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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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# The Christian Life: Its Two-Dimensional Nature 

by T. B. Maston

The Bible contains basically a twofold message: (1) how men can be saved, and (2) how saved men are to live. The latter involves two dimensions: the vertical or right relations to God and the horizontal or right relations to men. It is clear that


Maston right relations to God are basic. Right relations to one's fellowman derive from one's relations to God; but they are such as inevitable derivative that the absence of right relations to one's fellowman is proof that one is not right with God.

The Ten Commandments
The close relation of the vertical and horizontal is clearly seen in the Ten Commandments which represent a summary of the basic moral law. The first of the Commandments stress relations to God "No other Gods," "no graven image," no taking of the name of the Lord in vain, remember the Sabbath day, followed by a transition commandment: honor father and mother.

Then we have a summary of duties to one's fellowman: "ye shall not kill," "not

## In this issue <br> 4

The command "Live peaceably with all" is explained as a directive to active participation in rightly relating to all races of people.

## 8

The story behind the cover is the end of the Jesse Reed era in Arkansas evangelism. Honors were part of the events of the annual evangelism conference.

## 24

A new network for religious broadcasting is in the making under the guidance of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.
commit adultery," "not steal," "not bear false witness," "not covet" (Ex. 20:3-17).

## Faith and works

Salvation comes by faith and not by works. It is just as clear that the purpose and proof of salvation is works, which represents the horizontal dimension of the Christian life. Paul says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith ... ; not of works ... created in Christ Jesus unto (for, RSV) good works" (Eph. 2:8-10). Too frequently the last portion of this statement is not quoted. Then there is the conclusion by lames that "faith without works" is dead (James 2:17, 26).

Martin Luther has an appropriate word: "Our faith in Christ does not free us from works but from false opinions concerning works, that is, from the foolish presumption that justification is acquired by works."

## Forgiveness

Teachings in the Bible concerning forgiveness also underscore the interrelatedness of the vertical and the horizontal. One petition in the Lord's prayer or model prayer is: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12). Augustine called this "the terrible petition," terrible because of the condition attached: "as we."

This is the only petition in the prayer
that is commented upon. It is plainly said that God's forgiveness is conditioned by our forgiveness of others. We should never forget, however, that he has to forgive much more in us than we will ever have to forgive in another.
On another occasion lesus said, "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father ... may forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:25).

Matthew (18:21:36) contains the story of the unjust steward. There are at least two pointed lessons regarding forgiveness: (1) our forgiveness is to be unlimited (until seventy times seven); (2) God's forgiveness is dependent on our forgiveness and the latter must be real or from the heart.

It is the forgiving heart that is forgiven and, in turn, the forgiven should be the forgiving.

There could be no more appropriate symbol for the two-dimensional nature of the Christian life than the cross. Its upward bar of beam reaches upward toward God; the transverse beam reaches out to men and to the society of men.
T. B. Maston is retired professor of Christian ethics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

## Ethics of power focus of seminar

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) - Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Koung and sociologist-author Robert Bellah will examine the ethics of power during a Southern Baptist seminar March 23-25 in Dallas, Texas.

The national seminar, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, also will explore the effects of the use and abuse of power in church and society.

Young, a former congressman and aid to Martiri Luther King Jr., will deal with power and race relations and Bellah, chairman of the department of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, will discuss power and civil religion.

A special feature of the seminar will be a confrontation between former Alabama congressman and Southern Baptist minister John Buchanan and a representative of the new religious right, which was instrumental in defeating the eight-term congressman last fall.

Other speakers slated for the seminar are Bible translator Robert Bratcher; author-preacher Ernest Campbell; church-state separation proponent James Dunn, and pastors Daniel Vestal Jr., of First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, and Roger Lovette of First Baptist Church, Clemson, S.C.

Furman University chaplain L. D. Johnson will bring the theme message at each session. Additional speakers have been invited.

More than 500 Southern Baptist pastors, church members and students are expected to attend the seminar at the Dallas Hilton (downtown). Registration is open to any interested Southern Baptist.
J. Everett Sneed

Occasionally, one is heard to express the opinion, "Our denomination is so large that I have absolutely no voice." Well meaning Southern Baptists may be completely overwhelmed by the fact that we are the world's largest evangelical denomination. Is it true that the Southern Baptist Convention is so large it is no longer responsive to individuals? Have we reached the point that we have bypassed the democratic process?

It would be well for us to look at our structure as we seek an answer to this important question. Most Baptists are acquainted with the process which governs our local churches. In most congregations any member who will give the time will have not only a voice but a place of responsibility as well.

The same principle generally applies to the association and, to a lesser degree, to the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. All associations and conventions are based on the representative principle. Major SBC agencies, for example, have one or more board members from each state convention. The Executive Board of our state convention has one or more members from each association (size determines the number). Thus, the democratic or representative principle is retained throughout Baptist life.

The method by which one can be heard can be extremely important. Failure to understand the process or unwillingness to abide by the majority opinion has sometimes led to the development of a spurious movement within our ranks which may become totally undemocratic.

If one is to be heard, he must first determine the right person to contact. The church, the association, the state convention and the SBC each is autonomous in its own sphere. So, if one wishes to have an impact in the state convention, he should not voice it in an associational meeting, but to the proper person in the state convention.

It, also, should be observed that each department has some freedom within the organization. Hence, if someone wishes to suggest a change in a particular area, the director of that area of work should be contacted. A list of the agencies and most departments, as well as their personnel, can be obtained through the state or SBC annual. Each pastor receives these annuals each year, and additional copies can be obtained upon request.

If one is to be effective, the right kind of contact should be made. A person should be clear and concise. A well stated suggestion is much more likely to receive the desired response. It is important to be positive if at all possible. It is, also, extremely helpful if one can illustrate how his particular suggestion will help the kingdom's work.

The real question is, "Will a clear, concise and constructive suggestion be lost or cast aside?" We believe that there has never been a time when our convention leadership was more responsive to the feeling of all classes of Southern Baptists than today. In recent times several of our agencies have made efforts to determine the needs and desires of the people. They have responded by making adjustments in methods and procedures.

The staff of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine is open to suggestions from our readers. We believe that our function is to serve the Baptists of Arkansas by informing, inspiring, and calling attention to problems and needs. We welcome your comments.

Can a person be heard in Southern Baptist life? We are convinced that, not only can a person be heard, but our leadership is eagerly awaiting as many helpful suggestions as might be made. We must work together to fulfill God's will for our denomination.

