the July 4 festivities at RAF Minden Air Base in England.

Baker said the idea for this tour came from the response of the Americans in Europe when he and a group of singers made a similar tour in 1980. Many of the American military families who came to those concerts were nonchurch people, Baker explained, and he saw a tour aimed at the military personnel as a missions opportunity.

The tour is sponsored by several military chaplains at the bases, though singers pay all their own expenses. More information is available from Baker at Immanuel Church.

Governor's wife will be speaker

Gay White, the wife of Arkansas' governor, is scheduled to give her testimony at the Friday morning session of the Arkansas Baptist Conference for Women in Pine Bluff April 29 and 30 and May 1. She will speak at 9 a.m.

Also scheduled on the conference program, and not previously announced, is the group known as Arkansas Singing Women.

General Chairman Bettye Atchison says registration for the conference remains open.

Nominating committee seeks recommendations

Recommendations are being sought for two vacant Executive Board positions scheduled to be considered at a meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention nominating committee April 16.

Merle Milligan, chairman of the nominating committee, reports that there are two vacancies for the executive board from Harmony Association. A constitutional change by messengers to the 1981 state convention meeting authorized the state nominating committee to recommend to the Executive Board persons to fill unexpired terms on that board. The Executive Board must then elect these persons.

The nominating committee asks that recommendations for the positions be sent, prior to April 16, to Milligan at 18 Mimosa Drive, Harrison, AR 72601.

Cooperative Program report: February

1981		1982
\$ 669,511.50	Monthly budget	\$ 759,888.73
610,590.19	February gifts	705,964.84
-58,921.31		-53,923.89
\$1,363,864.17	Gifts year-to-date	\$1,524,908.83
1,339,023.00	Budget year-to-date	1,519,777.46
+24,841.17		+5,131.37

The churches gave \$95,374.65 more in February 1982 than February 1981. Gifts are 11.81 percent above one year ago, while the Consumer Price Index is up 8.4 percent. February gifts are 7.10 percent under monthly budget. Gifts year-to-date are 0034 over budget. — James A. Walker

Churches, state convention try to cope with postal hike

by Bob Allen

It is generally thought as good advice to persons wanting to get along well with their fellow man to not talk about religion or politics. For those in Southern Baptist circles, however, the Great Commission dictates that the former advice not be taken. Since Congress approved a cut in postal subsidies putting into effect Jan. 10 a drastic increase in mailing costs for non-profit organizations, neither has the latter.

In Arkansas, spiraling mailing costs have necessitated an increase in subscription rates for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* the last five years in a row. The most recent subscription increase, enacted to offset projected mailing costs double last year's, meant a 40 percent increase for churches taking the *Newsmagazine* on the "every resident family" plan.

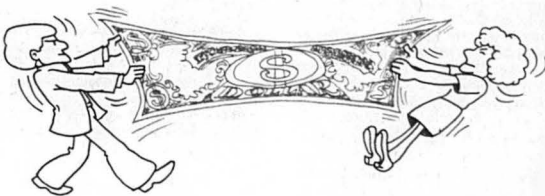
For many churches, the increase came at a bad time. Some are already beset with inflating utility costs or building programs with accompanying high interest rates. For others, the subscription hike alone would not make the cost prohibitive, but the timing of the increase caught them after budget figures for 1982 had been set. The combination of the higher cost of the *ABN* and markedly higher costs for the churches' own bulk rate mail has forced congregations across the state to take a hard look at how best to cope with the postage crunch.

Baring Cross Church of North Little Rock asked members interested in continuing to receive the *ABN* to either contact the church office or be dropped from the subscription list. Only 94 of the church's 223 subscribers asked to be left on the mailing list.

Pastor Jerry Hogan said the cutback was a response to overall tough times financially. While offerings are healthy at Baring Cross, Hogan said the church does not want to wait until it gets in an unpleasant financial situation before taking action. "We

"We took a hard look at areas of ministry, gifts given to associational work and everything. Whatever we do, we want to be productive."

—Jerry Hogan, Baring Cross



Rising postal rates

Other needs

took a hard look at areas of ministry, gifts given to associational work and everything," he said. "Whatever we do, we want to be productive. "The bottom line is, are we ministering to people?"

Edwin L. Hinkson of Watson Chapel Church in Pine Bluff, whose church canceled 288 subscriptions, said the recommendation to drop the *ABN* came from the church finance committee, primarily because of the increase in the church's own mailing costs for 1982. "We are encouraging our people on an individual basis to continue it. I'm for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*."

Calvary Church in Texarkana has taken similar measures to thin out its *ABN* subscription lists. It has also cut back from weekly mailouts to twice a month. Ed Brennan, associate pastor, said Calvary got caught by the postal increase after its budget had already been set. "If it had happened in November, we would have planned for it," he said. The church, with an average Sunday School attendance of 175, mails about 300 copies of "The Caller", its church newsletter. Without cutting back, the amount budgeted for the mailout would be depleted in six months.

Dwayne Fischer, associate pastor at Calvary Church in Little Rock, said he currently sends 800 weekly mailouts. They are taken camera-ready to a printer. With the postal increase, the newsletter will cost a projected \$1,000 more this year.

Fischer said Calvary is considering either less frequent mailings or purchasing the front page of the *Newsmagazine* for its weekly church news.

ABN editor J. Everett Sneed has appealed to readers to consider the front page option. Churches or associations may buy the space, and save the cost of addressing

and mailing separate newsletters. The cost of an *ABN* front page is \$29 per week (in addition to regular subscription costs) camera ready and \$40 typeset. The front and back page can be used for \$44 camera ready or \$70 if type is set.

Direct mail promotion is important as well to Arkansas Baptist State Convention departments and agencies. Third class non-profit mailers saw a 3.5 cent-per-piece rate at the beginning of 1981 rise to 5.9 cents-per-piece, effective Jan. 10.

