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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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4-8-1982

**April 8, 1982**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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APR. 8 1982

OUR COOPERATIVE PROGRAM  
AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

April 8, 1982

Arkansas Baptist  
NEWSMAGAZINE



*Baptists working together, through the Cooperative Program, currently support about 6,000 missionaries at home and around the world. Over 13 million members in 35,831 churches voluntarily join hands and hearts to become partners in mission support by giving through the Cooperative Program. Sunday, April 18 is being observed throughout the Southern Baptist Convention as Cooperative Program Day. The emphasis is to remind Baptists that every Southern Baptist Church is being challenged to increase its percentage of giving through the Cooperative Program by an additional 2 to 5 percent during the Bold Mission Thrust time frame — 1982 through 1985.*

## In this issue

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*Hotel reservations for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15-17 in New Orleans have all been claimed, the New Orleans housing bureau has announced. Those still needing rooms are advised to attempt to contact hotels individually.*

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*The number of resignations of Southern Baptist missionaries was down in 1981 from the previous year, but the problems of career missionaries are still complex. Baptist Press' Erich Bridges looks into the issue.*

## Baptisms, additions down; membership up

Baptisms and additions by letter in Arkansas churches declined in 1981 from the totals recorded in 1980, but total membership increased by more than 10,000 and value of church property and total gifts noted increases of more than 10 percent, according to statistics gathered by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In a summary of churches by state convention mailed to state newspapers, the Sunday School Board reported 15 more churches in Arkansas' 42 associations than the 1,245 reported in 1980. The new churches were not enough to bring baptisms up to the 15,507 immersed in 1980, however. Arkansas churches baptized only 14,316 in '81, a decrease of 1,191 or 7.68 percent from the previous year.

Additions by letter dropped 2.99 percent, or 548 to an '81 total of 17,781. Those 32,000 additions brought total membership in the state to 446,454, up 10,835 or 2.49 percent from the year before. Resident members increased 2.06 percent to 305,712.

Arkansas ranked 13 in the listing of 35 state conventions in total membership. The additions by letter total was also 13th in the convention and the baptism total the 14th highest.

Compared to "people" statistics, giving was up markedly in Arkansas. Churches received \$85,293,290 in total gifts, an increase of 13.29 percent from the \$75,290,470 reported in 1980.

Gifts to missions were up 8.45 percent, from \$14,131,317 in 1980 to a 1981 total mission expenditure of \$15,325,313. Value of church property also increased, up 13.82 percent to \$364,991,415.

Statistics in the various state programs were mostly stable, with the exception of a couple of ups and downs.

Vacation Bible School enrollment was nearly 6,000 lighter than in 1980, with 103,486 reported. The percentage drop was 5.06.

Brotherhood, on the other hand, showed an increase of 4.22 percent, from a 1980 ongoing enrollment of 10,225 to 10,656 in '81.

WMU, Church Music, and Sunday School all showed small to moderate gains. Sunday School enrollment climbed 1.44 percent to a total of 246,282. Church Music was up 1.37 percent to 47,661 while WMU crept upward .65 percent to 26,677.

Church Training lost nearly 2,000 participants, down 2.41 percent to 78,707. Arkansas Church Training ranked 11th statistically in the SBC, however, the highest of any of the state's programs.

## O'Hair rumor unfounded, BJC lawyer says

A rumor circulating on-and-off since 1975 involving noted atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair as the supposed author of a petition to ban religious broadcasting over U.S. airwaves has apparently been rejuvenated in recent weeks, and according to John Baker, constitutional attorney for the Baptist Joint Committee, it is still unfounded.

Some copies of a petition claiming that O'Hair has been granted a hearing with the Federal Communications Commission for an attempt to ban religious broadcasting on either television or radio stations have in recent weeks found their way into Arkansas. The petition says O'Hair's petition to the FCC carried 27,000 signatures. The opponents of the supposed effort say they are seeking one million signatures on their petition.

The petition also accuses O'Hair of campaigning to remove Christmas programs and carols from public schools.

Baker said there is currently nothing in the works challenging the FCC's stance on

religious broadcasting. The FCC ruled in 1975 against two California men asking the agency to refuse licenses to stations which broadcast religious programs exclusively. The agency declared unanimously that such a policy would violate the free exercise of religion guarantee of the First Amendment.

Baker affirmed that if such a challenge to the FCC policy would develop, the Baptist Joint Committee would make every effort to inform Baptists.

O'Hair gained notoriety as an enemy of religious practice in public life when a suit challenging mandatory prayer and Bible reading in public schools resulted in a 1963 Supreme Court decision banning such exercises. In 1978 she filed a suit challenging the constitutionality of the motto "In God We Trust" on U.S. coins and currency. A federal district court in Austin, Texas ruled that O'Hair failed to show "cause of action." The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case, putting that effort to rest.

## No ABN April 15

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine will not publish an issue for the week of April 15, 1982. The ABN board of directors changed the magazine's frequency

in 1981 to 49 issues per year. The ABN will resume publication with the April 22 issue.

## Risk of a new constitutional convention

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Currently, there is a move to call for a U.S. Constitutional Convention. The stated purpose is to compel a balanced budget. But such a convention carries with it many grave dangers, including the possibility of placing in jeopardy religious freedom and church-state separation. Indeed, all of our constitutional liberties could be up for grabs.

The crisis has been precipitated mainly by a group called The National Tax Payers Union (NTU). The radical, well-financed group has already influenced 31 states to pass resolutions calling for the convention. Only three more are needed. Like many others the NTU is concerned about the large sums of money expended by the federal government and the national debt which increases annually.

The U.S. Congress has been reluctant to pass legislation or to provide opportunity for the states to amend the Constitution to force a balanced budget, so the NTU is working to bypass the Congress. They argue that a convention can be called to consider the one issue of a balanced budget. But many constitutional scholars feel that such a convention would be exceedingly dangerous.

Many constitutional scholars say that any constitutional convention would have the same power as did the first held by our nation. The nation's only constitutional convention was held in Philadelphia in 1787 to amend the Articles of Confederation. The Constitution ended up by abandoning the Articles of Confederation and writing an entirely new document. The work of that convention turned out exceedingly well. This Constitution has served us well for 195 years with only 26 amendments.

Though our Constitution has many strengths, the most important is the Bill of Rights, designed to protect the fundamental liberties of the people. The Bill of Rights consists of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. Our founding fathers felt that these rights are inborn and no government, at any time, may deprive anyone of them.

The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right to peaceable assembly. These rights are accepted almost without thought by most Americans.

And yet today some in an over-zealous effort to promote their own cause, would abridge or eliminate these freedoms. In order for freedom and democracy to function, we must allow others the same rights that we desire for ourselves.

Another strength of our Constitution is the system of checks and balances. The Congress makes laws. But the president can veto a law that he feels is unwise. In order for Congress to enact a law over a presidential veto, it must be passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in both the House and the Senate.

The constitutional rights of the people are further protected by judicial review. If a law is passed which is a violation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court can rule that law unconstitutional.

The Bill of Rights and the system of checks and balances have served us well. The Constitution is designed to protect the people from special interest groups. This greatest document of human government is also designed to protect all generations from one generation which might have its values confused.

Arkansas is not currently a target state by the NTU, but it is of great importance that everyone who loves freedom be informed on this most important matter. Currently, the NTU is concentrating on Missouri, Kentucky and Washington.

