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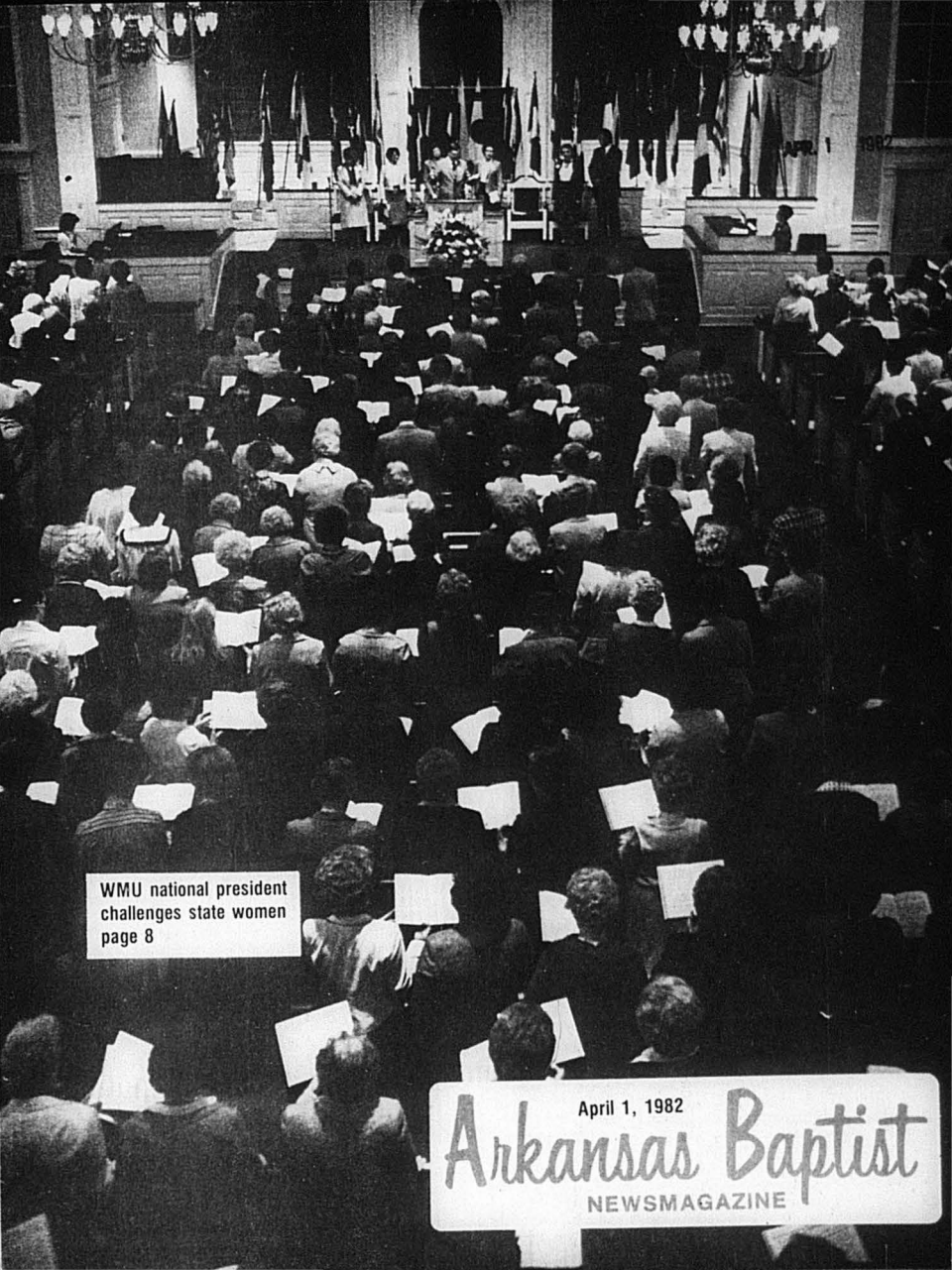
April 1, 1982

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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WMU national president
challenges state women
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April 1, 1982

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



State music secretary Ervin Keathley leads a near-capacity crowd at North Little Rock Baring Cross Church in a hymn at the 93rd annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, held March 16-17. Music, testimonies, and challenging messages by noted speakers highlighted the conference, reported on pages 8 and 9 of this week's ABN.

Baptists endorse call for nuclear arms freeze

WASHINGTON (BP) — Four prominent Southern Baptists have endorsed a joint congressional resolution which calls for a mutual freeze and reduction in nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Introduced in the Senate by Mark O. Hatfield R-Ore., and Edward M. Kennedy D-Mass., the resolution calls on the two superpowers to achieve "a mutual and verifiable freeze on testing, production and further deployment of nuclear warheads, missiles and other delivery systems." Following the freeze, it calls for "major, mutual and verifiable reductions" in nuclear warheads and delivery systems.

Baptist endorsers, who joined a large cast of U.S. religious leaders, include evangelist Billy Graham; Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission; Foy D. Valentine, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Commission on Public Affairs.

During a news conference announcing the bill's introduction, Hatfield recalled being "overwhelmed" by what he saw in Hiroshima following the U.S. bombing of the Japanese city in 1945. Despite recognizing

the probability that that atomic bomb may have saved his life, Hatfield said "even then I had a sense of ambivalence" over the kind of power that had been unleashed.

The Oregon senator said the timing of the resolution is critical since the two superpowers now have "rough equivalency" in nuclear capability. He further emphasized the significance of "houses of worship throughout the country" calling for peace at this time.

Kennedy charged that "the next world war could be a war against the world itself" where "all life could be the loser," adding that the "only sane choice is for both sides to halt and then reverse this disastrous arms race."

The Massachusetts Democrat linked current economic problems to the nuclear buildup, declaring that a nuclear weapons freeze "could save at least \$20 billion each year."

Kennedy further emphasized that the resolution depends upon "strict verification" instead of trust and calls for mutual agreement rather than unilateral action.

The resolution has 19 sponsors in the Senate where it was introduced as S. J. Res. 163, and 130 sponsors in the House, where it is labeled H. J. Res. 433.

Stewardship Commission adopts plan

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Stewardship Commission adopted a "Bold Mission Encounter" plan to train 9,000 lay speakers to present information about the Cooperative Program in every Southern Baptist church this year.

The plan calls for staff members of the

Stewardship Commission to help state stewardship departments to train laymen in their states beginning in May. Each trained layman will then present to four churches information about the Cooperative Program, the unified budget through which Southern Baptists support state and national missions and education.

In this issue

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Arkansas WMU reported a record registration and a record or near-record attendance at its 93rd annual meeting held March 16-17 at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. WMU national president Dorothy Sample and former executive secretary Alma Hunt highlighted the meeting.

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Speakers at a seminar held last week in Atlanta called for Baptists to devote their number one priority to improving family relationships. The national Christian Life Commission seminar featured speakers including Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Radio-TV Commission, and Moral Majority president Jerry Falwell.

New writers for ABN lessons for living

Leroy French, pastor of Rye Hill Church in Fort Smith, and Jerry Lee Tracy, pastor of First Church of Star City, begin this week as writers for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine's "lessons for living."

French will write lessons for the Life and Work curriculum. He is a native of Alamogordo, N.M. holding a B.A. degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the B.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a member of the ABN board of directors.

He is married to the former Helen Tanner of Wiseman. They have two children, Janet and Roy Dean. He has held pastorates at Curtis, Melbourne and Barling, Ark. and Wichita Falls, Texas.