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## VOLUME 80

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

BETTY KENNEDY ............................. Managing Editor
ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D.
Editor Emeritus

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

## The simple requirements for being the ideal pastor

Why is there so much talk these days about pastors buckling under the conflicting demands and expectations of his congregation? To read what is written in the popular magazines and newspapers by psychiatric and psychological experts, one might be led to believe that we laymen are expecting too much from our pastors.
This kind of talk might have convinced me if I had not recently conducted a survey of what church members expect their pastor to be like. It is really very simple. According to the survey, all we want from our ideal pastor is that he be intensely interested in working with teen-agers, spend all of his time with
middle-agers, and visit the golden-agers on the way home from the office each day. He should make 15 calls each day on church members; spend most of his time evangelizing the lost in the community, and always be in his office available to see callers for counseling.
Our model pastor is 28 years old and has 30 years of preaching and counseling experience. He is tall and short, thin and heavy-set, and handsome. He has one brown eye and one blue one; his hair is parted in the middle, left side dark, straight, and long, right side light, wavy, and short.
He is a strong and vigorous leader who never expresses his own views in contro-

## Live peaceably with all

by Jerry Self

"Live peaceably with all" sounds like a command to "Relax!" The meaning of this year's Race Relations Sunday theme comes through differently, however, in the Cotton Patch version of Romans 12:18: "WAGE PEACE WITH ALL MANKIND." This order, all in capitals, fairly shouts at us.
"Will peace," Paul means.
"Will peace what?" we ask.
"No; you're missing the point," Paul might reply. "I mean engage in peace as an act of your will."

The Jews had a positive concept of peace which they communicated with their word, shalom. This active, aggressive, powerful concept of peace understood by the ancient people of God contrasts sharply with the Roman idea of pax, which was merely a cessation of violence and hostility, a vacuum. Unfortunately our peace with long-time neighbors is more likely to be a cessation of hostilities than it is to be a positive, growing will to leave peaceably with them.

Paul begins this theme with a qualification as he counsels, "If possible, so far as it depends upon you" - to the extent that you can control the circumstances - "live peaceably with all" (Rom. 12:18, RSV). He recognizes that peace is not totally within our control. Circumstances, events, and the at-
titudes of others are often beyond the Christian's power of control.

We already know that full well. In fact, our powerlessness becomes a ready excuse for inaction. For that reason, this theme for Race Relations emphasis this year focuses on the unlimited part of Paul's challenge, "Live peaceably with all."
Over a span of a few years, the face of race relations has changed dramatically. Look at the people around you. Some are recognizable and familiar. They suggest old impasses and social barriers and personal animosities. At the same time, our comfortable corners have been invaded by human beings with strange accents, strange customs, strange diets, and strange clothes. Now we rub shoulders with those we never saw before who pour forth from Third World countries, some of which were not even named when many of us studied our geography lessons. At the same time, we continue to rub shoulders with Blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians.
Live peaceably with all? We can do it. Our Lord is the Prince of Peace. We must do it.

## Shalom.

Jerry Self is Public Affairs and Christian Life Consultant for the Tennessee Baptist Convention
versial matters. He speaks with a prophetic voice from the pulpit each Sunday and is careful never to step on toes. He follows the dictates of God and the wishes of his congregation.

Finally, we want our model pastor to work from eight in the morning until ten in the evening, providing effective preaching and custodial service; he is expected to be grateful for a salary of $\$ 60$ per week, wear good clothes, buy good books and study regularly, drive a good car, have a good family that dresses well, and give $\$ 30$ per week to the church. He also demonstrates generosity in contributing to every good cause that comes along. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work.

As I said, in view of the simple results of my survey, it is difficult to see why there is so much talk of the pressures on our pastors.

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

## Volunteers needed to help with returns

Volunteers are needed to help others with their tax returns as part of VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service. Coordinators for VITA centers are also needed.

In the VITA program, volunteers are recruited to provide free assistance to taxpayers unable to pay to have their tax returns prepared. VITA volunteers, frequently college students, law students, or members of professional business organizations, will receive a three-day training course in basic income tax law and return preparation. VITA instructors and training materials are provided free by the IRS.
VITA volunteers assist taxpayers, often lower income, handicapped or nonEnglish speaking individuals who need explanations of the special credits and deductions for which they may qualify.

VITA programs can be sponsored by local civic or fraternal organizations, educational institutions, churches, and social groups. For the convenience of taxpayers who cannot travel to an IRS office, most VITA volunteers provide assistance in their own neighborhoods at schools, churches, and libraries.


# Woman's viewpoint 

Joanne Jackson Lisk

## Preserved from the past

Recently my mother brought me several clippings, yellowed with age, and virtually falling apart where they had been folded and pressed for years in my great grandmother's Bible. Mom said she figured they should go to me since several of them had come from the Arkansas Baptist at about the turn of the century. In fact, one letter to the editor was addressed to the Baptist Flag, and a date in the article would seem to put it at about 1904. As you may imagine, I was interested in each treasured piece, and tried to imagine Sarah Elizabeth Webb Campbell, mother of my grandfather, William L. Campbell of Figure Five, Ark., clipping
out these particular articles from those long-ago editions of the same paper which I am enjoying writing for in 1981.

If you are wondering exactly what someone might clip out and keep that would have significance nearly 100 years later, I suppose Dr. Sneed might let me share one of the articles with you today, with a hope that you will do as it advises:

## An Acrostic

(Paul's instructions to Timothy)
This is a faithful saying.
And these things I will that thou affirm constantly: 2 Tim. 3:8

## From my haart to yours

## The position of Director of Evangelism

lesse Reed has served with distinction for nearly 27 years as Director of Evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The gratitude of the convention for his faithful ministry is beyond full expression in this brief space. On April 30 Jesse Reed will retire. May Cod continue to bless him with a fruitful service in the years ahead.

To replace this cherished servant of the Lord will require the participation of many people in the process. Please send any recommendation that you desire to make to the Office of the Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. All recommendations must be in writing and should be accompanied by a biographical sketch of the individual being recommended. All persons recommended by March 31 will be considered.

A questionnaire will be sent to each member of the Executive Board, members of the Baptist Building staff and to each Director of Missions. The purpose of this questionnaire is to discover the characteristics most desired for one who serves as Director of Evangelism, as to roots, education, experience, etc.

When a profile has been established, all recommendations will be viewed in light of it. The 10 persons felt to be most like the profile by the Operating Committee will be identified and letters written to secure additional information and recommendations. The Home Mission Board Department of Evangelism will be consulted, not as to personalities but as to desired qualifications. The Operating Committee will seek to identify the five persons seeming to be the ones coming closest to the person being sought. These five persons will be invited to be interviewed by the Operating Committee. The Executive Secretary will subsequently make a recommendation to the Committee.

