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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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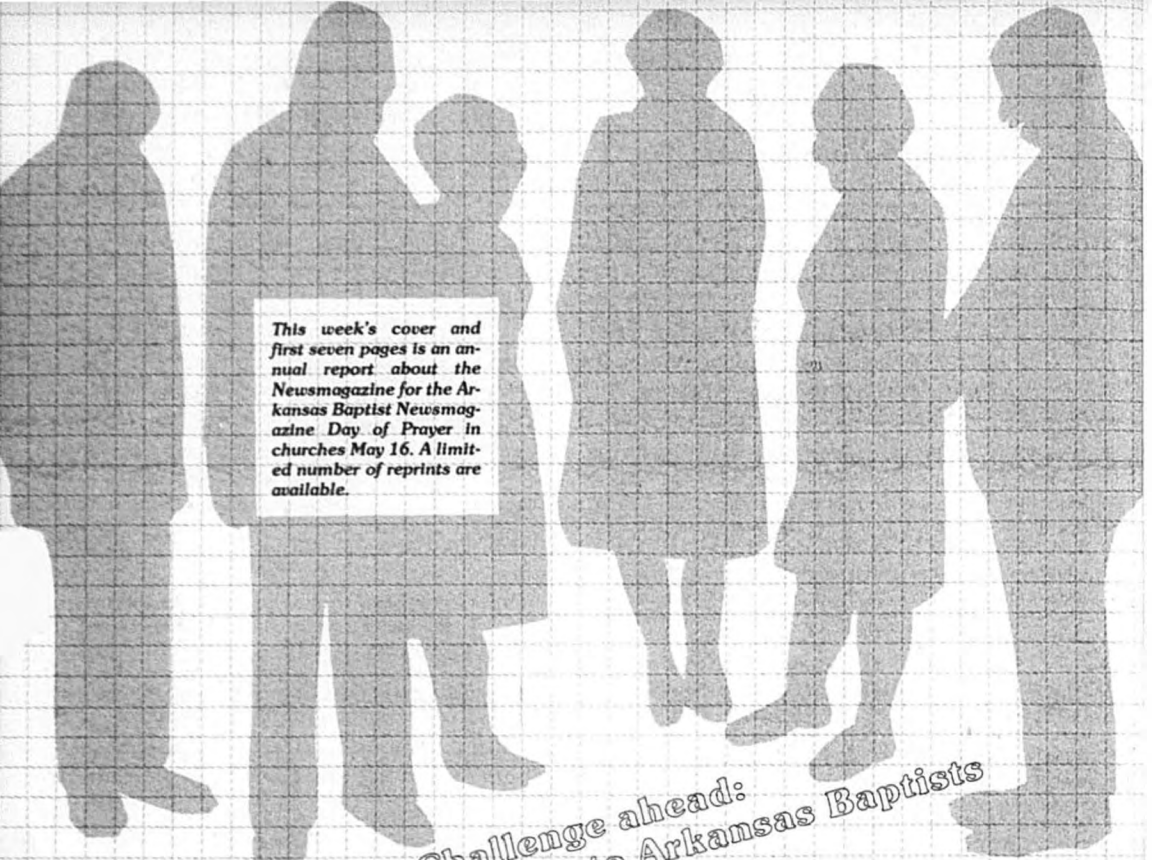
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Annual report for 1982:

**challenges for Arkansas Baptists
and their state paper**

**A special section for the
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine
Day of Prayer, May 16**

May 6, 1982
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE



This week's cover and first seven pages is an annual report about the Newsmagazine for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Day of Prayer in churches May 16. A limited number of reprints are available.

Challenge ahead: a report to Arkansas Baptists

"Challenge" is not a word foreign to the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine staff and board of directors. Neither is the term "change". Arkansas Baptists have been told over the past several years that challenges (and changes) were a part of the future. Baptists in Arkansas are aware the economic conditions handicap churches and that inflation affects what churches provide for their members, just as it affects the cost of goods and services for all enterprises today. Postage costs for nonprofit mailers are not exempt from the economic bloom and blight, but this comes as no surprise.

Those difficulties are not charted here for the reader. Rather, what follows is a report of who the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine staff and board of directors are and how some of them view the challenges of the future.

Many Arkansas Baptists already are aware of a scenario of rising costs for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine. These prospects might be disconcerting if it were not for a determination to use challenge as a catalyst for openness to change. That change is perceived by the staff of your state paper as a positive force, not a barrier. Arkansas Baptists still can expect the production of a publication which attempts to meet their needs.

Arkansas Baptists are responsible for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine through the corporation they voted in 1979. The corporation, technically, is composed of only those who are messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual sessions where the particular business is being conducted. But all Baptists support the state paper and have an interest in its welfare. Therefore, this compilation is an annual report to those people on whom the publication depends for its life and without whom it has no purpose to exist.

Arkansas Baptists have never been ones to throw in the towel just because the road got a bit bumpy. Hard times economically or days of slow growth have meant, at worst, only temporary concern. God's people often have given their best and problems have spurred Baptists to break new ground in the tasks of witness and ministry.

Consider J. I. Cossey. In 1933 he became editor of the Arkansas Baptist, as it was called then, because of extremely hard times. The severe financial disorders of the 1930s had left their mark on Arkansas Baptists and the survival of the state paper was in jeopardy. Cos-

sey, who was state missions director and pastor at Searcy, pleaded so persuasively to retain the paper that the convention's executive board agreed — provided he edit the publication himself.

While there is a vast difference between the dilemma of the depression era and the conditions of 1982, both represent challenges for Arkansas Baptists. And the tension created by such challenges has the potential of being a creative force for the state Baptist paper. Great ideas often are born out of need. Creativity flourishes with demand for solutions.

Those challenges which demand solutions have not been easy to name here. Some of the future is that image that we see through a glass darkly. Technology promises possibilities far beyond present expectations. Economic predictions are constantly revised.

Continuing Baptists' ministries, including the ministry of informing the people of God, demands concern for meeting these challenges. It means planning and watching economic ups and downs. But, before, between, and after dealing with the figures and facts, it means accepting change as a challenge which demands the best of Baptists.



Since 1904, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* and its predecessors have served Baptist people of Arkansas. In good times and in bad, the purpose of the *Newsmagazine* has been to help God's people to serve as salt and light. It has provided information, perspective and opportunity for individuals to be heard on the issues of the moment.

Across the years, this *Newsmagazine* has dealt with issues of importance to Baptists. A few of the major subjects which have claimed the attention of the editors are prejudice, gambling, alcohol and the Landmark-Southern Baptist split. In each instance the purpose has been to provide facts and guidance so that individuals could make, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the right decision.

In some instances this paper has been more effective than in others. In the gambling issue, Baptists and other Christians were successful in stopping casino gambling but failed to keep horse racing and dog tracks out of Arkansas. The *Arkansas Baptist* has played an active role in many salt and light issues.

Events and issues not covered by other publications will be dealt with in the ABN. The point of view, also, will often be different from non-Christian news sources. When one desires information about Baptist events, the Baptist state paper is the best source. Normally, the ABN will provide more information about Baptist activities than will any other news source. Usually, a secular publication lacks the space or a qualified individual to provide proper perspective on the events which take place at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Knowledge of the different issues is essential when one is making decisions on important issues. The Missionary (Landmark) Southern Baptist split which took place at the beginning of the century is an example. The *Baptist Advance*, a forerunner to the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, stated the issues well. Basically, there were two issues: (1) Should mission outreach be done by local churches only, or through mission boards?; and (2) Should all churches, regardless of size, have the same number of messengers (representatives at associations or conventions)?

The Baptist paper has played a vital role in helping Arkansas Baptists to work together. Since Baptists are a democratic body, where no individual can tell others what they must do, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* becomes a vital link in information and education.

More recently, the *Newsmagazine* has provided a major part of the promotion for the Baptist Student Union in their effort to raise \$1 million. State Director Tom Logue believes that the ABN has played a major role in making this effort successful. He said, "Apart from the *Newsmagazine* we would not be reaching our goal on schedule."

The open forum of the ABN is important to Baptists because it provides a place where individuals can respond to current issues and events. "Letters to the Editor" provide a place for people to express their own opinion on matters of interest.

The structure of the *Newsmagazine* was changed a year and a half ago, making the staff responsible to the Convention through a separate board. The new board is proving to be most beneficial. For example, the reserve funds have already increased substantially, more nearly attaining what they should be.

Additional changes are anticipated beginning in June, to meet present-day needs. Among the changes will be an advice column, a monthly feature for senior adults and a monthly feature for youth. A survey will, also, be conducted in the near future to assist the staff of the *Newsmagazine* in knowing how to best serve the Baptists of Arkansas.

We are, also, seeking a church representative to assist us in doing a better job of briefly covering the events which take place in the churches of Arkansas, as well as an immediate response to the likes and dislikes of people within the churches. See page 8 for more information.

A state paper has served Arkansas Baptists well across the years. As we work together, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we hope to continue to assist you to be effective in serving the Master.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 81

NUMBER 17

J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor

Betty Kennedy Managing Editor

Erwin L. McDonald, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

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

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

Photos submitted for publication will be returned only when accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only black and white photos can be used.

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

Deaths of members of Arkansas churches will be reported in brief form when information is received not later than 14 days after the date of death.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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State papers: bringing it all together for Baptists

by Robert H. Dilday

George Truett, pastor of the First Church in Dallas for 47 years, never tired of saying, "If you give Southern Baptists the facts, they'll do the right thing."

It would be difficult to formulate a better justification for a Baptist state newspaper. Without facts, rational decisions are impossible, and for the average Southern Baptist, the weekly or monthly publication of his state convention is essential in learning the facts about his denomination.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine is one of 32 state Baptist newspapers that perform both a supportive and prophetic role for Southern Baptists. The creative tension between a state paper's responsibility to promote Baptist programs on the one hand, and to distribute sometimes unfavorable denominational news on the other, has been a part of religious journalism from the beginning. The boards or advisory committees of most state papers delineate the paper's mandate in this area; the ABN's charter asks us to "aid and support the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to report and to interpret events and movements that effect the welfare of the constituency of such Convention."

Certainly, the state paper must be expected to support the work of the convention at both the state and national levels. It is a vital medium of contact between local church members and staff and their elected denominational officials. But Baptists expect more of their news journals than public relations tabloids, extolling the virtues of those directing the many facets of Baptist life. They expect the truth, even if the truth is often distasteful. Cover-ups are unacceptable in secular journalism; they are even more so in religious journalism, where the ethics of the kingdom are of ultimate importance.

In order for its readers to have access to as many facts as possible, the Baptist newspaper must be, within the limits of its responsibility to the convention, as free from restraints and pressures as possible. One of the best ways to keep the necessary distance between the upper echelons of the state convention structure and the state paper is the independent board of trustees, elected annually at the meeting of the state convention. The ABN has adopted this method. Such a system insures a certain objectivity in reporting Baptist events, pre-

serves the credibility of the newspaper and at the same time makes the editor and his staff answerable to their constituency.