Last year the state convention mailed an estimated 320,000 pieces under two non-profit third class permits. That volume of mail at the 3.5 cent rate would have cost \$11,200. The same volume mailed at the current 5.9 cents would cost the convention \$18,800, or 69 percent more.

One of the convention's big mailers is the Church Training Department. "We are dependent on direct mail to make pastors and staff members of churches aware of what our department is doing," director Bob Holley said. Holley said the department is mailing at its normal rate now. If later in the year it appears that postage dollars are running short, Holley said he will cut back on the amount of promotion done on each event.

A shortage in postage could be supplemented by taking funds from another account, Holley said, "but there's not much fat in our budget."

Holley said that along with direct mail, the *ABN* is an important link between his department and the churches. Direct mail reaches church staff, but the *Newsmagazine* brings news of events directly to the people they many times involve. Since not all churches receive the *ABN*, though, direct mail is the only way to reach some churches. "We have to go both routes," Holley said.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Mike Taylor

is serving the Van Buren Concord Church as pastor. He is a graduate of John Brown University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served for the past seven years as a pioneer missionary, working in the suburbs of Peoria and Chicago, Ill. Taylor and his wife, Dianne, have three children, Jennifer, Philip and Jana.

S. D. Hacker

has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Harrison Northvale Church, effective April 18. He, for the past 12 years, has been serving as director of missions for Independence Association with offices in Batesville. He has also served as DOM for White River Association, and has served as pastor in Lonsdale, Anderson, Alpena and Flippin. A native of Cisco, he attended Ouachita Baptist University and has done seminary extension study through both Southern and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminaries. Hacker has served in denominational work for many years. He and his wife, the former Lois Faye James, have three children. They have two grandchildren.

John T. Birdsong

has been called to serve Greenbrier First



Taylor



Hacker



Birdsong



Pike

Church as pastor. He and Mrs. Birdsong are natives of the Heber Springs area. He attended Ouachita Baptist University and has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in both Arkansas and Texas. His last position was with the Gambrel Street Church in Fort Worth, Tex., where he worked with their House Church Ministry in organizing the Parkway House Church.

Freddie Pike

was ordained to the gospel ministry March 7 by Pine Bluff Watson Chapel Church. Those participating were Dewayne Tanton, Bennie Price, Don Cooper, Smead Grim-

met, Lawson Hatfield and Ed Hinkson. Pike recently resigned as director of missions for Harmony Association to serve as assistant director of the Sunday School Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Malcolm Sample

has been called to serve the Perryville Harmony Church as pastor. He, for the past five years, has served as pastor of the Little Rock Hebron Church. Sample is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Stella, are parents of four married daughters. They have two grandchildren.

Ralph Allmon

began serving Feb. 1 as pastor of the Melbourne Midway Church, coming there from a nine year pastorate with the Northside Church of Dixon, Ill.

Steve Harrelson

is serving the Little Rock Shannon Hills First Church as music director. He and his wife, Cindy, began their ministry there March 7.

Roy Worley

is serving as pastor of the Keiser Church. He and Mrs. Worley and their daughter moved on the field Feb. 28. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary.

Trent Edwards

is serving the Yarbro Church as minister of music/youth. He attended Union University at Jackson, Tenn.

Terry Walters

is serving Blytheville Trinity Church as minister of music/youth, coming there from Melbourne. He and his wife, Cheryl Denise, have a son, Joseph.

Kenneth C. York

died March 13 at age 37. A deacon and member of the North Little Rock Remount Church, he was an Army veteran who served in Vietnam and was employed by the Veterans Administration Medical Center in North Little Rock. Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Glendia Green York; a son, Kenny, and two daughters, Darla and Wendy, all of the home; his mother, Annabell York of McCaskill; two brothers and two sisters. Funeral services were held March 16.

buildings

**Strawflor expands (phase two)**

Strawflor Church at Jonesboro is in the process of renovating their old auditorium for education space, thanks to a \$2,500 building aid grant from the Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Lehman Webb of the Missions Department (second from left) presented the check on a recent Sunday to Joe Orr, Eddie Emmons and Lowell Tabor. Pastor J. W. Goodman said members of the congregation are donating labor on the renovation project. The church was able to convert the old sanctuary since they completed their new one in November. A \$10,000 loan from the Missions Department's Revolving Loan Fund made their new building possible.

North Little Rock Park Hill Church

will celebrate its 35th anniversary as a church April 4. Former staff members will be featured speakers and musicians. Activities will include an open house and a birthday party.

Luxora First Church

ordained Buford Wilkerson as a deacon Feb. 25. Pastor Keith Mathis led the service.

Des Arc First Church

has launched a ministry to residents of a convalescent home recently opened in the community. Friday and Sunday services will be conducted weekly. Pastor Jack Bledsoe and John McNeil will share teaching responsibilities.

El Dorado First Church

is observing a month of dedication and re-dedication, calling all members to a dedication of their lives to God through self-examination and re-commitment.

Humphrey Church

was in revival Feb. 28-March 5 as a part of the Harmony Association simultaneous revivals. Pastor Lannie W. Smith was evangelist and Mrs. Smith served as pianist. Janet McGhee was music director. The revival resulted in four decisions for baptism.

Fouke First Church

held a lay renewal weekend March 5-7 led by Bob Fisher of Portland. Pastor Dale Wooten reported life-changing commitments as a result of the event.

Mena First Church

ordained Edwin Bloomfield as a deacon March 14. His father-in-law, Eugene Irby, preached the message of ordination. Dilard Miller is pastor.

Little Rock First Church

recently honored youth of the Deaf Ministry with a spring banquet. Perfect attendance awards were presented by Marie Pendley, coordinator.

Scott Toltec Church

was in revival March 7-12 as a part of Carolina Association simultaneous revivals. Gene Ellis of Hot Springs, director of missions for Garland County Association, was evangelist. Musicians were Martha Sims, Mary Ann Luebke and Donna Carter. Pastor Bert Thomas reported seven decisions for baptism.