We agree that a balanced budget is an important and worthwhile goal. It seems obvious that no individual or nation can live forever beyond its income. But risking the entire Constitution to force an immediate balanced budget is too great a price.

Since Arkansas is not currently considering a resolution calling for a constitutional convention, what can Arkansans do? First, we should be informed. This group may attempt to bring such a resolution to our legislature. And if a constitutional convention is called we should resist all change to our Constitution. Second, we should thank God for what we have in America and use our influence to protect it.

# Arkansas Baptist NEWSMAGAZINE

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

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NUMBER 14

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

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## The Southern accent

D. Jack Nicholas/President, SBC

### 'Morality' without biblical absolutes

Following up on my last article on America and the "new amorality," I wish to point out that once the absolutes of the scriptures are forsaken, there remains no sound basis for morality. The only alternative is that of defining morality as the majority opinion of a given population at a given point in time.

The best rationalized example of that approach is the attempt of radical liberalism, which is nothing more than humanism dressed in religious garb, to establish a moral base by retaining fragments of Bible truths and mixing with them generous portions of humanistic amorality and calling it situation ethics: Even that effort fails utterly, for all non-biblical value systems ultimately make man the measure of all things.

Ancient and modern rationalists themselves acknowledge their dilemma. The agnostic Renan of the 19th century said, "If rationalism wishes to govern the world without regard of the religious needs of the soul, the experience of the French Revolution is there to teach us the consequences of such a blunder." Will and Ariel Durant, authors of *The Story of Civilization* and recipients of the 1976 Humanist Pioneer Award, acknowledged the difficulty confronting the humanist with these words: "Moreover, we shall find it no easy task to mold a natural ethic strong enough to maintain moral restraint and social order without the support of supernatural consolations, hopes, and fears." "... There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion."

Nazi Germany is a tragic illustration of a society which abandoned the morality of religious absolutes. A few years ago a 70-year-old man was released from 20 years of imprisonment in Germany. Albert Spear, Minister of Munitions and Armaments under Hitler, freely admitted his horrible guilt and expressed his opinion concerning that terrible period in Germany in words

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



## Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

### Jiffy cooking

Do you sometimes come into the kitchen 30 minutes before suppertime and need something quick and economical to prepare? Or pressed for time, you need an idea for an attractive dish for church supper? Sometimes we fall back on pre-prepared foods or opt for stopping at the local fast food, but that becomes expensive and not always satisfactory to us or the family.

If you keep your pantry stocked, there are many quick, nutritious dishes that you can set before your family in a jiffy. Some of these ideas are also good for pot luck suppers:

Relish tray (carrots/celery/cauliflower/broccoli, pickles, olives) with or without a cheese or sour cream dip.

Fruit and cheese tray: Be sure to sprinkle fresh cut fruit with lemon juice. Use cottage, cheddar, or cream cheese for variety.

Chili-mac (Make with canned chili and macaroni/cheese and spice to taste.)  
Corn chip casserole (Layer corn chips, hot chili con carne, shredded cheese and heat thoroughly. Top with shredded lettuce.)

Baked peach halves (Drain peaches. Top with a dab of margarine, cinnamon, dash of curry. Bake 15-20 minutes.)

Fruit salad, any combination of canned or fresh fruit (recipe for a delicious dressing below)

Tuna casserole (recipe below)

Skillet baked beans (recipe below)

#### Tuna casserole

Layer in a small, greased baking dish 7 oz. can of tuna, 10 oz. can of cream of mushroom soup and small package of potato chips, slightly crushed. Heat thoroughly. Serves 4.

#### Skillet baked beans

In a saucepan, saute 1/2 cup chopped onion and 1/2 cup green pepper in 2 tablespoons oil or bacon grease until soft. Add a can of pork and beans. Season to taste with brown sugar, molasses, catsup, Worcestershire sauce, onion or garlic salt, prepared mustard. Cook on low heat, stirring frequently for 15-20 minutes.

#### Fruit dressing

Blend together 1 cup yogurt or sour cream, 2 tablespoons orange juice, 1 teaspoon lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon each orange and lemon rind (optional), 1 tablespoon honey or brown sugar, 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg. Serve over fruit salad.

Our September column will feature old fashioned foods contributed by readers. What unusual dish did your mother or grandmother make? Please send along one of your favorites. Send to Jane Purtle, Box 157, Syria, VA 22743.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle is on the staff of Christian Counseling and Teaching Center in Syria, Virginia. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

### Brazilian marks 40 years in ministry

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brazilian Baptist leader Jose dos Reis Pereira celebrated 40 years of ministry in December at Rio de Janeiro's Rocha Baptist Church. Ordained on Dec. 29, 1941, Pereira became pastor of Rocha church the same day. Longtime president of the Brazilian Foreign Mission Board, Pereira edits "O Jornal Batista," Brazilian Baptists' national news journal and the only weekly Baptist publication in Latin America.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

### Glenn E. Hickey

will begin serving April 19 as Pulaski County Association Director of Missions. He is now serving as pastor of the Calvary Church in Batesville. He has also served churches in Texas, as well as serving as a missionary to Recife, Brazil, under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board. Hickey, noted both on the church and mission fields for his leadership in growth, missions, and youth programs, is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Ouachita Baptist College (now University). He serves as vice-



Hickey

chairman of the OBU Board of Trustees and is married to the former Dorothy Thomer. They have one son, Daniel, age 25.

### Mark Brookhart

began serving March 7 as pastor of the Calvary Church in Dardanelle. He was serving on the staff of Russellville Second Church as minister of education and youth.

### Everett Dickerson

of Piggott died March 29 at age 71 in a Jonesboro hospital. He was a member of Piggott First Church, a retired photographer and veteran of World War II. Survivors are his wife, Earline; a son, Arliss Dickerson, Baptist Student Union director at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro; two granddaughters, Kara and Lane; two sisters, Carmen Dickerson of Piggott and Earline Cole of St. Louis; and a brother, Prentiss Dickerson of Bakersfield, Calif.

### Fouke First Church

observed Lay Emphasis Sunday March 14 with former Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton as speaker. Clinton, a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, spoke on coping with political problems as a Christian politician. Penny Layfield of Shreveport, La., shared her testimony and presented special music. Dale Wooten is pastor.

### Horatio First Church

is in revival March 28-April 4. William Jenkins of Gainesville, Texas, was evangelist. Ray Sease is pastor.

### Little Rock Forest Highlands Church

is beginning a prayer ministry under the leadership of Walter O'Neal. Johnny Jackson is pastor.

### Caraway First Church

recently ordained Robert Banks, Floyd Killough, John Starnes, Oscar Kee, Bill Riley, James Glidewell, Robert Adcock and Larry Barrett as deacons. Pastor Bill Holcomb led the service.

### Arkadelphia Richwood Church

college choir presented an Easter musical drama March 28 under the direction of Barry Bates. Soloists were David Rickard, Vicki Taylor, Cheryl Bass, Roger O'Neal, Ann Thrash, Donna Moffatt and Bates. Christ's disciples were portrayed by Jay Shell, Stan Harris, Gene Whisenhunt and Fred Ball. Gail Spencer and Ann Pryor were accompanists.

## buildings

### Arkadelphia Park Hill Church

recently completed a remodeling program that involved improvements to the nursery, preschool, children's and youth areas. Included were carpeting, wallcoverings, bathroom facilities, painting and a house for all

youth activities. The church has grown since classes were relocated according to the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board space recommendations, according to pastor James R. Davis.