Often, without the safeguard provided by a separate board, the state paper may become suspect by its readers as it tries to report any irregularities in the convention structure itself. These irregularities, though rare, do occur; Baptists have a right to know of the stewardship of their elected leaders; and, unfortunately, a paper too closely controlled by the executive board may be tempted to play down or even hide the incriminating information. Some independence must be maintained in order to permit the free circulation of undistorted facts.

Not all the facts that appear in a Baptist newspaper will appeal to all the readers. Particularly on controversial matters, such as the one over biblical inerrancy within the SBC, any kind of fair reporting of events will gen-

Reprinted from the May 7, 1981, issue of the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine."

erate criticism from all directions. Southern Baptists are much less homogeneous than national opinion would have us believe; the diversity which exists, and has always existed, within the convention must find expression on the pages of the state newspapers.

An editor who struggles to depict a controversy in an objective manner will find himself accused in letters and phone calls, and often even charged with heresy. He may have to contend with various factions for control of his editorial page and, at worst, his job may be at stake, depending upon his degree of acquiescence to some faction's "party line."

Such blatant tampering with freedom of the press is of course not in Baptists' interests. If the primary role of a state paper is to provide information for all Baptists, then common sense dictates as much freedom for the paper as possible.

For 200 years and more, Baptists have vigorously argued that in our national life the only sure protection of religious liberties is the protection of all religious groups, even those with whom we disagree. Baptists must demand that the same commitment to pluralism that has marked us nationally be adhered to just as firmly within our religious life and our

denominational newspapers, and for the same reason: sure protection of religious liberties. If it is possible for one theological faction to take over a newspaper and exile from its pages any disagreement with its viewpoint, then it is clearly just as possible for the adherents of another faction to do the same. Baptists must demand the unhindered distribution of facts as a state paper's objective.

But facts alone are never sufficient. The role of interpreter is also an important characteristic of the state paper. Sometimes facts are incoherent without an experienced hand to order them, to clarify them, to make sense of them. State papers can be that experienced agent for Southern Baptists. Usually the focus of this analysis will be denominational news, but not always. There are unique Christian perspectives for much that goes on in national and international life. Baptists must be active in interpreting these events as well.

This doesn't mean any paper tells a Baptist how to think. It does mean that leaders with recognized Baptist ties, commitment to the Baptist way and an understanding of Baptist history will contribute their special knowledge to the barrage of news that confronts the 20th century American reader.

The state paper won't deal exclusively with the analysis of news from around the nation and the world. It will also address the needs of its local readers. Only one publication speaks specifically to Arkansas Baptists. While carefully assessing the turn of events outside the state, the ABN focuses on the distinctive place of Arkansas in the Baptist fellowship of believers, often emphasizing those concerns that are of interest primarily to Arkansans: change and progress in the life of our churches, growth and movement of our workers, the contributions of the state to national and worldwide Baptist efforts.

Like other state Baptist newspapers across the country, the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* is a valuable part of the Baptist experience in its state. Baptists at all levels of the convention have a responsibility to bolster the effectiveness of his newspaper in speaking to and informing them.

Robert H. Dilday, ABN Intern in 1981, has returned to his studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The challenge of serving grassroots Baptists

by Jon M. Stubblefield

I began reading the *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* at an early age while growing up on a farm near Fayetteville. My home church wisely saw to it that every family received the ABN each week. The names and faces of folks involved in Arkansas Baptist life became familiar to me long before I met them. I am, therefore, fully convinced that the ABN is the most effective medium available today for imparting information, promoting programs, and discussing issues vital to our convention and to grassroots Baptists.

Who are the grassroots Baptists? Did you know that of the 446,454 total members of our churches in Arkansas only about 2,000 are pastors, staff members, and other ordained ministers? The rest are laypersons. These are the grassroots Baptists. They are important people.

Pastors and other church leaders have many sources at hand to keep them informed about programs, ideas, trends, events, people, and even problems confronting Southern Baptists. Magazines, journals, and other publications focus upon the proclamation of the gospel, church administration, specific organizations within the church, special ministries, ethical decisions and numerous other concerns. These sources provide basic information and perspectives essential to the ministry of church leaders.

But where do grassroots Baptists turn to find news about our convention and its work? The answer, of course, is the ABN. Infrequently, religious stories are covered by the secular news media. However, only the ABN accepts the responsibility of reporting the news in such a way that our people have an up-to-date overview of Baptist activities and other events in the religious world and can make intelligent judgments about matters which are important to us all. Informed readers are surely more responsive to the challenges of the gospel message.

Consider how much the ABN has to offer. A quick glance at a recent issue reveals the following: a balanced diet of religious news of local, state, and national interest, a timely, perceptive editorial and stimulating opinion pieces by thoughtful writers, news from the churches and about missionaries, promotion of our state work by the departments of our convention, letters from readers, concise, helpful comments on upcoming Sunday School lessons, and carefully screened advertisements which promote items of interest to our constituency. Where else can you find so

much significant printed material so attractively packaged in such a small amount of space for such a modest price? What a bargain Arkansas Baptists have!

The mention of price raises the question of some serious challenges facing the ABN staff and its board of directors. The surprise increase in non-profit postage recently approved by Congress has greatly affected the 1982 budget of the ABN. A total of \$94,970.12 was spent for postage in 1981. The 1982 figure is projected to be a staggering \$195,000. This added cost has had to be passed on to our readers in higher subscription prices. While this inflationary situation is undesirable, it need not be viewed as a signal of the decline of religious publications like the ABN. Positive responses will help us meet the challenges of the future.

The staff and board are determined to find ways to hold down costs involved in the publication of the ABN. Careful evaluation is being accomplished in all phases of the operation. Disbursements of the 1982 budget of \$584,866 are examined closely. Stewardship of resources is taken seriously.

Moreover, exciting advances in technology are rapidly taking place in the field of communication, and their utilization will not only permit greater creativity, flexibility, and productivity by the ABN staff in doing their work but will also insure that we are able to provide the best possible newsmagazine at the lowest possible price. This, too, is a stewardship of resources.

Churches are also faced with a challenge. Our current economic crisis has had a hurtful effect on church programs and ministries. High interest rates, increasing utility costs, and other financial pressures have forced churches to reexamine their priorities. Unfortunately, some have reduced their subscription lists to the ABN. This is a tragic mistake. Grassroots Baptists across our state must not be denied the information and inspiration provided by the *News-magazine* which is the only publication which speaks specifically to Arkansas Baptists.

Editor J. Everett Sneed has challenged churches to consider the front-back page option. Churches or associations can purchase the space to great advantage. This approach will save the cost of addressing and mailing a separate newsletter each week and will provide church members with denominational and local church information in one attractive



Stubblefield

publication, with the result that readership of both is increased. Why not give this alternative a try?

Church leaders and the ABN staff with its board are confronted with a great challenge. We must maintain a responsible, free channel of communication with grassroots Baptist despite the severe economic pressures upon us.

It is important that we meet this challenge for several significant reasons: (1) Communication is essential if Baptists are to preserve the democratic nature of our denomination. (2) Communication between Baptists promotes fellowship and understanding. (3) Informed Baptists are in a better position to guard cherished religious freedoms which are basic to our historic formation as a body of believers. (4) Informed Baptists are better prepared to confront the critical moral and social issues of our time.

For the past year and one-half I have had the privilege of serving on the board of directors of the ABN. During this period I have been able to examine the work of the staff at close range. They are all creative, competent, committed professionals who love our Lord and serve him well.

Your board is composed of a homemaker-secretary, a newspaperman, a federal judge, a lawyer, a business executive, an associational director of missions, and three pastors who represent the state geographically. We deeply appreciate the trust placed in us by Arkansas Baptists and pledge to discharge our responsibility with great care. The board of directors concept encourages objectivity in reporting Baptist news and at the same time makes the editor and his staff answerable to the convention.

Jon M. Stubblefield, pastor of Magnolia's Central Church, is President of the Arkansas Baptist News-magazine board of directors.

Facing challenges: your state paper staff

Mary Giberson is in her 34th year as secretary to the editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Her duties, to list just a few, include answering the telephone, typing the editor's correspondence, scheduling paid advertising, filing and other secretarial tasks. She has worked under three editors, B. H. Duncan, Erwin L. McDonald and currently J. Everett Sneed, and under the administration of four executive secretaries.

Mrs. Giberson is a member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Mabelvale. She is married to Harry Giberson, who is self-employed in the food business. They have one daughter, Mrs. Alan (Terri Lynn) Winkler.

Betty J. Kennedy, a native of Hot Springs is managing editor of the ABN. Her responsibilities include planning and execution of the *Newsmagazine* production schedule, supervision of reporting and photo staff, art direction and quality control of the ABN. She has been with the ABN since 1969 and has won numerous awards for layout, design and writing.

She is a member of Pulaski Heights Church in Little Rock, active in the music program. She holds the B.A. degree from Ouachita Baptist University and has done masters level studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Southern Baptist Convention seminary studies programs. Before coming to the ABN, she was news editor of the *Daily Siftings-Herald* in Arkadelphia.

Her husband, Bill, is director of patient accounts at Memorial Hospital in North Little Rock. They are the parents of one daughter, Amy.

J. Everett Sneed, celebrates this week his 10th anniversary as editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Sneed, a Batesville native now of North Little Rock, holds degrees including the B.S. from Arkansas College in Batesville, the B.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the M.A. from Baylor University in Waco, Texas and the Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg in Heidelberg, Germany with a major in systematic theology.

As editor, Sneed, with the approval of the ABN board of directors, establishes policies governing the use, content and subscription price of the paper, manages the business affairs of the publication, and is charged with the task of analyzing and commenting on issues of concern in editorial articles.

In addition, editor Sneed is a popular speaker around the state, as well as convention-wide and abroad. He is a member of Park Hill Church in North Little

Rock, husband to Mary Ellen Sneed and father to two daughters, Chere, 24, and Cathy, 17.

He has been a pastor, an associative director of missions and an associate in the Missions Department in Arkansas.

Millie Gill, who calls Blytheville home, was employed Jan. 1, 1976 by the ABN as staff reporter/photographer. Her duties include compiling Arkansas church and staff news briefs, covering state convention events, and photo lab work for the ABN. She is a graduate of Blytheville High School with additional study in five schools of photography. She served 10 years as society editor of the *Courier News* in

the ABN internship.

He is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, where he participates in choir and a number of singles department activities.

Ann H. Taylor is in her 22nd year with the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, where she works as bookkeeper/circulation manager. She was born in Doddsville, Miss. and is a graduate of Hope High School in Arkansas. She is married to Weldon Taylor, director of environmental services at Memorial Hospital in North Little Rock. They have a married son, Robert. Mrs. Taylor is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.



Staff members are shown in the same order as their biographical sketches.

Blytheville.

Mrs. Gill is mother to Lucretia Ann Gill, a high school junior. She is a member of West Side Church in Little Rock where she serves as church pianist.

Bob Allen is 1982 staff intern for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. He is the second seminary student to take advantage of the ABN's cooperation with Southern Baptist seminaries to allow students interested in religious journalism to gain a year's practical experience in the field for academic credit.

