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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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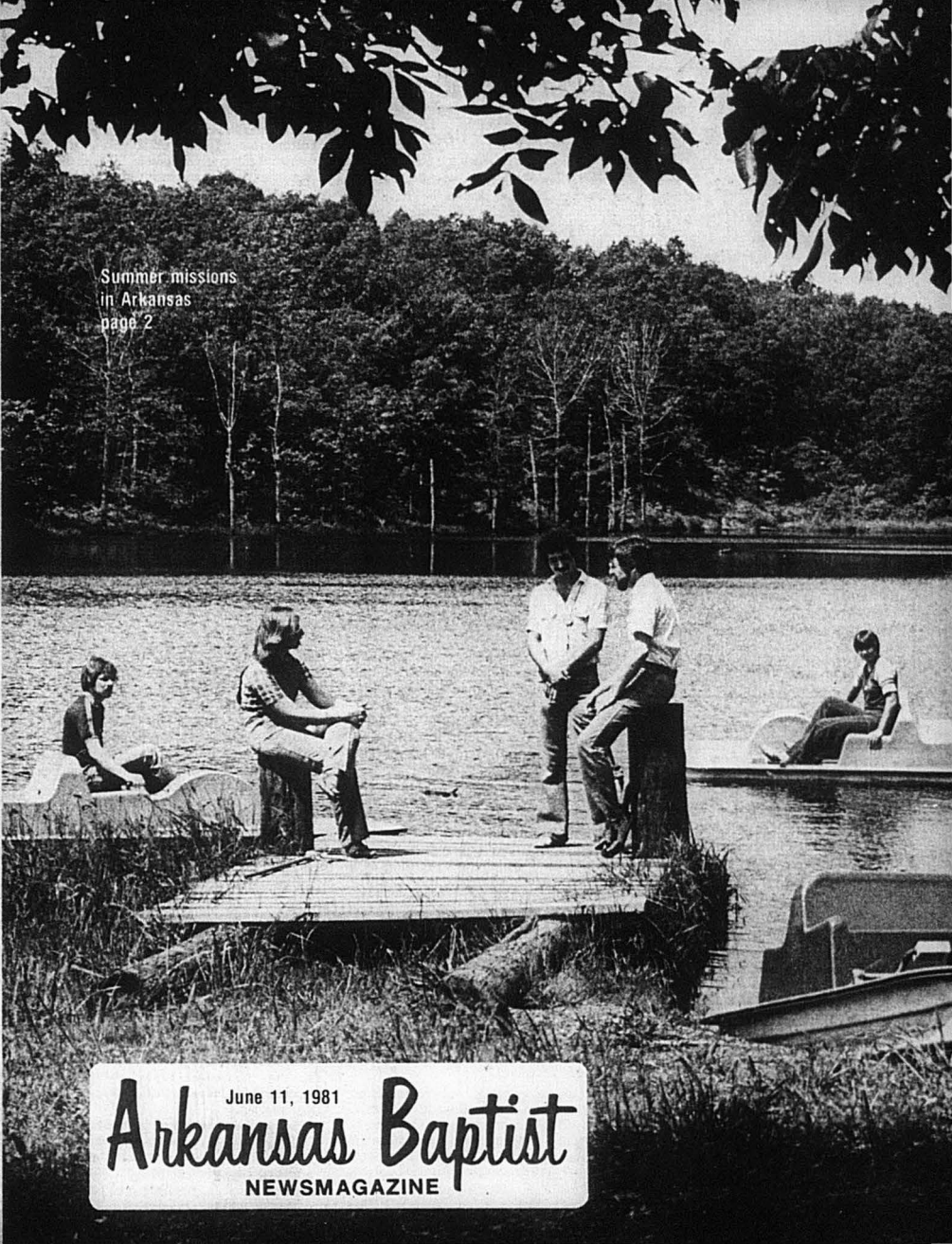
June 11, 1981

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Summer missions
in Arkansas
page 2

June 11, 1981

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

On the cover



Dave Bennett (on dock, right), National Youth Evangelism Consultant of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, reviews lakeside ministries with student workers. Thirty-six students and Sojourners appointed by the HMB were trained to do summer mission work in Arkansas by Bennett and others in orientation sessions June 2-5. Pete Petty, director of Special Missions Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, coordinated the sessions at North Little Rock's Mills Valley Retreat Center.

Letter to the editor

Correction

The editor's note which restated that in an editorial on SBC messenger changes appeared in the June 4 ABN (page 2) under the wrong letter. The note was intended as clarification for a letter by Jim Glover which took exception to proposed changes in the SBC by-laws to modify messenger criteria.

Explain Baptists' role

I am enclosing a letter which was printed under "Letters to the Editor," (April 23, 1981, page 2) which questioned the SBC involvement in a discussion group which was "Alarmed at Government Intrusion, Religious Groups Close Ranks." Some of the groups included were the Unification Church (Moonies), World Wide Church of God (Armstrongism) and the Hare Krishna.

Would you please explain why Southern Baptists were there? Thank you. —

Joyce Cusey, Batesville

Editor's note: Thank you so very much for your "Letter to the Editor." I will be happy to answer to the best of my ability. My observations are as follows: (1) This was an SBC-sponsored meeting and none of the Arkansas Baptist leadership was involved in this meeting; (2) I am certain, however, that the reason for our Southern Baptist involvement in this endeavor was because of our strong belief in absolute freedom for everyone to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. This has been the historical position of Baptists across the years; (3) We should, however, keep in mind that many cults and individuals are trying to get around tax laws, thus, apparently forcing the Internal Revenue Service to try to determine what a true church is or is not.

I, personally, believe that our government is faced with a real difficulty but we should never allow the government to attempt to define or control religious activities. On this basis I support what was done by our SBC leadership.

Leaders oppose jurisdiction denial

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Southern Baptist constitutional specialist joined other religious and civic leaders in denouncing as "dangerous" and "unconstitutional" proposals before Congress to remove federal court jurisdiction in cases involving abortion, school prayer and busing.

John W. Baker, general counsel and director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, told a press briefing that he was concerned about the constitutionality of the proposals which he described as a "quickie" way of changing the Constitution without going through the constitutional amendment process.