Harrisburg First Church

was in a recent revival led by Gene Stacks and Bob Etters of North Little Rock. Pastor Captain Lovell reported high attendances in both Sunday School and worship services, as well as 21 rededications.

Geyer Springs First Church

has planned special conferences March 30-31 to be led by Leon Kilbreth, Sunday School evangelist. Open to the public, they will convene each day from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

ARKADELPHIA — Despite the gloomy predictions concerning the effects of President Ronald Reagan's proposed budget cuts in funds heretofore available for student loans, the outlook at Ouachita Baptist University may be somewhat brighter than it is for many state-supported institutions, according to Harold Johnson, director of student financial aid at OBU.

For one thing, he said, the reductions being proposed are strictly that: proposals, which must be approved by Congress before they can become law, an eventuality that even the most optimistic supporter of the President admits may never happen, at least in their present forms.

And even if the proposals do get by Congress, Johnson said, they wouldn't take effect until the 1983-84 school year (with the exception of Guaranteed Student Loans which could be cut back as early as April 1, 1982).

Included in the President's proposed GSL revisions are measures that would:

- double the origination fee from five percent to 10 percent, meaning that lenders would charge twice as much for processing student loans as they do now;

- limit eligibility to "unmet needs" which would automatically exclude those students whose families couldn't show a financial need;

- halt loans altogether to graduate and professional students;

- boost the interest rate charged for GSL

loans from the present nine percent to the established market rate, now ranging as high as 17 percent to 18 percent.

Although Ouachita students, like those at state schools, do receive funds from the GSL as well as from the state and federal scholarship programs, they also have at least four advantages over students, who must depend almost entirely on public funds:

- (1) Ouachita's scholarship fund is financed primarily from outside sources such as civic organizations, industries, churches, foundations, individuals, alumni and friends of the university.

- (2) The university also receives substantial scholarship support from the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Missions Board for the children of missionary families.

- (3) Significant assistance is received from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to help pay the expenses of ministerial students.

- (4) And Ouachita offers an impressive number of U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarships.

"These alternative sources of income certainly emphasize the importance of the private sector in education," said Johnson. "Ouachita appreciates so very much the support we receive in the funding of scholarships. And as federal money becomes tighter and tighter, we believe that we can look forward to continued support from all our publics."

News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. John Anthony, Baptist representatives to Israel, are the parents of John M. born Feb. 1. They may be addressed at Box 154, Jerusalem, Israel. He is a native of Hope, Ark. The former Connie Goble, she was born in Winamac, Ind., and grew up in Mount Ida, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan C. Atnip, missionaries to Zimbabwe, are in the States on furlough (address: 10006 Milda, Houston, Texas 77088). He is a native of Marmaduke, Ark.; she is the former Virginia Hill of Elberton, Ga. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.

Mr. Roger Garner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex F. Garner, missionaries to Paraguay, married Beth Ikard in Shawnee, Okla., on Feb. 13. His parents are in the States and may be addressed at 3206 South Harvey, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73109. They are natives of Arkansas, he of Fort Smith, and she, the former Charleta Beindorf of Pope County. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1952.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory B. Meeks, missionaries to Taiwan, may be addressed at 372 Chien Hsing Lu, Taichung, 400 Taiwan. Born in Arkadelphia, Ark., he lived in several states and 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.

Mr. and Mrs. Jewel N. Franks, missionary associates to South Africa, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 3217 Dreeben Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76118). He was born in Union, Ark., and grew up in Cushing, Okla. She is the former Jeanne Sheridan of Cushing. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Holt Jr., missionaries to Togo, have arrived on the field following reappointment (address: BP 1353, Lome, Togo). Born in Jonesboro, Ark., he grew up there and in Bay and McCormick, Ark., and Wilmington, Calif. She is the former Sherry Puckett of Paragould, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1975, resigned in 1980, and reappointed in 1981.

SBC 1st VP urges women to use their gifts

by J. Everett Sneed

"The role of women in Southern Baptist life has decreased substantially in the last ten years," said Christine Gregory, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "I really could get discouraged about it."

Gregory was in North Little Rock to



speak at Park Hill Church during Home Missions week. The problem, she said, is compounded by the fact that a host of women are graduating from our seminaries who want to be involved in ministry, but there is no place for them to go except into home missions or foreign missions. "This may be good," she said, "because it may be the Lord's way of leading us to get more people into mission service."

Gregory feels that there are a number of ways of increasing involvement of women in Southern Baptist life. "The WMU offers one of the best opportunities for involvement of women," said Gregory, who was SBC WMU president for six years.

"Women need to see that one of their gifts is that of affirmation. We could help a lot of pastors desiring to delegate responsibility in mission education. It's easy for me to see how WMU gets to be a woman's thing. A woman doesn't normally go to her husband to ask, 'Should I buy a pair of shoes for our child?' We just go to buy the shoes. So it is natural for a church WMU director to just take something and run with it. Perhaps, in the past there have been too many times when the WMU director has not been working closely enough with her pastor."

Gregory pointed out that it was impossible for a pastor to read everything that comes to his desk. So the women can be real enablers in helping their pastor in the area of mission education.

"On the other hand," Gregory said, "I don't think that women should be apologetic about the gifts that God has given to us. I see too many women just copping out. I know what my gift is and I don't mind tell-

ing anyone what it is. I really get perturbed when women begin to put themselves down. We are denying what God has given to us. If God created us, breathed into us the breath of life and then gave us gifts, we are to acknowledge these gifts and to use them."

"When we get really serious about the gifts that God has given us, then perhaps other people will take us more seriously."

—Christine Gregory

Gregory feels that women need to be really serious about using the gifts that God has given to them. She said, "When we get serious about the gifts that God has given us, then perhaps other people will take us more seriously."

Gregory feels that one of the main problems for women graduating from seminaries is the fact that men feel insecure. She said, "There are two ways that we can make men feel more secure. First, we don't demand things. And second, we need to let men know that we want to work along beside them. We are not trying to take away their places of service."