The intern's duties include reporting, photography and page layout under the supervision of the ABN managing editor.

Allen is a native of Marion, Ill. with three years experience as a reporter at the *Sullivan Daily Times* in Sullivan, Ind. He holds the B.S. in Journalism from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Ill. He entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the master of religious education program in Aug. 1981, completing one semester before accepting

Her duties at the ABN include writing all checks and paying bills, billing subscribers and updating circulation lists. She keeps ledgers on advertising accounts and works with the Post Office on mailing the *Newsmagazine*. She also deals with circulation correspondence including past due accounts, expiration notices, and complaints.

board of directors

Jon M. Stubblefield, pastor of Central Church in Magnolia, is president of the ABN board of directors. He holds the M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as well as a B.A. and an M.A. in public speaking from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

A native of Fayetteville, Stubblefield has served both the University of Arkansas and Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Ind. as instructor of speech. He was instructor of New Testament Greek at Southern Seminary two years before

**Strother****Garner****Finney****Milligan****Robertson****Chesser****Roy****French**

returning to Arkansas.

Ministerial experience includes pastorates at Fayetteville and at Taylorsville, Ky. and the associate pastor position at Magnolia. He served as a summer missionary to Thailand in 1964 and was state BSU president while in college. He has served on the program committee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and is currently convention first vice president. He serves as co-chairman of the Third Century Endowment campaign of the state BSU.

Stubblefield is married to the former Jacqueline Virginia Stevens. They are parents of two sons.

Lane H. Strother is an attorney working as a partner in a Mountain Home law firm. He was born in Jackson County, Okla., but moved to Arkansas as a child. He is a graduate of North Little Rock High School and Ouachita Baptist University. He holds an M.E. degree in educational administration from University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a law degree from University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Strother served the U.S. Army and for six years worked as associate director of development at Ouachita.

He is married to the former Judy Cook, also an attorney. They have three daughters.

Strother is a member of First Church in Mountain Home, where he and Mrs. Strother teach an adult couples class.

The District 2 representative to the ABN board's term expires in 1983.

Evelyn J. Garner, of Lepanto, is married to director of missions for Trinity Association Jimmie Lee Garner. She is one of two women serving on the board of directors for the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*.

Mrs. Garner is a homemaker and part-time secretary to Trinity Association. She also serves as clerk for the Association.

She is from Blytheville, where she graduated from Blytheville High School. She attended Southern Baptist College and Arkansas State University.

The Garners are parents of a married daughter and a son.

Mrs. Garner was elected District 3 representative to the board in November 1980. Her term on the board is scheduled to expire in 1982.

Lyndon Finney of Little Rock brings several years of journalism experience into overseeing the operations of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. Finney is assistant managing editor at the *Arkansas Democrat*,

where he has been employed more than nine years.

Before moving to Little Rock, Finney worked at the *Southwest Times-Record* in Fort Smith, KWHN-KMAG radio in Fort Smith and at the Denton, *Texas Record-Chronicle*.

Finney is organist at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. He has held that position eight years.

Finney is a native of Fort Smith and a graduate of University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He is married to the former Donna Kay Farrar of Fort Smith. They are the parents of three children.

Finney's term as District 5 representative to the ABN board expires in 1982.

Merle Milligan, an industrial office manager from Harrison is one of five laymen on the ABN board. Born in Cutler, Ill., Milligan is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and has attended Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo.

Milligan is an active member at First Church in Harrison, where he was ordained as a deacon in 1955. He has served the church as interim music director, Sunday School superintendent, adult department director, teacher, Training Union director, chairman of deacons and as a member of numerous other committees.

He is presently serving as treasurer of North Arkansas Association and has worked in churches by directing music in revivals and as a lay speaker.

He and his wife Jeane are parents of two children.

Milligan was named to the board in 1980 to serve a three-year term set to expire in 1983.

Tommy Robertson, District 8 representative to the ABN board, serves as Liberty Association director of missions. He has held pastorates at Sheridan, El Dorado, Gurdon and Royal, Ark. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and holds the M.Div. degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Robertson, a native of Batesville, has served as teacher for seminary extension courses and Bible conferences. He has been a member of the executive board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and was moderator of Pulaski Association.

Robertson is married to the former Beverly Herzfeld, a registered nurse. They have two daughters, Renee and Carol.

Robertson was one of the ABN's nine original board members, with a term set to expire in 1983.

Charles Chesser Jr. has served First Church at Carlisle as pastor for 15-plus years. Prior to his present pastorate, he worked with churches in Texas, Oklahoma and at Collins, Armitry, Antioch at Royal and Kibler in Arkansas.

Chesser is a native Arkansan. He is a graduate of both Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and Mrs. Chesser, the former Hazel Courtney of Halley, are parents of seven adult children — four daughters and three sons.

Chesser has served as moderator of Caddo River, Clear Creek and Caroline Associations. He served six years on the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II.

He was one of the original nine board members elected in November 1980 with a term to expire in 1981. He was re-elected to a second term in 1981 set to expire in 1984.

Elsijane Trimble Roy is U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas, now serving in her fifth year on the federal bench. Previously, she was appointed to two terms on the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Judge Roy was in 1977 selected outstanding appellate judge for the state of Arkansas by the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association. She was named woman of the year by the *Arkansas Democrat* in 1976 and is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who of American Women and Personalities of America*.

Judge Roy was born in Lonoke and is a member at First Church of Lonoke. She has one son, James Morrison Roy Jr., an attorney in Springdale.

Judge Roy was recently elected to a second term as at-large member of the ABN board of directors, set to expire in 1984.

Leroy French, pastor of Rye Hill Church in Fort Smith, is the newest of the nine directors of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* board. French was elected as District 4 representative in November 1981.

French is a native of Alamogordo, N.M., with the B.A. degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the B.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Helen Tanner of Wiseman, Ark. They are the parents of two children, Janet and Roy Dean.

French has held pastorates at Curtis, Melbourne and Baring in Arkansas and at Wichita Falls, Texas. French's term on the ABN board is set to expire in 1984.

Your church and the Newsmagazine

We think other Arkansas Baptists ought to know what your church is doing.

Here's our plan for providing this. We want one representative from each church to help us gather information.

Who will serve as representative to the Newsmagazine?

Your Sunday School director or another person that is selected by the Sunday School director, pastor or the church.

What will be the objectives of the representative?

- (1) To inform us of major events in your church.
- (2) To inform us of how the Newsmagazine meets the needs of your church (or what you would like us to do to meet the needs).
- (3) To inform us of individuals who might be potential donors to the ABN endowment fund. (The endowment fund will be used, among other things, to keep subscription rates as low as possible.)



Name Street city state zip

Church position Telephone numbers (home and office)

Church name

Check all the following which apply:

I am interested in the program, I was contacted to serve by the
and would serve if asked. SS director/pastor.

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Send the above to:

**Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine
Church Newsmagazine Representative
P.O. Box 552
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203**



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant/President, OBU

Who sets the national agenda?

It is a day of charges and countercharges about television's role in the promotion of excessive sex, violence, and deviant lifestyles. In the midst of questions and answers that are much too simplistic, it is encouraging to hear a voice with an unusual touch of wisdom. Jimmy Allen spoke in Little Rock recently and was reported in considerable detail by John Workman in the *Arkansas Gazette*. Allen, head of the Radio and Television Commission for the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke on "Morality and the Media," and clearly shied away from simplistic solutions to what most Christian people would agree is one of the most critical problems of American society today.

It was not that Allen shied away from charging that contemporary television pro-

gramming "transmits false values," or that it promotes homosexual behavior by failing to show the real anguish and pain of that lifestyle. He makes it clear that treating adultery or homosexual lifestyles humorously or in heroic fashion is a violation of both journalistic and artistic integrity.

Allen addressed the boycotting issue by giving only partial support to its advocates. He feels selective patronage is needed from time to time, but opposes wholesale boycotting of an entire network as unwise, because many good programs are hurt while trying to get at the bad. He probed deeper to an even more serious problem, charging "that the agenda for the nation is being set by the media." Our problem is that all too few Christian individuals and groups are sitting in on the agenda-making.

It is being done in the clubs in New York City and by people who sit around and talk about what they're going to deal with next. Churches not only have a right to be there, but they have an obligation. Ultimately we must earn the right to be there by producing our own quality programming, which Allen believes we can do.

We used to talk about the undemocratic "smoke-filled rooms" out of which came important decisions on who will govern our nation, state, and communities. It will be even more dangerous if we continue to allow our national agenda of moral concerns to be fixed in small smoke-filled rooms or decision centers in New York and Hollywood.

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

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A Morrilton man has entered what has traditionally been a woman's field and he's pleased at the results. His role has been an answer to his burden for missions, too.

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Nine more Arkansans have been commissioned by the SBC Foreign Mission Board this month. These will serve as journeymen under a two-year program of foreign service for younger adults.

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Southern Baptists will have to wait until the SBC meets in New Orleans in June to find out who will be nominated for denominational boards and committees, the Committee of Boards has announced.



Woman's viewpoint

Cynthia B. Price

Repeat after me

"She sells seashells by the seashore."
"Okay, good. Let's say it one more time."
"She sells seashells by the seashore."

Sound like a phonics lesson? No, just an exercise the orthodontist put our child through to see if he had a lisp. But that's not all. Listen to how the rest of the conversation went. The next step was to repeat the word Mississippi several times so that slurring or other speech problems could be detected. The doctor made some notes on the chart, paused a few seconds, then said to the young patient, "can you take aspirin?" Our son, not knowing the exercise was over, obediently repeated, "can you take aspirin?" Immediately he realized what had happened and we all had a good laugh!

As we left the doctor's office that day, a very important truth began to penetrate my heart and soul. Not always, but for the most part, that's the way it is with children. They copy what they've seen and been taught and heard. What an overwhelming responsibility parents have. We cannot demand spirituality of our children, we must demonstrate it.

I have a picture in my mind of the perfect mother. She's either baking something, soothing a hurt from some minor accident, or reading quietly to the children, in front of the fireplace of course. No matter what

the outward circumstances are, she glows with inner strength, patience and love. There's only one problem. In my imagination, the face that mother has is mine. But the rest of me doesn't always live up to her example.

Are my ideals too high, maybe a little. But one thought keeps coming before me. These children I have been entrusted with may accept or reject Jesus because of my life. In light of the fact that I claim to represent him, how can I be anything less than the best mother I know to be? And can my ideals ever be too high?

Cynthia B. Price is a homemaker from Pine Bluff. She is married to a real estate broker and is the mother of four children. She is a member of Watson Chapel Church, where she assists in teaching third graders and leads a ladies' Bible study group. She has had writing published in "Open Windows" in the July-Sept. 1982 edition and in another similar devotional book.

DID YOU KNOW that Boyce Bible School is a division of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and is designed especially for minister and laypersons who cannot attend college or Seminary but who want to further their training?

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Arch Wheeler

has been called as pastor of the Clarksville Spadra Church. He was serving as interim pastor of the church.