Citing Baptist commitment to church-state separation, Baker noted opposition by the Baptist Joint Committee and its member bodies, including the Southern Baptist Convention, to efforts in the last Congress to remove federal court jurisdiction in school prayer cases.

Baker said the emotional volatility of such issues has "clouded" constitutional questions involved.

The press briefing, which included representatives of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Civil Libertarian and public interest groups, followed the first round of hearings by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution on the broad issue of congressional power to limit federal court jurisdiction. The

House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice begins similar hearings June 3-4.

Though more than 20 proposals to limit or remove federal court jurisdiction on controversial issues are pending, the method of attempting to overturn Supreme Court decisions is not new. Sixty such bills were introduced between 1953 and 1968.

The Southern Baptist Convention has a long-standing opposition to state-mandated prayer in public schools, a position reaffirmed at its 1980 annual meeting in St. Louis.

Watch that address

New postal regulations require that addresses for publication mailings include a box number, street number or route and box number. Person and town (plus zip code) is not enough. Magazines lacking a complete address will be returned to the "Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine" at a substantial charge per piece.

Subscribers, whether by church or individual, will not be added to the mailing list without complete address. Church lists of ABN subscribers must be brought into line with this regulation immediately.

In this issue

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The advantages of cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention are discussed in "Woman's Viewpoint."

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Guatemala is the subject this week in Editor J. Everett Sneed's series of five articles on Middle America, drawn from his recent visit to mission stations there. More on Guatemala next week.



In selecting church workers, we sometimes make the children's class our bottom priority. The theory seems to be that they don't know much, so anybody can teach them. Actually, however, children are the most important people in any congregation.

Children represent the church of tomorrow. And the formative years are the most vital time for implanting life's guiding principles. In most instances life's decisions are set at a very early age. The Bible tells us, "Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

One of the most beautiful and intriguing stories of the New Testament is that of Jesus welcoming the little children (Matt. 19:13-15). If the disciples seemed harsh or rugged in rebuking those who brought the children, it was their concern for Jesus that prompted their actions. They knew how tired Jesus was and wanted to protect him. Likewise, there is no wrong intended when children's classes become the bottom priority of a church. After all, the adult church leaders may express their disapproval if the teachers are inadequate.

The story of Jesus and the little ones provides a guiding principle for our dealing with children. Jesus had time for them because he knew their worth and potential. Children possess many characteristics which make them extremely teachable. They possess a sense of wonder, trust and obedience.

Children, also, do not have some of the hindrances to learning which adults have. It may be difficult for an adult to apply spiritual truths because of an attitude of unforgiveness. Children do not have this problem. They have not learned to hold grudges or to nourish bitterness. They forgive and forget quickly. The application of the Great Commission is much easier for them than for many adults.

Churches, then, should provide their best teachers for children. Children's teachers should possess great love and patience.

Children automatically sense when someone loves them. The children's teacher, like Jesus, should never be too tired or too busy for children.

Patience, too, is required if one is to be a successful children's teacher. Children love repetition, for it is basic to their learning. Perhaps the things which they remember best are "caught" more than "taught." They sense Christian love in our actions. They discover new truths in the things they feel. A child's experiences enable him to form priorities for life's actions.

While doing and feeling are important in the child's learning experience, it is essential that information also be given to him. A Sunday School class, for example, is more than a busy work session or a baby sitting job. It is a time in which children are given information in increasing amounts with the opportunity to apply these new facts in challenging activities.

The job of the children's teacher is challenging, indeed. The teacher must have love, patience and the capacity to impart information in an understandable fashion. Above all, a good children's teacher begins with being the right kind of person. Children will sense the motives, priorities and concern of those who teach them.

Men make excellent teachers for children. In the past it was thought that women should be the only ones who teach children, but in recent years psychological tests have shown that the right kind of man can do an excellent job in teaching children.

It is our hope that every church nominating committee will recognize the importance of making children their first priority. Likewise, teachers should recognize the tremendous investment that they are making in teaching children. In developing the lives of children the future of our churches, our communities and our nation is assured.

Arkansas Baptist

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J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor
BETTY KENNEDY Managing Editor

ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

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.

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Am I my neighbor's children's keeper?

A surprising statement came recently from James Baldwin, well-known early writer expressing "black rage" against racial discrimination in the United States. He was quoted on saying he was lucky to grow up in Harlem when he did.

Baldwin admitted he was "deliberately making a very dangerous statement," and then proceeded to explain what he meant. He said that black children born in New York's Harlem in 1924 were born of Southerners, and this made an important difference in the entire community of parents. Every parent was responsible for each child — not just the ones in his or her immediate family. Baldwin said any grown-up seeing him doing something wrong would proceed to spank him and then carry him home to his Mamma and Daddy and tell them why he spanked him. Baldwin added, "Mamma and Daddy would thank him and then beat my behind again."

Baldwin's message is considerably deeper than lighthearted family humor. I suspect one of the most serious problems in modern child rearing is the absence of any effective "community of parents," or sense of togetherness in

child rearing. Not only do few parents today feel any sense of responsibility for helping discipline children or young people who are out of seeing and hearing range of their parents. Even those who do venture to correct someone else's child, run the serious risk of being told to "mind your own business," or of being hauled into court for child abuse.

A great deal has been written and spoken in recent years about the rootlessness of our communities and the deterioration of community supports for morality and good citizenship. I happen to be one who believes it is not too late to start rebuilding a strong consensus among parents in our towns and cities, concerning some simple "dos and don'ts" for our children and young people. Admittedly, tolerance for divergent lifestyles has become a sacred cow that some would claim protects all kinds of deviant behavior, but I cannot believe this reflects the opinions of more than a small minority of Christian parents. Thank you, James Baldwin, for a provocative reminder.

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

Puppet seminar set at El Dorado

A seminar on the usefulness of professional quality puppets as effective instructional tools is scheduled at El Dorado Second Church June 13 at 12:30 p.m.

The three and one-half hour training session will be conducted by professional puppeteers from Puppet Productions, Inc., a San Diego, Calif., company that has trained more than 73,000 people in similar sessions.