Gregory feels that churches ought to be encouraged to take seriously the gifts that young women have. Churches need to be encouraged to look at young women who are graduating from seminary for staff positions.

Gregory believes that Baptist editors can do more than any other group to encourage churches to utilize the gifts of women. She said, "I believe that Baptist editors are some of the strongest opinion makers in Southern Baptist life. They need to speak out on churches using the gifts of women. I don't mean cooking the church supper. Women are willing to do this. But I am referring to using the gifts of women in relating to other people."

Gregory grew up with Baptist parents who were strongly committed to the cause of Christ. She said, "I never felt called to religious vocation, although, I served a church as a religious education director for one year and then later served on a part-time basis for two years."

After her marriage to A. Harrison Gregory, she started working in the church WMU,

later in the association and then in the state. In 1975 she was elected as the SBC WMU president and served in that position for six years.

In reflecting back over her election as WMU president she said, Carolyn Weatherford and I came at the same time. WMU then emphasized flexibility. The idea was to emphasize mission education and not to confront a fixed structure.

In discussing the Bold Mission Thrust, Gregory said, "I feel that it is lagging behind. We have talked about it a lot but if we are to succeed we must take someone by the hand and say 'Let's go do it.'"

Gregory feels that we need to adopt the motto of Dr. Laubach of "Each one teach one." She said, "It will give great impetus to the Bold Mission Thrust, if people are willing to work with each other on a one-to-one basis."

"It will be difficult for a lot of our people to do overseas mission work," Gregory stated. She said that there were two reasons for this — language and finance.

Gregory believes that we need to sell people on the concept of doing missions in their own area. "In every community," Gregory said, "there are people who need to go out to meet the needs of the community. We need to bring the world to Christ right where we are."

Gregory feels that the WMU is at one of its strongest points in history right now. She said, "The WMU has led the way in promoting 'The life-changing commitment.'"

Gregory feels that in order to reach people we must sometimes change our own lifestyles. "You can't change people into your own image," Gregory said, "but you must start where they are. This often means changing your own lifestyle so that you can bring them to Jesus."

In commenting on her year as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Gregory said, "I have never worked harder in my life and I have missed the WMU expense account. One of the things I hope to get done as I go out of office is to get an expense account for the vice presidents." Gregory feels that one of the reasons vice presidents in the past have not had expense accounts is that most of them were pastors of churches and their churches which provided for these expenses.

Gregory is very complimentary of her husband. She said, "My husband has been a real affirmer during my years of president of the WMU and first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Without his help it would have been impossible for me to serve as I have."



State stewards

Members of the Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors elected Robert D. Hughes, California Executive Director (left) as president. Cecil A. Ray, North Carolina, (center) was elected president-elect and Robert Wilson, Michigan, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Staff members of the Nevada Baptist Convention hosted the annual meeting in Las Vegas.



Managing editors

Edgar R. Cooper (right) editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Press Association during the group's annual meeting, hosted this year by the Nevada Baptist Convention. Robert J. Hastings (left) editor of the Illinois Baptist, was elected president-elect and Lynn P. Clayton (center) was elected secretary-treasurer.

Missionaries encouraged to innovate

by Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are being encouraged to find new and innovative ways to use increased hunger and relief funds.

John R. Cheyne, relief ministries consultant with the Foreign Mission Board, recently returned from a trip to eastern and southern Africa, which was intended to increase missionary awareness of new possibilities opened by the rapid rise of gifts to hunger and relief causes.

Because contributions rose quickly from \$889,190 in 1977 to more than \$5 million in 1980, Cheyne says missionaries have not yet fully grasped the variety of ways they can use the money "to meet human need in the context of sharing the message of Jesus Christ and planting churches."

He adds the missionaries are not being asked to abandon an old ministry for a new one, but to integrate relief ministries into their other work.

Cheyne's trip to meet with missionaries and African Baptist leaders in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Uganda is one of several moves made by the FMB in recent months to make good use of the increasing gifts.

Timothy Brendle, Cheyne's associate, is visiting missionaries in eastern South America.

The Foreign Mission Board made progress on its efforts to increase use of the funds in 1981, increasing allocations by 17 percent while Southern Baptist giving to overseas relief dropped 16 percent from the record in 1980.

The Foreign Mission Board allocated \$3,528,058 for hunger and relief projects in 37 countries in 1981 while Southern Baptists gave \$4,760,266. At the end of the year, \$5,537,738 remained unallocated.

Cheyne learned on his trip that other relief agencies have similar problems with accumulating funds because of a surge in American interest in world hunger. Missionaries in two countries had been approached by other relief agencies for their help in distributing excess funds, he said.

The Foreign Mission Board has an advantage over many relief agencies, Cheyne pointed out, because it has people already in place who can respond to needs as they arise. Those missionaries can also monitor conditions, suggesting adjustments as needs change.

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Tuesday night is Soul Winning Commitment for God's concerned people. A message can be preached on God using the called, cleansed, courageous and concerned person.

Wednesday night is Sunday School night. The teachers will prayerfully and faithfully seek to have every pupil and prospect



Shell

present to sit with them. The pastor or Sunday School director will recognize the teachers and pupils.

Thursday night is Family night. This is a happy time for all family members when grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren sit together to worship.

Friday night is Good Neighbor night. Every church member should bring a neighbor to church and introduce them. These should include the lost, unaffiliated Baptist, inactive church members or members of other denominations.

Saturday night is Youth night. The young people should be encouraged to demonstrate for Christ in large numbers. The message will be directed to them, calling them to complete commitment to Christ and His church. The revival is a special time for special people as they become involved in special nights. — **Clarence Shell Jr., director**

Family and Child Care Services

What will \$30 buy?

What can you buy with \$30? Well, we say, not much in this day of high inflation. To illustrate the point, my dad often says he goes to the grocery store and carries out in his arms what he used to purchase several years ago with the same amount of money, and had to have a wagon to haul.