John L. Wood

is serving Alma First Church as minister of music/youth. A native of Bentonville, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. He has done advance study at the University of Missouri and has received his master of music education degree from the University of Arkansas and his master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the gospel ministry by the Birchman Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Wood and his wife, Patricia, have two children, Keli and Robin.

Max Hook

has resigned as pastor of the South Side Church in Fayetteville. He and his family will continue to live in the Fayetteville area.

Pete Cragar

has accepted the call to begin serving as pastor of the Solgohachia Church. He was serving as pastor of the Houston Church. Both churches are in Conway-Perry Association.

Leo Hughes

accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Sylvester Church at Fouke. He began his service there April 11. He was director of missions for Southwest Association.

Carter Tucker

recently retired from the military chaplaincy, is residing in Monticello. He pastored the Union Church of El Dorado before entering the chaplaincy during the Vietnam conflict.

George Keck

will receive his Ph.D. in musicology May 15 from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. He is associate professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University.

David Halso

has resigned from the staff of Sylvan Hills First Church at North Little Rock. He is moving to Atlanta, Ga., to prepare for the counseling ministry at Atlanta First Church.

Brent and Brenda Roach

have been called as youth directors at the Royal Antioch Church. He is a graduate of Henderson State University. They are parents of a son.

Mike Sparks

is serving as associate pastor of the Harvey's Chapel at Hot Springs.

Gene Anderson

was recently honored by the Jessieville Church in recognition of his 10th anniversary as pastor.

Harold Sadler

is serving as pastor of the Clarksville East Mount Zion Church.

Bill Cavenaugh

has resigned as pastor of the Mulberry First Church to become pastor of the Fourth Avenue Church in Port Arthur, Texas.

focus on youth

Ward Calvary Church

youth participated in the Southern Baptist Convention Youth Emphasis month in March with activities that included positions of leadership in the church, a work retreat and the presentation of the Bold Mission Thrust

drama "Light." Robert E. Hall is pastor.

Springdale First Church

youth will do summer mission work in Wyoming. They will present musical programs and lead Backyard Bible Clubs in the Casper area.



Bold Mission team ministers in Michigan

Members of First Church of Lake City and Bowman Church joined together in Bold Mission outreach in Northern Michigan in February. A team made the trip to do a week's construction work on the building for the Onaway Church in Onaway, Mich. and to lead a two-day prayer retreat. The group worked with Carroll Fowler, a former Arkansan now serving as a church planter with the Home Mission Board. T. B. Smith, director of missions for the northern Michigan area, himself a former Arkansan, called the visit one of the most productive programs that Northland Baptist Association has had. Prayer cells formed during the week, and a genuine spirit of revival has prevailed since the prayer retreat, Smith reports. The two churches are planning to return to the Northland area next winter.



The Student Department's Summer Mission Program is sponsoring Share Team again this summer. The team (left to right: David Jackson, Glenda Hicks and Dickey Cummins) will be available to lead approximately 20 revivals during their ten week term. Scheduling arrangements may be made through the Student Department.

DID YOU KNOW that Boyce Bible School will begin its eighth year in Little Rock on August 27, 1982 and that about 100 students attend the school each year?

Baptist Memorial
acquires new hospital

UNION CITY, Tn. — The Obion County Commission voted Wednesday to sell a 259-bed hospital and nursing home to Baptist Memorial Hospital of Memphis for \$16 million.

After lengthy study, the commissioners by a vote of 20 to 1 chose the offer of Baptist Memorial over that of Methodist Health Systems of Memphis.

Roger Struble, vice president of Baptist Memorial, said final details of the sale should be completed by July 1.

Obion County General Hospital has 173 hospital beds and 86 nursing home beds.

Obion General will become the sixth hospital to affiliate with Baptist Memorial in two years.

Others include Lauderdale Hospital, Inc., Ripley, Tn., Baptist Memorial Hospital-Tipton, Covington, Tn., Corning General Hospital, Corning, Ark., Baptist Memorial Hospital-Eastern Ozarks, Cherokee Village, Ark., and Baptist Memorial Hospital-Booneville, Booneville, Miss.

Largest non-profit hospital in the United States, Baptist Memorial has a 2,068 bed capacity in its three Memphis units — Medical Center, East, and Regional Rehabilitation Center.

The 70-year-old institution is owned and operated by the state Baptist conventions of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

ham. Joe Atchison is pastor.

Cash First Church was in revival March 7-14 as a part of the Mount Zion Association simultaneous revivals. Delton Dees was evangelist and Blake Meador directed music. Pastor Jim Daniel reported 50 professions of faith and 71 rededications. He also reported that Sunday School attendance has increased from 90 to 152 as a result of the revival.

Clear Creek Association is sponsoring a homecoming rally May 15, beginning at 1 p.m. The rally will be held at the associational camp, Baptist Vista at Ozark.

Cedarville Church held a revival and witnessing school April 11-15 led by Rex Easterling, pastor of the Open Door Church in Rogers.

Stephens First Church honored its pastor, Robbie Hobbs, and Mrs. Hobbs with a monetary gift April 4 in recognition of their 11 years of service to the church. Huey Long, chairman of the deacons, made the presentation.

Calvary Church at West Memphis will hold a commissioning service May 30 for Ginny Powers. George Sims, associate director in the Baptist Student Union Department of Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will lead the service. Miss Powers has been selected by the Arkansas BSU to serve as a summer missionary in Taiwan.

Lamar Church

ordained Douglas Lynn Applegate to the gospel ministry March 17. Jim Box and Rex Easterling led the service. The Lamar youth choir presented special music.

Hartman Church

ordained Justin Carmody to the ministry recently. Henry Magee and Arch Wheeler led the service.

Altus First Church

held a deacon ordination service for Mike Mayner March 21. Pastor Ron Clark led the questioning and George Domeser, director of missions for Clear Creek Association, brought the message and charge.

Hope First Church

has been presented with a plaque by Margaret Beyerley in recognition of those from the church serving in full-time Christian vocations. Those named on the plaque are Jon and Connie Anthony, Jim Browning, H. B. Fuller Jr., Robert and Karen Gross, James Hunt, Gerald Jackson, Truitt King, Alan Moore, Debbie Moore, Sue Pendergraft, Wanzel Mix Rodriguez, Barbara Caston Vick, Ernest Whitten, Joe Mac Young, Trudy Nelson, Larry Williams and Lloyd Garland.

South Side Church

at Pine Bluff will observe its second old-fashioned day May 16 with dinner on the ground, music, an antique display and an ice cream supper. This will conclude a weekend revival led by evangelist Tal Bon-

focus on youth

Ouachitonian wins
national honor

The 1981 "Ouachitonian" yearbook from Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia was chosen as one of three college-university yearbooks in the nation to receive the highest award given to student publications, the Gold Crown Award, given by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association of New York City.

Twenty-four Gold Crown Awards, representing seven newspapers, two magazines, 12 yearbooks and three magazines, were selected in singling out the top one percent of student publications.

William D. Downs served as adviser of the 1981 Ouachitonian. Members of the 1981 staff were Deborah Holley, editor; DeAnna Travis, assistant editor; Brenda Wense, copy editor; Tim Wooldridge, sports editor; Nichol Northern, business manager; John Crews, director of photography; Matt Greene, director of photography; Steve Blenden, photographer, and Ken Shaddox, photographer.

Assistant editor Travis is editor of the 1982 Ouachitonian.



Friendship Church, located in the western section of Osceola, dedicated a \$55,000 building program March 28. The building, with 3,800 square feet, houses seven classrooms, an office, pastor's study, kitchen, fellowship area, nursery, and a sanctuary that seats 175. Neal Stevens pastors the church that began Jan. 27, 1980, as a mission of Emmanuel Church in Blytheville. He reports a membership of 96, Sunday School enrollment of 75 and Church Training membership of 64. Since the church's organization, there have been 69 professions of faith with 55 of these coming for baptism.

Not for women only: Morrilton Mission Friends leader takes Great Commission at its word

by Bob Allen

It's a man's world, you say?

If that's so, Guy Thompson wants to know why it is women who have been left with so much of the burden for reaching that world for Christ?

Guy Thompson is talking about missions. He's talking about them weekly, in fact, with four- and five-year-old Mission Friends at First Church in Morrilton. It's not easy competing with all the other sensory stimuli in a classroom full of 11 Mission Friends for the short attention span of a preschooler, but Guy Thompson is sticking it out.

How did a nice guy like Guy Thompson wind up in such an unlikely predicament?

Ridgecrest: His wife of 37 years, Mary, wanted to go to Ridgecrest last summer for Foreign Mission Week. Thompson took a week of vacation time and went along.

"The first few days," Thompson said, "I told my wife 'Did you ever see so many women?' There were some men there, but women outnumbered men 10 to one. I guess."

Then he began to meet the missionaries, one after another, and heard them talk about the joys and the needs of their ministries. Then something happened. "I just realized old Guy wasn't doing anything (for missions) — except giving my money."

Thompson had been a church member since 1947 and had held almost every "man's job" available at Morrilton First. He taught Sunday School in both the junior high and senior high departments, had been a deacon 30 years, served as assistant Sunday School superintendent and had been on virtually every committee in the church. He had never said no to his wife or any

woman in the church asking him to help out with building chores or other work for special events. "I was a Christian, and I thought I was involved, but I wasn't. Ridgecrest just opened my eyes up to things I'd been in the middle of for years and just didn't see the need of."

When Thompson came back to Morrilton, he told his church that he and other men had been guilty of making missions education a woman's concern. He vowed to do something about it. Then, an opportunity arose.

The Missions Friends group had been running hit-and-miss for several years. Mrs. Thompson and another woman in the church decided to make a stab at reviving the program. A few weeks later, the woman told Mrs. Thompson she would not be able to follow through on the commitment. Mrs. Thompson asked her husband if he would help. He consented. "We didn't come home and jump into it," Thompson said. The doors just opened and we didn't say no. We just felt like it was what the Lord wanted us to do.

"This is the very best place to start — the young mind. They just absorb everything you say to them. If you can instill in these young minds what missions is all about, you've really got your foot in the door."

Mrs. Thompson is thrilled to be able to work so closely with her husband in an area both feel is so important. "We think everybody in a church — men, women, boys and girls — should be involved. So we try to make our involvement church-wide — for missions, and everything."

Why haven't men done their part?

Maybe they are unconcerned, Thompson said.

"I don't think it's so much indifference," Mrs. Thompson responded. "It's just we're not aware of the need, because we have so much work."

"I don't think men are aware that there are some things they can do," Thompson said. When he considered working with Mission Friends, he thought, "What can I do? There's just a lot men can do if they'll do it."

A man's touch is quite noticeable in the Thompsons' class. Thompson helps with all the hand work. Nothing is handier in a Mission Friends class than someone who can use a sharp pocketknife at a moment's notice. One lesson called for an imaginary van ride. Guy got the idea of outlining a van, complete with spoked wheels, on the floor with masking tape. The children moved their chairs into the area and had as much fun as they would have in a real van.

The children seem to be more attentive when a man speaks, Mrs. Thompson admits. And one Wednesday night, a young boy whose father was killed a couple of years earlier in a mill accident asked for permission to sit on Thompson's lap. Thompson just smiled and said "yes."