## News about missionaries

**Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hampton**, missionaries, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 48390, Nairobi, Kenya). He serves as associate to the Foreign Mission Board's director for Eastern and Southern Africa. He acts as liaison between the missionaries in Eastern Africa and the Foreign Mission Board. A native of Arkansas, he was born in New Blaine and lived in Paris and Mena while growing up. The former Gena Ledbetter, she was born in Harrison, Ala., and grew up in Tulsa, Okla. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.

**Susan Dittmore**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Steve Dittmore, missionaries to El Paso Baptist Publications Mission, married Steven Beardsley on March 13, 1982, in El Paso, Texas. Her parents may be addressed at Box 4255, El Paso, Texas 76604. Dittmore was born in Lefors, Texas, and lived in Arkansas, Texas and New Mexico while growing up. The former Shirley Tibbs, she was born in Houston and lived in surrounding communities while growing up. They were

appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964.

**Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Hodges**, missionaries to Upper Volta, are the parents of Heather Michelle, born March 13. They may be addressed at BP 580, Ouagadougou, Upper Volta. He was born in Breckenridge, Texas, and also lived in Alpena, Ark., while growing up. The former Karen Atwood, she was born in Paragould, Ark., and lived in Illinois, Louisiana and Florida while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1978.

**William R. Mathis**, father of Mrs. H. Doyle Robertson, missionary to Peru, died recently in Boaz, Ala. The former Martha Mathis, she was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., and grew up in Boaz, Ala. She may be addressed at Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru. Her husband was born in Manila, Ark., and also lived in several Arkansas towns and Hickman, Ky., while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1979.

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Crockett**, mis-

sionaries to Argentina, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 153, Pellegrini 1817, 7300 Azul, Buenos Aires, A.S., Argentina). Born in Memphis, Tenn., he grew up in Cross County, Ark. She is the former Annette Perkins of Cross County. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972.

**Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Findley Jr.**, missionaries to Uganda, are in the States on furlough (address: 21 Berkshire, Little Rock, Ark. 72204). They are natives of Alabama. He was born in Tuscaloosa and grew up near Reform. The former Kathryn Manis, she was born in Birmingham but also lived in Reform. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1979.

**Mr. William F. Dillworth**, father of Linda Dillworth, missionary to the Philippines, died March 13 in Augusta, Ga. Miss Dillworth may be addressed at Box 99, Davao City, Philippines. She was born in Fort Knox, Ky., and also lived in Germany; Fort Smith, Ark.; Lawton, Okla.; and Augusta, Ga. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1977.

Monty Ball, a deaf and blind Baptist from Arkansas, presents a sign language rendition of "Look and Live" for special music at a Deaf Leadership Workshop sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department March 26-28.



ADH photos/Bob Allen

## The sounds of silent worship

Take a Southern Baptist worship service. Take away the dynamic blaring of the organ and the melodies of the piano. Take away the cheerful beckoning to worship by a charismatic song leader. Take away the choir's four-part harmony. Take away the voices lifted in congregational singing. Take away the booming voice of an enthusiastic evangelist. What have you got? Still, a Southern Baptist worship service.

For an estimated 5,000 persons in Arkansas, none of these factors are elements of worship. They are the deaf.

The Missions Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention sponsored a conference for deaf leadership at First Church in Little Rock March 26-28.

Workers from around the state, most of them deaf, participated in workshops, saw George Joslin, a Virginia pastor serving the Baptist Sunday School Board as consultant for multi-media evangelism, demonstrate the use of videocassette Sunday School lessons produced for the deaf, and participated in evangelistic services led by deaf evangelist Carter Bearden. Church services and workshops were presented in sign language and were reverse translated for the hearing at the conference.

Randy Cash, language missions director for Arkansas, organized the conference.



George Joslin, Virginia pastor serving the Baptist Sunday School Board as consultant for multi-media evangelism, demonstrates a videocassette Sunday School lesson for use with deaf adults. The tapes are used to give background for the lesson, to be followed by discussion.

## New Orleans hotels booked for SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — All 6,800 hotel rooms reserved for participants in the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15-17 have been claimed, as well as 300 to 500 others the New Orleans housing bureau was able to dig up, according to convention manager Tim Hedquist.

Hedquist suggests persons still planning to attend the meeting, but who have no room, write the New Orleans Convention and Housing Bureau at 334 Royal St., 70130. Ask for a brochure that lists all the hotels in the area. They can be contacted individually.

"Other than that, just get a registration form and fill it out by Oct. 1 for Pittsburgh," Hedquist says. The 1983 meeting is there June 13-15.

The number of rooms reserved through the housing bureau is double that reserved last year in Los Angeles when registration

reached 13,529.

Statistician Martin Bradley and registration secretary Lee Porter project registration will be just over 20,000. Porter says further it is conceivable registration could pass Atlanta's record registration of 22,872 in 1978. Martin's projections are based on location, Baptist strength in the area and registration over the past eight years.

Hedquist says the youth evangelism emphasis that is bringing 5,000 young people to New Orleans for a week of study and witnessing, has soaked up rooms that normally would be available to the convention bureau. Dorm space in New Orleans colleges is gone, and almost every major Southern Baptist church in the city is housing youth, he says.

The 6,800 original rooms were sold out by Dec. 1 after registration opened Oct. 1. The majority of the hotels were filled in

two weeks.

Hedquist credits associational missionaries, pastors and some laymen who made special efforts to reserve blocks of rooms and encourage turnout with filling the hotels so rapidly. He said 10 to 12 associational missionaries and 15 to 20 pastors and laymen reserved blocks of rooms.

He said there also appears to be a "tremendous" number of churches from small cities making efforts to be represented this year.

In Los Angeles, registrants used 3,560 rooms through the housing bureau; in St. Louis in 1980, 3,533 rooms and in Houston in 1979, 4,955 rooms. Registration in those years reached 13,529 in Los Angeles; 13,844 in St. Louis; and 15,760 in Houston.

While he would not estimate registration, Hedquist said, "I have to believe a lot more people are coming."

## Arkansas DOMs told

### *Now is a good time for starting churches*

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The time is right to start new churches, says Joel Land, associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church extension division.

Speaking to 125 directors of missions, pastors, denominational executives and home missionaries at a church planting conference at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Land listed several "basic things" happening in society that set the stage for starting new churches.

He said there is real interest in invisible things, and in experiencing real in-depth love. He added there is a definite fear of death. "The Good News for urban man is

that the church has the answer for death in the resurrection of Christ," Land said.

Since 1845 Southern Baptists have started an average of one church per day, he said. Since 1945, Southern Baptists have started two new churches per day. "We hope Southern Baptists can average three per day by 1985, and that is a reality because the time is right," he said.

Clay Price, Home Mission Board researcher, said Southern Baptists have the hardest time keeping up with the population growth in the South where they are strongest. "Our SBC membership gains in the past 10 years have been in the northeast, north central and western states, where membership

grew more rapidly than the population," he said.

The regional conference was attended by four Arkansas directors of missions: Carl Overton of Central Association, Don Seigler of Washington-Madison, S. D. Hacker of Independence, and Manuel Macks of Rocky Bayou.

The conference was sponsored by the World Missions-Church Growth Center at Southwestern in cooperation with the SBC Home Mission Board and its Church Extension Department. Lehman Webb, Arkansas' director of church extension work, also attended and Conway Sawyers, Arkansas' State Missions Department director, was there for part of the meeting.