This process will take time, but it will afford an opportunity for the input of many colleagues. Together we will seek the leadership of the Lord. Please be much in prayer through the weeks ahead that the Lord's person will be revealed. Be sure to send any recommendation you desire to make very soon. This is not a popularity contest, but is an open process by which anyone may be heard. May the Lord guide us by his Holy Spirit.

Sincerely,


Huber L. Drumwright
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Keep this commandment: I Tim. 6:14
Ever learning: 2 Tim. 3:7
That good thing which was committed unto thee keep: I Tim. 2:14
Hold fast the form of sound words: 2 Tim. 1:13
Exhort with all long suffering and doctrine: 2 Tim. 4:2

Avoiding profane and vain babblings: 1
Tim. 6:20
Refuse profane and old wives fables: 1 Tim. 4:7
Keep that which is committed to thy trust,
Avoiding profane and vain babblings: 1 Tim. 6:20
Neglect not the gift that is in thee: 1 Tim. 4:14
Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
A workman that needeth not to be ashamed: 2 Tim. 2:15
Shun profane and vain babblings: 2 Tim. 2:16

Be not ashamed of the testimony of our Lord: 2 Tim. 1:8
And having food and raiment (let us) be therewith content: 1 Tim. 6:8
Preach the word. 2 Tim. 4:2
These things command and teach: 1 Tim. 4:7
If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things thou
Shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ: 1 Tim. 4:6
Take heed unto thyself and the doctrine continue in them: 1 Tim. 4:6
P.S. - Read the words spelled by the first letter in each line.

James L. Brown
Walnut Grove, Arkansas
August, 1891

While I haven't had the time yet to delve back into Arkansas Baptist history, I would already love to know more about James L. Brown, and the Arkansas Baptist paper. Won't it be something if 100 years from now someone finds something tucked into a grandmother's Bible which I wrote for Woman's Viewpoint!

Mrs. Lisk is a registered nurse and writer for denominational publications. Her husband, Richard, is the pastor of England First Church.

## by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

## Larry J. Watson

has resigned as pastor of the Junction City Three Creeks Church to become pastor of the First Church of Hull, Texas. Bill Passmore
began serving as pastor of Little Rock Plainview Church Jan. 18, coming there from the Mountain Pine Church. He and his wife, Betty, are parents of two children, Cindy and David.
David Burton
has resigned as associate pastor of DeQueen First Church to accept a position on the staff of the Germantown Church in Germantown, Tenn. He and his wife,

Kathy, and their daughter, Katie, are now residing in Germantown.
Ken Kirby
is serving as music director of the Barton Church. A native of Memphis, he is a graduate of Sanford University, Birmingham, Ala. He previously served on the staff of the Cedar Grove Church in Panama City, Florida.
Bolling Kelly
has resigned as pastor of the Helena First Church to become pastor of the Churchill Church in San Antonio, Texas. David Halso
began his service with the North Little

Rock Sylvan Hills First Church Jan. 18. He is serving as Minister to Singles. Halso, a recent graduate of Mid-America Seminary, did his undergraduate work at the University of Georgia at Athens.

## Deborah Ann Jenkins

has joined the staff of Magnolia Central Church to serve as Minister of Activities. A student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, she is a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, La.

## Bob Lewis

will celebrate his fourth anniversary as Minister of Music at El Dorado First Church Feb. 1.

## New church organized at Newark

The Newark Mission was organized into a church on Jan. 11. The new church was constituted with 47 charter members.
The work had its inception in 1975, when S. D. Hacker, director of missions for Independence Association, along with the associational missions committee, arranged for the purchase of four and one-half acres of land. The Cord Church took a census of the area which revealed a definite need for a Southern Baptist church. Later, a portable chapel was secured from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to be placed on the tract of land which had been purchased.

A groundbreaking service was held on May 1, 1977, and the first meeting took place on May 5, 1977, in the portable chapel.

In September, 1977, A. B. Coleman became the pastor of the new congregation. On June 17, 1979, another groundbreaking service was held and construction was begun on the new building.

On Jan. 13, 1980, the mission dedicated its new facility. The new facility of 3,650 $\mathrm{sq} . \mathrm{ft}$. was erected at a cost of $\$ 60,000$. The newly organized church will owe only $\$ 3,500$.

The mission received $\$ 2,500$ as a grant from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and also $\$ 10,000$ from the Revolving Loan Fund. Many other love offerings were provided by churches and individuals throughout the area.

Special speakers for the day included 5. D. Hacker, and Lehman Webb, director of Church Extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Hacker's message was based on Psalms 23 and Philippians 2:5-11. He said, "The world is desolate and the only one who can possibly provide a ray of hope are those who have responded to God's grace."

The keynote speaker for the organiza-
tional service held in the afternoon was Lehman Webb. He said, "The world will soon forget the oratory of the preachers and the harmony of those who sing of the gospel. But they will long remember how Christians live."

In conclusion, Webb challenged the church to be pliable to God's leadership. He said, "The church is God's instrument of making people what he wants them to be."

Others participating in the program included Glen Hickey, pastor of Calvary Church, Batesville, and moderator of Independence Association; R. A. Bone, retired pastor of Calvary Church; Charles Osborne, a layman from the Cord Church who helped in the development of the mission; Jerry Kausler, current pastor of the Cord Church; Raymond Morris, a layman from the Pleasant Plains Church who is the chairman of the associational trustees; and Darnell Cul-
lum, church clerk for the newly organized Newark Church.

Business activities included the adoption of Articles of Faith, a constitution, and the election of officers.

Pastor Alwyn Coleman feels that the church has a very bright future. He said, "I feel that our church will grow because of the harmony that prevails within our congregation. Currently, we have an average attendance of 44 in Sunday School with 60 attending the Sunday morning worship service. We are fully organized and have every organization that is recommended by the Southern Baptist Convention.
"Our future plans include," Coleman continued, "the establishment of a mission by our church and the erection of additional education space, I believe that these projects along with consistent contacting of our numerous prospects will assure us of a bright future." - J. Everett Sneed


Church and mission leaders and those who helped with the organization of the Newark Church were (from left) Louise Bunch, Leonard Bunch, Darnell Cullum, S. D. Hacker, A. B. Coleman and Lehman Webb; (back row) Jim McVay, Tom Williams, Charles Osborne and Scott Laster.