Tracy, writer of the Bible Book series lessons, is a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention executive board. He holds a B.A. from Berea College in Berea, Ky. and an M.Div. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor



French



Tracy

in Vevay, Indiana and Monette, Ark. before coming to Star City in 1979.

He is married to the former Janet McKinney of Rockwood, Tenn. They have a son, Michael Camden, 11, and a daughter, Amber Lee, 7. Tracy was born in Shelbyville, Ky. and served as Kentucky State BSU president in 1968. He served the Home Mission Board as a summer missionary to inner city St. Louis, also in 1968.



When death claims the life of a loved one, it is often followed by extreme grief. Some mistakenly feel that a Christian should not experience grief. But sorrow is a normal natural response.

Psychologists are in agreement that if we try to blot out an event from our minds, inevitably we will pay a great psychological price. Hence, grief should be exercised according to the individual's personality. Since each individual is different, emotional expression will vary greatly.

Christ himself demonstrated the importance of grieving. Early in his ministry, Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matt. 5:4). Christ apparently took mourning for granted. He saw it as something positive that would bring help to the lives of individuals.

Jesus was troubled and deeply moved when Lazarus died. He accepted, without comment, the apparent anger that came from Mary, Lazarus' sister, and he wept with the other mourners. Jesus knew that Lazarus was about to be raised from the dead, but still as one who could totally empathize he was grieved. Jesus also withdrew and grieved when he learned that John the Baptist had been executed.

Grief may go through various stages. First, there may be a period of shock. This is a natural reaction when the loved one dies suddenly or unexpectedly.

An individual may go through a period of numbness when he may not be able to cry or to communicate clearly. This is a psychological defense to help keep from being overwhelmed by grief.

Eventually, the experience of grief will come. The mourner may have a variety of emotions including grief, anger and guilt. But the worst possible disservice that a friend can render is to attempt to prevent such experiences.

Finally, there must be a time of rebuilding and developing a new life. But the most important question for those who are left behind is, "How do I satisfactorily cope with my loneliness and grief?"

Grief may be defined as, "something or someone who has been lost and the individual (griever) is faced with an almost overwhelming and time consuming period of readjustment." While grief is normal there are instances in

which it is intensified or prolonged and reaches a level which keeps an individual from actually coping with life. Grief will vary widely depending on the personality and background of a particular individual. Usually one can predict the intensity of grief an individual will experience by their past behavior.

As Christians we can take comfort from God's word. The greatest declaration of the Christian's hope is the bodily resurrection of Christ. His body after death was real and his followers could feel him. But it was a new and remarkable "resurrection body" which would never die again. This is the kind of body which is in store for all true believers.

Paul does not answer all the questions concerning the nature of the resurrection body. But he does rest everything on the fact that Christ was resurrected and that we will have the same experience (I Cor. 15:19-21).

The Bible teaches eternal life. This is not only a quantity but a quality of life for the believer. A valid illustration of consciousness after death as well as reward and punishment is found in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). While Jesus was not attempting to portray every detail of future life, he does give ample evidence of consciousness, joy and punishment. In discussing the after-life, Jesus said, "I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

Finally, a Christian honors his loved one by continuing his daily activity. Sorrow, within bounds, is normal, but God's grace should enable us to proceed with the task of daily living. Paul admonishes, "... that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (I Thess. 4:13).

Each of us one day will have a rendezvous with death. Preparation involves providing for those we love both physically and spiritually. Spiritual preparation means not only trusting Christ, but a way of life which leaves a rich heritage to those we love.

Paul said, "I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). May each of us live today so that the victory for ourselves and our loved ones is assured tomorrow.

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Woman's viewpoint

Brenda Ball

Beautifying the property

Eight years ago this month, my family and I moved into a new home. However, it seems like last week that we nervously paid the purchase price and began our work to beautify our land.

I remember that some of our friends questioned the wisdom of our spending what seemed then to be an enormous sum for land covered in thorn trees and underbrush. But we never saw the briars and the brambles, the swamp and the stumps. Instead, we saw a garden, tulips and roses, fruit trees and a carpet of lush St. Augustine grass.

Before we began clearing the land, we located the iron pipes which marked the boundaries. Having found these, we finished fencing in our purchase with a row of pine trees on the north and crape myrtles on the east. We felt that these trees would

say to potential trespassers, "You can no longer gather pecans, cut firewood or play here without the permission of the owners."

As we cleared the land, it never occurred to us that it would complain or protest when we extracted the stumps from deep within its core or burned the dry grass which covered its uneven surface. After all, we were doing it a favor. We owned it. We were doing the work. We had the vision.

Now, as we harvest the vegetables and fruits, pick the flowers and mow the grass, I see such an analogy between our beautifying our property and God's work in the lives of his people. He paid dearly for us (John 3:16); He placed a hedge around us for our own protection (Job 1:10); He has every right to dig and pry and pull until everything that is ugly in our lives has been uprooted and conformed to the image of His

son (Romans 8:28-29). We just need to cooperate and be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18, James 1:2).

Mrs. Ball, 42, is married to the head basketball coach at Pine Bluff High School, where she serves as an English teacher. She has two sons, age 18 and 14. Her hobbies include tone painting, reading and writing poetry. She attends East Side Church.

Letter to the editor

The old readers

I would like to invite the winners of the federal court appeal of the teaching creation science in public schools to lead our state and perhaps our nation in a day of mourning and atonement for the sins of our parents and grandparents who were taught, and taught their descendants from *McGuffey's Reader* in public schools.

I share with you some contents of these readers. *McGuffey's Primer*, copyright 1881, 1896, 1909, first grade, page 42: "Miss Mary tells them there is a rule that she wants them to keep. It is 'Do to each one as you would like each one to do to you,'"; pages 58-60, lesson LI: "Do you see that tree? Long ago it sprang up from a small nut. Do you know who made it do so? It was God, my child. God made the world and all things in it. He made the sun to light the day and the moon to shine at night. God shows that he loves us by all that he has done for us. Should we not then love him?"

Lesson LII: "When the stars at set of sun, watch you from on high; when the light of morn has come, think the Lord is nigh. All you do, and all you say, he can see and hear. When you work and when you play, think the Lord is near. All your joys and grief he knows, see's each smile and tear. When to him you tell your woes, know the Lord will hear."

McGuffey's Third Eclectic Reader, copyright 1879, pages 65-67, lesson XXV, "Things to Remember": "When you rise in the morning, remember who kept you from danger during the night. Remember who watched over you while you slept, and gives you the sweet light of day.

Let God have the thanks of your heart, for his kindness and his care; and pray for his protection during the wakeful hours of day.

Remember that God made all creatures to be happy, and will do nothing that may prevent their being so, without good reason for it." — Jim Glover, Sulphur Rock



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

The power of one voice

Once a catchy tune gets in my head it is not easy to get rid of it. It is not often that I have the same problem with catchy words to a tune. Recently I have become attached both to a catchy tune and to the catchy words that go along with it. It is the popular song, "One Voice," composed and recorded by Barry Manilow. I have heard it many times recently because of two hardship trips I took with Ouachita singing groups — the Ouachi-Tones in Hawaii, and the Ouachita Singing Men in California. Both groups sing the number beautifully, and the haunting tune combines with the haunting message in an indelible impact.