## 50 churches exceed \$35,000 in Cooperative Program gifts

April 18 is Cooperative Program Day in Southern Baptist churches. An unusual number of Arkansas Baptist churches have outstanding records in Cooperative Program giving. According to records released by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Business Services office, 50 churches gave more than \$35,000 each for mission ministries through the Cooperative Program in 1981. They were:

Immanuel, Little Rock, \$241,033; Grand Avenue, Fort Smith, \$209,691; First, Fort Smith, \$204,558; First, West Memphis, \$131,017; First, Crossett, \$115,783; First, Ceyer Springs, \$107,062.

Park Hill, North Little Rock, \$96,887; First, Blytheville, \$91,316; First, Little Rock, \$81,507; First, Springdale, \$75,828; Central, Magnolia, \$73,754; Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, \$70,361; Calvary, Little Rock, \$70,277; First, Searcy, \$62,810; First, Camden, \$62,268; Second, Hot Springs, \$61,805.

Immanuel, El Dorado, \$58,305; First, Pine Bluff, \$54,121; First, Beech St., Texarkana, \$53,431; Central, Jonesboro, \$53,279; First, Paragould, \$52,000; Baring Cross, North Little Rock, \$50,251.

First, Rogers, \$48,799; First, Hope, \$48,780; East Side, Fort Smith, \$48,116; First, Heber Springs, \$47,441; First, Russellville, \$46,474; First, Stuttgart, \$46,173; First, Cabot, \$45,334; Second, El Dorado, \$45,105; First, Jonesboro, \$44,036; First, Harrison, \$43,975; Wynne, \$43,289; First, El Dorado, \$40,611; First, Smackover, \$40,473; First, Benton, \$40,368.

First, Osceola, \$39,224; First, Brinkley, \$38,985; First, Nashville, \$38,504; First, Mountain Home, \$38,328; First, Fayetteville, \$37,630; First, Jacksonville, \$37,618; First, Batesville, \$37,297; Life Line, Little Rock, \$37,263; South Side, Pine Bluff, \$37,036; Watson Chapel, Pine Bluff, \$36,124; Second, Little Rock, \$36,026; First, Arkadelphia, \$35,901; First, Newport, \$35,488; Elm-dale, Springdale, \$35,234.

## Fayetteville BSU to present musical

The Baptist Student Union and Share Team at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville will present "Celebrate Life," a dramatic musical, Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m. and Sunday April 25 at 7 p.m. at Fayetteville First Church, corner of College and Dickson.

The musical presentation, according to BSU choir director Elaine Short, will be in conjunction with BSU Senior Day on April 24. Youth groups from nearby associations have been invited to bring youth to the Friday night presentation, and to leave seniors on the campus for activities on Saturday.

Reservations are required for students participating in Senior Day. They can be made by contacting the BSU at 944 W. Maple, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701, phone number (501) 521-4370.



# Missionary resignations down, but reasons still complex

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — For reasons as varied as their individual lives, some Southern Baptist foreign missionaries resign and return home.

Some hear God calling them back to ministry in the United States. Others come home to care for aging parents or children with special needs. Others simply buckle under the often-crushing pressure of living, working and rearing a family in an alien culture.

For yet others, a tangle of nagging frustrations and conflicting commitments render effective ministry impossible, or so it seems.

The reasons for missionary resignations are as complex as they are varied, and defy quick, concise analysis.

One thing is certain, however. A smaller percentage of missionaries resigned in 1981, and Foreign Mission Board officials hope they are seeing a general downturn in the resignation rate, which in the early 1970s climbed above four percent.

In 1981, 114 missionaries resigned, or about 3.7 percent of the force of 3,123 career associate missionaries and two-year journeymen.

"It's very difficult to pinpoint a single cause for a resignation," says Franklin Fowle the board's medical consultant, who studies annual missionary losses. "There are so many factors involved. The missionaries themselves sometimes don't really know why they resign. We're dealing with a lot of subjectivity."

Change of "call" for example, led the reasons for resignation in Fowler's report for 1981, followed by problems in adjustment (to culture, language, living conditions), physical health problems and work frustration. Change of "call" — interpreted as a sense of God's leading back to the United States — typically leads the list from year to year. But while valid in its own right, the category often serves as a catch-all, according to Fowle.

"This may be the major reason when there are a lot of others, too," he explains. "Here's a missionary who's gone out and had a lot of trouble getting the language,

adjusting to the country and so forth. His folks back home keep writing and saying, 'We miss you so. We miss the grandchildren so. Why don't you come home?' His old church writes him and says, 'Our pastor just resigned; and we'd love to have you back.' All these things begin to pull, and he may conclude the Lord's leading him back to the States."

Yet change of "call" also emerges as a deeply felt sense of new direction, and personal progression among veteran and successful missionaries.

Though Fowler hesitates to identify a downward trend just yet, the 1981 resignation rate followed a general decrease begun in the late 1970s, after sharp increases earlier in that decade and in the mid-1960s. Resignations among career missionaries, who constitute almost 86 percent of the overseas force, numbered 95 in 1981, 3.41 percent of the total career force. The rate averaged better than 4 percent during the first half of the 1970s, more than double the average of a decade earlier. The average rate decreased to 3.78 percent in the latter half of the 1970s.

The career of a Southern Baptist foreign missionary completing service in the last two decades has averaged 14.4 years, considerably longer than that of the average American worker, who changes jobs every 5.4 years.

Winston Crawley, Foreign Mission Board vice president for planning, cites three factors for the missionary resignation increases of the 1960s and early 1970s: rapid overall personnel increases, the great emphasis on mobility and change in American society during the era, and the growing number of missionaries facing the "vulnerability factor."

"The 'vulnerability factor' often comes into the picture, Crawley says, when a missionary reaches middle age. "At that point his children are at an age when development problems come. His parents are moving into old age and often need special attention. The missionary is also at a mid-career point of re-evaluation, deciding what he wants to do with the rest of his life."

Fowler's 1981 study supports the "vulnerability" theory. Missionary resignations ranged highest between the end of the first and second terms, with another noticeable upturn coming after 15 to 19 years of service.

Missionaries also fall prey to special frustration during their second term on the field, Crawley says. Many return from furlough expecting the trials and tribulations of rookie days to have evaporated, when, in fact, they often increase.

No one area of the world consistently produces more resignations than other areas, and board staffers doubt that physical danger in violent or unstable countries scares away many missionaries.

"I think we have a significant number of missionaries who would walk into the jaws of hell itself to face a crisis situation," says Don Kammerdiener, area director for Middle America and the Caribbean, where political instability abounds. "I've seen them do it."

— But the grinding tension of not knowing what may happen can wear down the most courageous outlook. "You can get through a month of revolution easier than four years of not knowing which way things will turn out, or who your friends are," Kammerdiener explains.

To help missionaries and their families cope with overseas pressures of all types, the Foreign Mission Board is devoting more time and money to "ministering to the ministers." The eight area directors and their associates strive to act as pastors to missionaries, providing personal counseling and listening ears. Family and marriage enrichment conferences and spiritual retreats are increasingly common events on mission fields. About 300 missionaries participated in Masterlife Discipleship training in 1981.

During furlough, missionaries are encouraged to upgrade professional and ministerial skills, and seek expert help to resolve problems developed on the field. Orientation staffers plan special, week-long debriefings to help missionaries returning from their first term to work through field frustrations.

## Two RTVC projects emphasize families

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Two upcoming projects of the Radio and Television Commission — a series of public service spots and a network TV special — will support the Southern Baptist Convention-wide emphasis on strengthening families.