Blytheville First Church
held a service Jan. 11 to ordain Harry Churchwell and B. T. Ladner as deacons. Pastor J. Edward North led the service. Mountain Pine Cedar Glades Church ordained. Daniel Lynch to the gospel

## HSU



## A blessing to our people

 by Thomas TutorIt has been said that Christian young people who enroll in college either become missionaries or become a part of the mission field. The Baptist Student Union is designed to help meet the spiritual needs of college students and give direction to


Tutor their ministry while on the college campus.
Much has been accomplished in Southern Baptist life through the Baptist Student Union organizations. Many of our foreign and home missionaries, as well as most of our Journeymen and US-2 workers, come out of a BSU background.
The Baptist Student Union is meeting a very special need in the lives of many college students today. This is true in reaching some by faith in Christ as Lord, and also in reaching and helping to develop some as better disciples. The BSU is a structured organization dedicated to the specific ministry of meeting the spiritual needs of college students here in Arkansas. This organization needs and deserves our support.
First Church of Benton has participated in the Third Century Campaign. It has been both a challenge and a blessing to our people. It has given the church an opportunity to continue to have a ministry to our own young people who go away to college as well as a ministry to many other students across the state. The greatest task the church has, other than reaching people for Christ, is the developing of their lives as disciples. The BSU is an extension of this task on the college campus.
(Thomas Tutor is the pastor of First Church of Benton. Dr. Tutor is a native Mississippian whose previous pastorate was First Church of Holly Springs.)
ministry Dec. 14,1980 . The nine churches in Garland County Baptist Association were represented on the ordination council. Lynch is pastor of the Rock Springs Church.

## Conway Second Church

ordained John Tillman, Stan Wood, Jim Cox and Stan Fronabarger as deacons Jan. 18.
Hot Springs Rector Heights Church held a covered dish luncheon Jan. 4 to honor Pastor Joe Stevenson and his family on their fifth anniversary with the church.

## New Liberty Church

held an evangelism emphasis Jan. 11-12 led by Jesse Reed, Director of Evangelism for Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The emphasis resulted in 96 members signing commitment cards for personal
witnessing.
El Dorado East Main Church
ordained Roger Morris and Ted Hobbs as deacons Jan. 18. A reception that followed honored those ordained and Tom Floyd, interim music director.

## Sheridan First Church

deacons are participating in a "Deacon Team of the Month" program. The purpose is to involve the deacons in an enlargement program.

## Clinton First Church

will dedicate a new sanctuary Feb. 15. Homer Shirley, a former pastor and now Director of Development for Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services, will be speaker. Former members and interested persons will participate in the dedication.


## Christian estate planning means



Planning for the unexpected
Proverbs 6:6
Minimizing taxes Matthew 22:21
Providing for family needs 1 Timothy 5:8
Having a plan for final distribution Luke 12:20
Looking ahead toward retirement Proverbs 10:5
Recognizing God's Ownership I Chronicles 29:14

For Information about Christian Estate Planning contact your attorney and ARKANSAS BAPTIST FOUNDATION, 402 Commonwealth Building, Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 or telephone 376-0732/376-4791.

Please send me information on Christian estate planning.
Name
Address
City $\qquad$ State $\qquad$ ZIP $\qquad$

Telephone

Jesse and Imogene Reed listen to their son, Doug, one of the group who told of the relationships in which they have known Reed. The Monday evening session featured tributes to "Bro. Jesse", who will retire this spring. Reed's view of evangelism, past, present and future, in Arkansas are found in an article on page 10.

by J. Everett Sneed ABN Editor

# Portion of Evangelism conference honors retiring director 

The highlight of the 1981 Evangelism Conference, which convened in Little Rock First Church Jan. 19-20, was expressions of gratitude concerning the life and ministry of Jesse Reed, director of Evangelism for Arkansas, who will retire April 30. (More about evangelism work under Reed is told in a separate story in this issue.)
Major speakers on the program included Andy Anderson, SBC Church Growth specialist; Stan Coffey, pastor of First Church, Albuquerque, N.M.; Roy Fish, professor of Evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; C. B. Hogue, director of the evangelism section of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.; and Huber Drumwright, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.
The theme for the Evangelism Conference, based upon Habakkuk 3:2, was "Spiritual Awakening." Each session of the Evangelism Conference dealt with an
aspect of the theme.
Almost the entirety of the evening session was devoted to the life and work of Jesse Reed. Members of his family, his staff, and those who had known him across the years paid tribute to, and related events from the life of Jesse Reed. The common theme which echoed through the expressions of all who spoke was' Reed's commitment to evangelism and the winning of the lost to Christ. Among those who spoke were his brother, Carl Reed; his son, Doug Reed; his classmate, Lehman Webb; a pastor who had had him as an evangelist, Jack Bledsoe; a fellow Baptist Building worker, R.H. Dorris; and staff members West Kent and Clarence Shell.
Associate in the Evangelism Department, Wes Kent, asked the question, "What is lesse Reed really like?" In response, he said, "He is not really hard to work for if you love souls."
In response, Reed expressed his ap-
preciation for the statements that had been made by his friends and family. In regard to his work as director of Evangelism he said, "We don't work for victory, we work from victory. As long as there are lost souls and there is strength in us, we must keep on working."

## What the speakers said

Roy Fish, Bible teacher for the conference, spoke three times on the subjects, "The Awakening at Mt. Carmel," "The Awakening at Nineveh," and "The Awakening Following Pentecost." In dealing with "The Awakening Following Pentecost," Dr. Fish said, "The people recognized that they had a serious problem. But their prayer was, 'God, the problem is here, give us the power to preach.' When people pray like this and have this kind of surrender, God will move."
Clarence Shell, associate director of Evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State


Mrs. Huber Drumwright moderated a meeting for women during the conference, a first-time event for the state. The emphasis was on witnessing as sharing while women go about daily routines. Convention Wives, an auxiliary group to the state convention, cooperated in the establishment of the meeting. Mrs. Tony Berry, Wives president, said she hoped more Baptist women would be involved in working together and she encouraged women to organize on the association level to promote witnessing.


Dr. Hogue spoke on two occasions during the conference. He said, "Compassion is love in action. If everyone had true Godly compassion, our headlines would be different and God could do something really significant in our lives."

Dr. Drumwright spoke on two occasions during the conference. In the first message he preached on "Prayer in Awakening." In his final message he spoke on "Conserving the Results of Evangelism." In his first message he said, "Spiritual awakening and revival always starts with the agonizing prayer of a few of God's people."

John Finn, director of missions for North Arkansas Association, Harrison, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, spoke on "Bold Evangelism, Our Priority." He said, "Our Lord commanded us to accept evangelism as our number one priority. The early Christians were committed to bold evangelism. The happiest Christian is the one who is truly involved in the
evangelistic process."
James Hays, pastor of North Little Rock Cedar Heights Church, gave a testimony on "Our Church Experiencing an Awakening." Hays said, "I am here not to brag on myself or my church, but to brag on Jesus." He said that in two and one-half years that the church had had 250 people to come to know Christ as Saviour and had baptized 220. There have been more than 250 who have united with the church by letter. The church has built a new sanctuary, begun a day care center, and both Sunday School and Church Training have tripled in average attendance.