"It's a shame men aren't more involved," Thompson said. "There are so many blessings they miss."

"Women did start the work (in mission education)," Mrs. Thompson said. "They know more about it and are more involved in it. That might be a little frightening to men."

Financial aid available for OBU, Southern students

Despite a number of scare stories about the possible effects of President Ronald Reagan's budget reductions on the cost of higher education, financial aid directors at Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia and Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge say the crunch on their institutions is at least a year away.

Both schools reported receiving authorization letters for campus-based student aid programs, and both noted a slight increase in the number of federal dollars to be received for the 1982-83 school year.

Mike Smith, director of financial aid at Southern, explained that the federal government "forward-funds" student aid programs, meaning that 1982-83 funding is pretty well set, and is probably safe from any budget cuts.

Harold Johnson, director of financial aid

at Ouachita, said the total OBU will be getting for three campus based federal programs — College Work Study, National Direct Student Loans and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant — is \$4,000 more than last year.

The Basic Educational Opportunity Grant was reduced \$70 million nationwide, Johnson said, but maximum amounts a student can receive were increased from \$1,670 to \$1,800. The effect will be that low income students will receive more aid from the program while higher income levels now qualifying for the grants will receive less, or in some cases no grants.

No changes have been made in Guaranteed Student Loans, Johnson said. Families with less than a \$30,000 adjusted gross income are eligible for up to \$2,500 in loans per year. Families with an adjusted gross in-

come greater than \$30,000 must undergo a need test to determine if eligible.

The maximum amount available under the Arkansas State Scholarship program was \$210 per student for the current school year. Johnson estimates that the grants for next year will range from a \$235 minimum to a \$255 maximum.

In addition, both schools have a number of privately-funded scholarships available to students showing proficiency in a variety of areas. "All possible is being done to make this college affordable for those seeking a quality education," Southern's Smith said.

Smith said that 94 percent of Southern students receive some kind of financial aid. Half of Ouachita students receive federal aid and two-thirds receive some form of assistance, Johnson said.

Courts half right

The first amendment of our U.S. Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

It says "no law," but also says "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." So we see the Supreme Court (justices) and other federal judges are only enforcing one part of it. The fact is, according to the first amendment, we need no law to teach it, just do it. A teacher has as much right to mention something that is in the Bible as some other person to put something in the text books.

Isn't it strange that no Supreme Court before 1962 ever handed down a decision about no teaching of the Bible or prayer in the public schools? The courts in 1800, 1825, 1850, or 1900 were much closer to the founding ones of our country than the one in 1962, when the court said no prayer in our schools. Of course, that decision stated the state could not, have the pupils or students say a prayer they had gotten up for them, but that was the start and soon became no prayer at all.

Now for some years since then, it is all right for the schools to teach (according to them) anything in our schools, no matter what, just so nothing in the Bible is stated.

Communist Russia is the one that has in its constitution, "Church and state must be separate." So many people in this country think it is in our Constitution, but it is not. So before you tell anyone it is, please look it up to see if you can find it in our U.S. Constitution. — F. W. Finch, Monticello



Guy Thompson (above) found a place to ease his burden for missions with the Mission Friends at Morrilton First. (Right) Thompson coaches his youngsters in a bean bag toss game during one Wednesday night meeting.

Thompson said the responsibility of a family and a full-time job might have kept men traditionally in the background of mission work. His current job as a rural mail carrier imposes much less pressure on him than did his initial career choice of mechanics. And, he added, "They may not want to get involved with that bunch of women."

Mrs. Thompson said that in her opinion missions ought to be the number one priority of a church. "In serving the Lord, we are to share Christ, and that ought to be most important of all."

"A Christian has an opportunity to witness for Christ every day," Thompson said. "I'm sorry that I didn't get involved in this way, 30 years ago, when I was a young man. I could have contributed so much more to mission work."

"I think it's great that women have done what they've done in the past. I think if it wasn't for what women have done in Foreign Missions, there wouldn't be any."

"I think we ought to be working together," Mrs. Thompson said. "Promoting missions, sharing Christ."

'And some . . . evangelists' Musician enters full time ministry

This last January, during the Arkansas Evangelism Conference at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, Christian recording artist Brian Kinder was formally introduced as one of Arkansas' newest full time concert evangelists.

Kinder, 29, is a native of Fredericktown, Mo. He served eight years in the U.S. Air Force before entering a full time concert ministry in December 1981. Prior to moving to Little Rock, he performed his music several years on the west coast. He has recorded an album of original material and will be ministering this summer at Siloam Springs.

Harvey Webb, pastor of First Church of Jacksonville, where Kinder recently had a concert, recommended him. "He went beyond the mere singing of songs to the ministering of souls," Webb said. "He gave more than a performance; he gave us himself. Our people were moved by his message mainly because it was expressed out of experience. We desire another concert from Brian in the future."

Kinder may be contacted at P.O. Box 2036, Little Rock, Ark. 72203 or phone number 985-1048.



Kinder

High Court sets race bias cases next term

WASHINGTON (BP) — Ending weeks of speculation, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will decide if religious schools practicing race discrimination are entitled to federal tax exemption.

According to the high court's public information office, the cases of Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C., and Goldsboro (N.C.) Christian Schools against the U.S. government will be argued next term. The court previously announced it will hear the last cases of its current term April 28.

In its April 19 series of orders in the cases, the high court cleared its docket of pending motions and counter-motions filed by several parties, including the Justice Department, Bob Jones University and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Nine Arkansans among 107 journeymen approved by Foreign Mission Board

Nine Arkansas residents were among the 107 young adults approved by the Foreign Mission Board for training as missionary journeymen at the board's April meeting in Birmingham, Ala.

All college graduates (or graduating this spring) under the age of 27, the journeyman candidates will work for two years alongside Southern Baptist career missionaries in 42 nations.

Among those approved were:

Allan Aunspaugh, a resident of Hot Springs, who was assigned as a youth director in Okinawa, Japan. Aunspaugh will graduate from Arkansas Tech University at Russellville this spring. He is a member at Hot Springs First Church, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Aunspaugh of Hot Springs. In college, he has been active as president and communications chairman of Baptist Student Union. He considers Russellville his hometown.



Aunspaugh



Garrison



Garrison

David and Sonia Hutchins Garrison of Camden were assigned to Hong Kong, he as assistant lecturer in religion and philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist College and she as a youth worker at International Church there. Both are graduates of Ouachita Baptist University and he is a candidate for the M.Div. degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1982. They have done Vacation Bible School and revival work in New Mexico and were members of "Spirit Wind," a singing group. She was a summer missionary to New York. Both are members of Nineteenth Avenue Church in San Francisco. She was born in North Little Rock, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hutchins. Ashdown but considers Arkadelphia her home. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Garrison of Camden, his hometown.



Buchanan



Buchanan

Doug and Janet Buchanan, residents of Memphis and members of First Church in Batesville, were assigned to Lusaka, Zambia, he as a religious knowledge teacher and she as an elementary teacher. He was most recently employed as minister of youth at Batesville First while she worked as a special education teacher in the Batesville School District. Both are graduates of Memphis State University. He also holds the M.Div. degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and was a Home Mission Board summer missionary to Maryland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Buchanan of Memphis. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Ferguson of Chesterfield, Va.

Mike Lee, of Warren, was assigned as a youth worker and teacher to Nazareth, Israel. He was most recently employed as a teacher at Searcy High School. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and a member of First Church of Searcy. He was a day camp counselor at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. He is the son of Mr. Jerry T. Lee of Cook, Minn., and Mrs. Joyce Lee of Warren.



Lee

Cheryl Reed of Route 1, Summers was assigned as a nurse at Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen. She was most recently employed as a nurse at Gravette Medical Center Hospital. She is a graduate of Biola College in La Mirada, Calif. and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. She achieved registered nurse standing in Little Rock. A member of First Church, Lincoln, she did vacation Bible School mission work



Reed

in Escalon, Calif. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Reed of Summers.

Nancy Bryant, a resident of Pine Bluff, will be assigned as a nurse at Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, Jordan. She was most recently employed as a nurse at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. She is a graduate of University of Central Arkansas at Conway. She achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Little Rock. She is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Bryant of Pine Bluff, she calls Pine Bluff home.



Bryant

Ann Cross of McNeil was assigned as a secondary MK teacher and youth worker in Paramaribo, Surinam. She has been a music teacher in Corning Public Schools. She is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia, and North Texas State University at Denton, Texas. She was BSU president, choir member and a summer missionary to Singapore. She is a member of First Church of Corning and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cross of McNeil.



Cross

Journeymen candidates come from 21 states and Canada. There are three couples, 37 single men and 64 single women.

Those who receive medical clearance and successfully complete the five-week training period beginning June 9 at Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C., will be commissioned July 16.

Seminary to receive major share of estate

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A major share of the estate of Mrs. Josephine Carson Newell of Greenville, S.C., will be given to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Newell, who died in January, included the seminary along with other educational and charitable institutions in her will. The executors estimate the seminary's share to be approximately \$500,000, although a final determination will not come for several months. The will calls for the funds to be held in trust, with income to be used at the discretion of the seminary's trustees.

Arkansas native named Shorter College president

ROME, Ga. (BP) — George L. Balentine, pastor of First Church in Augusta, Ga., has been elected president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

Balentine will succeed Randall H. Minor, who is retiring June 30 after 24 years as president of the Georgia Baptist School.

Shorter trustees elected Balentine March 30. He resigned his pastorate April 4, and will move to Rome May 1 to assume the presidency July 1.

Balentine, from West Helena, Ark., has a bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University and a bachelor of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He was a New Testament fellow at Southern Seminary three years and taught Greek there two years. He then held Baptist pastorates in Arkansas, Kentucky and Florida.

Mrs. Balentine, the former Mary Sue McDonald, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Florida Atlantic College. They have one daughter.

Troutt president of Belmont College

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — William E. Troutt has been elected president of Belmont College.

Troutt will become the college's chief executive officer June 1, succeeding Herbert C. Gabhart, president since 1959, who will become chancellor, a post created for him in December.

Troutt is the third president in the 31-year history of Belmont, a four-year, liberal arts college, owned and operated by the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Present enrollment is approximately 1,800 students.

Troutt, 32, joined Belmont in January 1981 as executive vice president, coming to the school from Washington, D.C., where he was a senior associate with McManis Associates, Inc., a nation-wide management and research consulting firm.

Southeastern elects Hawn to church music faculty

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Charles Michael Hawn of Decatur, Ga., has been elected associate professor of church music at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary effective this fall.

A native of Cape Girardeau, Mo., he is minister of music at First Church of Decatur.

He was raised in Des Moines, Iowa, and is a graduate of Wheaton College, Ill. He holds the master of church music and doctor of musical arts degrees from Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary, and has done additional study at Drake University, Oberlin Conservatory, Westminster Choir College and Aston Magna Baroque Performance Institute.

Hawn taught at Mercer University in Atlanta and at Southern Seminary from 1973 to 1980. He also was minister of music at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., where he was ordained in 1980.