The message is simple: "Just one voice, singing in the darkness, is all it takes to drive out fear; it takes that one voice facing the unknown, and everyone will sing!" The first few times I heard the song and pondered the message, I thought only of one voice speaking for what is good and true, and of the power of one voice speaking the truth and love of Christ. It then occurred to me that it is equally true that it only takes one voice speaking what is evil and false to set in motion a chain reaction leading to death and destruction. Adolf Hitler was just such a voice in telling the big lies to the German people in the 1930s and 1940s. It

was that kind of voice Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes referred to when he said that no one has the right to yell "Fire!" in a crowded theatre when there is no fire. I have seen times on a school playground, in church business meetings, and in political gatherings, where one voice was all it took to turn a crowd around from what seemed to be an unchangeable course, either for right or wrong.

As much as I enjoy those contemporary pop music numbers that are sung a great deal in Christian settings, I am troubled by their vagueness that permits them to include Christ, or exclude Christ, at the simple whim of the singer or listener. Such recent hits as "What a Difference You've Made in My Life," "You Light Up My Life," and "I Don't Know How to Love Him," are just a few examples that come to mind. In each case the songwriter lost a tremendous opportunity to make the message of Christian testimony clear and unmistakable, leaving just another secular love song.

All this world needs is one voice singing in the darkness, but it makes a world of difference whose voice it is, and what message is being sung.

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

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Edwin Lee Hinkson

is serving as pastor of the Little Rock Markham Street Church. He came there from Watson Chapel Church at Pine Bluff where he had served as pastor for 10 years. A native of Little Rock, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served other Arkansas churches as pastor, as well as serving in associational leadership roles. He is currently serving his second term as a member of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Board. He is married to the former Sandra Ann Polos of North Little Rock. They have two children, Edwin Jr. and Kimberly Ann.

Leo Hughes

is retiring as director of missions of the Southwest Association with offices in Texarkana. He and his wife Dorothy have served there for more than 11 years. His future plans are to serve as a bi-vocational pastor.

Carl Fawcett

was honored at Marvell First Church March 3. The occasion was to commemorate his 18 years of service as Arkansas Valley Association director of missions.

Larry Barecky

is interim pastor of the Huntsville Calvary Church.

William E. Trantham

was selected as Outstanding College



Hinkson



Hughes

Teacher of 1982 by the Arkansas State Music Teachers Association at their annual convention held recently in Russellville. He is dean of the School of Music and professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University.

Terry Lyn Dwiggins

is serving Hope First Church as minister of education and youth. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Wynonne, have two sons, Barry, 11 and Bryant, 7.

Julia Smith

has joined the staff of Little Rock First Church as assistant to Nora Ann Babb, librarian. She is a deaf media student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Dennis Cherry

is pastor of the Montrose Sardis Church.

Penny Harding

has joined the staff of Little Rock First Church as church receptionist. She will serve as assistant editor of the church bulletin, associate in deaf ministries and assist with secretarial duties.

Ralph Raines

has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Camden Elliott Church. He was pastor of the London First Church.

Jimmy Milloway

has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Knoxville Church, going there from the Plummerville Church.

L. B. Gustavus

has resigned as pastor of the Solgohachia Church.

Douglas McCoy

began serving Feb. 14 as pastor of the Gould Douglas Church. He accepted Southeastern Baptist College and Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau. He formerly pastored the Augusta Grace Church. McCoy is married to the former Debbie Duval.

Wendell Morse

has resigned as pastor of the Mulberry First Church to become pastor of the World Church in Azusa, Calif.

Alan Tucker

has resigned as pastor of the Pine Bluff Westside Mission.

briefly

Jonesboro Strawfloor Church

was in revival March 7-14 as a part of the Mount Zion Association simultaneous revivals. Pastor J. W. Goodman reported 14 professions of faith, 11 baptisms and four additions by letter.

Viola First Church

was in revival March 7-13. Martin Sifford, pastor of the Immanuel Church at Paragould, was evangelist. Jackie Estes of Viola was music director. Pastor Leonard Williams reported four baptisms, one addition by letter and one by statement.

Little Rock Chicot Road Church

ordained Jim Brown, Scott Darr and Ron Sparks as deacons March 21. The service was led by Pastor Herb Prince, Carter Dey, Elvis Smith, all of Little Rock and Wallace Stanberry of Shreveport, La.

Corning First Church

was in revival Feb. 28-March 6. Lamar Lifer, pastor of the Olivet Church at Little Rock, was evangelist. Phil Smith, an attorney from Corning, directed music. Pastor Wil-

liam Hayes reported 11 professions of faith. The church recently held a study on Jeremiah. Gene Petty of Ouachita Baptist University was teacher.

Magazine First Church

reported a revival held March 7-12 by Jeff Moore Jr., evangelist, and Linda Moore, musician. Pastor David Roush reported eight professions of faith and 15 rededications.

Board Camp Church

held a revival March 29-April 4. Jeff and Linda Moore were leaders. Vernval Ridgeway is pastor.

focus on youth

Kingston First Church

Crusaders for Christ led a revival March 5-7 at Jasper First Church. They will return there April 16-17 to assist their pastor, Roy Cain, with closing services of a week's revival.

Costa Rica church needs Mandarin translator

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — International Baptist Church's thriving ministry to Mandarin Chinese in San Jose, Costa Rica, could be short-circuited unless the congregation finds a new translator — perhaps a mission volunteer — fluent in English and Mandarin.

The present translator, Joseph Lee, a Chinese Canadian also fluent in Cantonese, plans to leave San Jose in August when he completes Spanish language studies.

The church provides Sunday School for the Mandarin group, which includes Taiwan Embassy personnel, professionals and restaurant owners and workers. The congregation maintains the only Christian witness to a Chinese population of several thousand in San Jose.

Led by pastor Bob Compton, a Southern Baptist missionary from North Carolina, the church recently ordered an electronic system that will enable the Chinese to hear worship services in Mandarin — through a translator — via wireless headsets.

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Despite proposed radical cuts in federal student aid programs, Southern Baptist educators are positive about the future of denominational higher education.

Representatives of 16 Southern Baptist affiliated schools, attending a consultation on student financial aid and federal tax policy, repeated their belief that if students want to attend Baptist schools, a way will be found to help them do so.

The consultation was called to consider the implications of President Reagan's plan to slash federal student aid programs by as much as 50 percent. The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities estimates the proposed cuts could affect 500,000 of the 1.8 million students enrolled in private institutions in the nation.

The Southern Baptist educators were briefed on the status of Reagan's proposed cuts in federal student aid, discussed options open to them to provide needed assistance to their students, and looked at ways in which they can be more effective politically.

Howard Holcomb, of Washington, a consultant on higher education, said there is "no solid indication of what kind of dollars we will have next year," as he described a "confusing situation" in Congress, the Education Department and the Administration.

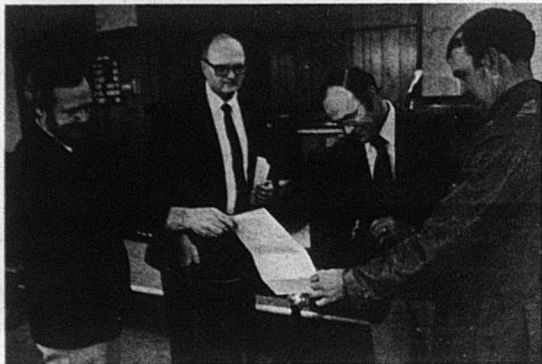
Holcomb said a showdown over the budget proposals likely will come in April when Congress votes on increasing the national debt level. "The national debt probably will hit \$1.5 trillion by 1985. It is plain that we have overloaded the system... overloaded it everywhere."