Subject areas covered in the seminar include how to manipulate hand puppets, selecting and training puppeteers, organizing an effective puppet team, immediately improving performances and maintaining high performance standards.

Seminar sizes are limited to insure adequate personal attention so early registration is recommended. For additional details and registration information, contact Jerry Wright at 863-7626.

Churches to hear choir from Scotland

A 41-voice choir from Ayr, Scotland, will present concerts in two Hot Springs churches this month. Park Place Church will host the group June 29 and performances June 30 will be in Central Church.

Cathie White, a two-year Mission Service Corps volunteer to Scotland and a former choral teacher at Hot Springs, will direct the program of Scottish songs.

This is the choir's first trip outside of the United Kingdom.



Woman's viewpoint

Polly Reynolds

Independent or cooperating

As I start to write this I have just finished reading Dr. Sneed's article about the advantage of cooperation. Thank you, Dr. Sneed for a good, positive approach to something that has really been bothering me.

For quite sometime I've been hearing what is wrong with the Southern Baptist Convention, and almost I had begun to question, is there anything right with the Convention. But I know there are many things that are right.

Number one, I appreciate the literature we have. Many times I have jokingly said, "We need a red wagon to carry all the materials we receive," but after having attended a workshop sponsored by another denomination, never again will I fuss about the abundance. I would not want the job of writing VBS materials and study course books, but this denomina-

tion was pleading for people to write these.

Number two, the Cooperative Program is second to none. Especially in terms of values for money spent. Our missionaries always tell us how thankful they are for the support they receive.

Number three, I appreciate the training available through leadership courses. Just knowing when you attend one of these, experienced people will be there to help you and the best materials will be available.

It distresses me when a pastor accepts the call to a Southern Baptist church and soon starts leading the church away from the Convention and to an independent position. We need to guard against this. Should this pastor really feel he would not want to be a part of the Convention, I could only hope he would get out and

start his own church and not use his position of leadership to lead the church away from the Convention too.

I agree with Dr. Sneed, the Southern Baptist Convention is not perfect. But rather than condemn all of it or, as the old saying goes, "throw out the baby with the bath water", let's work together to overcome the bad things.

We can be independent (because we do not lose this when we are a part of the SBC), but let's do it in a spirit of cooperation. It is clear, churches that work together are able to accomplish more than churches that work alone.

Polly (Mrs. Gene) Reynolds is a homemaker, volunteer, and a member of Douglas Church. She is active in teaching the Bible, missions work and civic organizations, and she leads lifestyle evangelism workshops.



Farming and carpentry tools and a cash gift of \$2,171.10 for their work in Africa were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hall and their son Carlton by about 100 members of the Red River Baptist Association recently at Arkadelphia First Church. The Halls are returning to Kenya after serving a year as missionaries-in-residence at Ouachita University. With the Halls are Maurice Hurley (left), interim pastor at FBC; and Mrs. Ina Phelps (second from left), the Association's WMU Director. Charles Conner (not pictured) is the associational missionary. Shortly before they left Africa, the Hall's home, garden tractor and tools were destroyed in a fire.



The Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention celebrated its 93rd anniversary May 14 at First Church, Richmond, Va. Attending the ceremony were (left to right) Wendell Belew, Home Mission Board; Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC; Harold Bennett, Southern Baptist Executive Committee; and Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board. Nancy Cooper, former executive secretary of Arkansas WMU, was also among those who participated.

WMU photo/Catherine Allen



The Southern accent

Humanism's contribution to America

by D. Jack Nicholas

This article will summarize and conclude this series of articles on humanism and its lamentable effects upon the American character.

One of the points made is that evolution is not really good tough-minded science. As a matter of fact, it is not even a good theory. Two prime requisites of a theory are (1) that it be testable and (2) that it be based upon a minimum number of assumptions. Evolution fails both of these basic tests.

Although it has been accepted in toto (without critical examination) by many educated people, evolution rests upon evidence which is thin and riddled with



Nicholas

gaping holes.

It was also affirmed in this series that the ascent of humanism has been attended by tragic consequences including a decline in the worth and dignity of man, a decline in morals and values and a decline in standards of excellence and ideals.

Evolution represents, therefore, not merely an innocent alternative explanation of origins but rather a direct challenge to the great fundamental truths of the holy scriptures.

Another point which was made in this series of articles was that those who embrace the doctrines of secular humanism have employed a defective interpretation of the principle of the separation of church and state to impose their views upon American life. They have invoked the principle of separation not only to prohibit sectarianism but also to establish secular humanism with the result that

secular humanism has effectively been made the favored, established religion of the republic.

As C. Penrose St. Amant has said "Belief in a purely secular state as the final solution to problems of social injustice and conflict is an implicit form of religion and as such comes equally under the ban of the "establishment of religion" as the explicit beliefs of the traditional religions."

While the traditional religions have been properly restrained in the propagation of their faith in any political setting, secular humanism has improperly been accorded full freedom in propagating its ideologies in every sector of American life.

Those who love this country and the values which made it great must see that this travesty is corrected.

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

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Jim Box

began serving the Bald Knob Central Church as pastor May 10, coming there from the Manila Westside Church. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist College and Mid-America Seminary. Box is married to the former Christine Wallace of Harrisburg. They have a daughter, Cheryl Renee, and a son, James Anthony.

Chester Lee Gray received the J.P. Price Memorial Award during recent awards ceremonies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. This award is presented annually to the May graduate with the highest grade point average. Gray, the son of Mrs. Lois Gray of Fouke, received the



Gray

master of religious education degree from the seminary. He is also a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. His wife, Carolyn, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Brittain of Lavaca. Gray has been pastor of several Arkansas churches and plans to serve as pastor of the Tolar Church.

Mrs. Willie Ziegler

died May 14 at age 84. A member of the Owensville Church, she had been a Sunday School teacher in the church for approximately 40 years.

Richard Mullins

recently was awarded the bachelor of ministry degree in church music from the Baptist Bible Institute of Graceville, Fla. He is from Lake Village.