The RTVC is distributing four 30-second public service announcements to all television stations in the United States. The theme of the spot announcements is "Your Family... It's Worth the Effort." The first two will be sent out in May, with two more planned for distribution in the fall.

The spots take common family situations, like a shopping trip and a house-painting project, to show the importance of relationships in the home. Each announcement closes with the theme and identification of Southern Baptists as the sponsor.

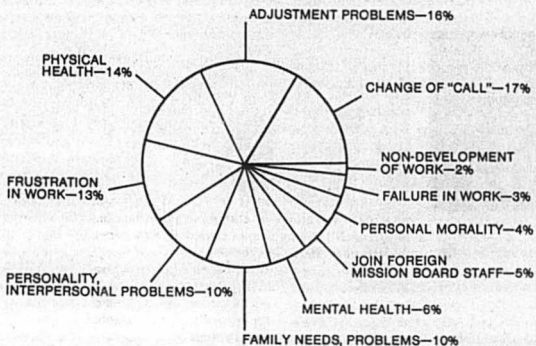
The public service spots, which will be shown on air time donated by the stations, are provided by the RTVC in cooperation with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

On April 4, the NBC television network

will rebroadcast "What Shall We Do About the Children?" — an hour-long special on runaway children, produced jointly by NBC and the Radio and Television Commission. It was first aired last September.

The special examines the causes, reasons and possible solutions to the problem of runaway children, estimated to occur one million times each year. Both runaways and their families are interviewed, but the program also surveys the organizations that are trying to help, including Baptist children's homes.

## REASONS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONARY RESIGNATIONS—1981\*



\*ROUNDED TO NEAREST PERCENTAGE POINT

**NOT SO SIMPLE** — Change of "call," adjustment problems, physical health and work frustration led the reasons for 114 foreign missionary resignations in 1981. But the percentages provide only glimpses of the whole resignation picture, according to Franklin Fowler, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board medical consultant. Numerous, sometimes complex factors often merge behind the primary reasons given by resigning missionaries, says Fowler.

In January, a uniform evaluation procedure went into effect in all missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries on each foreign field), enabling missionaries to assess themselves and be assessed by their peers — near the end of each term, with an eye toward specific training during furlough.

Charles Bryan, vice president for overseas operations, sees methodical evaluation and continuing training as ways of affirming missionary strengths and strengthening the "soft spots."

"It's too early to link these things with the decrease in resignations in the last few years, but I think they'll measurably affect the loss rate in time, and increase years of

service," he says.

Bryan also stresses that missionary "losses" through resignation aren't necessarily losses to missions. Former missionaries lead mission-minded churches, teach missions in seminaries, fill key positions on boards and agencies through the Southern Baptist Convention. Forty-one work on the Foreign Mission Board home office staff in Richmond. Hundreds of others serve churches and communities, ministering effectively in their daily lives.

In addition, 178 former missionaries were reappointed to mission service in the last 10 years, equaling 18 percent of career resignations for the same period. The average number of missionary reappointments almost doubled during the decade.

## Carters presented awards at Christian Life seminar

ATLANTA (BP) — Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter received separate Distinguished Service Awards at a national "Strengthening Families" seminar for outstanding contributions in applied Christianity, including setting high standards for their marriage and family life.

The Carters received their awards during the opening session of the three-day seminar — sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission — that attracted 1,100 Southern Baptist participants to Atlanta.

Carter was cited as "faithful Baptist churchman, courageous champion of human rights, patient proponent of peace with justice," and "world leader of grace and vision." The citation also called him "a statesman of high principles on whom history is destined to smile."

In his response, the former president, looking younger and healthier than when he left the White House 14 months ago, emphasized the importance of the family in his own up-bringing.

Rosalynn Carter was lauded not only as

## Billy Graham accepts invitation to Moscow

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham, urged by President Reagan to decline the invitation, has decided to preach in Moscow in May.

An invitation to speak in the Soviet Union was extended the Southern Baptist evangelist by Patriarch Pimen, primate of the Russian Orthodox Church, and by leaders of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the U.S.S.R.

Graham will preach at the Orthodox Cathedral in Moscow May 9. On May 11, he will address the "World Conference: Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe." According to a statement released by Graham, he will speak on the Christian's understanding of peace in a nuclear age.

Graham, famous for friendships with U.S. presidents and other world leaders, is often expected to take political positions, an expectation he shuns. "My purpose in going to the Soviet Union is spiritual, and it is not my intention to become involved in political or ideological issues," he said.

"We have accepted this invitation to the Soviet Union because we feel it is a God-given opportunity for me to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in a country where I have not had this privilege before," Graham's statement said. "I also shall have the opportunity to give my Christian witness to leaders of various religious backgrounds from all over the world."

Graham, who had to change commitments in England to go to Moscow, said "It is my sincere prayer that this visit will make at least a small contribution to better understanding between the peoples of the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries of the world.

"We trade with each other, we have cultural exchanges and we have continued political negotiations in spite of our differences. I think it is now time that we move into a spiritual dimension as well."

"consistent practitioner and effective advocate of strong family life," but also as a "model first lady," "conscientious champion of responsible freedom for women," and for her attention to mentally retarded, aging, hungry and poor.

"I grew up the best way," she responded. "I grew up in a Christian home, as Jimmy did, and we have tried to give our children the sense of stability and belonging that comes from a close family and that comes from loving Jesus."

# Your state convention at work

## Church Administration

### Annual Pastor-Deacon Retreat

Dr. Henry Webb, Deacon Ministry Consultant in the Church Administration Department at the Sunday School Board, will speak and lead conferences at the annual Pastor-Deacon Retreat on May 14-15. Webb is the author of *Deacons: Servant Models in the Church*, the basic book for deacon ministry training. He is former editor of *The Deacon*, a quarterly publication for deacons published by the Church Administration Department.

The retreat will be held at Camp Paron and will begin with supper on Friday at 6 p.m. The retreat will adjourn after lunch on Saturday. Wives of pastors and deacons are also invited to attend the retreat.



Webb

## Christian Life Council

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Those who do not register to vote, or vote, have absolutely no just right to complain about the laws or political leadership where they live. The right to gripe has been cancelled by apathy.

If you are a dog owner, in all probability he has a license. In a sense he has been registered to exist. Thanks to you, he has already received rabies shots. He, you and others are thereby protected from madness.

If you are 18 years or older you should already have registered to vote. Often there are candidates and issues to be supported or defeated. Sometimes, sadly, you must vote on the lesser of two evils. To have a part in the voting process, you must take time out for voter registration at your county court house or other designated place for voter registration.

## Evangelism

### Conserving the results of revival

Every new convert should be enrolled in Sunday School and Church Training as soon as he or she is saved. The Sunday School teacher should take the initiative in personally sharing with him and enrolling the convert. The Sunday School has been given the responsibility to reach, teach, win and develop people in the Lord Jesus. Every church member should be an active part of this great Bible-teaching agency.

Church Training to the new convert is what the basic fundamentals are to a team athlete. The athlete will not make much contribution to the team regardless of his potential unless he knows



Shell

## WMU

### GA Mother-Daughter Camp

A weekend at Camp Paron for GA Mother-Daughter Camp will be an exciting time for many younger GAs and their moms. Three Mother-Daughter Camps are being planned... choose the one that is most convenient for you and register as soon as possible. The dates are: May 21-22, June 25-26, and July 16-17.