Of student loans, he commented that governmental regulations "have made them so complex that the whole business is about to fall down of its own weight."

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, said the situation is "near emergency," but added Southern Baptist schools "are in much better shape than some of the independent institutions who have taken every kind of aid available and have thus become dependent on the federal government for up to a quarter or a third of their budgets."

Walker noted Baptists' traditional belief in the separation of church and state has prevented acceptance of aid to the institutions, and, with few exceptions, has limited Southern Baptist participation in federal programs to student aid.

It is difficult to estimate the impact of the proposed budget cuts on the 51 SBC-affiliated schools, "because they participate at different levels," he said, adding the amount received from federal sources comprises only a small part of the budgets of the schools.



AISH photo/Don Allen

Pleasant Hill burns note

L. H. Elmore (left) and Glynn Underwood (right) hold the corners of a \$30,000 bank note while Ben Waddell applies a lighted match and pastor Harry Lingo looks on. The ceremony was held March 14 at Pleasant Hill Church near Cabot to commemorate the paying off of the note used to finance a new auditorium.



Grady First ends debt

Kyle Johnson (left) pastor of First Church of Grady, watches while Edith (center) and Marie Eagle set fire to a \$16,000 note. The loan, paid off in two years, was used to remodel educational space at the church.

Forrest City Second Church recently celebrated the retirement of a bond issue that was made to build a sanctuary. Rev. and Mrs. Marion Gramling were special guests for the occasion. He was pas-

tor when the sanctuary was built. Participants in the service were Dan Minton, present pastor, E. E. Thompson, Rush Hobbs and Robert Thomason. They presented Gramling with the paid bonds.

International

Christ hears human cries

by Lawson Hatfield, State Sunday School director

Basic passages: Mark 7:31-37; 10:46-52

Focal passages: Mark 7:32-37; 10:46-52

Central truth: Jesus helps persons according to individual needs

1. A deaf and tongue-tied man came to Jesus (7:32-35) Jesus healed the man. Jesus sighed, touched, spoke, and the good deed was accomplished. It is remarkable that Jesus did not have a standard formula for his healing ministry. Sometimes he touched, sometimes he did not. On occasion he employed an outside agent (clay), often he did not. Frequently he merely spoke. Always there was prayer or praise to God for the act of faith that brought about healing. On this occasion Jesus is said to have sighed. Does this indicate weariness on the part of the Lord? It is possible. Does the sign imply that extra effort was exerted? Is it a sign that Jesus was saddened if not overwhelmed by human suffering, isolation and pain?

2. He has done all things well (v. 36) This they said concerning Jesus when they saw his miracles. Later his good deeds of healing were forgotten and the crowds cried out for his death. But presently Jesus was popular with the people. He did well, they saw well, they correctly claimed that things were well in their midst. The prophet Elisha asked the Shunammite woman whose son of promise had died. "Is it well with the child?" She answered, "It is well." Someday in judgment God's children will hear the grace filled words, "Well done, enter into the joy of thy Lord." Regardless of how other men do, it can be said of Jesus, he has done all things well.

3. The cry and the call (10:46-51) Blind Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus for help. But many insisted he hold his peace. "Hush," is what they said. But he cried out the more. He cried to Jesus and called him the son of David. Someone had taught him something of the messiahship of Jesus. He would not be hushed. The insistent cry was heard by the son of David. Jesus called Bartimaeus to him. This man had cried out for mercy, Jesus wanted more specific and concrete evidence and asked what thing he wanted. "My sight," was the quick answer.

4. Faith is the means (v. 52) No formal prayer, no formal ceremony, no special elements applied. A simple command, "Come on now, your faith has made you whole." And he followed Jesus in the way. A need, a cry, a reply, a miracle, a testimony. May it be so with tongue-tied souls and blind hearts today. Some are brought to Jesus by others, some try to keep people from Jesus. But, Jesus answers all human cries.

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Life and Work

The resurrection of Christ

by Leroy French, Rye Hill, Fort Smith

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-19

Central truth: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central and necessary truth of the Gospel.

Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity, died, was buried but was resurrected to live for ever more. Our Bible lessons for this quarter points us to the past, present and future events of the resurrection. Our scripture this week touches on all three bodies of truth.

Events of the Past: The Bible gives adequate proof of the resurrection of Jesus. The event was a fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. Paul used the scriptures to prove what he was saying about the Gospel.

Paul said, "Jesus died, was buried and was raised the third day according to the scriptures." He reminded his readers of the fact that the New Testament truths were tied to Old Testament prophecies.

Paul's personal encounter with the living Christ was to him the greatest fact of the resurrection. Our personal encounter with Jesus, our living Lord, is an event of the past, and continues in the present and is our greatest proof that he was raised from the dead.

Evidence in the Present: The strongest evidence that Christ was resurrected is that he lives now in the lives of believers.

Paul said in verse 10, "I am what I am by the grace of God." In Galatians 2:20 Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."

It is good that we have the historical facts of the resurrection, but it is even better to acknowledge the living Christ in our own lives. The evidence of Jesus working in our lives will prove to people about us that Jesus was truly resurrected and lives today.

Everlasting Promises: Our life on earth is just the beginning of our life in Christ. We can look forward to a future resurrection when we will have a perfect, glorified body.

The positive side of the statement Paul made in verse 19 is that we have a blessed hope of eternity to spend with the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

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Bible Book

David anointed king over Judah

by Jerry Tracy, Star City First Church

Basic passage: 2 Sam. 1:1 to 2:32

Focal passage: 2 Sam. 1:2-4, 17, 19;

2:1-4, 8-9, 11

Central truth: Certain godly characteristics will be evidenced in the lives of God's anointed.

1. God anointed David as king in 1 Sam. 16:13. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. He was sorrowful when told of Saul's death. He loved Saul and had kept a heart of forgiveness and love in spite of all Saul's attempts on his life. A true Christian will maintain a heart of love and forgiveness toward others as he depends on the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 5:44; 18:22; Gal. 5:22)

2. David kept himself up to date with the Lord. He did not depend on a past experience alone but continually sought God's guidance in the present. How can we expect God's guidance if we never ask for it and won't follow it when given? A smart Christian will maintain a daily fellowship with God. (1 John 1:3)

3. The men of Judah anointed David as king of Judah. What God does to a person on the inside will be noticeable on the outside. (Matt. 7:16) One who is called to preach, pastor, or become a missionary by God will be recognized by men of God. The gifts God entrusts to us are to be used in the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:8)

The one who is Christlike in character is the one who is led by God's Spirit in practice. Those who walk in the Spirit, (Gal. 5:16) are controlled by the Spirit, (Eph. 5:18) and have the fruit of the Spirit, (Gal. 5:22-23) will demonstrate to an onlooking world that Jesus is Lord. Their anointed life will bring glory and honor to the king of kings of whom David called Lord.

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WMU president challenges Arkansas women

by Bob Allen

A record registration, a national president's first visit to Arkansas and an oft-repeated affirmation that women can be agents for bringing the transforming power of Christ to their world highlighted the 93rd annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention March 16-17 at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock.

The 875 registered were the most ever recorded for an Arkansas WMU annual meeting, executive director Julia Ketner said. The number attending exceeded the number of available registration forms, however, and the total attending one or more of the four sessions was estimated in excess of 900, making it near or maybe greater than the previous attendance record.