Donald Knoll

has joined the staff of Morrilton First Church as summer youth director. A native of Almyra, he is a third year student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Mark Johnston

has joined the staff of Blytheville First Church as summer youth coordinator. A native of Opp, Ala., he is a junior at Troy State University.

Jesus Foster

assumed responsibilities May 31 as pastor of Little Rock Cross Road Church, coming there from Marion, La. He attended Mid-America Seminary. Foster and his wife, Charlene, have two daughters.

Bill Volner

has resigned as pastor of the Blytheville Memorial Church.

Jim Russell

has resigned as pastor of the Yarbro Church following a five and one-half year pastorate there.

Cathy Cambell

has joined the staff of Springdale Elm-dale Church as interim-youth activities director. A native of Barling, she is a senior at the University of Arkansas.

briefly

Wooster First Church

observed Senior Adult Day May 3 by recognizing Mrs. Marvie Cunningham, Arthur Smith and Russell Fuller. P. E. Turner was speaker and John Atkinson directed the music.

Jonesboro Strawfloor Church

observed Memorial Day by acknowledging veterans of the church.

Raynor Grove Church

ordained Pastor Gary Little to the ministry May 17. Ordination service personnel included Joe Craft, Tommy Hendrix, Frank Henson and Gib Williams.

North Little Rock Baring Cross Church

is planning "Wacky Wednesdays," a children's summer activities program to be held weekly through the summer. The program will be directed by church staffers, Louis Criswell and Roy Cook, and will include music, mission study, games, sports and field trips.

Pine Bluff Immanuel Church

was in revival May 17-22 with Paul Jackson, evangelist, and Curtis Coleman, music director. Pastor Mike Huckabee reported 103 decisions that included 15 professions of faith and five additions by letter.

Osceola First Church

recently honored church music director, John Dresbach, with a banquet in recognition of his forthcoming mission trip. Dresbach will be one of 14 Arkansans participating in an August Malawi simultaneous revival campaign. Chris Tompkins was chairman for the banquet attended by some 250 Osceola residents.

Fayetteville First Church

held its Vacation Bible School June 1-5. Pastor Jere Mitchell reported that featured speakers for the week were Max and Betty Alexander, Southern Baptist missionaries to Thailand.

Little Rock Pulaski Heights Church

has purchased a van to be used in outreach ministries. Funds for the van came through special gifts from members.

Washington-Madison Association

recently held two publications clinics, according to Director of Missions Don Seigler, to acquaint churches with the finer points of church publications. Seigler was assisted by Emile A. Rousseau Jr., Lowell Ponder, Amanda Hinds and Doris Seigler.

Springdale Caudle Avenue Church

recently observed Sunday School Leadership Day. Lawson Hatfield, director of the Sunday School Department for Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was featured speaker. He also presented leadership diplomas to Faye Lee, Amanda Hinds, Karen Hinds, Roy Lee, Sunday School director Mildred Eggesboe, Lena Wright and Connie Martin. Emile A. Rousseau is pastor.

Pastor and Mrs. Joe Atchison arrived at church in their old-fashioned apparel and horsedrawn carriage when the church observed "Old Fashion Day" to celebrate its 64th birthday May 24. Fannie Harp, Barbara Erskine and Mrs. Atchison coordinated events for the celebration.



Photo by Bowen

focus on youth

Fayetteville First Church

youth and three sponsors will be in Raymondville, Texas, June 12-22 to lead a Vacation Bible school, teach Backyard Bible clubs and conduct a religious survey. They will be working with the Primera Iglesia Bautista (First Baptist Church) in Raymondville, located 40 miles north of the Mexican border. The group will also have sightseeing and witnessing opportunities in Mexico.

Camden First Church

youth were in Florida May 30-June 6 where they did mission work in Daytona Beach.

buildings

El Paso dedicates auditorium

El Paso First Church dedicated a 2920 sq. ft. auditorium on May 30. The new sanctuary, which will seat approximately 200 people, was erected for a cost of \$55,500 but has a replacement value of \$75,000. The new facility is fully carpeted, has central heat and air, a pastor's study, a baptistry, two baptismal dressing rooms, and is equipped with new furniture throughout. In addition, the congregation has purchased a new piano at a cost of \$1800.

The congregation was able to save a considerable amount of money through the use of donated labor. In addition the El Paso church raised \$30,508 locally and received a grant of \$2500 from the State Missions Department. The State Missions Department also loaned \$10,000 to the congregation through the Revolving Loan fund.

Those participating in the dedication service included Hal Green, member of the building committee; William Stone, member of the building committee; Dave Wick, chairman of the building committee; J. Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine; and Pastor Norman Powell.

The dedicatory message was brought by Lehman Webb, director of Church Extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Pastor Powell says that El Paso First Church has a bright future. He said, "Our immediate goal is to update our educational facilities and grow a strong Southern Baptist church." — J. Everett Sneed

The congregation at El Paso First Church worshipped in its new sanctuary May 31. Participating in the service were Pastor Norman Powell; Lehman Webb, director of Church Extension for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; and J. Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

My Father's house

"In my Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2)

The second Sunday in June is a special day that honors our fathers. It is a nostalgic time for me because my own father went to live in his heavenly home several years ago.

My father used to talk with me about his faith in God. As a little girl, I especially liked to hear about heaven and often he quoted portions of John 14 where Jesus spoke of his Father's house and its many mansions.

He was sure that when he got to heaven, his mansion would be a cabin in the foothills of his beloved Ozarks. This log cabin would be located on a hill overlooking the White River. Marble steps would lead to the water where a fishing boat would be tied. There would be time not only to fish, but to sit on a long porch and gaze at the ever-changing Ozark countryside. An orchard nearby would have prime peaches, grapes and apples ready to be picked. I still have a letter that a preacher friend wrote to him saying, "Friend, I'll come visit you and we'll sit under your apple tree and talk for 25 years because time will be no more."

I'm glad that my father followed the instructions in Deuteronomy where the Israelites were told to teach their children about the Lord and talk about his commandments at home or out for a walk, at bed time and the first thing in the morning.

Each person's viewpoint on heaven is very personal and different. However, I'm sure that each of us would agree that heaven is better than the very best that earth has to offer.