A special guest at the May camp will be Mrs. Jimmie Winter, Baptist Women consultant for WMU, SBC. Mrs. Winter assumed this position in October, 1980, after three years as Girls in Action/Mission Friends con-



Winter

sultant for WMU, SBC. She is experienced in teaching, training, and writing.

The retreat program will offer worship experiences, Bible study, fellowship and training in various aspects of deacon ministry. A wide selection of deacon ministry materials will be available for purchase during the retreat and may be charged to the church's Baptist Book Store account. Dr. Webb will offer suggestions for conducting deacon ministry training in the church and will interpret materials for use in a deacon training program. A packet of deacon materials will be presented to each pastor and deacon attending the retreat.

For reservations or additional information, write Robert Holley, Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**

nated place for voter registration.

The sad fact is that many have not adequately prepared to participate in a process for which there has been great sacrifice. Thousands of young Americans have died and many more have been injured on the battlefield, in the air and at sea to give us this precious freedom. Considering such sacrifice, shouldn't our patriotic duty be gratefully performed at this point?

Please register to vote! Then, study the candidates and issues. Ask God for wisdom to pull the right lever or correctly mark the ballot in the voting booth. You thereby have obtained the just right to speak up and complain at least a little. — **Bob Parker, director**

the principle of cooperating and working together. Church Training offers one of the greatest maturing tools known to Christianity, *The Survival Kit*. This can be studied in training groups and is even more effective when it is studied on a one-to-one basis.

Every evangelistic pastor will be very much concerned with a new members' class. This can be taught by the pastor or a committed staff person or a layman. This class should help the new convert to understand his new life in Christ and what God expects from him. There should be a special emphasis upon the church, Bible study, prayer, witnessing, stewardship and family life. Many other New Testament truths can be shared during this time.

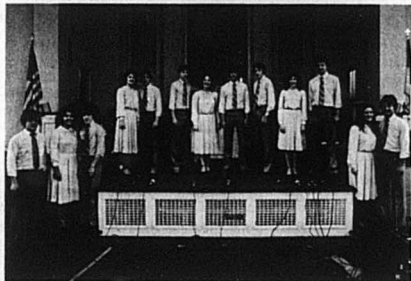
Christian maturity is our desire for every saved person. This is the greatest assurance they will continue as a faithful and useful servant of God. — **Clarence Shell Jr., director**

sultant for WMU, SBC. She is experienced in teaching, training, and writing.

Missionary guests during the three camps will be: Mrs. Paul (Lana) Rhoads, Korea; Mrs. Randy (Martha) Cash, language missions, Arkansas; Mrs. Marvin (Beth) Reynolds, Botswana; Miss Sara Wilson, Baptist Center, New Orleans; Mrs. Jewel (Jeanne) Franks, South Africa; and Miss Joan Frisby, Baptist Center, Dallas.

GA Mother-Daughter Camp will be an experience you will always remember. See you there! — **Debbie Moore, GA/Mission Friends director**

## State Music Tournament nears



"Chara" from Mountain Home was the 1981 vocal ensemble winner at the State Music Tournament. Judging in this category, as well as in instrumental ensemble, song leading, hymn playing, vocal solo and instrumental solo, will be held in the 1982 contest, scheduled May 15 at Second Church of Conway.



This group from Geyer Springs Church won top honors in the instrumental ensemble competition at the 1981 State Music Tournament. Participants in the 1982 tournament qualify for competition through associational tournaments. Sponsor of the contest is the State Church Music Department.

Time: Saturday, May 8  
9:30-3:00

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# Dogpatch USA

## International

### The wonder of the resurrection

by Lawson Hatfield, State Sunday School director

Basic passage: John 20:1-20

Focal passage: John 20:1-10; 19-20

Central truth: True joy and strength is the risen Lord

1. Early Easter morning despair (John 20:1-10): Peter and John looked in, then entered the empty tomb. They were not expecting the resurrection, for they knew not the scripture that Jesus must rise again from the dead (v. 9). Like all good Jews they believed in a general resurrection in the end time. They just were not ready for a three day resurrection, even though Jesus had tried to help them understand. However, John started putting it together. He believed (v. 8). Frustration, sadness and despair of early morning is ready to give way to wonder, joy and belief.

2. The empty tomb is on the road to joy and power (20:19): It is said that in the early church believers would greet others with "Hallelujah, Christ is risen, indeed." The "indeed" must have been a kind of exclamation mark. Have some lost the joy and power of the testimony of the resurrection? Simply stated, the resurrection of Jesus is the gospel. One theologian correctly states that the truth of the resurrection is as fundamental to Christian faith as is the existence of God. We should teach and preach the resurrection with the same regularity as is demonstrated in Acts. Joy and power spring up out of the resurrection.

3. Easter evening: fear, peace and gladness (John 20:20): Jesus had slipped out of grave clothes and walked out of a tomb. Now he enters a locked room to meet with frightened disciples. He greeted them with the familiar help of his day by saying, "peace." That helped. Then he showed them his hands and his side. They were then glad when they saw the Lord.

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## Life and Work

### The resurrection of believers

by Leroy French, Rye Hill, Fort Smith

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 15:20-50

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 15:20-21; 42-50

Central truth: The past resurrection of Jesus guarantees the future resurrection of believers. Our resurrected bodies will be similar to our old bodies and somewhat like the glorified body of Jesus.

1. The evidence that proves that Jesus came from the tomb is easy to find and believe.

First, there is the Biblical, historical evidence. Paul says in verse 20, "But now is Christ risen", signifying that all doubts had been removed from his mind that Christ had risen.

Second, there is evidence of the resurrected Christ in the lives of Christians throughout the world. The change that we see in believers for good can only be explained by the living Christ working in their lives.

Finally, the strongest and most convincing evidence we have as Christians is our personal relationship with our living Lord Jesus Christ.

2. We, Christians, can look forward to a time that we will experience a bodily resurrection, if we experience death upon earth before Jesus comes again. If Jesus comes before death, we will be changed into a glorified body.

According to our passage of scripture, our resurrected bodies will be similar to our old bodies and somewhat like the resurrected body of Jesus. We will have a glorified, powerful, spiritual and heavenly body. Verse 49 indicates that our future bodies will bear the image of the heavenly Father. My father died last year with dreaded cancer. His face was literally destroyed by the disease. Our family has the assurance that someday we will see Dad again, with his perfect glorified, heavenly body.

3. God's work teaches us that Jesus died, was buried and arose for a redemptive purpose. Our redemption is not only for the future, but is already in the present.

The ills of today can be better overcome, if we keep in mind what Jesus has in store for us in the future. If you are crippled in this life, just remember that God is not through with you. To God-be the glory.

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**DID YOU KNOW** that Boyce Bible School meets on Friday nights and Saturdays at the Educational Annex of the Central Baptist Hospital, 12th and Wolfe Streets?

## Bible Book

### Jesus, the king resurrected

by Jerry Tracy, First Church of Star City

Basic passage: Matt. 27:62-64a;

Focal passage: Matt. 28:1-9, 10, 18-20

Central truth: Certain truths are evident in the lives of believers because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. We know that he died. Matthew makes it very plain that Jesus tasted death. He died both spiritually when he became sin for us and physically when he dismissed his spirit. His body lay in the borrowed tomb for three days. It seemed to his followers that Jesus was gone forever leaving only memories.