Tom Darter, director of missions for Delta Association, Dermott, spoke on "Area Tent Crusades." Darter emphasized that there were difficulties connected with the use of a tent, but that many barriers were broken down when churches moved out of their building. He said, "People who would never enter our churches will come to a tent revival."

its proper place."
Convention, spoke on "My Dream for Arkansas (total evangelism)." He said, "I dream of every church being involved in evangelism. That many churches will baptize more than 100, that many others will baptize more than 20 and that every church will baptize someone."

Dr. Anderson said, "I have a lot of difficulty with those who feel that we are going to reach America through television. I have nothing against television but the church is God's method."

In his closing message Anderson emphasized the importance of the Sunday School. He said, "The most potent force for evangelism in the world is the Sunday School."

Stan Coffey spoke three times during the conference. He said, "I believe that we are living in a new time of evangelism. Business as usual will not get the job done. Baptisms are on the rise because more people are putting evangelism in
(From left) John Finn, Tom Darter (top), James Hays, Roy Fish, Huber Drumwright, C. B. Hogue, Stan Coffey and Clarence Shell.


Full-time evangelists from Arkansas who attended the meeting were (front) Tom Pittman, Rt. 2, Marion, 735-0653; Gene Davis, 32 Nitawood, Little Rock 72206, 888-2244; Clarence Hill (music) 3837 Albert Pike, Hot Springs, 767-6489; (back) Herb Shreve, P.O. Box 78, Hatfield, 3896624; Billy Walker, Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, 886-6185; Herbert "Red" Johnson, 520 Spring Street, Mountain Home 72953, 425-9221; Jack Parchman, P.O. Box 1713, Little Rock 72203, 562-1177 and Bill Fleming, Rt. 1, Box 144F, Alexander 72202, 794-0341.

## Training of pastors extends by Robet Dilday the soul winning ways of Jesse Reed

"Evangelism is more a spirit than a program," says lesse S. Reed who, after 27 years with the Arkansas Baptist Convention, is retiring as director of evangelism.
For more than a quarter of a century, the 65 -year old department head has dedicated himself to training Arkansas pastors in the art of witnessing.
"Right after I surrendered to preach I knew the Lord wanted me to work in the field of evangelism," he says. "So I decided to major in soul winning and I've. spent the last 20 years training pastors in this area."

Among the things Reed has done during his tenure in the evangelism department, he is most proud of the series of evangelism conferences that have developed across Arkansas.
"I took a survey and found out that over half of our pastors are moonlighting, working at something other than full time ministry. They couldn't come to our state-wide conferences held in January. As a result we began area evangelism conferences so that every three years any pastor or layperson will have to drive no more than 75 miles to one of the meet-
ings. These have become very popular."
Reed has lived through many ups and downs in the evangelistic life of the state.
"We used to have two-week revivals here when I first came to this work," he says. "I started out with a tent and a trailer and I pulled that trailer around with an old car. Several of the places where I held tent revivals later organized into churches.
"Then we cut down revival times to one week and later to only a weekend. Those meetings were real weak. Now I'm seeing that we're coming back to a full week of real' revivals. We neglected revivals in the 1960's, but began personal witnessing with the WIN program in the early 70's and now in the early 80's we're combining personal witnessing and revivals."

Reed emphasizes over and over that "the local church is the key." And he attributes last year's large number of people baptized in Arkansas to the work of our more than 1,200 congregations.
"These churches that baptize 1,000 to 2,000 in a year really pep people up, but we have some fellows who get discouraged because they can't do such a thing. l'd rather see many churches baptizing a
few than a few churches baptizing large numbers. I can remember a time when 17 per cent of our churches didn't baptize a soul. Now we're cutting down on the total number of churches that don't baptize anybody."
For almost his entire time as director of evangelism, it has been Reed's conviction that his job is to train pastors.
"For a long time I felt like I was going to go out and win all of Arkansas, and it just burdened me because I couldn't hold a revival in every church. And one day it just hit me like a sledge hammer between the eyes that my business was not to hold revivals and win everybody to the Lord myself, but to train my pastors."
Even though Reed is retiring from his job of training pastors with the evangelism department, he has no intention of ending his active work. He will be heavily involved in personal work with pastors, interim pastorates, conducting revivals and WIN schools, and as a consultant for the division of evangelism at the Home Mission Board.

And, just in case he still has some spare time, he plans to "raise and train squirrel dog puppies."


Multi-faceted Jesse Reed shows grandson Jason and greatnephew Zack a hornet's nest (left) and explains that he has stirred up many in his years as preacher; his preacher image (top, middle) is preserved in the carving Wes Kent did of "Brother Jesse"; sportsman Reed esteems his hunting dog, Cricket, and the gun which is a retirement gift from son Doug; Reed (above) shares the daily devotional time with his wife, Imogene.

# Arkansas Baptist State Convention CONTRIBUTIONS 

Total cash contributions received in office of Executive Secretary of Executive Board during the months of January through December, 1980.
Notify Huber L. Drumwright, 525 West Capitol, Littie Rock, Arkansas, if any errors are found in this report.




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## News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald H. Milligan, missionaries to Gaza, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 18614 Mallard Cove, Little Rock, Ark. 72209). He was born in Tulsa, Okla. She is the former

Arylis Rayburn of Holdenville, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

## Support for families urged by White House Conference <br> by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) - Leaders of the White House Conference on Families (WHCF) have challenged members of the religious community to continue and increase their support of the American family.

During a one day briefing, WHCF Chairman Jim Guy Tucker joined Southern Baptist family life specialist Harry N . Hollis Jr. in calling churches and synagogues "the best friends families have," and urged religious leaders to maintain their support.
"When it comes to the family, there is no more influential or pivotal community than the religious community," Tucker said.

Through the briefing, the WHCF sought to familiarize the religious leaders with recommendations compiled from three conferences last summer at Baltimore, Minneapolis and Los Angeles as well as involve them in developing strategies for implementation of the recommendations.

Despite the controversy surrounding the WHCF over such emotionally volatile issues as abortion and the definition of family, delegates reached a consensus on a remarkable range of issues from responsible treatment of family by the media to the need to combat drug abuse to sensitivity to the impact of government on the family.

Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission, warned against uncritical acceptance of attacks by WHCF critics.