Dorothy Sample, a Flint, Mich. psychologist owning five degrees from universities and seminaries who is serving her first year as national WMU president, challenged Arkansas women to be bold about taking part in the convention's Bold Mission Thrust. "If we are serious at all about getting the word of Christ to the world by 2000, many of us must be willing to make bold commitments," she said. "We must not sit on the sidelines with our fears."

She encouraged women to take part in bold dreaming — to get a vision of Christ as the source of their encouragement; to get a vision of their world, through involvement in WMU, by which "our eyes are being opened to our world"; and to get a vision of themselves. "It really dawns on me, when I see the needs of the world and I realize I have gifts, the need to express my gifts to respond to those needs."

She called for bold living, maintaining that Christianity must take precedence over "tribal things," or cultural impositions that prevent women from utilizing all the talents God has given them. "Be willing as

women to do the things God wants us to do," she said.

And bold listening, Dr. Sample said, is being responsive when God wants a witness, whether in Africa, Michigan, next door or the grocery store down the street. "It takes a bold response to accomplish a bold mission."

Alma Hunt, former executive secretary of national WMU spoke to the conference theme "transformed," taken from Paul's challenge in Roman's 12:2. She told stories of missionaries and the great works accomplished in as short as one lifetime. She spoke of the rapid growth of women's work in Southeast Asia, where every leader is a product of Southern Baptist mission work, and of dynamic changes in lifestyles she witnessed in Zambia in East Africa. "Isn't it wonderful to know we are and have been a part of this new thing the Lord is doing in our world?" she said.

"Women, let us just forget some of our aches, pains and stiff joints and concentrate not on ourselves, but on our mission world and some of the opportunities that exist in it. With all my heart I believe the Lord blesses every honest effort we make to complete his commission."

Miss Hunt's testimony was backed up by a number of program personnel involved in missions as career missionaries, volunteers and as children growing up on the mission field. Among the most dramatic and inspiring moments of the meeting was the story told by missionary James Hampton and Ouachita Baptist University student Elijah Wanje.

Hampton, a native of Arkansas, has served 26 years under the Foreign Mission Board, presently as associate to the area director of Eastern and Southern Africa. He told the audience about the conversion of Elijah's father, Hampton's first interpreter

in Kenya, and the elder Wanje's call to evangelism. Elijah became a Christian at age 10 under his father's preaching, and began at age 11 or 12 to ride a bicycle eight miles to share the gospel himself. He served as a pastor in a small village at age 17 before accepting a scholarship to come to Arkansas to attend Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge and later Ouachita. After he graduates, Wanje plans to return to Kenya to set up an evangelistic ministry.

Hampton said he planted the first church in Kenya. Today, there are 500 churches and 30,000 Baptists in the nation. By the year 2000, it is predicted Baptists in Kenya will number a million. Last year in Uganda, Hampton said, one person was baptized for every church member, despite the Idi Amin regime. Hampton said he saw 1,000 profess Christ in one service during a visit there.

"Keep supporting," Wanje urged. "The work is great. The harvest is great."

Others heard from were Thurman and Kathie Braughton, 15-year missionaries to the Philippines; Chris Elkins, Home Mission Board staff member who for 2½ years was a member of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church; and 11 others who responded with testimonies of personal experience to an interview format asking "what is missions?" The group included volunteers and paid missionaries to foreign countries and at home, ministers and lay persons, involved in a variety of types of experience.

Organizers of the meeting considered it a complete success. Bonnie Margason, Mountain Home, president of Arkansas WMU, said, "Things are happening in Arkansas in WMU, and it is exciting to be serving the Lord through this organization."

Dr. Sample commented, "One of the best meetings I've been to in a long time. It's been warm, personal and challenging."

Executive Board members named

Arkansas WMU purposely calls its big get-together of the year an annual meeting, and not a convention, WMU president Bonnie Margason told persons attending the 93rd such gathering of Baptist women in Arkansas, because a convention is a place where a great amount of business is handled. The primary purpose of the WMU meeting, she said, is "inspiration, motivation and participation" — not business.

Some business must be dealt with, however, she continued.

In that business, the WMU re-elected Mrs. Margason of Mountain Home as president of their executive board, and also selected Helen Stockton of West Fork and Alyce Polos of North Little Rock to retain their positions of vice president and recording secretary respectively.

Named as district representatives were Mrs. Ben Dewbre,

North Little Rock; Mrs. Robert Beard, Route 1 Clarendon; Mrs. Fred Lane, Fort Smith; Mrs. Russell Miller, Mountain Home; Mrs. Roy E. Snider, Camden; Mrs. Daniel R. Grant, Arkadelphia; Mrs. Wayne Friday, Blytheville, and Mrs. Carl Whitaker, Siloam Springs.

Members-at-large elected were Mrs. A. B. Handley, Searcy; Mrs. Marion Lindley, Morrilton; Mrs. John McAllister, El Dorado; Mrs. S. D. Hacker, Harrison; Mrs. R. E. Hagood, Dumas; Mrs. Ken Hughes, Benton; Mrs. Johnny Jackson, Little Rock; Mrs. Buford Latta, Route 1, Harrison; Mrs. Shad Medlin, El Dorado; Mrs. Antonio Tribble, Little Rock; Mrs. James Zeltner, Fort Smith, and Mrs. Huber Drumwright, Little Rock.

Life members of the board are Elma Cobb, Little Rock; Mrs. H. M. Keck, Fort Smith, and Mrs. L. M. Sipes, Little Rock.

TRANSFORMED

Arkansas WMU chose "transformed" as the theme of its 93rd annual meeting at North Little Rock Baring Cross Church March 16-17. The transforming power of Christ came up again and again in the form of challenges from national WMU president Dorothy Sample, who in photo at right (right) converses with an Arkansan between sessions, and with a number of other features. Included this year was a dinner meeting for pastors' wives, hosted by nearby Park Hill Church. Alma Hunt (lower right photo, left) talks with Mrs. John McClanahan of Pine Bluff at that meeting. Hunt, former executive secretary of national WMU, was another featured speaker.



ABN photos/Millie Gill



Naturally, a main course of the annual meeting was testimonies from missionaries. (Above) persons of various backgrounds share their experiences of what missions is. (Right) Little Rock nurse Marion Peters shares her experience as an international in Arkansas while MK Marcia Carswell listens. Arkansas native James Hampton (far right photo) and Kenya native Elijah Wanje also spoke.



Your state convention at work

Church Administration

Minister of education/youth seminar at DeGray

A unique training experience is available for ministers of education, ministers of youth and other people with responsibility in areas of education or youth ministry in their churches. The minister of education/youth seminar at DeGray Lodge, April 29-30, is the event for you if you fit into one of the above categories.

The seminar will be led by Will Beal, Bob Taylor and Fred McGehee, consultants in the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board. The schedule will include separate conferences for youth ministers led by Bob Taylor and conferences for ministers of education led by Will Beal. Joint sessions will be led by Fred McGehee.

The seminar will begin with registration at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 29, and will conclude at 3 p.m. Friday. For lodging and registration information, contact the Church Training Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas,



Taylor



Beal



McGehee

72203, phone 376-4791. Plan to be a part of this time of personal and professional growth. — **Bill Falkner, associate**

Christian Life Council

A little dab will do it

Several years ago "A little dab will do you!" advertised a popular brand of men's hair dressing. That was before the "dry look."