Yet in spite of high inflation there are a lot of things you can buy for \$30. Among them is a week at summer camp for a young person. A very good reason to provide for this is the long-term yield involved.

Youth who attend summer camp have immediate returns in the area of recreation, fellowship and participation. They experi-

ence long years of return from those experiences, Bible study, and from decisions they may make. Any way you look at it, there is a big return on a \$30 investment.

It will soon be time to attend camp even though right now it may appear far into the future. We make plans for our youth in advance.

If you would like to invest \$30 and experience the blessing of giving plus the long-term return in a life, now is the time to send your check to us at Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone 376-4791. — **Homer W. Shirley Jr., director of development**

WMU

What do Acteens encounter?

What is an Acteens Encounter? What do Acteens encounter when they attend one of these events?

Other Acteens? Certainly this is an important part of an Arkansas Acteens event — meeting girls from over the state who are interested in missions, learning what they are doing in their organizations, getting new ideas and making new friends. Acteens encounter other Acteens.

Missionaries? By all means! Not just to stand on a platform and speak but for close encounter where girls can be near and ask questions. Not just career missionaries such as Kathie Braughton of the Philippines and Pete Petty of State Missions, but mission volunteers such as journeyman to Japan Jeff Pounders, activator Judi Aldstatt and one of Arkansas' upcoming contributions to foreign

missions, Debbie Moore. Yes, Acteens encounter (not just listen to) missionaries.

Music? They have the best! Featured at the Encounter will be Kathy Ferguson, music and youth director at Pike Avenue Church in North Little Rock, as director, and soloist and John Dresbach, music director at First Church of Osceola, as accompanist and soloist. John and Kathy will be doing a concert Friday evening.

If you get the idea you might like to attend the Acteens Encounter, write Arkansas WMU, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 for more information. Mark your calendar for April 30-May 1 at First Church, 4500 North Hills Boulevard, North Little Rock for the 1982 Acteens Encounter. — **Betty Jo Lacy, Acteens director**

Senior Adult Ministry

Senior adult conference planned for May

Senior adults and workers with senior adults will find fellowship, inspiration, entertainment, information and recreation at the Senior Adult Conference May 27-29. The conference will be held on the Ouachita campus beginning with a banquet at 6 p.m. Thursday. The conference will adjourn at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Gary Hauk, a consultant in senior adult ministry from the Sunday School Board in Nashville, will lead four sessions on senior adult ministry. Senior adults and those who work with senior adults will gain valuable in-



Holley

formation and ideas for beginning or strengthening their church's ministry to senior adults.

Nell Bobo, a Home Mission Board representative, will present mission service opportunities for senior adults. Jerry Johnson, Family Life Minister at First Church, Little Rock, will lead a conference on life-long physical fitness for senior adults.

On Friday evening the senior adult musical, "Count on Us," will be presented in the Mabee Fine Arts Auditorium by a senior adult choir from First Church, Arkadelphia.

Rooms are available on the Ouachita campus at reasonable rates during the conference. For additional information, write Robert Holley, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**

Sunday School

Sunday School Board backs up growth ideas with money

In the launching of 8.5 by 85 (a plan to have 8.5 million persons enrolled in Southern Baptist Sunday Schools by 1985) some growth actions suggested have been backed up by offers of financial aid by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

One of these projects is the Nationwide Bold People Search suggested for Oct. 17-20, 1982. For the associations having the Nationwide Bold People Search between Jan. 1, 1982 and Dec. 31, 1982, a \$25 honorarium will be provided for the Associational People Search Coordinator. This honorarium is for



Pike

leading the associational training of the church People Search committees. Copies of the Church Guide and other materials are available in quantity from Baptist Book Stores.

A second project is Sunday School Enlargement Campaigns for associations. This is one of the major projects during 1982-85. A coordinator is available to each association as well as up to \$1,500 from the Sunday School Board for each associational campaign conducted. The purpose of the enlargement campaign is to increase Sunday School enrollment, set growth goals, start or improve a visitation program and start one or more teaching units. For additional information on these projects contact me at the Baptist Building. — Freddie Pike, assistant director

First Baptist Student Unions growing on Korean campuses

TAEGU, Korea — Korea's first Baptist Student Unions have attracted at least 100 active members and drawn as many as 500 college students into regular attendance at local Baptist churches, according to Southern Baptist missionary Paul Rhoads.

Begun simultaneously last fall in Taegu, a city of 1.3 million people in southeastern Korea, the Baptist Student Unions (BSUs) operate at five colleges and universities with a total of 30,000 students, including Young Nam University, the nation's second largest university.

Three of the student fellowships meet several times weekly on campus, while the other two meet in area churches, awaiting permission for campus assemblies. Missionaries and Korean Baptists have worked with

college students for many years, but Rhoads said the on-campus BSU meetings are the first of their kind.

An Arkansas native, Rhoads directs student evangelism for the Korea Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries). He is based in Taegu.

Aided by his wife, Lana, and missionary journeyman Jimmy Spikes of Alabama, Rhoads launched the BSUs with the strong support of Taegu's 20-member association of Baptist churches. "We were losing a lot of our Baptist students to parachurch groups on campus, so the churches were really interested in the program," he said.

The association sponsors the college fellowships and area pastors teach Bible studies on campus. The BSUs, in turn, direct students into the churches.

The BSUs also provide witness and discipleship training to 10 Taegu churches.

"We've got a basis to connect the BSUs to churches in the city," said Rhoads. "When the students reach other students, we immediately have a place to funnel them into — the BSU, and then the church. The two hook into each other."

He estimated that the BSU outreach, coupled with direct evangelism and evangelistic Bible studies begun earlier on several of the campuses, has brought 500 college students into Baptist churches in Taegu and other Korean cities.

Rhoads hopes that the Taegu association will vote to sponsor a full-time student worker to expand the campus organizations, and that the BSU idea will catch on in Korea.