My daddy did not describe what he would expect in the way of a heavenly breakfast, but if he had, it would have included hot biscuits. He considered toast totally unsuitable. The recipe we are sharing is for simple biscuits. They are fool proof and can be frozen and baked later.

Simple biscuits

2 cups self rising flour, ¼ cup cooking oil, ¼ cup buttermilk, ¼ teaspoon soda
Sift flour and soda into a bowl and mix in the oil and buttermilk. Turn mixture out on a floured piece of wax paper and knead until well mixed. Pat out about ½ inch thick and cut into biscuits. Pour a little oil in a 9 inch cake pan. Turn each biscuit over in the oil in the pan. Bake at 400 degrees for about 10 or 12 minutes or until slightly tan. Makes 12 or 14 biscuits. If desired, half of the biscuits can be frozen in a separate pan ready for baking. Put the frozen biscuits in the oven as it is turned on. They will thaw and cook nicely. Good idea for a small family.

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



ABN photo/J. Everett Sneed

Baptist work grows

by J. Everett Sneed

Guatemala is composed primarily of two ethnic groups, Indians and Ladino. It is estimated that 55 to 60 percent of the five million inhabitants are Indian. The Ladinos include people from European stock and a mixture of Indian ancestry. Some of the Indians no longer follow the Indian way of life but have crossed cultural lines and have adopted the custom, dress and Spanish language.

The Ladinos speak Spanish, which is the official language of the country. Because of their superior education and use of the official language, they operate the schools, the government, and the major commercial enterprises.

The Indian population not only is distinctive in dress but also in language spoken. While a general Indian culture underlies the communities, each still maintains its own dialect or language, clothing style, and, to some extent, its distinctive religious and social practices.

With a very high birth and death rate, Guatemala is a republic of young people. Over half of the people are under 20 years of age. The nation is rapidly industrializing and many people are adopting the customs of the modern North American family. But basically, the society remains bi-cultural with very few links joining the two.

Guatemala is officially a Catholic nation. This is true among the Indian tribes as well as among the Ladinos, although many pagan beliefs have been woven into the Catholic practices.

Traditionally, the Ladinos are more doctrinally Catholic than the Indians, but less devout. Although some sources list Guatemala as 95 percent Catholic, this very likely is not a true reading since thousands have very little personal relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

Evangelical work had its beginnings in the early 1840's when a pioneer Baptist missionary came to Guatemala with Bible-laden mules. He traveled the mountain paths and dusty roads preaching and selling Bibles. But in 1849 he was expelled from the country. However, gospel threads were woven during these few years that continue as a part of Guatemala's religious heritage.

In the 1880's Presbyterian missionaries came into the country and were soon followed by Quakers and Primitive Methodists. These and other missionary groups have experienced growth.

During the 1930's a group of independent evangelicals began their work which eventually resulted in the organization of Baptist churches. This group used literature from the Baptist Spanish

Publishing House. Contacts were established with Baptists in several Central American countries. In 1939 a convention was organized, independent but with Baptist doctrines. Paul Bell, a Southern Baptist home missionary in Panama, visited Guatemala in 1946 and was convinced that these independent churches were actually Baptist in doctrine and principle. Subsequently, over 300 members were immersed as Baptists.

In 1946 the Baptist Convention of Guatemala was organized and in the following year Southern Baptists, through the Foreign Mission Board, assumed the responsibility for providing missionary

personnel.

The Guatemala Baptist Convention of today consists of approximately 150 congregations, 72 of these organized as churches. There are about 8,000 members with 15 churches in Guatemala City which is the capitol of the country.

Isidro Hernandez is president of the Guatemala Baptist Convention. He has served in that capacity since 1977 and is a graduate of the Guatemala Baptist Seminary. He is, also, a certified public accountant. He has pastored a number of churches both within Guatemala City and without the capitol. At the present time Hernandez is pastor of a mission in

RA's of "The Way" Church in Guatemala City made their own uniforms and flag. Pastor Eduardo Marroquin (right) said that their goal is for each boy to win one person to the Lord.



Practical methods distinguish church

One of the most innovative churches is El Camino (The Way) Church. This is the youngest church in Guatemala City having been organized in November and already has started a mission which is larger than the mother congregation. The pastor, Eduardo Marroquin, serves both the mother church and the mission. The congregations own no property. They meet in the homes of their members. In addition to their Sunday services they use home Bible studies to train their members. In the mother church they have approximately 100 in average attendance and in the mission they have approximately 150 in average attendance.

The methods used by Pastor Marroquin are very innovative. Each member is expected to take notes on all of his sermons and Bible studies. These are very practical in nature dealing with such subjects as "How to Win a Person to the Lord", "How to Grow as a Christian", and "What is the Meaning of Church Membership?" Each new Christian is to win another to Christianity and to assist him to grow and mature as a Christian. The new Christian, in turn, is to do the same for another.

This pastor, who supports himself through secular work, maintains that every individual has friends or relatives which he can win to the Lord. Although the church owns no property the work is growing at an extremely rapid pace.

News about missionaries

In predominately Catholic Guatemala

Editor's note: This is the first of two stories on Guatemala. This story will be on the background of Guatemala, the beginning of our Baptist work in Guatemala, and the Baptist work among the Spanish speaking people. Next week's story will be on the work among the Kekchi Indians.

a new area of Guatemala City. He is also the representative of the country to the Baptist World Alliance.

Hernandez said, "I see great hope for the future of Baptist work. There are many Baptist young people who are advancing in culture, education and in government positions. The churches are realizing that the work is ours (that is, must be done by Honduran Nationals) and because of this the people are giving more."

This is a time of political unrest but the unrest provides great opportunity for the spread of the gospel. All religious groups have total freedom to witness and com-



Isidro Hernandez (right), president of the Guatemalan Baptist Convention, discusses Baptist affairs with Harry Byrd, president of the Baptist Mission in Guatemala.

municate their faith but great care must be taken not to mix religion and politics.