For drastic and often tragic results, it only takes just a little amount of something. One example: Nine teenagers were killed recently in New York state when their van was demolished by a speeding train. The county medical examiner announced that they apparently had been drinking, but quickly added "but not a lot." A little dab of ethyl alcohol did it again!

As rattlesnake venom, ethyl alcohol is poison. When taken into the body, the first place affected is the brain, thereby causing disorientation, unbecomable and unreasonable behavior.

A great disservice is done by the U.S. Food and Drug Adminis-

tration, the U.S. Congress, the American Medical Association and the public at large for failure to insist that warning labels be placed on all products containing a poison of which only a little can be devastating.

Many fatal traffic accidents are caused by drinkers who insist they had only a couple of beers, or just one cocktail. One's reaction can be tragically affected by just "a dab" of ethyl alcohol.

California has in recent months passed legislation which has already lowered the number of traffic deaths and injuries. Rep. Judy Petty of Little Rock is planning to introduce similar legislation in Arkansas. Please support this or similar laws. — **Bob Parker, director**

Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy awareness to feature Cecil Sherman

The Annual Chaplaincy Conference speaker will be Cecil Sherman, Pastor of the First Church of Asheville, N.C.

Sherman, a graduate of Baylor University, earned the Th.M. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and the Th.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will present five lectures on Christian Ethics.

The lectures are designed to point out the ethical base that has always been present in the Bible teachings. An overview is given with a point of view to demonstrating that



Sherman

ethic was present in the beginning and remains so throughout all the revelation that is the Bible. Theology apart from ethic, he declares, would be Bible heresy.

All chaplains in Arkansas endorsed by the Home Mission Board, pastors and church staff members serving as volunteer chaplains, and those who have special interest in chaplaincy ministries are invited to attend.

The conference will be held at Camp Paron on May 3-4, 1982. Invitations will be mailed to endorsed chaplains. Others who are interested in attending may contact the Director of Chaplaincy, Arkansas Baptist State Convention or write him at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. There is no cost to those attending and a limited travel allowance is available. — **Leroy Sisk, director**

Family and Child Care Services

1981 contributions report corrections

The report of 1981 contributions to Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services furnished to the ABN for the Feb. 18 issue contained some errors. Here are the correct amounts: Mt. Pisgah Church, Mt. Zion Association, \$226.04; First Church, Hicks, Little

River Association, \$266.00; Calvary Mission, Gravelly, Dard-Russ Association, \$20.74; Jessieville Church, Garland County Association, \$176.86. — **Homer Shirley Jr., Director of Development**

Evangelism

Conserving the results of revival

The presentation of the Gospel to a lost person will help determine the future spiritual growth. The communication of the Gospel should be clear and positive. Each person should realize they are to repent of their sins, place their faith in Christ and take Jesus as the Lord of their life.

The person who comes on a public profession of faith should be introduced clearly to the congregation. The congregation should give him a warm welcome into the family of God. It is good for family members or a friend to stand with the person in the receiving line at the close of the invitation. Every church member should come and warmly welcome the new Christian into the fel-



Shell

lowship.

The revival is over, what then? God has blessed us by people being saved. What we do as leaders in the church to help them begin their spiritual journey will determine to a great degree their usefulness to Christ and the church. Regardless of the new convert's age, he or she is just a babe in Christ. They need the spiritual nourishment to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

The New Testament teaches that the new convert should be baptized as soon as possible. This shows the new Christian that baptism is very important. In Acts 2:41, "They that gladly received his word were baptized: . . ." and added unto them, the church. This is an identification with Christ and his church. This is an outward expression of an inward experience. This is a living testimony that one has passed from death unto life. This is the right start on the spiritual journey. — Clarence Shell Jr., director

Stewardship

Cooperative Program Day emphasis

Accurate information on a good cause is always in order. It is for this reason that April 18 is designated as Cooperative Program Day on the SBC calendar.

Churches do observe this special day. The Church Stewardship Committee may schedule these projects to inform members on the ministries of the Cooperative Program.

— Place a Cooperative Program emphasis in the church news letter.

— Use Cooperative Program Day bulletin inserts or tracts provided by the Stewardship Department.

— Schedule devotionals and testimonies in Sunday School de-

partments and worship services.

— Conduct a training session during Church Training. Use Cooperative Program at Work as a study guide.

— Follow suggestions listed in special insert in the March issue of the Baptist Program.

— Recognize the church's gifts through the Cooperative Program.

— Invite a guest speaker whose ministries are made possible through the Cooperative Program.

— Use special posters and films provided by the Stewardship Department. — James A. Walker, director

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New Reagan budget further endangers postal subsidy

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — After seeing postal rates double in January, Southern Baptist editors and the rest of the nation's non-profit mailers may be facing further postage hikes if Congress goes along with President Reagan's proposal to cut postal subsidies further in fiscal 1983.

The administration's \$500 million request for the "revenue foregone" subsidy is \$115 million short of what the postal service estimates it needs to avoid new increases in non-profit rates. But opposition looms in Congress to further rate hikes.

At issue is the "revenue foregone" subsidy which reimburses the postal service for giving preferential rates to non-profit mailers in two ways. Until this year, it made up the difference between the full cost directly attributable to handling non-profit mail and the reduced rates charged. Second, it paid the non-profit mailers' share of institutional costs and overhead expenses that were not attributable to actual handling of the mail.

When Congress established the postal service as an independent government agency in 1970, it required each class of mail to recover its "attributable" cost. At the same time, it allowed non-profit rates to be phased upward over 16 years toward full attributable cost. These rates had reached step 10 of the 16-year phasing process when Congress abruptly reduced funding of the revenue foregone subsidy in December 1981, forcing the postal service to leap to step 16. Some Southern Baptist state newspapers saw their mailing costs jump 150 percent.

When Congress established the postal service, it decided that non-profit mailers would not pay for "institutional" costs as long as Congress subsidized the lost revenue. The stop-gap measure Congress approved last December provided less funding for the subsidy than necessary to avoid a rate increase, thereby eliminating the phasing process except for two categories. Congress' action did not affect the subsidy for non-profit mail institutional costs.

Rejecting the administration's proposal to require non-profit mailers to pay some "institutional costs," the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee has recommended full restoration of the entire revenue foregone subsidy.

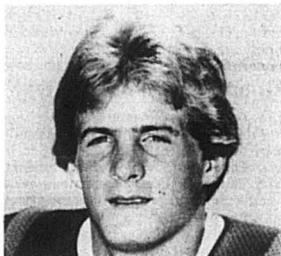
The committee's recommendation to authorize \$913 million for the subsidy in fiscal 1983 is now pending before the House Budget Committee which is supposed to present a budget resolution setting 1983 government spending limits by April 15, a date not likely to be met, according to a committee spokesman. That amount, if approved, would have the effect of returning non-profit rates to step 11 as of Oct. 1, 1982.

In light of the administration's "steadfast opposition," a House Post Office and Civil Service Committee spokesman said chances of getting the full \$913 million through Congress "are not great." But he called an increase beyond the administration request possible "if enough support develops within Congress."

Committee Chairman William D. Ford, D-Mich., said the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee "finds it ironic that the same administration that is urging private charities to pick up the slack caused by cuts in social programs is now depriving these organizations of the wherewithal to do the job."

He also emphasized that subsidized rates are not provided "as a special favor" to non-profit organizations, but "in furtherance of the national good."