"We're not doing anything that local and national workers couldn't do, and probably do better," he said. "We're praying that they'll see the vision and pick it up and run with it."

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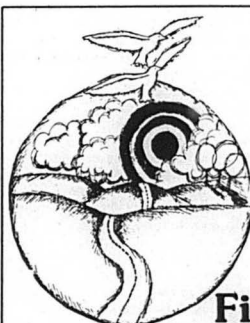
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International

Feeding both body and soul

by Lawson Hatfield, State Sunday School director

Basic passage: Mark 6:30-44

Focal passage: Mark 6:30-44

Central truth: Jesus is concerned for our personal lives and with compassion meets both physical and personal needs.

1. Leaders need time for leisure, food and privacy (30-32). The disciples had just finished a strenuous preaching and teaching mission. They were bone weary. Yet the people continued to "come and go" requiring constant and energy draining ministry. Jesus was sensitive to the exhaustion of his disciples and instructed them to turn aside and rest. Jesus knew that to find inner peace one must experience solitude.

2. There is no rest for the shepherd heart (33-34). The disciples along with Jesus sought the recommended rest. They launched a boat to cross the lake. When their boat docked at a lonely place they were surprised to see that the crowds had hastened on foot around the lake shore. The people won the race with time and waited for the docking of the boat. Jesus was moved with compassion, seeing the people as sheep without a shepherd. He taught them many things.

3. Problem solving by the committee faltered (35-37). It was late in the day in a desert place. Already working overtime, the disciples solution to the problem of food for the multitudes was to send the people away. Jesus, however, instructed the disciples to feed the multitudes. Their cash flow would not pay the tab. Besides, there was no market place there. Excuses are easy to come by.

4. A four-fold tribute to generous youth (38-46). All four gospels record the miracles of the feeding of the five thousand. John alone tells us it was a lad that shared his lunch with Jesus. Five loaves of bread and two smoked fish plus an unselfish boy and the compassion of Jesus provided the substance of the miracle.

We can imagine the lad took home twelve baskets of surplus food. Maybe each disciple carried a basket for him. Oh well, this is only a fantasy, but why not? To be like Jesus we should seek to minister to physical and spiritual needs.

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Life and Work

Proclamation and worship

by Earl R. Humble, Southern Baptist College

Basic passage: I Corinthians 14:20-40

Focal passage: I Corinthians 14:23-33a, 39-40

Central truth: Proclamation and worship must be carried on in an orderly, yet reverential manner.

1. Tongues are a sign for unbelievers. Paul reminds the Corinthians that all believers do not have the gift of tongues. If they did unbelievers and the unlearned would accuse the church of insanity. (I Cor. 14:23) So that all things be done decently and in order, no more than two or three should speak in tongues, and they one by one, and let one interpret (I Cor. 14:27).

2. Prophecy is a sign to believers. Prophecy is partly foretelling and partly fortelling. That there might be decency and order, no more than two or three should speak at a service, for "the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." (v. 32)

The great purpose of prophecy is that the body of Christ may be edified (v. 26). Paul wrote in a day when demonic activity abounded. It would have been a tragedy if the Lord's people should be mistaken for pagan worshippers.

3. There are forms of both true and false worship. False worship is often characterized by unruly leaders who are noted for sensationalism, froth, and noise. Disorder prevails throughout the service. True worship is orderly, for order is heaven's first law.

There must be freedom in a true worship service, but there need not be anarchy. There is nothing necessarily wrong with having an order of service, planned perhaps for several days. Some fear that this would thwart the Spirit's will. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is great enough to lead several days or weeks before the service.

4. The purpose of proclamation is to win people to the Lord (I Cor. 14:24-25). Unless the message of salvation is presented orderly and with decorum, the lost who attend may be driven away in disgust.

True proclamation sets forth the Gospel plainly. It is not to be an unintelligible babble, else the visitor would be repulsed. Bedlam does not recommend Christianity to a thinking person. Decorum does not mean cold formality. We need neither an incinerator nor a refrigerator in the pulpit. One can be as fatal as the other. If God is in control both extremes will be avoided.

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Bible Book

The King crucified

by Vester Wolber, Ouachita Baptist University

Background passage: Matthew 27:32-61

Central truth: The insincere and sadistic mockery manifested toward Jesus at Golgotha was not unlike the insincerity in the hearts of people who reject him in America today.

1. Insincere persons fail to recognize the true identity of Jesus and do not comprehend the nature and purpose of his suffering. The soldiers who gambled for his robe, those who passed by and remembered some of his words but missed their meaning, the religious leaders who challenged him to disengage himself from the cross — all these men had one fatal flaw in their character: they lacked moral earnestness. And in seeking favorable acceptance with God, the insincere need not apply.

2. People who are unacquainted with Scripture misinterpret events that fulfill Scripture. Had the on-lookers at Golgotha known the twenty-second Psalm, they would have known that Jesus was quoting its first verse, making it his cry of loneliness when he spoke from his cross to the Father "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" When the son of God is bowed down with grief and overburdened with sorrow he doesn't call for an Elijah to bail him out.

3. God is quite capable of generating sincerity in some of the people who have heretofore looked upon his son in derision and contempt. There is nothing better than a well-timed earthquake to shake up the person who appears to be immovable. And when "yet once more" God shakes the earth and heaven (Hebrew 11:27) such men and women will seek to head up a volunteer search party for "a kingdom that cannot be shaken."

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Christian and public education examined at Texas CLC meeting

by Orville Scott

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Scientific creationism, secular humanism, church-state issues and private versus public schools were examined during the annual workshop of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A hard-hitting attack on scientific creationists was launched by Bob Patterson, professor of religion at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, who said scientific creationism is not only poor science but poor theology as well.

Patterson said scientific creationists falsely assume that Genesis is a textbook in science. Rather, said Patterson, Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are saying God is sovereign, transcendent and purposeful. "He is Lord of nature and above nature."