Recalling a picket sign outside the Baltimore meeting which labeled the WHCF "anti-God," Hollis urged the religious leaders to "read the report" and to "praise or blame the conference
according to the report, not according to the picketers."

The Baptist ethicist suggested Baptists should support those WHCF recommendations that are compatible with their own beliefs.
"Don't judge the White House Conference," Hollis further cautioned, "by the press releases of opportunistic critics trying to raise money for their egocentered kingdoms."

During his presentation Hollis explained the importance of examining the impact of American institutions on the family, emphasizing the necessity of looking at the impact of religion as well as that of government.

Hollis pointed to the media as another institution with a large effect on the family and called for more pressure on the broadcast networks to produce programming more favorable to the family.
"There is a stampede for deregulation now in Washington, but the American family cannot stand an unregulated, unprincipled media," Hollis said.

Tucker, a former Arkansas congressman, said the positive impact of the WHCF will extend beyond the Carter administration which produced it.
"This White House Conference and especially the family, transcend purely partisan politics," Tucker said in explaining why religious leaders were invited to the briefing during the closing days of the Carter administration.

Regardless of the long-range impact of the conference, WHCF leaders insist the immediate effect has been to move the family to a more prominent place of concern for many American institutions and individuals.

## February 1 is BWA Day

To many Baptists all over the world Feb. 1, Baptist World Alliance Day, will be a welcome opportunity to show their unity by thinking of and praying for each other.

Gerhard Claas, BWA general secretary, has expressed hope that this day will be observed in all 84 nations where the BWA has member bodies.
"We need to show a dying world that there is hope for each and every person in Jesus Christ," says Dr. Claas. "The world cannot give us a lasting peace. Therefore we need to proclaim the Good News, urging people to turn to Jesus Christ in search of a solution to their
problems."
"On BWA Day," Claas continues, "Baptists in all parts of the world share burdens in prayer ... We can rejoice, because we are not alone. We form a worldwide fellowship - a fellowship of believers, a fellowship of people who pray and a fellowship of service."

Duke K. McCall, BWA president, 198085, in his challenge to observe the BWA Day this year, said, "Baptists in 120,000 different churches can be linked through the Baptist World Alliance in a fellowship of prayer to the end that our unity will become the channel of God's power to change the world."

## Buchanan becomes CLC consultant

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) - John H. Buchanan, Alabama's Sixth District Republican representative to Congress for the past 16 years, has become a consultant for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission effective Jan. 1.

Buchanan, who was the only Southern Baptist minister in Congress, lost his bid for re-election when he was narrowly defeated in the Republican primary last September by a Moral Majority-supported candidate.

According to Foy Valentine, executive director of the commission, Buchanan will represent Southern Baptists in Washington, D.C. in areas of Christian social concern and Christian social action, assigned to the commission by the Southern Baptist Convention.
"Buchanan's long and outstanding record as a proponent of human rights, the Christian way in race relations, refugee settlement and peace with justice attest to his commitment to moral concerns," Valentine said.
"We look forward to the contributions he will make to the total work of Southern Baptists through this new relationship with the Christian Life Commission."

Buchanan said, "I count it a special privilege to be working in this new capacity with the Christian Life Commission whose commitment to applied Christianity and to Christian citizenship have given me great support and encouragement through the years."

Buchanan, formerly pastor of churches in Tennessee, Virginia and Alabama, is an active member and deacon of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington where his wife has served for 10 years as music director.

## Judge throws out $\mathbf{O}^{\prime}$ Hair challenge to chaplains

by Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) - Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair has failed in the first round of her legal challenge to ban the practice of maintaining chaplains in Congress.

In an oral decision announced Jan. 6, Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled O'Hair did not have standing to bring the suit challenging the practice. His decision, announced at the conclusion of oral arguments, did not deal with the church-state arguments raised by the case.



## International

Feb. 1, 1981
Matthew 13:24-35
by Currey E. Coker
Pleasant Grove Church Harrisburg

Coker

## Trust in God's victory

Jesus, the master teacher, taught the masses by means of parables. These are easily understood. We can understand the value of this method of instruction.

## The kingdom of heaven

The kingdom of heaven is used synonymously with the kingdom of God. Kingdom of God is the sovereign rule of God manifested in Christ to defeat his enemies, creating a people over whom he reigns, and issuing in a realm or realms in which power of his reign is experienced. Entrance into the kingdom is by new birth (John 3:3-5).

## Parable of the tares

The parable of the tares is a reminder that the weeds and the good grain, the unbelievers and the believers, often grow and live side by side. The enemy, Satan, came and sowed the tares trying to undermine the kingdom. Judgment belongs to God. He in his own good time will bring the harvest and make the separation between weeds and grain, the unbelievers and the believers (Matt. 13:24-30).

## Parable of the mustard seed

The parable of the mustard seed, one of the tiniest of all seeds, stresses the wonderful results that can come from very small beginnings. It can become mighty like the mustard plant which shelters the birds on its branches. Yet such unusual growth has provided roosting places for those who are enemies of God, who seek the shade and fruit of the tree for their own interests. However, the phenomenal growth of the tiny seed shows how great the growth of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 13:31, 32; Mark 4:3-32; Luke 13:18, 19).

## Parable of the Leaven

The parable of the leaven is similar in meaning of the above parables. Though the leaven is very small in comparison to the three measures of meal, it will eventually leaven the whole by working from within. Therefore the kingdom of heaven by be hidden the world but it works silently from within, permeating the whole of society. It illustrates the dynamic and invincible nature of the kingdom. Our faith and trust in Jesus Christ comes as a personal and transforming presence. It works like leaven works, inwardly and silently, yet with transforming power. But believers beware of false doctrines which could infiltrate (Matt. 13:33; Luke 12:20, 21).

Jesus was rejected by religious authorities of his day. This fact should be a warning to established religious leaders today. There is always a danger that the prophetic voice of Jesus might be rejected. These parables tell us that the kingdom of heaven goes right on working regardless of the channel, be it lowly, insignificant, or great.

The time of judgment is coming. The gift of life brings the responsibility to use it wisely while we live and set the right direction for the world to come. Jesus tells us that the time is coming when a final separation will take place. That judgment will be decided upon the basis of our growth and fruitbearing in the kingdom nowl

May we put on the whole armour of God that we might withstand the wiles of the devil that we will be able to help lead our relatives, friends, and neighbors through the entire world to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that they be brought into the kingdom of heaven.

The Outlines of the International Btble Lesson for Christian Teaching, Uniform Series, are copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education. Used by permission.