Restoration of the revenue foregone subsidy faces a tougher challenge in the Senate where the Governmental Affairs Committee has recommended that the Senate Budget Committee go along with the president's proposal to limit the subsidy to \$500 million.



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Executive Committee recommends no separate Baptist Press agency

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will recommend to messengers at the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans that separate agency status not be granted to the denomination's news service, Baptist Press.

Committee members approved a recommendation to "continue to operate Baptist Press as a part of the Executive Committee with the assurance that Baptist Press will continue to serve Southern Baptists with the support and freedom necessary to maintain credibility and effectiveness."

The proposal to grant agency status to Baptist Press, which has operated as part of the Executive Committee since 1946, was made during the 1981 annual meeting in Los Angeles by messenger Jimmy Stroud of Knoxville, Tenn. The motion, which was referred to the Executive Committee for study, urged creation of a separate agency "in order that it (BP) may be assured to function as a free Baptist Press..."

An extensive study revealed little support for Stroud's proposal, according to Wilmer C. Fields, director of the news service. The study revealed the news service "now has great freedom..." and that agency status "would be no further guarantee of greater freedom." It also noted agency status would require much more Cooperative Program money to maintain the current level of news operation.

In a separate action, committee mem-

bers "declined to consider" a proposal to establish a Southern Baptist Convention Center in Jerusalem, Israel. The possibility such a center could be constructed was presented to the Executive Committee after it arose during a December trip to Israel, led by SBC President Bailey E. Smith, and sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

During that trip, an Israeli travel agency executive suggested that Southern Baptists build a facility as an orientation center for Baptist visitors to Israel. It was proposed the facility also could be used for historical display, a library, a graduate school, a church or other special ministries.

Smith and Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, were taken to one proposed site, containing nearly three acres, where Mt. Scopus meets the Mount of Olives. Estimated cost of the land is as much as \$5,752,500.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, commented he believes the "action taken by the Executive Committee is very appropriate. I feel any Baptist effort outside of the United States ought to be coordinated with national Baptists and missionary personnel on the field."

During the two-day meeting, committee members also approved Bold Mission Thrust emphases for 1985-1990, and adopted a statement concerning SBC committee

functions.

Members approved 1985-90 Bold Mission Thrust Program emphases, with the theme, "Cooperating in Bold Mission Thrust." Specific goals adopted include a 10 percent increase in baptisms per year, 5,000 new churches organized by Sept. 30, 1990, 10 million persons in Bible study, 4 million people in discipleship training, an additional 3,000 students in seminary, and 20,000 churches conducting stewardship emphasis annually.

The goals also call for 7,660 missionaries at home and abroad by the end of 1990, the use of 200,000 short-term volunteers annually, and 3 million persons participating in missions education.

The goals also call for every church in the convention to increase Cooperative Program giving by a minimum of one percent a year.

In response to two motions adopted at the 1981 annual meeting, the committee adopted an operation and funding policy statement for SBC committees. One of the motions called for standardization of operating procedures, including a provision for redress. The other called for adequate funding for the SBC resolutions committee.

The statement says "an appeal or redress related to any committee action or recommendation is presently available during the annual meeting of the SBC," and specifies that committees will have adequate funding to do their work.



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Christian Life Seminar offers hope for families

ATLANTA (BP) — The family is fighting for its life in contemporary America, but there is hope for strengthening the family through the church, a battery of 19 speakers said in a barrage of 25 speeches during a three-day national seminar on "Strengthening families."

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention as part of the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on strengthening families, 1,163 persons attended, making it the largest annual seminar the agency has sponsored.

In the closing address, Houston pastor Kenneth L. Chafin urged seminar participants to go home and start to work on strengthening families by devoting their number one priority to improving their own family relationships.

Chafin and several other seminar speakers dealt with the alarming increase in divorce. Chafin told of one respected church member whose marriage ended in divorce, prompting a deacon to ask, "If their marriage failed, who then is safe?" Chafin's response was, "No one is."

Chafin, whose South Main Church has specialized for a decade in ministry to singles and divorced persons, said "tokenism" toward the family will not do. Noting that he recently devoted seven consecutive Sunday evenings to preaching on marriage and the family, he said pastors and churches must "make a vocation out of strengthening families."

Pastors in particular must begin by strengthening their own families, Chafin said, realizing there is no "special immunity" against divorce or other family tragedies in pastoral families.

Earlier, veteran Southern Baptist pastoral care expert Wayne E. Oates sounded a sim-

ilar theme, warning that the pastor is particularly vulnerable to family crises. Rather than "putting the Lord's work first," he declared, ministers should heed Paul's admonition that anyone who fails to care for his own family is worse than an unbeliever, a neglect he described as "the least-used test of orthodoxy."

Citing statistics on divorce, former SBC President Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio-Television Commission in Fort Worth, said there have been more than a million divorces in America each year since 1975, and that divorce rates doubled from 1970 to 1980.

The divorce capitals of the nation are Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston with 8.2 divorces for every 1,000 people, double the rate of New York City and a third higher than Los Angeles, Allen said. Ironically, these are cities where Southern Baptists comprise the major religious group, he said.

"For every marriage that dies with a formal funeral called divorce, there are others which die and are never declared dead," Allen observed. "There are couples living in strident conflict and hostility who have murdered the marriage long ago but are chained to its corpse like ancient men punishing criminals," Allen said. "Parents carry the cadaver around 'for the children's sake.'"

Allen said Christians must be compassionate and non-judgmental in ministering to the victims of divorce, while upholding the Christian ideal that divorce is wrong without apology. "Not only does God hate

divorce, divorced persons hate divorce and the children of divorce hate divorce," Allen said. "But of all armies, the Christian army should not shoot its own wounded."

In one of six theme interpretation messages, world-renowned enrichment expert and author of about 30 books on the family, David Mace of Winston-Salem, N.C., said churches are in crisis over the remarriage of divorced persons. Personally, Mace said, "I can accept divorce for Christians in very difficult situations, although always with regret."

During discussion following their presentation, one seminar participant expressed frustration at knowing where to begin, saying he was pastor of a small church that does not have the resources for such an extensive program and asking where to start. "Find a need and then try to develop ministries to meet that need," Jones advised. "Then start to work on another need. Take them one at a time."

Speakers addressed family problems from virtually every conceivable angle during the three-day seminar, including public policies affecting family life, television's influence on family principles, issues related to singles and aging, roles of family members including "submission theology", the effect of racial prejudice on families, and national values concerning the family.

Moral Majority president Jerry Falwell, in a sermon described by some as surprisingly moderate, listed seven Judeo-Christian principles he felt should be taught in the home,



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church and school in an effort to change American society.

Falwell stressed the need for emphasis on (1) the sanctity of human life and opposition to abortion, (2) the traditional monogamous family and opposition to homosexuality, (3) common decency and opposition to pornography, (4) the importance of work rather than government support of "those-bums who won't work," (5) support of Israel and the Jews as God's chosen people, (6) God-centered education with voluntary prayer in public schools and teaching of scientific creationism, and (7) support of three divinely-ordained institutions — the home, church and government.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale called for reordering the nation's priorities to make sure every person lives a full life, pointing out almost every social problem in the nation is rooted in family crises.

Mondale affirmed his personal Christian faith and clearly stated, "I am not a secular humanist". He said he supported a strong national defense but not at the expense of social programs that help the poor and needy.