At Southeastern, Hawn will teach church music education with a focus on youth and children's music, emphasizing the ministry dimension of church music leadership.

Jackson withdraws from evangelism post

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — W. H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., has resigned as missionary regional coordinator for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's partnership evangelism program, and has decided not to be reappointed as a foreign missionary.

After almost 20 years of organizing preaching trips for others, Jackson wants to do a little preaching himself. He says he has no specific direction, other than a desire to preach in the countries where he led partnership evangelism teams as president of World Evangelism Foundation, and to preach and encourage involvement in the program among stateside churches.

Jackson and his wife, Doris, had accepted reappointment as Southern Baptist missionaries in February, but Jackson said they continued praying and felt a "growing conviction that we should not accept the work of regional consultants for partnership evangelism."

The Jacksons had not yet moved to Europe where he was to spend his first year as regional coordinator, but he plans personal trips there and to other areas to thank leaders who worked with him while he was with WEF and to reassure them of his continued support of the program under the Foreign Mission Board.

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Dunn hits Reagan's tuition tax credits

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Reagan's call for tuition tax credits to parents who send their children to nonpublic schools came under heavy fire from the head of Baptists' governmental affairs agency.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, criticized the Reagan proposal, saying it "violates the constitutional principle of church-state separation; threatens the public schools with two separate but unequal tax-supported systems of education; contradicts current budget cuts by favoring yet another government giveaway; continues a national policy against the poor by providing one more form of welfare for the well-off; ignites inter-religious strife, and endangers religious liberty."

Reagan announced his intention to send Congress a tuition tax credit bill later this spring in a Chicago address to the National Catholic Education Association, stating repeatedly that such a proposal would end a "double burden" of taxation faced by parents who choose to send their children to private schools.

Although some observers have questioned the president's commitment to push hard for enactment of his proposal, particularly in the face of mounting budget deficits, he declared in the Chicago speech that he intends to keep his 1980 campaign pledge to work for such credits.

"I know you have heard promises before," he said. "Politicians in the past promised tax credits and broke those promises. But this administration is different; we're a bunch of radicals; we really intend to keep our promises and we intend to act on the will of the people."

Key elements of the bill, to be called "the Educational and Opportunity Equity Act," include limiting the tax credit to parents of elementary and secondary schools, a three-year phase-in period, a maximum credit of \$500 per child, an income cap and disallowing the credits to those sending their children to schools that discriminate racially.

If passed by Congress, the measure would allow a \$100-per-child tax credit for 1983, \$300 per child in 1984 and \$500 per child in 1985. According to some estimates, cost to the federal treasury would range from nearly \$2 billion in fiscal 1983 to \$5 billion to \$7 billion by 1985.

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Your state convention at work

Evangelism

Continued Witness Training overview

The CWT process is unique compared to other Southern Baptist Convention witness training programs. It uses a model presentation as opposed to a witness booklet or marked New Testament. The model presentation begins with an easy and natural introduction of the subject. The presentation shares the gospel in its fullness. It deals with God's purpose, our need, God's provision and our response. It follows by leading a lost person to make a total commitment of their life to Christ. It concludes with the immediate follow-up in welcoming a person to God's family.

It is designed to not only train witnesses but to equip witness-



Shell

Senior Adult Ministry

Call it what you will, senior adults, but don't miss it

Call it a conference a retreat a mini-Chautauque. It's all of these and more. The conference on Senior Adult Ministry on May 27-29 is going to be a very special event for senior adults and those who work with senior adults. Gary Hawk, a consultant in Senior Adult Ministry from Nashville, will be one of the leaders of the conference meeting on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. There is still time for senior adults to register.

The program will begin on Thursday night with a banquet at 6:30. The banquet will feature Sam and Jesse, a Ouachita faculty group specializing



Hawk

Language missions

State's fastest growing ethnic group increasingly Protestant

In Arkansas, more and more Hispanic persons are turning to Protestant churches to have their physical and spiritual needs met and are becoming Protestants at an increasing rate. What accounts for so many conversions in a language-culture group which has been so solidly Catholic for so long?

(1.) Spanish language — Protestant churches are taking the attitude, "We'll learn Spanish." They do, and Spanish-language Bibles are provided and used.

(2.) Personal contact — Protestant churches are taking the gospel into the His-



Cash

Christian Life Council

Red neckerchiefs and red flags

The time and place: August 1963, Moscow. They were seen everywhere — except church. They were in the art galleries and museums, in the exposition and amusement parks and at the puppet show. They were young Pioneers, members of the communist party's organization for children. They all, boys and girls, wore red neckerchiefs. Also, with every group, adult sponsors were seen. These of course are Marxists.

Today, almost 19 years later they are still seen; some in new places. Now they are in Cuba, Red China, Cambodia, North Korea, North and South Vietnam, Romania and in East Germany. Several months ago, a National Geographic article contained a two page

es to train others. In the immediate process of witnessing, you have the pastor/leader, apprentices, certified witnesses and equippers. There is both witnessing and training running simultaneously.

It involves a broad spectrum of the church in encouraging and praying roles. Each witnessing team has a prayer partner praying daily for them. Committed Christians are involved as encouragers to work with the new Christians.

It provides for training staff and lay persons with a special commitment level. There must be a deep commitment to the training process. The actual training of the witnesses in the church covers a 13 week period. The people trained in Arkansas have expressed a deep appreciation for this process of witnessing. Pastors who have a desire to become involved in this process in '83 should contact me at the Baptist Building to be involved in one of the three planned seminars. — Clarence Shell Jr., director

in contemporary, rural humor and music. A senior adult choir from First Church of Arkadelphia will present "Count On Us," a senior adult musical on Friday night. Paul Seal, from First Church, Mountain Home, will present his "Sage of Arkansas" routine at a fellowship on Friday night.

Other program personalities include Lowell Ponder from First Church, Fayetteville and Raymond Coppenger from Ouachita, who will lead worship services. Mrs. Nell Bobo from the Home Mission Board will present mission service opportunities for senior adults.

Jerry Johnson, Christian Family Life Minister, First Church, Little Rock will lead a conference on "Life-Long Fitness and Fulfillment."

Reservations should be addressed to Senior Adult Conference, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — Robert Holley, director

panic homes, often on a one-to-one basis. The home has long been the center of religious life in Latin America. Hispanics bring that tradition with them to the United States.

(3.) Funding — Protestant churches spending in the effort to win Hispanic members.

(4.) Participation — Protestant churches emphasize Bible-reading and prayer groups, activities that demand participation.

Arkansas Baptists are being afforded with a wonderful opportunity to stepout in faith into the new "frontier" of Language Missions. Our ethnic neighbors are responding to the gospel and many of our churches have responded to God's call to cross language-culture barriers for Christ. — Randy Cash, director

picture of these boys and girls wearing their red neckerchiefs. The picture was made in East Berlin during May Day celebrations. These young people were being led in a celebration of the birth of communism in the U.S.S.R. In that way, they were looking forward to the eventual communist domination of the world.

By the way, does your church have Mission Friends, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Acteens? Committed Christian adult leadership is needed to lead them in the truth of loving and sharing Jesus. They need to be taught also that ultimately the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will reign eternally. In the meantime, we must be aware that the millions of red neckerchiefs are in a very real sense, red flags of warning and challenge. — Bob Parker, director

Student Department

Ridgecrest, World's Fair may be opportunities of a lifetime

In recent years, it has not been possible for Arkansas' college students to attend the Student Conference at Ridgecrest because of school opening in August. Glorieta became their only option, because that conference was earlier.

The 1982 schedule changed slightly. The change provided an opportunity of a lifetime for students from Ouachita and Henderson State, and possibly some other colleges, to attend Ridgecrest and the World's Fair.

The Student Department plans to start a bus at Arkadelphia on the morning of Aug. 18, stopping two days at Knoxville for the World's Fair and then continuing to Ridgecrest.



Logue

The bus will return to Arkadelphia on Aug. 28, following I-40 to Memphis and Little Rock, and I-30 to Arkadelphia. There are several spaces still available on the bus and in private housing at Knoxville and Ridgecrest.

It will also be possible for a limited number of high school seniors to join the group. This will serve as an introduction to Baptist Student Union before they go to college, as well as offering life changing challenges during the Student Conference program.

Speakers at Ridgecrest will include Chester Swor of Jackson, Mississippi; Charles Baker of Stillwater, Oklahoma; John Cheyne of Richmond, Virginia; and Roy Edgemon of Nashville, Tennessee.

For further details regarding cost and travel arrangements, contact the Student Department, Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. — Tom J. Logue, director



Carbon Sims (left) from First Church of Camden discusses some artifacts from a Brazil exhibit with Ray and Angela Brown of Cullendale. Brown is minister of education at Cullendale First. Sims is a missionary parent with a daughter assigned to South America. The exhibit was one of 22 to illustrate mission work going on in foreign, home, state and local fields. Mildred McWhorter (right), a home missionary with 24 years' experience with inner city work in Houston, Texas, was the featured speaker at the Liberty Association missions fair.



Liberty Association hosts missions fair

A challenge by career missionary Mildred McWhorter, Christian social ministry director of Joy Fellowship Baptist Center in inner city Houston, highlighted a "global missions extravaganza" hosted by Liberty Association April 24 at Beech Springs Camp near Camden.

Miss McWhorter shared from her experience of 24 years of work with inner city missions. In addition, local missionaries, both volunteer and career, and missionary parents and children, manned displays designed to illustrate their respective mission fields.

The whole idea was to promote missions. Mrs. Roy Snider, director of Liberty Woman's Missionary Union and chairman of the association's missions committee, said. Mrs. Snider headed up a task force of 40-50 persons involved in making the meeting a success. This was the first time for such an effort association-wide. Mrs. Snider said, but events of this type have been successful in local churches previously.

Other activities at the day-long fair were musical groups, puppet shows, a prayer retreat and a potluck dinner.

Valentine applauds Reagan drunk driving commission

WASHINGTON (BP) — Responding to growing national momentum to crack down on drunk drivers, President Reagan announced creation of a drunk driving commission designed to heighten public awareness of the problem and to assist states and localities in dealing with it.

Reagan's April 14 announcement drew immediate praise from Foy Valentine, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the denominational agency charged with addressing alcohol and drug abuse issues.

Valentine declared: "I join millions of other concerned Americans in the earnest hope that this commission will develop model programs and propose workable legislation that will save lives, help families,

alleviate suffering, lower insurance costs and protect the innocent by getting drunk drivers off the roads."

Reagan, noting that about half of the 50,000 traffic-related deaths last year were caused by drunk drivers, said: "Americans are outraged that such slaughter of the innocent can take place on our highways.

Bill Moyers' roots: as Baptist as Texas

by Stan Hasteley

NEW YORK (BP) — Perhaps only a handful of the 20 million Americans who watch CBS Evening News know that the pulpits of Baptist churches in places like Brandon and Weir, Texas, and Loco, Okla., have anything to do with the commentator's chair in a network studio.

What they hold in common is that Bill Moyers had occupied them all.