It is also saying that the world is real and orderly and essentially good as it came from the hands of the Creator, said Patterson, editor of the book, "Science, Faith and Revelation: An Approach to Christian Philosophy."

"If modern science points in any direction, it points in the direction of a Creator," Patterson said.

A heated debate resulted from different assessments of humanism by author and family life consultant Tim LaHaye of Los Angeles, and Frank Stagg, professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

LaHaye contended, "A false religion called secular humanism has taken over the public schools." He said the "religion" is based on atheism, and was introduced in the public schools by the so-called fathers of public education in the U.S.: Horace Mann, John Dewey and Robert Owens.

LaHaye said humanists believe that man is the measure of all things, independent from God and capable of solving his own problems.

Stagg, criticizing LaHaye's definition, said there are many degrees of humanists but all recognize the necessary worth and potential of man. He also took issue with LaHaye's portrayal of humanism as "anti-God, anti-moral and anti-American."

"I'm not a Christian because I'm a humanist. I'm a humanist because I'm a Christian," said Stagg.

William Hull, pastor of First Baptist

Church, Shreveport, La., and LaHaye, spoke in support of private schools.

Hull said private schools such as the one sponsored by the Shreveport church, provide healthy competition to cause public schools to be more innovative, but he warned that churches sponsoring private schools must be militant supporters of public school education.

LaHaye, family life lecturer and author of "Battle for the Mind" and other books, said he started a high school in Los Angeles because of his concern over secular humanism invading the public schools.

A stirring call for support of public education was issued by David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., who called on churches to preach the good news by committing themselves to the work of public education.

Referring to private schools, Matthews asked: "Can you say to an oppressed person you've already walled out, 'We're here to serve you?'"

Church historian Penrose St. Amant echoed Matthews when he noted: "Baptists are increasingly part of the middle class that is isolated from the poor. You can't start a church in a community when you won't send your children to school there."

St. Amant, former professor at several Southern Baptist seminaries and former president of Ruschlikon Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland, added that if we take the public schools for granted, we will lose them. "Let it be said of this generation that we saw the ills and cured them and saw the essential place of education and sustained it."

An 88-year-old black educator, Benjamin Mays of Atlanta, Ga., said the public schools are needed to bring blacks and whites together but that 28 years after the Supreme Court's desegregation decision,

"we are still in turmoil" and "the vast majority of Americans believe in a segregated school system."

On separation of church and state, John Baker, general counsel and director of research for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., blasted a bill by Republican Sen. Jesse Helms to remove school prayer issues from the jurisdiction of federal courts, saying the bill would seriously affect religious liberty far beyond the issue of school prayer.

He also urged Baptists not to support attempts to require the teaching of scientific creationism in the public schools no matter what they personally believe about the origins of the earth.

"They (supporters of the attempts) are asking the government to force that religious doctrine on a group of students under the force of law. Baptists cannot support such action and be true to their heritage," he said.

Paul Salmon, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators in Arlington, Va., said there is good news and bad news for American education. The good news is that back-to-basics teaching is resulting in higher scores on aptitude and basic skills tests, but the bad news is that teaching won't be able to compete unless salaries are tied to the market.

He warned that America's education system faces international competition, noting that Japan already has captured the automobile and optical industries and "we are in the process of losing the computer business to Japan."

He said Japanese children go to school 225 days a year, and "if we don't understand support of education is vital to our national interest, our style of life and standard of living can be lost without a shot being fired."



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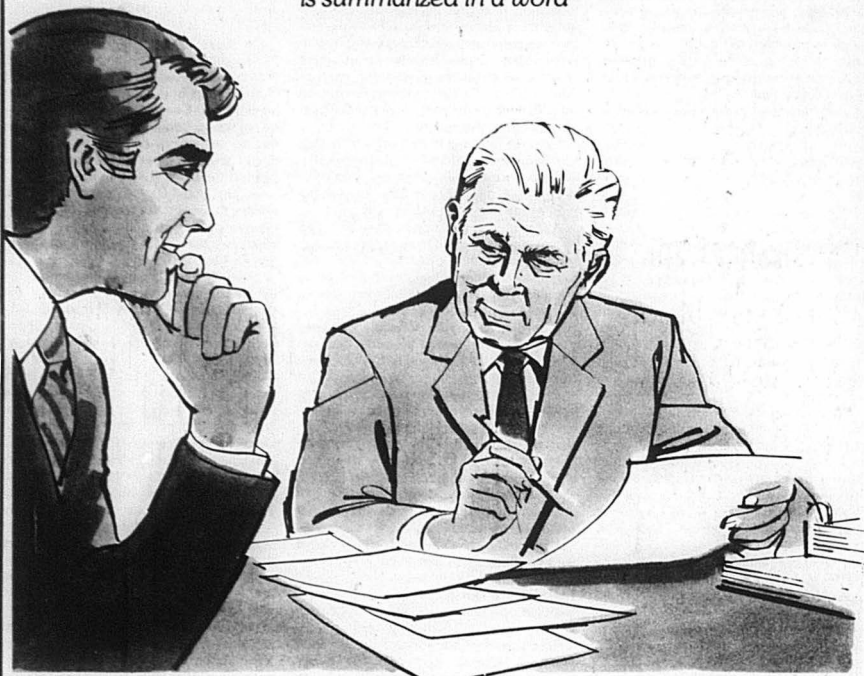
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Tiger Traks Weekend '82

Mission cooperation increases

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Following recent trends of mission cooperation among Baptists in southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Indonesian Baptists will jointly support an Indonesian couple to work on an island near Singapore. The Singapore Baptist Convention has planned a camp on Batam Island, where the couple will work, and may join in the support of mission work there.

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Parks urges support of fund for Sorrels

WASHINGTON (BP) — R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, is urging Southern Baptists to give generously to a fund set up to aid paralyzed mission volunteer Robert (Bob) Sorrels.