# Keeping life in perspective 

The first Adam was a spiritual man. His mind, will, emotions and body perfectly obeyed his spirit. Fellowship with God was primary, everything else was secondary. Satan approached Adam and Eve with the idea that wisdom and bodily
 pleasure were being withheld from them by God (Gen, 3:6). They believed this lie and were reborn in reverse - going from a spiritual being to a fleshly being.
The second Adam (Christ) was also a spiritual man. He did not let his mind, will, emotions and body dominate him so now we can be reborn the right way - from fleshly to a spiritual being Praise God!

If after being reborn and receiving a recreated spirit by the Holy Spirit, we continue to live by the mind, will, emotions and body, then we are carnal and disobedient to our heavenly calling (Rom. 8:1-14). Sadly enough, that is the condition in which most Christians live today. The mind says, "get me some books, magazines and soap operas to occupy my time" and we promptly obey rather than read the word of God. The body says "get me some nicotine, caffeine, sugar and spice" and we say "yes sir, right away. Do you want it boiled, baked, fried or raw?"

Even many church meetings are more dominated by physical food rather than spiritual food. "This should not be, for after all," Paul said to the Romans, "the important thing for us as Christians is not what we:eat or drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. If you let Christ be Lord in these affairs, God will be glad; and so will others" (Rom. 14:17-18, Living Bible).
Jesus always took the spiritual approach to life. Things, including food, drink and clothing, were clearly secondary. If your time is dominated by these things, you are not living life from a spiritual perspective. Why fret and worry, scratch and dig for the material things

[^1]
## Life and Work

Feb. 1, 1981
Luke 12:13-15, 22-31
by C. W. Brockwell
Little Rock
of life when the Father wants to provide it for you? "He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern" (Luke 12:31, Living Bible).

Do you believe that? Do you act like you believe that every day? If not, confess the sin of unbelief and make a committment to believe God today. If you do live by the spiritual perspective, pray that you will be able to resist the temptation to do otherwise.

Isn't it wonderful to have a rich Father?
Isn't it wonderful to be a rich son or daughter of a rich Father? We have it made in Jesus! Let us rejoice and tell others they too can have a worry-free life in Jesus.

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Lewis

## Bible Book

Feb. 1, 1981
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
by Norman L. Lewis
Ashley County Director of Missions

## Freedom and the weaker Christian

Love does not puff up, love builds up constructively and permanently. All of us possess knowledge in various degrees but pride of learning can be a real detriment to an individual. The most learned individual is usually one who is least conscious of his learning. He is totally aware of the vast stores of knowledge which are not his. Love is the first essential, not knowledge. Love builds up; it has no limitations. The only fruitful knowledge is that which leads to love. Real learning should make us humble rather than conceited. Love for God and man - this is primary in the solution of any problem.

The assurance that God is the one God (v. 4-6)
For the Christian there is only one God, the Father, our source and center. There is only one Lord Jesus, our Saviour and sustainer; who shares this place with no other because he is the one mediator of creation. Therefore, the matter of an idol or idols are all destroyed by Paul in this one statement, "There is none other God but one." It is really Paul's confession of faith.

The recognition of the weaker brother ( $\mathbf{v} . \mathbf{7 - 1 3 \text { ) }}$
Paul now champions the weaker brother. He was keenly aware that sin against a brother is sin against Christ. He vividly recalls his persecution of the brethren and on the Damascus road it was made painfully plain to him that in so doing he had persecuted Christ. (Acts 9:4-5) Actually, no moral issue was involved. Paul was stating to them that they needed to consider the effect of their actions on others. They must be sure that they did not cause a weaker brother to stumble. He would do away with the eating of meat and become a vegetarian rather than to lead his weaker brother to do what that brother considered $\sin$.

The eating of meat is really not the issue. Many could eat with complete assurance that it was not tainted just because it had been sacrificed to idols. Animal sacrifice was an integral part of practically all pagan worship. Often a small portion was actually used in the ritual and the remainder was dispursed in various ways. Much was sold in the butcher shops at the market place. To the strong Christians it was meat purchased with honest money with a delicious taste and smell. To his weaker brother it was tainted and spoiled because it had been slain in an idol ritual. So Paul encouraged the strong with the knowledge of the conviction of the weaker brother that it was a sin, so let love for God and the weaker brother rule their actions.

Many of us are doing some things which are causing a brother to stumble, maybe unknown to us, but woe to the man who knows that what he is doing is causing a brother to stumble and continues doing them. The truth of these statements, "someone is watching you," and, "you are the best Christian somebody knows," should constantly be on your minds.

## Conclusion

If Paul felt as strongly as he reveals in verse 13, then what should our position be? Is not each of us his brother's keeper? "Love one another; as I have loved you, that ye may love one another." (John 13:34) Let Christian love circumscribe Christian liberty.

This lesson treatment is based on the Bible Book Study for Southern Baptist Churches, copyright by The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Detergent, make-up don't fill Unification Church's coffers

ATLANTA (BP) - Rumors that Avon Products and Procter \& Gamble are controlled by Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church are not true, according to representatives of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and spokesmen for both companies.
Glenn Igleheart, director of the interfaith witness department at the Home Mission Board, called the rumors "unfortunate" and said: "We have an obligation to tell the truth and to set the record straight on these rumors. We've attempted to tell people when Moon has connections with certain businesses, but we must be careful, not to cast falsehoods about innocent, legitimate businesses."
The Avon/"Moonie" tale surfaced most recently in Alabama and Georgia. It appears to be passed "word of mouth," said Betty Abrams, manager of Avon's consumer information center.
"The rumors circulating about Rev. Moon's ownership of Avon are completely untrue," Abrams said. "Rev. Moon is in no way involved with Avon. We do not have any listing of Rev. Moon or his church as shareholders of our corporation."

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Abrams said the cosmetics company is "at a loss" to explain how the rumor got started. That's not the case for Procter \& Gamble, whose gossip derives from a company logo which is dominated by a man-in-the-moon figure.
The $P \& G$ stories claim the logo is symbolic of Rev. Moon and that the Unification Church is skimming 75 percent of the company's profits for its own use.
"Obviously, this rumor has no basis in fact," said Robert M. Norrish, director, of P \& G's public relations department. "Rev. Moon's Unification Church owns no shares in Procter \& Gamble. As a matter of fact, not one of 98,000 Procter \& Gamble shareholders owns more than one-half of one percent of our stock."
Norrish said P \& G's moon and stars logo dates to 1850 and has been registered with the U.S. Patent Office since 1882, "long before Rev. Moon was born."

Nevertheless, the false information has caused at least one church in Missouri and other individuals in the South to boycott Procter \& Gamble goods.