Southern Baptists currently have a radio program but in Guatemala the cost of television is very expensive and the leadership feels that the money can be spent in a more useful way.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney G. Carswell, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States (address: Box 30, Rosebud, Ark. 72137). A native of Georgia, he was born in Augusta and also lived in Blythe and Albany while growing up. The former Ruth Holland of Arkansas, she was born in Fox and grew up in Heber Springs. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1963.

Annie Hoover, missionary to Japan, may be addressed at Nishi, 14-chome, Minami 22-jo, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Japan 064. A native of North Little Rock, Ark., she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Hall, missionaries to Kenya, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 14926, Nairobi, Kenya). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Heber Springs and also lived near Monette and Manila and in Paragould while growing up. She is the former Gerry Wright of McCroly. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1970.



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JULY 20-24 GA/Acteens Camp	Betty Alexander, Thailand Martha Haggan, Indiana, Mississippi
JULY 27-31	Pat Wolf, Taiwan Margaret Robertson, Senegal

Arkansas WMU P.O. Box 552 Little Rock 72203

See England, Scotland, Wales

July 24-August 5
Christian Fellowship Group
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Dr. and Mrs. S. Ray Crews of First Baptist Church, Heber Springs, Ark., will again be associates of Bible Land Travel for our third trip to the Bible Lands. This nine-day tour includes on-site lectures by Bible teachers from Southern Baptist Convention seminars. The date is Dec. 29, 1981. Please call us at 362-6996 or 362-8131 for information and travel brochures.



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Boyce Bible School — Little Rock 1981-82 Schedule

Term I — Aug. 28-Oct. 17, 1981

Registration: Aug. 27, 5:30-7:00 p.m. for Little Rock people
Aug. 28, 4:30-6:00 p.m. for all others

Friday			
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0901	Eng. Grammar I	Tom Greer
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0624	Hist. of Southern Baptists	Cecil Sutley
8:00- 8:15 p.m.	Assembly	for all Friday students & faculty	
8:20-10:15 p.m.	0560A	N.T. Survey I (Part 1)	L. L. Collins
Saturday			
7:45- 9:40 a.m.	0600	Intro. to Theology	Everett Sneed
7:45- 9:40 a.m.	0663	Princ. of Missions	Harold Gately
9:45-10:10 a.m.	Chapel	for all Saturday students & faculty	
10:15-12:10 noon	0520A	O.T. Survey I (Part 1)	W. T. Holland
12:50- 2:45 p.m.	0852	Church Rec.	Jamey Smith

Term II — Oct. 23-Dec. 19, 1981 (No classes Nov. 27-28)

Friday			
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0675	World Religions	Cecil Sutley
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0696	Contem. Ethical Decision Making	Raymond Coppenger
8:00- 8:15 p.m.	Assembly		
8:20-10:15 p.m.	0560B	N.T. Survey I (Part 2)	L. L. Collins
Saturday			
7:45- 9:40 a.m.	0840	Pastor's Role in Ch. Ed. Prog. Interpreting Acts	Ralph W. Davis
7:45- 9:40 a.m.	0575	Chapel	Cary Heard
9:45-10:10 a.m.	0520B	O.T. Survey I (Part 2)	W. T. Holland
10:15-12:10 noon		Pastoral Counseling	T. K. Rucker
12:50- 2:45 p.m.	0745		

"J" Term — Jan. 8-23, 1982 (Three Sessions Instead of Four)

Friday			
6:00-10:30 p.m.	0510	How to Understand the Bible	C. A. Johnson
Saturday			
8:00-12:30 noon	0567	Interpreting Romans	Clyde Glazener

Term III — Jan. 29-March 20, 1982

Friday			
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0500	Study & Ministry	W. T. Holland
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0848	Ch. Public Relations	Jimmie Sheffield
8:00- 8:15 p.m.	Assembly		
8:20-10:15 p.m.	0560C	N.T. Survey I (Part 3)	L. L. Collins
Saturday			
7:45- 9:40 a.m.	0656	Growing an Evan. & Minist. Chur.	Larry Maddox
9:45-10:10 a.m.	Chapel		
10:15-12:10 noon	0520C	O.T. Survey I (Part 3)	W. T. Holland
12:50- 2:45 p.m.	0870	Introduction to Church Music	Peggy Pearson

Term IV — March 26-May 15, 1982

Friday			
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0910	Reading Improvement	W. T. Holland
6:00- 7:55 p.m.	0748	Marriage & Fam. Counseling	Gerald Jackson
8:00- 8:15 p.m.	Assembly		
8:20-10:15 p.m.	0645	Sermon Wkshp.	W. T. Holland
Saturday			
7:45- 9:40 a.m.	0570	Interpreting Luke	Huber Drumwright
9:45-10:10 a.m.	Chapel		
10:15-12:10 noon	0660	The Bible and Missions	Minette Drumwright
12:50- 2:45 p.m.	0506	Field Education	T. K. Rucker

For further information, contact Ralph W. Davis, Director, 2121 No. Van Buren Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72207, or phone 683-4098.

Please send me more information: _____

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I am a minister or committed to a church related vocation _____ I am a layperson _____

(Lay persons are enrolled as Evening School students, but the courses, faculty, etc. are the same. Records are kept separately at Southern Seminary).

Your state convention at work

Family and Child Care

Being ready to minister

Immediate action is often an essential in helping people. An experience of trauma of crisis seldom shows us the courtesy of "getting ready" to deal with it. Simply stated, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services has to keep its ministries poised to deal with needs as they occur.

In order to maintain this state of readiness, several factors must be in place:

(1) Supportive constituency. Baptists from throughout our state support us prayerfully and financially. Each are essential for us to be truly ready to respond appropriately to the complex needs of broken children and families. Each day we hear from some of our supporters.

Children's needs are urgent and cannot wait. The Chilean poet, Mistral, wrote, "Many things can wait, the child cannot. Right now his hip bones are being formed, his blood is being made, his senses are being developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow. His name is today".

Church Training

Pastors, Deacons hear Henry Webb

Seventy-five pastors and deacons attended the annual Pastor-Deacon Retreat at Camp Paron on May 15 and 16. This was the seventh annual Pastor-Deacon Retreat to be held by the state convention according to Robert Holley, Director of the Church Training Department and State Church Administration Consultant.