Although understandably reluctant to talk in depth about his personal religious views, the 47-year-old successor to CBS's Eric Sevareid makes plain that his Baptist roots in Texas and Oklahoma mean much to him.

"I'm a journalist," he says. "I don't know to what extent Brandon or Weir or Loco or Southwestern Seminary made me what I am today, although I would be a fool to think that they didn't leave a lot of valuable sediment..."

It is, in fact, Bill Moyers, the journalist, who is known by a loyal and growing audience. Along with anchor Dan Rather, Moyers is helping reclaim ratings which went down following the retirement last year of Walter Cronkite.

But Moyers the citizen and churchman — and, above all the person — comes through when he reflects on his background.

"I learned about democracy in a Baptist church, I learned about the freedom of the individual in a Baptist church, I learned about the inviolability of the conscience in a Baptist church," he reflects. "I learned how to scheme in a Baptist church, I learned how to compromise in a Baptist church, I learned how to negotiate in a Baptist church, I learned how to listen in a Baptist church, I learned how to speak in a Baptist church, I learned about caring from a Baptist church."

When Moyers graduated from Southwestern Seminary in 1960 and immediately joined the staff of then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, some questioned his vocational commitment. But he didn't. "My choice back when I decided to go to seminary was widely interpreted as being the pastor. But I never put that interpretation on it. I really thought all the time that I would be a teacher."

Furthermore, his seminary student pastorates helped him realize his calling lay elsewhere. "I'm awfully glad," he says, "that most of my colleagues went on to teach or to preach or to be counselors. But I am awfully glad that something — whatever it was — spared me for what I can do best."

What led him, then, to go to seminary in the first place?

"I had a normal religious experience," he answers. "What is that? I don't know, but I had a normal religious experience. And for a spell I interpreted it in the most dramatic terms available to a kid in East Texas

who had grown up in a Baptist church; that is, I would dare to be a preacher."

With a chuckle, he adds: "But the Lord in his wisdom knew that was a course that would have unsettled many a soul, had it been pursued to its end."

Yet he readily acknowledges the contributions to his own life of those to whom he ministered as a student pastor. "When I look back, the people to whom I am most indebted are those warm, patient and loving people at Brandon and Weir and Shiloh and Loco, who could, despite what I said between 11 and 12 o'clock, have me to dinner at 12:30, and still be a friend."

Regarding his own journey, he adds: "I'm still on it. ... I don't know where I am right now. All I know is where I'm going."

Moyers remains an active, committed church member, though not in a Baptist congregation. Along with his wife, Judith, and 17-year-old son, John, Moyers belongs to United Church of Christ congregation in the Long Island community of Garden City, N.Y., where the family lives. Daughter Suzanne, 19, is a sophomore at Wake Forest University, while older son, Cope, 22, is working with his father on a special series on major events of the 20th century.

He also emphasizes that his desire to teach, interrupted as it was by Lyndon Johnson's beckoning to Washington and the political trenches, has been fulfilled in his post-government years. Among his prize possessions, he notes, is a letter from Harvard Constitutional expert Raoul Berger with the observation that perhaps no one in the country today has as large a classroom as Moyers.

At the same time, he says he is awed by the size of the class, and gratified by viewers' response to his commentaries on Evening News. While he believes in "personal journalism, that is, journalism with a point of view," he declares emphatically, "I don't

believe in a cult of personality," a cult he sees as pervasive in television.

"My personality is the least important thing," he explains. "My personal views are the least important thing. What is important is my work, what it speaks to and what it stands for and what it represents to the people who are on the receiving end of it."

"I never finish a commentary that I don't, on the way home, have doubts that I said the right thing, or that I said it with the subtlety that emotional and intellectual dexterity required."

He is concerned about the sheer power of television news and fearful that television is losing too many teaching opportunities. "Television is to be damned for its omission rather than its commission," he puts it, "for not devoting more time to the issues, for not allotting opportunities for debate." Television fails "in limiting itself on the Evening News to only 22 minutes of information and from overdosing us on banal entertainment at the expense of rigorous discourse."

What is at stake, he insists, is the "civic self" of every citizen. People may be reading and assimilating more information than ever before, he believes, but what is steadily eroding is the "common data base" which any society "must perceive collectively in order to make decisive value judgments about the ends of society."

Too many people "are just plain lazy" in the exercise of citizenship, he says, adding that he is intrigued that so many immigrants coming to the United States appear to take their citizenship so seriously when compared to those "who were born into it as a natural right." Moyers' solution? "I sometimes think we ought to require the equivalent of a profession of faith in a Baptist church — a confession of citizenship, an oath of office ... because citizenship is an office."



BP Photo/Vector Lightbox

Bill Moyers, CBS news commentator, says he owes a lot to Southern Baptist heritage.

Valentine, others score Reagan on social cuts

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders — including Southern Baptist ethicist Foy D. Valentine — have rejected the Reagan administration's expectation that private charity can and will assume primary responsibility for solving human problems of poverty, hunger and unemployment.

Valentine, who heads the SBC Christian Life Commission, joined the other leaders in describing that expectation as both "unrealistic" and "inappropriate."

"The charity of the religious community can only ease the burden of last year's budget cuts on the poor; it cannot resolve it," a joint interfaith statement charged.

Citing examples of increased efforts in the religious community to respond to the needs, the religious leaders said their chari-

table efforts would continue.

"The stark reality," the statement declared, "is that the available resources of the churches and synagogues, or of the entire private sector, simply will not be sufficient to replace federal human needs programs."

Their statement questioned the ability of the religious community to respond adequately to increased human needs, and insisted it is a legitimate function of government to deal with those needs.

"The very reason for the existence of government is to promote the common good by protecting these human rights," they declared. "When people are without employment, food, shelter and health care, it is not only proper, but required that government intervene to assure these neces-

sities."

The statement further resisted the President's effort to describe the religious community's role.

"In the United States it is not the responsibility of government to define the task of religious bodies," it stated. "If anything, it is the responsibility of religious bodies — as it is of other citizens' groups — to define the task of government."

In addition to Valentine, signers of the statement included Daniel Hoyer, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference; Bernard Mandelbaum, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America; Claire Randall, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; and Ronald Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action and professor at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Committee to withhold report on nominations

by Toby Druin

MIDLAND, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists will have to wait until the first day of the annual convention, June 15, to learn who the 1982 Committee on Boards is nominating to serve on denominational boards, commissions and standing committees.

Committee chairman Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Church in this west Texas city, said the committee voted at the conclusion of its March 29-30 meeting in Nashville, Tenn., not to reveal the nominees until the first day of the convention, following SBC bylaw 16.8, which says: "The report of the committee shall be published in the first day's Bulletin and may be amended on the floor of the convention by majority of vote of those voting."

The report of the committee on boards has been in the spotlight the last few years because of the stated goal of one faction to gain control of SBC boards, commissions and agencies.

The 1981 committee on boards broke from precedent and a strict interpretation of the bylaws stipulation to release its list of nominees in mid-April. The report ignited instant controversy in that several persons eligible for renomination were not renominated. Generally, persons may serve two four-year terms, and are renominated for the second term unless there is "good and

sufficient reason" not to do so.

At the 1981 annual meeting, Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of South Main Church in Houston led an effort to return four of those "bumped." The messengers restored the four to their places, overriding the recommendation of the 1981 committee on Boards. Another 1981 nominee was rejected in favor of a pastor who purportedly had a better record of denominational service and support.

Vestal said two or three persons eligible for renomination this year will not be renominated for "unique personal — not doctrinal — reasons." He did not elaborate.

Vestal said the controversial nature of last year's report was discussed during the committee meeting, but insisted the decision to withhold the release of the nominees was not dictated by last year's controversy. "We tried to see it not as a negative decision, but as a positive decision," he said, explaining the decision was not unanimous but a "strong" one.

The committee felt, Vestal said, emphasizing it was their decision, not his, that before 1981 the precedent was to release the list of nominees the first day of the convention. "This has been something the convention has done for years and it has served us well. We felt no reason to change it."

"We weren't trying to plow any new ground or set any new agenda. We were just trying to do the job... the best way we knew. We think we did."

Vestal said he hopes the report, which will suggest more than 200 persons for various SBC posts will not be controversial. "I have been a Baptist long enough to know you shouldn't predict what might or might not happen, but I feel good about the report."

Vestal said people who argue for release of the nominees early should trust the committee.

The committee laid down its own guidelines, eliminating some persons from consideration, Vestal said. Under the guidelines, he added, persons on the committee itself and on the 1981 committee on committees were not eligible for nomination.

The committee members, Vestal said, were diverse theologically and geographically, but "had a common commitment and, I felt, a tremendous sense of integrity. I really felt that. They had a desire to come and do the work of the committee in the name of Christ, in the spirit of Christ."

"I felt a sense of unity," he said, "not unanimity about every person or every issue, but I did feel a sense of unity."

Lottie hits record \$47 million

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — With another six weeks before the books close, Southern Baptists already have given a record \$47,185,970 through the denomination's annual Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

The preliminary total, running about \$5.6 million head of receipts at the same time last year, was announced at the close of a three-day meeting of the Foreign Mission Board in Birmingham, Ala.

Receipts thus far represent 94.4 percent of the \$50 million goal. Books close May 31. Last year's final total was \$44.7 million, or 99.3 percent of the \$45 million goal. For the second year the board has budgeted the entire offering goal.

Board administrators also announced a new requirement that all volunteers going overseas to assist missionaries must obtain medical and disability insurance or show proof that their current coverage will be ef-

fective while they are overseas.

Three volunteers have suffered disabling injuries or illness during the past two years, with two of these occurring in recent months.

The board will try to provide volunteers with the names of firms offering such coverage, but the volunteers themselves will pay for the policies. Last year approximately 4,700 volunteers went overseas in projects related to the Foreign Mission Board.

International

A vision of worship

by Jon M. Stubblefield, Central Church, Magnolia

Basic passage: Revelation 4-5

Focal passage: Revelation 5:1-10

Central truth: God the Creator is on the throne, Jesus Christ has accomplished redemption, and our appropriate response is worship.

1. Beleaguered Christians in Asia Minor faced persecution and possible execution. The emperor had arrogantly claimed the title "Lord and God." Naturally, they were apprehensive about the future. Was God in control? Would their faith be vindicated? Would God's way ultimately triumph over evil? A vision of assurance of victory was needed and was provided (Rev. 4-5).

Christians today face a world threatened by a disturbing decline in morals, a potential for economic chaos, and a possible nuclear holocaust. How will it all end? We, too, need a word of assurance that God is sovereign (Rev. 4), and that through the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Rev. 5) the goal of history has been settled. This encouraging word evokes spontaneous praise and adoration directed to the Father and to the slain Lamb who has conquered. The object of worship (originally worship) is one who is worthy (Rev. 4:11; 5:9).

2. Only the Lamb was able to break the seals and open the scroll containing God's purpose for his world (Rev. 5:5). Jesus Christ is the final revelation of God and holds the key to the future. Popular cults today view Jesus as a great man, a prophet, or a son of God among others. Such a distortion of the person and work of Jesus Christ is absolute heresy! Jesus declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). God cannot be understood and received apart from the revelation of himself in Jesus Christ.