## 'Two-by-fours' gets folks' attention

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP) - Georgia Baptist pastor Truman Skaggs has taken the illustration about the farmer who gets the attention of his mule with a two-byfour a step further with what he calls "my two-by-four ministry."
Skaggs, pastor of Central Church in Gainesville, was a pastor in Pasadena, Calif., when the Rose Bowl, one of football's most famous stadiums, ripped out its wooden seats to replace them with aluminum. Each front board of the 100,000 three-board seats was numbered.

A sports enthusiast and former sports announcer, Skaggs thought a numbered two-by-four from the Rose Bowl might be a treasured souvenir for sports fans, so he bought a number of them, launching a unique ministry.
"I cut them into 18 -inch lengths, about the width of each seat in the Rose Bowl," he recalls. "I began to give them to friends, to sell a few and to generally have fun with them."

He found they were great conversasation openers and put them in his briefcase, car, office, suitcase and other places to help introduce himself to strangers who might be evangelism prospects. He says he has had many dramatic soul winning experiences started with chats about the boards.

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Last summer, Centrifuge camps were a mountaintop experience for more than 8,000 youth (grades 7-12) at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers. This year, to meet the growing demand, Centrifuge is expanding to four locations to include CENTRIFUGE SOUTH (Mobile College, Mobile, AL), CENTRIFUGE WEST (Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, NM), CENTRIFUGE EAST (Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, NC) and CENTRIFUGE NORTH (Hannibal-
LaGrange College, Hannibal, MO).
All summer at each location, the week-long camping program will include Bible study, recreation, special interest activities, worship services and devotions. Registration begins February 1, 1981.

For information write to CENTRIFUGE, Church Recreation Department. Baptist Sunday School Board, P.O. Box 24001 , Nashville, TN 37202,
or call (615) 251-2713

Church Recreation Department
The Sunday School Board of the Southem Baptist Convention
 Hannibal, MO

## Israeli Baptists seek greater legal status

BAPTIST VILLAGE, Israel (BP) - The Association of Baptist Churches in Israel is seeking government registration to obtain greater legal status for Baptists in Israel.

Delegates from five churches and four centers voted unanimously to register under the Friendly Societies Law passed recently by Israel's Knesset.

Registration by April 1 as a Friendly Society will allow the association to have a bank account and to be exempt from paying taxes on the organization's in-
come. Such recognition will facilitate the purchase and sale of property and will serve as a channel of representation for all Baptists in Israel.

Association leaders consider this step to be important, especially in light of a law now being considered by the Knesset which would prohibit or severely restrict the sale of land to "foreigners." The history of this bill shows that this means, first of all, the sale of land to churches and missions, according to Southern Baptist missionary Elizabeth F. Smith.

## 11th Annual School of the Prophets

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# Radio-TV Commission moves to establish new network 

by Toby Druin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) - The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has moved to establish a 100 -station low powered television network with a potential national viewing audience of 163 million.

Though some expressed concern over various aspects of the proposal, the commission, in a special called meeting Jan.


5, unanimously voted to establish the network and created a subsidiary corporation, the American Christian Television System (ACTS), to implement it.

The corporation, organized Jan. 6, will make application and hold licenses for the stations, establish the stations in partnership with local Baptist bodies and contract with the commission to provide network programming for them.

Jimmy R. Allen, RTVC president, also will be president of ACTS. Other members of the corporation will be Grady C. Cothen, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; Daniel Rivera, president of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, Texas; Harold T. Branch, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas; and

Marvin C. Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

Cothen was named to the corporation and the Sunday School Board promised an hour of network time because the board will provide a $\$ 10$ million "insurance credit" to assure the Federal Communications Commission the corporation and commission have adequate financial backing to establish the stations. None of the $\$ 10$ million is expected to be spent, however, since local Baptist groups - churches, associations and others - are expected to construct the stations.
Hundreds of the low power 100 and 1,000 watt stations are expected to be established across the nation in the next few years, broadcasting over a limited radius of 10 miles. However, as Allen pointed out, the signals can be picked up by local cable systems to greatly expand the audience.

Applications for licensps for the stations will be frozen by the FCC on Jan. 15, Allen explained, hence the hastily called meeting.

While the low powered translator stations have been around for many years, they have not figured in Southern Baptist plans because of their 10 -mile range, Allen said. But, when the possibility of easier access to existing and developing cable stations was realized, Allen revamped his strategy.
"We stumbled onto this thing five weeks ago," Allen told trustees, relating he had a conversation with an engineer, John F. X. Brown of Detroit, Mich., in early December, and immediately began looking into the matter.

With Brown's help, RTVC staffers "worked almost around the clock," Allen said, to determine potential sites and assemble engineering data to support the applications.

Cost of the stations is expected to vary from $\$ 50,000$ to $\$ 100,000$ each, the basic cost of transmitters and tower at each local station. The station, in some instances, Allen said, could be limited to a room in a church if the station simply transmits network programming and originates nothing locally.

ACTS will provide network programming during specified times and the local body would determine how much and what type programming it would originate during the remaining hours. Allen emphasized, however, that the future of the system will depend on quality pro-
gramming and agreements with assured time for small churches.

Cothen told Baptist Press: "We' envision we will be able to use some of the same hardware to create and operate for the denomination a telecommunications system to communicate with associations, churches and state conventions by way of a satellite.
"The potential for the Southern Baptist Convention is that within 10 years as many as 10,000 churches may have the equipment to receive telecommunications.

Cothen said a satellite receiving dish can be built for about $\$ 5,000$, and once it is in place, a church, state or association would be able to receive live or taped programs, which might include Bible study lectures, teaching and training sessions or addresses delivered at Glorieta or Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers.

The network proposal will require the approval of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee which will meet in Nashville, Feb. 16-18. The Sunday School Board's participation in the $\$ 10$ million insurance credit, already approved by its plans and policies and executive committees, will have to be ratified by the board when it meets in Nashville Jan. 27-28.

Although the commission members attending the special called meeting gave the proposal enthusiastic, unanimous endorsement, several raised questions and voiced concern about forming the separate corporation, the cost of programming for the network and where both the programs and money would come from.

Allen said he doesn't know where the money will come from, but feels that by better informing Baptists through the programs about what the Cooperative Program is doing, the whole level of giving among Southern Baptists will be raised.

He said he feels Southern Baptists now supporting various elements of the electronic church will channel those funds into the SBC network when they see the work being done "in our own family of faith."
However, he said, the commission would not appeal for funds on the air as is being done by some in the electronic media.
"I don't think God is running short of money," he said. "I just think we have got to be in tune with him."


[^0]:    Poat office box 552, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansae 72203. Publlahed woekly except at July 4 and December 25. Second clase postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas.
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