Henry Webb, Deacon Ministry Consultant at the Sunday School Board, led four sessions during the conference. Dr. Webb spoke on such subjects as "Pastors

(2) Skillful staff. We have professionally trained, dedicated Christian men and women who perform ministries to: Arkansas Baptist Home for Children ministered to 83 children last year; area offices at Little Rock, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Harrison, and Southwest office temporarily located in Mineral Springs, help heal individual, marital and family brokenness through counselling, and arrange for direct care for children in need; our two emergency receiving homes served over 170 children last year; our Jonesboro group home provided care and direction for five boys. Another 25 children received care by living in one of our foster homes. These individual and family hurts deserve our best efforts.

(3) Informed community. Sometimes we need to repeat what we hear — information shared, clarifications made, goals defined and needs known — in order that we may, with fuller knowledge and sensitivity, support one another in ministry. — **Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.**

and Deacons Working Together" and "Improving Deacon Family Ministry." Complimentary copies of Dr. Webb's book, *Deacons: Servant Models in the Church*, were given to participants at the retreat.

James Bryant, interim pastor at Northvale Church in Harrison, led two Bible studies based on the life and ministry of Stephen and Phillip. Robert Holley led a presentation on "Training for Deacon Ministry." — **Robert Holley**

Family ministry

Glorieta Labor Day conference

"Beyond Our Asking" is the theme of the Single Adult Labor Day Conference at Glorieta, Sept. 4-7, 1981.

A group of Arkansas single adults and church leaders in single adult ministry will join 2,500 others in conference sessions that focus on personal, spiritual and service growth as it relates to the community of single adults.

The Arkansas group will travel by charter bus from Little Rock to Glorieta, leaving Thursday, Sept. 3, and returning Tuesday evening, Sept. 8. The group will spend one night in Amarillo, Texas, on the way to and from Glorieta.

John Claypool, pastor of Northminster Church in Jackson, Miss., will be the main speaker. Macklyn Hubbell, professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the Bible teacher and Randy Edwards, minister of music at First Church of San Antonio, Texas, the music director.

The Labor Day Conference is an annual project of the Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board. Special conferences for single adults and workers with single adults will be led by experienced leaders in single adult work across the Southern Baptist Convention.

The tour is being arranged by the Church Training Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Information about the travel schedule, costs, registration procedures and other details can be obtained from pastors, church staff members and associational directors of missions, or by contacting the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Reservations are being accepted on a first-received first-served basis. Persons wanting to attend with the Arkansas group should make their reservations as soon as possible. — **Gerald Jackson**



Jackson

Henry Webb (standing, left), Deacon Ministry Consultant at the Sunday School Board, leads one of the sessions at the Pastor-Deacon retreat, which dealt with the relationships between those two church leadership positions.

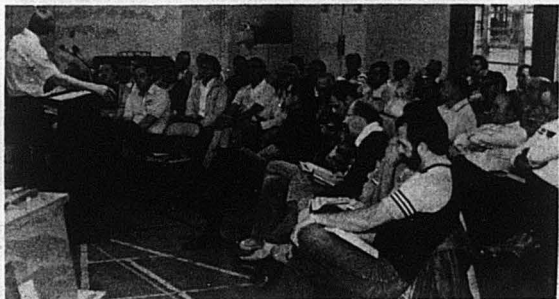


Photo by James Bryant

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Church music

State tournament winners announced

272 young people from across the state participated in the State Tournament and Ensemble Jubilee held May 15 at Southside Church, Pine Bluff.

Winners in each category were: Instrumental solo 7th and 8th Grade: SuLyn Miles, Wynne; hymn playing, junior high: Jama York, Monette; vocal solo, senior high: Marcy Burleson, Little Rock Geyer Springs; instrumental ensemble: Gwen and Nancy Womble, Newport Southside; Song leading, senior high: Dennis Lawrence, Wynne; Hymn playing, senior high: Jeff Bennett, Little Rock Geyer Springs; vocal solo, junior high:

Robert Craig, Cabot Mt. Carmel; instrumental solo, 11th and 12th grade: Darryl Whitfield, North Little Rock Pike Avenue; instrumental ensemble: Little Rock Geyer Springs.

Ensemble Jubilee winners were: senior high, large ensemble unamplified: Happy Side, Texarkana Beech Street; senior high large ensemble amplified: Chara, Mt. Home First; senior high small ensemble: senior trio, Monette; junior high large ensemble unamplified: Living Free, Texarkana Beech Street; junior high large ensemble amplified: Shine, Temple, Crossett; junior high small ensemble: girls' ensemble, Wynne.



Photo by Glen Ennes

There were nine winners in the solo events at the State Tournament and Ensemble Jubilee May 15 at Pine Bluff Southside Church.

Sunday School

Train workers

One of the nine basic growth actions is titled "Train Workers". There are several actions a church could perform to train workers, but likely the most important one is to conduct preparation week.

Other training actions include use of the Sunday School Leadership Diploma and sharing the 8.5 by '85 growth campaign information. Watch for upcoming state-wide participation in Church Growth Thrust and 8.5 actions, a part of Bold Mission Thrust.

Other training areas include a Sunday School Evangelism Workshop, the Sunday School Standard and participation in Associational Leadership Night and Asso-



Hatfield

ciational Training schools.