2. We know that he arose. God the Father raised Jesus from the grave and nothing will ever cause him to die again. He is the resurrection and the life. (John 11:25)

3. We know that he is Lord. Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and earth. He is worthy to have every knee bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord. He needs to be Lord over every area of a person's life. He is to be Lord of all. (Rom.10:9; Phil. 12:10)

4. We know that every believer is united to Jesus Christ. Because of his death, we have also died with him to the power and reign of sin. (Rom. 6:6-7) Because of his resurrection, we are alive with him to live a new life — a life in fellowship with God. We belong to God and he belongs to us.

5. We are not only united to Christ but we are under divine orders with the privilege of discipling others to know God and to keep the commandments of Christ: Ours is a mission of love and extends to every person on earth. We are to make disciples who will make other disciples. Bold Mission Thrust isn't original, it came from Jesus.

6. We are promised his presence. It is certain everyday of our lives Jesus has promised to be with us. We are never alone. He has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5)

Because he is alive we can face each day in victory.

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## International Meeting the risen Lord

by Lawson Hatfield, State Sunday School director

Basic passage: Luke 24:13-35

Focal passage: Luke 24:13-21, 28:32

Central truth: Jesus is a warm friend and constant companion

1. A sad homecoming, but Jesus is near (24:13-21): Some roads are world famous. Consider the Appian Way, an ancient but still used Roman road. There is the famous German Autobahn and our national interstate road system coast to coast and border to border. One important short stretch of road is the Emmaus road. Here two sad disciples of Jesus are homeward bound with sad and heavy hearts. Who is it that has not had the same kind of sad trip home from the cemetery? Or, if not, just a little longer in the world and it will be experienced. But there is something different about sad home goings since Jesus was resurrected. Christianity is not just a doctrine, but is really a presence. Sadly, some never recognize the presence of Jesus on their journey in life. Still, he is there.

2. A tense reply (v. 18): Two disciples, disappointed and in despair talked about the sad death of Jesus. Jesus joined their conversation but his identity was then known. Cleopas was tense, or at least a little sharp in his conversation with Jesus. Jesus remained tender.

3. A touching rehearsal of their sad story (19:24): There are times when one ought to share with others their heartbreak. Not always, not continuously, but sometimes. Even a stranger who is a friendly listener becomes a sounding board for sharing our dilemmas. It is sometimes important to talk. It is often more important to listen. Usually it takes some of both. In other words, work through your grief, but don't overwork it. There is a better answer, and that answer is Jesus.

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## Life and Work Victory over death

by Leroy French, Rye Hill Church, Fort Smith

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 15:51; 16:24

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 16:21-24

Central truth: Jesus gives us victory over death and power to live victoriously in the present.

1. Victory over death. Death is the end result of sin. Every person is a sinner, therefore, all are under the condemnation of death. The Bible says "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23) and "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; whosoever, liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

Jesus gives us victory over death. He satisfied the demands of the law. "The sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law" (v. 56), but we are not under the law if we are in Christ. "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

Fear not, Christian, if Jesus comes before you die, you will be changed to have a glorified body, but if your body dies before he comes, you have victory over death in Christ.

2. Victory in life. If a person has Jesus Christ as a savior, he is ready to meet death. When a person is prepared for death in Christ, then he is ready to live victoriously in the present.

Life here is so brief and death is so certain, but the victory we have in Christ makes this brief life thrilling and fulfilling. "Therefore, Paul says, "We should abound in the work of the Lord."

We are not saved by our works (Eph. 2:8). We love God because of what Jesus has done for us and we work to share him with people of the world. In a world that is so unstable and changing, Paul exhorts us to be steadfast and unmoveable in our faith and practice.

Sometimes we feel that we are not accomplishing much for the Lord by our service to him, but v. 58 reminds us that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We should always remember that our first love is our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the Corinthians evidently had forgotten, (v. 22). When we love Jesus we will love others as did Paul. "My love be with you all in Christ Jesus," was his closing statement.

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## Bible Book David's growing strength

by Jerry Tracy, First Church of Star City

Basic passage: 2 Samuel 3:1 to 4:12

Focal passage: 2 Samuel 3:1, 8, 21, 27;

4:5, 7-8, 12a

Central truth: When God decrees something it will occur no matter the interference.

David is already king of Judah while Ishbosheth is king of Israel. The people of Israel were not ready for David to be their king after the death of Saul. This lesson explains the events that lead up to Israel's desire for David to be their king. We are reminded that Samuel had been instructed by God in 1 Sam. 16 to anoint David as king of Israel. Though bloodshed occurred, the decree of God would surely take place.

1. Abner (Israel's commander in chief) was accused of trying to overthrow the king of Israel and became convinced that it was better to listen to God than to one's own desires. He went to aid David, but Joab (Judah's commander in chief) seeking revenge and also continued power, slew Abner. David was quite bereaved and Israel knew he was innocent of Abner's death.

2. Ishbosheth was opposing God by being king of Israel. Without proper protection Ishbosheth lay asleep in his bedchamber while two brothers (Rechab and Baanah) came in and slew him and decapitated his body. These brothers figured they would be royally treated by David but David had them killed and dismembered. Again David was found innocent of slaying the head of Israel.

With the king of Israel dead and his commander in chief out of the way, the people of Israel were ready to accept David as their new king. Though David was innocent in killing these two enemies, their opposition to God proved their destruction. How much easier it would be if men would listen to God and obey him. Being in the will of God is the safest place in all the world to be.

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## Hunger must be part of total thrust, Parks says

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is moving with "deliberate haste" to make appropriate use of world hunger contributions but will not rush into "improper or shoddy arrangements," President R. Keith Parks told board members at their March meeting.

"This ministry," said Parks, "will be done in the name of Jesus. It will augment evangelism and church growth. It will be an appropriate part of the total Southern Baptist foreign mission effort."

Parks made the statements in the wake of recent suggestions by some world hunger advocates that the board channel some of its funds through other relief agencies to meet hunger needs in countries where it does not have missionaries, such as in Somalia.

Southern Baptists have expectations that shape the way these funds are handled,

Parks said, identifying the expectations as economical, efficient administration, urgency of getting the funds to the field, desire that they be used to bear a Christian witness and strong Baptist convictions about separation of church and state.

For these reasons, he said, the board cannot channel funds through an agency that spends 25 percent or more on administration and promotion; one that accumulated an excess of \$7 million last year; agencies that utilize non-Christian distributors or others which either receive government funds or distribute through government channels.

The board has been criticized because world hunger and relief contributions, which have grown from \$889,190 in 1977 to \$5 million in 1980, have come in faster than the board has been able to initiate projects

to use the money wisely. Last year the board allocated more than \$3.5 million for projects in 37 countries — a 17 percent increase in allocations but still more than \$1 million below the \$4.7 million given for world hunger and relief.

In his report, Parks noted that from the earliest days, missionaries have sought to provide food for the hungry in countries where they served, often paying for it out of their own pockets.

He affirmed the role of hunger and relief ministries as part of the board's total ministry. "Biblically, philosophically and practically, this ministry is a valid part of our work," he said. "It is done in conjunction with evangelism that results in churches. This and all other ministries are to strengthen the witness and growth of the churches."

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For additional information contact Dr. Gene Petty, P.O. Box 618, OBU, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

## HMB elects officers, appoints missionaries

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission elected a new chairman and vice chairmen, named three persons to new staff positions, approved a reorganization plan and appointed 70 new missionaries during their spring meeting.