Parks encouraged support for the fund while speaking at Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church, the church of which Sorrels was a member and which sponsored him as

a Mission Service Corps volunteer.

Sorrels, now 30, was injured April 15, 1980, less than a week after he arrived in Nigeria. The traffic accident which paralyzed him from the neck down killed veteran Southern Baptist missionary William D. Bender and Nigerian Baptist Seminary professor Titus Oluwafemi.

A dispute arose late in 1981, when a group of members of the church — calling themselves "Friends of Bob Sorrels" — circulated letters critical of Parks and the FMB for its handling of the case.

The FMB declined to accept long-term responsibility for Sorrels because he had gone as a volunteer and not as an employee. While Sorrels had life and health in-

surance, he did not have long-term disability coverage.

The board spent in excess of \$28,000 for Sorrels' medical care, and voted to continue a monthly stipend of \$603.50 until October of 1982, at which time government disability benefits are expected to take effect.

After the dispute surfaced, Sorrels, two members of the "Friends" group and Capitol Hill Metropolitan associate pastor Walt Tomme went to Richmond to meet with Parks, expressing what they called a "strong desire for reconciliation."

Another outcome of the meeting was establishment of a "Fund for Sorrels" by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention Foundation.

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Arkansas Baptist State Convention



STATEWIDE PASTOR'S BIBLE CONFERENCE

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
APRIL 26-28, 1982

Conference Preacher

Dr. Frank Pollard, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas.

Conference Teacher

Dr. J. W. MacGorman, Professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas

Registration

Fee: \$35.00, includes room, meals, and materials, or \$25.00, meals and materials only.

APRIL 26-28, 1982

All interested persons are welcome to attend!

For additional information contact: Dr. Gene Petty, P.O. Box 638, OBU, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Midwestern dean returns to class

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — John C. Howell, academic dean at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1975, will return to full-time teaching and writing as professor of Christian ethics, effective Aug. 1, 1982.

Currently, Howell is on study leave from his role as academic dean and is engaged in a research project in the area of family life ministry and the local church.

N. Larry Baker, associate professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern, is acting ac-

BJCPA issues warnings on school prayer, convention

by Stan Hasteley and Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Members of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs — representing eight Baptist groups — issued warnings against proposals in Congress on prayer in public schools and a nationwide movement calling for a constitutional convention.

Meeting here for the annual session, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also heard warnings from a Jesuit priest who formerly served in Congress about numerous Reagan administration domestic and international policies.

In other business conducted during a two-day meeting, the BJCPA adopted criteria for its involvement in legal disputes, approved a record 1982-83 budget and re-elected all current officers.

In a strongly-worded document on prayer in public schools designed to provide its staff with a fresh statement for use in this year's congressional battle on the subject, the Baptist agency reaffirmed its support of what it called the "historic" 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions banning state-mandated prayer and Bible reading in public schools.

Speaking to proposals in Congress for a constitutional amendment to nullify those decisions and for stripping federal courts of jurisdiction to hear challenges to state and local laws returning prayer to public schools,

the group pledged to work for their defeat. The statement also promised that the Washington-based Baptist committee will "exercise a leadership role" in seeking defeat of both kinds of legislation.

In its statement on the call for a constitutional convention, the Baptist Joint Committee warned that 31 state legislatures have called for such a convention for various reasons, including the desire to pass constitutional amendments requiring a balanced federal budget and banning abortion. Two thirds, or 34 states must issue calls for a constitutional convention before Congress is required to convene it.

The Baptist statement warned that such a gathering "easily could become a 'run-away' body which could propose alterations to the entire constitution" and urged Congress to establish rules of procedure to limit the subject matter which a constitutional convention would consider.

Another statement, expressing renewed commitment to racial justice and affirmative action in employment practices in both churches and society, was tabled after lengthy debate. The proposal was introduced in an effort to demonstrate opposition to racism and sexism in the aftermath of the agency's support for Bob Jones University in a widely publicized Supreme Court test.

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FCC sets low-power TV rules

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — After a year and a half of consideration and debate, the Federal Communications Commission officially authorized low-power television (LPTV), setting in motion the licensing process that may provide for a national Southern Baptist TV network.

By unanimous vote, the FCC approved the regulations for LPTV which will determine how licenses will be awarded and what technical standards will govern the operation.

Specifically, the FCC decision placed no limit on the number of LPTV stations that can be owned by one applicant, determined that uncontested applications (those with no competition for the same channel) and rural applications will be awarded first and established a simplified process, for deciding contested licenses.

The decision was hailed as good news by Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and architect of the proposed television network.

"This has placed us in a very strong position," Allen said, "primarily because the

FCC did not put a limit on the number of stations we can own."

The American Christian Television System (ACTS), a corporation formed by Allen last year to assemble the network, has 106 applications on file with the FCC. The FCC had considered a limit of 15 low-power stations for any one owner.

In deciding between competing applications for the same channel, the FCC elected to give preference to those with minority representation in their ownership and those filed by applicants who have not owned broadcast facilities before.

Allen said both preferences initially will favor ACTS applications, since the five-member ACTS board include three minority representatives and since ACTS currently owns no broadcast facilities.

The Federal Communications Commission in February rejected a plan to speed up licensing of contested channels through use of a lottery system of random selection paper hearing.

Although they will begin processing the estimated 1,200 uncontested applications immediately, it will take more than a year to handle all 6,000 applications.

ademic dean during Howell's study leave and will continue in that capacity until a new academic dean is named.

Howell indicated that he had been considering the move for some time, and said, "I would like to devote my time and energies to teaching and writing with a particular focus on families and the church's ministry to families. I believe that much more can be done to minister to student families on campus as well as to train our students for more effective ministry."

Howell has taught at Midwestern Seminary since 1960, and in recent years emerged as a recognized authority in the area of family life ministry. He has traveled and spoken extensively in churches, conferences and workshops, and written several books and numerous articles in that area of study.

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