3. The redemptive work of Christ has made us "kings and priests" (Rev. 5:10). Adopted into the family of God, we have been elevated to the position of royalty. Ours is a rags to riches story. We are also priests who have direct access to God and who are expected to interpret God to others. This is our motivation and mission.

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Life and Work

Steadfast devotion

by Jim Guffie, Calvary Church, Osceola

Basic passage: Deuteronomy 6:1-25

Focal passages: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 14-15, 20-25

Central truth: The basis of our obedience and service to God is steadfast devotion.

Chapter 6 is basically a sermon on the first commandment. The priority of love is significant in that it provides a new standpoint of interpretation of the first commandment.

1. Under the constraint of love, response to God's law becomes a matter of willing obedience. As an indication of our willingness, we are to love God with the whole of our being — with mind, body and spirit. Such love, however, must express itself in action. Israel was chosen not just to adore God, but to be a priest-nation on his behalf. The Christian shares this same calling.

2. More than any other Old Testament book, Deuteronomy emphasizes the teaching role of the home. As we endeavor to have Christian homes, we should remember that being a Christian involves more than just the accumulation of truths. Those truths must become assimilated in our lives. God's word cannot just be committed to memory, it must be committed to our lives (John 13:17).

3. Israel was warned against going after the gods of Canaan. The God whom they served demanded undivided allegiance. The temptation to try out the lifestyles of those about us has not dimmed with the passage of time. Our need today is the same as Israel's was then — an undivided allegiance that results in faith born and nurtured in the heart.

4. The hope for the future of faith lies in the instruction that one generation passes on to its children. The Israelites were to tell their children the stories of the "signs and wonders" of God as the means of imparting spiritual knowledge. Christian parents have even greater stories to impart. Dare we not tell them!

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Bible Book

David the victorious king

by Ray Meador, First Church, Judsonia

Basic passages: 2 Sam. 8:1-9:13 (1 Chron. 18:1-17)

Focal passages: 2 Sam. 8:1-3, 6, 13-15, 9:1, 7, 9, 13

Central truth: Blessed by the Lord, David increased Israel's boundaries and power and restored Saul's grandson Saul's land.

1. In chapter 8, God begins to give David what he had promised in chapter 7. Not only did David realize the military victories were from God but so did those around him. They interpreted the victories as a sign of God's power in David's life. Likewise, today we need to give the Lord the credit for our success and victories as well as saving us from suffering. It brings glory to God to recognize him in our victories as well as in our defeats.

2. David knew that God was working in his life as he increased the borders of Israel. He knew that there was no victory for him outside the Lord and his power. We need to recognize that God works in human events to bring about his will in the lives of people. He wants us to turn to him in the short present as well as the long eternity. We can trust the Lord to do the best for us in all circumstances as we give him the glory for it all.

3. It was at the height of his personal prestige and power that David learned that Mephibosheth, the son of his beloved friend Jonathan, was alive. His friend's son had been living in poverty and in fear of David for years. Mephibosheth felt that David, being the strong and powerful king and his grandfather's arch enemy, would want to kill him. However, when David heard of Mephibosheth's plight, he was genuinely concerned for him and was sensitive to the young man's needs.

Today we need to see as David did that individual's needs to be sensitive to other people's needs.

4. David cared for his subjects and administered his government with fairness and justice. He made his government serve the people. David's rule of fairness and justice should speak to Christians today. We should be faithful and just in all of our relationships. Jesus taught that for a disciple to be what God wanted he had to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

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DID YOU KNOW that new and prospective students are required to complete application forms before registering for the school and that these forms can be secured by contacting the director, Ralph W. Davis?

Area Ministries Conference

Subject: Theology in Helping

Leader: Dr. Derrel Watkins — Associate Professor of Social Work, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Monday, May 17

Elmdale Church
1700 W. Huntsville Ave.
Springdale, Ark.

Tuesday, May 18

Hebron Church
1709 Barrow Rd.
Little Rock, Ark.

Thursday, May 20

First Church
507 N. Rosser St.
Forrest City, Ark.

All Conferences 7:00 p.m.-9:15 p.m.

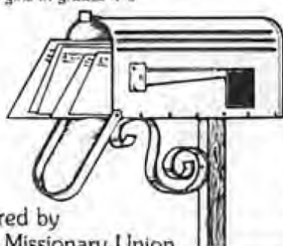
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Parents cited as cause of youth alcohol problems

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A major problem in dealing with alcohol among youth is good Baptist parents who drink socially, a Nashville psychologist and family counselor says.

"It's mostly learned at home," Howard Stevens told participants in a session on alcoholism and youth during a national youth ministry conference.

Among youth with alcohol problems, Stevens said personality problems, primarily a lack of self-esteem, is a major factor. Also, he noted many youth begin drinking as part of a desire to assume adult roles and to rebel against authority. "The more rebellious the child, the sooner he'll try alcohol," he said.

Noting that 90 percent of youth have tried alcohol by the time they graduate from high school, Stevens said peer influence also leads youth to experiment with both alcohol and drugs. "There is a peer approval necessity because there is so much self-doubt in this age group," noted Stevens, also an adjunct professor at Belmont (Baptist) College, Nashville.

Stevens said the desire to get high on alcohol is a less significant factor than a so-called need to be more sociable, to deal with frustration and unhappiness or to satisfy curiosity.

Use of alcohol is increasing most rapidly among youth who are failing in the educational system and "those who see no relevance of education to their lives or the problems of the world," he said.

Noting there is no single panacea for helping youth with alcohol problems, Stevens urged the youth ministers to become involved in caring ways with young people, to meet their needs for love and self-worth. "We don't give nearly enough psychological nurture to our children," he said.

Stevens also urged the ministers to become informed about alcohol and its effects, recognizing that many youth with alcohol problems come from Christian homes.



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Missions leader opposes budget cuts for housing

by Jim Newton

WASHINGTON (BP) — Calling for justice in funding federal low income housing, a Southern Baptist missions leader urged members of Congress to re-examine the proposed 1983 federal budget in terms of the needs of people, not money.

Wendell Belew, of Atlanta, said: "I would encourage you to look afresh at the priorities of this budget to ascertain what is best for our land, to see these expenditures not just in terms of dollars and cents, but rather in terms of people cringing in the shadows of vacant houses, hunting for a place of warmth, seeking to gather their children about them, but with no place to lay their heads."

Belew, director of the missions ministries division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, gave testimony opposing federal housing budget cuts before the subcommittee on housing and community development for the committee on banking, finance and urban affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Belew pointed out the proposed 1983 budget provides \$32 billion less than the amount needed to maintain federal housing programs at present levels. The largest proposed cut for any activity of the federal

government in 1983 is a \$8.5 billion cut in low income housing programs, Belew said.

"Do not let this tragedy happen to the poor, the young, the elderly," Belew pleaded with the committee headed by Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas.

Belew warned if the budget cuts are approved "in the absence of just concern, there can only grow anger, chaos and anarchy. All the armaments we can build can never protect us from ourselves. We may be creating an explosion... in our very midst."

"Can it be possible that our nation will devise techniques and funding for a military establishment capable of maiming or killing half the people of the world, but remain incapable of maintaining adequate housing in our nation?" he asked.

It is incredible, he added, that acres of housing which could change the nature of community, state and nation could be supplanted by the cost of one aircraft carrier. It also is incredible, he said, that in seeking to gain superiority or equality with the Russians in military strength, America might also gain equality with the Russians in housing, forcing "impoverished multitudes into small rooms with inadequate heating."

It is "certainly far from realistic" to believe the private sector will meet housing needs previously met by government," Belew observed. "The private sector is not especially interested in low income housing," he added.

Since the most lucrative investments in housing are in condominiums and upper income housing, neither is it realistic to expect a "trickle down effect" from builders, Belew warned.

Churches and synagogues will try to help, but their major financial responsibility is not housing, Belew told the congressional hearing. It is important that churches and benevolent organizations do the best they can to correct the horrifying housing shortages for poor, especially the elderly, but it is not possible for them to do that alone," Belew insisted.

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Motivating members to reach people

by Lawson Hatfield

A whole multi-billion dollar industry is devoted to the concept of motivation. Motivation targets are: a better income, a higher quality of life, a new life style, or greater dedication to a philosophy or spiritual ideal. Education places an emphasis on motivation. Teachers use tests and other means to motivate some students to learn. Parents attempt to motivate children to proper behavior. The way of a man with a maid describes another form of motivation. Business enterprises, government and volunteer organizations seek to motivate.

Techniques of motivation do not always work. Methods used to motivate may succeed in one person and fail in another. For this reason, it is important to find some basic principles of motivation and attempt to properly implement them.

Why do some methods of leadership fail? Why are some persons turned off when apparently high ideals are stressed and lofty goals offered? What are some clues leaders need to help motivate followers? The answer to these questions are important to the implementation of the 8.5 Sunday School growth emphasis.

Those who have expertise in the motivational process heavily rely on the democratic process. This means leaders inform followers as much as possible about the work. Then followers are ready to help form or set goals.

Goal setting through group action does not become an ultimatum set by the head honcho and handed down to workers. Such goals are usually ignored in volunteer work. On the other hand, if workers and members are informed about the needs that call for goals, and if given time and opportunity, they will help form these goals. In addition members will help decide policies, projects and functions required to reach goals. Handed down goals, policies and projects seldom motivate followers. No man is so lazy as when in pursuit of another man's goal (policies and activities). Even good plans, rea-



Hatfield

sonable policies and practical projects require the democratic process. When this happens, motivational factors within many workers begin to stir.

Pastors, other staff leaders and other Sunday School directors should have in mind goals and activities, but they should not "hand them down." Many times people who do the work can and do offer excellent suggestions on what to do and how to do it.

In addition to involvement of the leaders and members in planning there are other motivational factors. The Holy Spirit motivates God's people through inspirational preaching and teaching that magnify the Bible. The work of the Holy Spirit is always related to the word of God.

Another motivational factor is obedience. Visitation, prayer, witnessing, all relate to obedience. When members obey the Lord, a sense of well being is created. God simply blesses his obedient children. Continued obedience in these matters inevitably produces measurable results. When God's people see results of their faithful obedience, they are further motivated.

But suppose results are not forthcoming? What then?

To obey is better than sacrifice. Obey, whatever the cost. God will eventually honor obedience.

Why not make it a rule of your leadership role to involve the people who do the work in goal setting, policy making, and project involvement? This is the best way.

Many people are dreamers? They have high aspirations of what can be done in the Lord's work. Dreamers are great. Dreamers need practical functions to bring about some of the results they envision. This means dreamers and workers who may not be dreamers do need information. It takes time to read and know what to do to reach people. Keep these articles and use them as guides. Read the Bible as it relates to outreach. Read Southern Baptist literature and promotional information about 8.5 by '85.

Read and read and read. On some people the fire will fall. These should seek to motivate their fellow workers in the mutual function of reaching people for Bible study, Jesus and his church.

Put some muscle (motivation) in your grip.