Clifton R. Tension, pastor of First Church of West Monroe, La., was elected chairman, succeeding Howard B. Cockrum, a Knoxville, Tenn., contractor and land developer.

First vice chairman is O. Wyndell Jones, director of the church ministries division of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery; second vice chairman is Charles Elder, pastor of First Church of Conyers, Ga.

Implementing the first stages of a reorganization plan, the directors elected three persons to national staff positions and created two other staff positions yet to be filled.

Jack T. Merritt of Albuquerque, N.M., a former home missionary in New York and New Mexico and currently national consultant on volunteers for the Home Mission Board, was elected assistant director in the

HMB special mission ministries department, effective April 1.

Two professionals in the HMB communication division were promoted to staff positions. Mark Sandlin, manager of photographic services, was elected director of photojournalism in the media department; and Karen Mitchell, graphic arts supervisor, was named director of design services in the promotion department.

Among the 70 named to mission service were 10 missionaries, six missionary associates, 46 approved for church pastoral assistance, and eight to receive language pastoral assistance.

Elected as missionaries were Joseph and Debbie Bagwell of Chelsea, Mass.; Harry and Cheryl Edmonds of Baltimore, Md.; Timothy and Carolyn Logerquist of Yuma, Ariz.; Michael and Sarah McCullough of Reno, Nev.; and Henry and Patricia Smart of Tempe, Ariz.

Named missionary associates were Ronald and Betty Jo Sanders of Normal, Ill.; Garland and Hellen Wilkerson of Dayton, Ohio; and Gary and Joye Lynn Zufoto of Kansas City, Mo.

## Italian church dedicates building

ALTAMURA, Italy — The recent dedication of a new four-story church building and community center by the Baptist church of Altamura, Italy, was a communi-

ty event. Other Baptists, along with representatives of local political parties, labor unions and other religious denominations, joined in special services and a luncheon.

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## Southern Baptists exceed some overseas BMT goals

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — At the first-quarter mark of Bold Mission Thrust, overseas personnel are ahead of schedule but evangelistic results are behind.

If the numbers of missionaries, volunteers and countries where they work continue to increase as they have the first six years, they will surpass Bold Mission Thrust challenges for the year 2000, according to J. Winston Crawley, Foreign Mission Board vice president for planning.

However, totals for overseas Baptist churches and mission points, church membership and annual baptisms are behind the pace needed to achieve the projected tenfold increase by the end of the century.

The categories for missionaries, countries and volunteers are the ones over which Southern Baptists, through the board, have the most control. "The other four are merely the reporting of work that is primarily that of national Baptists, who have their own plans for the development of the work," Crawley explains.

Church membership overseas is about 96 percent of what it should be to be on schedule for reaching Bold Mission Thrust challenges. Baptisms stand at about 91 percent; churches, 87 percent; and churches and mission points combined (including the figures in the "churches" category), nearly 81 percent.

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## Southeastern Seminary beats campaign goal

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) — More than 300 trustees, staff, faculty and friends gathered recently to celebrate completion of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's \$3.5 million "Equipping for Bold Mission" campaign.

Campaign chairman Albert S. Lineberry of Greensboro, N.C., and Mrs. Theodore F. Adams, widow of the campaign co-chairman, unveiled a banner proclaiming that \$4,131,120 had been raised during the seminary's first major capital and endowment campaign.

William L. Burns Jr., president of the Central Carolina Bank and Trust Company, the host for the evening, said although "I'm a great believer in the Baptist faith, I had no idea this could be achieved." Burns is an

8.5 / '85  
What's It All About?

## A grip on the handle

by Lawson Hatfield

Again, a suggestion. In this series of growth articles we suggest that you clip, file and use this page for reference to Sunday School growth 1982-85.

Last week we suggested that up front, ahead of all growth factors, is that leaders be committed to growth. Next, we suggest that leaders guide members to commitment and that together the church plan a strategy to grow the Sunday School. Some of the factors that committed workers should consider to provide for growth include the following:

(1.) Pray for a burden for the lost and enlivened in your community; (2.) Study the biblical basis for reaching people; (3.) Accept responsibility for the unreached in your area; (4.) Meet with church council, and in workers' meeting to discuss ways to reach people together and to establish reaching people as a priority; (5.) Evaluate and allocate priority emphasis of time, budget and promotional thrust for growth; (6.) Set some personal goals including to be a diligent visitor, to manage time wisely, to form a prayer chain or partnership, to study growth resources, to train in outreach and to lead church to growth commitment.

In addition, (7.) Set goals regarding increases in enrollment, attendance, number of persons reached for Christ and the church, the number of new units, and the number of workers engaged in evangelistic visitation; (8.) Develop a spirit of growth including faith, joy, enthusiasm, thanksgiving and "thinking enrollment." All this is a part of the handle of commitment. Now let's think of how to take hold of the growth emphasis.

To have a tool is important, how to properly grip and use the tool is also important.



Hatfield

8.5 by '85 is a Southern Baptist Convention goal for Sunday School growth. To reach eight-and-one-half million by September 1985, each church should reach its proportionate part in every state.

That part in Arkansas is for each church to enroll, each year through 1985, one new member (net gain) for each 43 presently enrolled. This is a small goal for some, but the secret is for every church to reach its goal.

Associational 8.5 representatives (the associational Sunday School ASSIST team director) will receive special training in a state Church Growth Thrust meeting, May 3-4 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock. Plans are underway for other associational leaders (the associational council) to also attend this meeting to study their part in Bold Mission Thrust. The 8.5 representatives and the state Sunday School department will encourage growth campaigns and outreach emphasis among the churches. The state Sunday School Convention will provide information and inspiration for 8.5 growth. Articles and letters and other promotion will help spread the spirit of growth toward reaching a goal of 270,975 by 1985. Our present enrollment is 246,282, a gain of 3,490 over last year. We are actually a little ahead of our projected growth toward our state goal. This is just great.

To help reach the state goal the state Sunday School Department offers more than just words and meetings. Budget assistance to associations is available for growth campaigns. Ask and ye shall receive.

Sunday School growth is vital to church growth. Sunday School growth helps generate and strengthen Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is here and now. The key in Arkansas is the ratio and of 1-43. The key to reaching and helping the churches is through the associations.

Next week Freddie Pike will share more information on associational involvement in 8.5.

## 160 medical volunteers overseas in 1981

RICHMOND, Va. — Almost a fourth of the 160 volunteers who went overseas under the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's medical volunteer program in 1981 went to Honduras. But four other countries, Nigeria, Mexico, Gaza and Antigua, each received more than 10 medical volunteers during the year. Dentists topped the list of specialties volunteering, with 39 dentists

serving in 12 different countries. Thirty-seven physicians, 34 medical team assistants and 24 registered nurses also went overseas as volunteers. Among physicians, almost half of the volunteers were surgeons. Volunteers under the medical program went to a total of 22 countries during the year.

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### Episcopalian.

Lineberry paid tribute to the bank as the campaign's first corporate contributor, adding that after the first one, the others come easier.

Commenting on the high cost of education, Southeastern President W. Randall Lolley quoted his father as saying, "If you think education is expensive, you ought to try ignorance."

In a surprise announcement, alumnus Robert B. Whaley, pastor of Northgate Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., said church member Josephine Carson Newell, who died in January, had willed about \$500,000 to Southeastern Seminary. Although the exact amount is indefinite, earnings from the trust will be available to the seminary to be used at the trustees' discretion. This bequest is in addition to the \$4.1 million raised during the campaign.

clip and save