U.S. Congressman Claude Pepper (D. Fla.) urged expanding ministries to the ag-

ing, saying "the great tragedy" of old age in America is the feeling of "being a burden instead of a blessing to the family."

A black Baptist pastor from Houston, Bill Lawson of Wheeler Avenue Church, urged families to work on the problem of racial prejudice in the home.

Acknowledging "the sickness of racism belongs to us all," Lawson said it is nevertheless "a curable disease." The only antidote to prejudice in his own life, said Lawson, was "love nurtured in the womb of a family that prayed together and shared Christian values."

Speaking on the effect of television on families, especially children, TV personality Robert Keeshan, "Captain Kangaroo" on television, said too many parents use television as a "scapegoat" rather than accepting responsibility for the root causes of problems among young people. Parents have a responsibility to make judgments concerning programs which their children watch as well as to work with others seeking to improve the moral quality of television programming.

Mace called for Baptists to emphasize preventive ministries to the family that will help family members with the resources they need to keep families out of trouble.

As an example of what one Southern Baptist church is doing to strengthen families, pastor Neal Jones, and minister of counseling Dale Keeton, of Columbia Church in Falls Church, Va., described a multi-faceted local church program of family ministries.

During discussion following their presen-

Other major speakers for the seminar included Charles Petty, director of the governor's office of citizen affairs for North

Carolina; James Dobson, producer of a widely-used film series on family life; Joyce Landorf, popular author, speaker, David Edens, director of family and community studies for Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.; and Dorothy Sample, president of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Presentation of CLC Distinguished Service Awards were made to former president Jimmy Carter and to Rosalynn Carter during the seminar's opening session. The former chief executive and first lady were cited for making "unique and outstanding contributions in applied Christianity" in both public and family life.

Mondale later paid tribute to them, declaring, "I doubt that we've ever had a president or first lady . . . more motivated by their Christian faith than the Carters." Mondale said Carter's legacy to the nation is that "he told the truth, he obeyed the law and he kept the peace. And that's not bad."

Medical team heals, evangelizes

SOONCHUN, Korea — A Baptist medical evangelism team recently treated 154 people in a village north of Soonchun, Korea, and led 31 to Christ. Composed of Southern Baptist medical missionaries and Korean Baptist physicians from Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, the team conducted a two-day clinic at the small Baptist church in the community and visited 75 people in their homes. In the evenings team members showed Christian films and held worship services at the church. Thirty-one people professed faith in Christ, including a Korean physician who had accompanied the team from Pusan.

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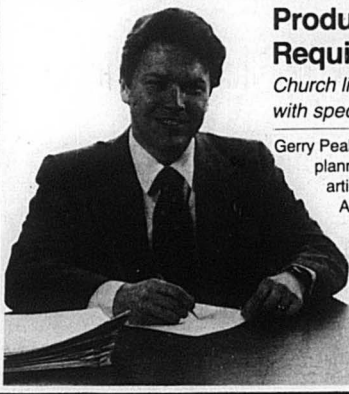
Church literature publishing requires dedicated Christians with special skills.

Gerry Peak, editor of *Sunday School Leadership*, is responsible for planning content, enlisting writers, editing copy and working with artists to produce the best possible leadership periodical.

An ordained deacon active in his church's Sunday School and Church Training programs, Gerry is typical of editorial personnel at the Sunday School Board who are committed to the ministry of the local church — your church and theirs.



Grady C. Cothen, President



Seminary launches center for preaching

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will be headquarters for a new National Center for Christian Preaching, a comprehensive focus on the pulpit ministry launched March 8 with the announcement of a new endowment gift.

Sam and Carolyn McMahon of Charlotte, N.C., have committed \$400,000 to endow the Carl Bates Professorship of Christian Preaching, in honor of their former pastor, who is now senior professor of pastoral ministries at Southern. Bates is former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and also was president of state Baptist conventions in North Carolina and Texas.

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The new professorship, which will be in effect next fall, joins the Victor and Louise Lester Professorship of Christian Preaching, also endowed and currently held by James W. Cox.

The professorships are vital elements in the new National Center for Christian Preaching, an institute unique to Southern Seminary, noted Roy L. Honeycutt, seminary president.

The seminary is seeking another \$2 million to complete the initial funding of the center. In addition to the two endowed professorships and other preaching faculty, Southern intends to fund a program to encourage young people to consider careers in preaching, providing up to 30 annual stipends of \$1,000 each to promising preachers entering the seminary.



A handle for growth

by Lawson Hatfield

For the next nine weeks the Sunday School department will utilize the back page of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* for a series of special growth articles. The purpose is to share information about the Southern Baptist Convention 8.5 by '85 growth emphasis as implemented in Arkansas. Interpretation of the emphasis will be discussed. References to basic resources and suggested growth projects for associations and churches will also be presented.



Hatfield

Right off, it may help you to keep this page each week. It's good stuff. Don't lose it. Clip it. File it. Use it. You'll like it.

The Sunday School is the best means a church has to reach people, win them to Jesus and involve them in the life of the church. But in some churches this is not happening at a satisfactory level.

In some churches leaders are discouraged, and poor attitudes are reflected in a mediocre or low quality of Sunday School work being performed.

Why? And can a cold Sunday School be turned around and catch the fire of a high spirit?

The answer is yes, yes if . . . certain growth actions are implemented. But more important than these actions is a leader committed to growth.

Now who would argue with the need for growth commitment? Probably no one. Everyone believes in and desires numerical growth and spiritual development. But just believing in growth is not enough.

Why? Because belief in commitment is belief in a concept that may seem too abstract. Commitment needs a firm handle.

I suggest a way a leader may find that handle. First, look at your real needs. Examine your Sunday School enrollment. Count the names. Write that number on a sheet of paper. Second, examine your prospect list. Count names. Write that number on the same sheet. Study those two numbers in the light of the fact that your Sunday School needs at least as many or even twice as many

prospects as the number enrolled. If you will do this you will establish a fixed need in your mind.

Next, reflect on the central truth of the Bible, the resurrection. Dr. Beasley-Murray has correctly said that the resurrection of Jesus is as fundamental to Christian faith as the existence of God. The Lord's day is a time to celebrate weekly the resurrection. The early church preached the resurrection regularly and with joy and power.

Now to have the basic need, more prospects, and the central Biblical truth of a living Savior.

It is important at this time to go alone to the auditorium of your church. Place your "need" sheet on the floor in front of the pulpit. Kneel on the floor beside that sheet and reflect on the love of God for giving a living Savior.

Stay in prayer until you are assured that growth commitment is your personal spiritual goal and intention in ministry. This is the handle.

If you already have this handle, good. Help others find and grasp it.

But if not and if you want to possess growth commitment, how could you better find it? Put together two concrete facts; the fact of the need to find and enlist prospects and, the fact of a renewed excitement in the present, living Lord.

Growth actions must follow, not precede commitment. Other growth actions will be discussed in following weeks. Specific projects will be suggested for associations and churches. Helpful resources will be listed. The growth principles will be so high-lighted that any motivated person — pastor, staff member and Sunday School worker can do a much higher quality of Sunday School work. The result will be more persons enlisted in Bible study, more persons won to Jesus, more to the church, and more discipling and equipping of the saints.

Bold Mission Thrust is here. Are you here and now excited about growth commitment? Church Growth is on the launch pad, are you ready?

If you have a different or better way to let the fire of commitment fall in your heart, write me, let me share it with others. I know the above approach works. Surely there are others.

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