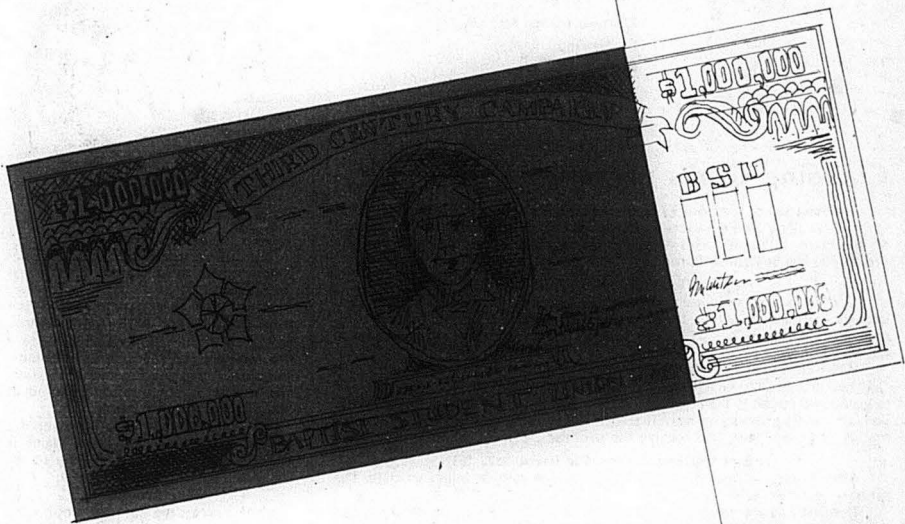
Sunday School Preparation Week is a period set apart to help leaders be ready for the 1981-82 Sunday School program. A Sunday School Preparation Week Resource Kit is available at the book store. Some kit helps are: a manual for planning, promoting and conducting the week; information sheets for use in the four age-group sessions; and promotional and teaching aids. The kit also provides one each of the following books: *Basic Sunday School Work*; *Basic Adult Work*; *Basic Youth Work*; *Basic Children's Work*; and *Basic Preschool Work*.

An ongoing planning tool is to use in training workers in the goal setting process is the use of the Sunday School spiral. Training is the answer to reaching goals. Decide on goals, train workers, then see the work move toward accomplishing the goals. — Lawson Hatfield, Director, Sunday School Department

May 31, 1981

Church	Sunday School	Church Trng.	Church addn.
Alexander			
First	124	31	
Viney Ridge Immanuel	87	34	
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	221	69	
Alpena, First	66	26	
Alpena, First	112	51	3
Batesville			
First	252	124	1
West	190	70	
Nursing Home	30		
Bentonville, First	436		
Berryville			
Berryville	186	85	3
Freeman Heights	205	52	
Booneville			
Booneville	277		5
South Side	174	110	3
Bryant			
First Southern	328	79	2
Indian Springs	123	70	4
Cabot			
First	417	138	1
Mt. Carmel	400	153	
Candlen, Cullendale First	294	100	3
Caraway, First	110	95	2
Cherokee Village, First	110	30	2
Conway			
Oak Brewery	121	67	
Pickles Gap	169	80	2
Crossett			
First	418	60	1
Mount Olive	300	135	4
Temple	195	87	
Darville, First	149	76	
Nursing Home	27		
Des Arc, First	189	61	
El Dorado, Parkview	176	77	
Nursing Home	77		
Forrest City, First	581	116	
Fort Smith			
Grand Avenue	1300	261	10
Mission	21		
Westside	82	45	
Gassville	102	54	
Grandview	72		
Green Forest, First	175	52	1
Hampson, First	153	100	
Hardy, First	128	52	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	245	121	6
Woodland Heights	90	49	
Hot Springs			
Emmanuel	86	40	2
Grand Avenue	374	106	7
Harvey's Chapel	153	89	1
Leonard Street	152	46	
Almerston	87	40	
Park Place	280	105	
Rector Heights	84	35	
Hughes, First	150	83	
Jacksonville, First	347	27	1
Jessieville, Mt. Pine	111	43	
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	152	113	
Nettleton	280	89	
Philadelphia	135	69	1
Kingston, First Southern	90	55	
Magnolia, Central	706	170	3
Mtn. Pine	111	43	
Mulberry, First	206		
Nashville, Gateway	184	68	
North Little Rock, Stanfill	82	61	1
Paragould			
Calvary	174	146	3
East Side	390		5
First	405	55	
Paris, First	323	42	
Pea Ridge, First	209	56	2
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	136	71	2
Central	130	41	1
Central	579		
Hardin	139	42	
Lee Memorial	196	50	2
Watson Chapel	451	86	3
Rogers			
First	557	147	
Immanuel	746		9
Russellville, First	461		
Sandusky, Okla., Faith	34	33	
Springdale			
Berry Street	84	40	
Calvary Avenue	111	44	
Elmdale	294	139	4
First	1735		6
Texarkana			
Highland Hills	105	63	1
Shiloh Memorial	127	73	2
Trinity	298	203	3
Van Buren, First	445	98	3
Vanderhoop, First	59	24	1
Ward, First	129	65	
West Helena, Second	268	112	
Woster, First	118	92	

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Sunday School Lessons



Miller

International

June 14, 1981

Deuteronomy 1:19-26, 29-31

by Norman Miller

Barton Church

Claiming God's promise

The first part of the book of Deuteronomy is a series of sermons by Moses to Israel recalling God's leadership in the wilderness and their failure to follow his direction. In these verses Moses rehearses their failure to enter into the promised land at Kadesh-Barnea.

Hearing God's promises (Deut. 1:19-21)

God's promises and God's commands go hand in hand. God commanded Israel to leave Horeb, where they had received the law, and to go to the mountain of the Amorites (v. 7, v. 19). At that point they obeyed God and came to Kadesh-Barnea.

When they arrived at Kadesh-Barnea, Moses showed them the land which God had promised to give them. He commanded them to behold the land, and to go up and possess it. He encouraged them not to fear, nor to be discouraged. To claim God's promise we must first hear this promise and then obey his commands. Thus we claim and receive the promise.

Failure to claim the promise (Deut. 1:22-26)

After Moses' appeal to possess the land the people failed to claim the promise in three ways.

The first way was procrastination. They decided to send spies to check out the land. They found the land to be good and admitted that it was God's gift to them, but failed to possess it.

The second way was fear and discouragement. Even though Moses warned them, they were still discouraged and fearful. The stature of the people and the great walled cities caused them to lose faith.

The third way they failed to claim the promise was rebellion. In spite of the good report, Moses said, "ye would not go up" (v. 26). He added "but (ye) rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God." They could not claim the promise without obeying God's command.

An appeal to believe God (Deut. 1:29-31)

Even after Israel had failed to possess the land, Moses made a further appeal to them to believe God. He first encouraged them not to be afraid (v. 29). Second, he reminded them how God had fought for them in Egypt (v. 30). And third, he pointed out how God had cared for them in the wilderness (v. 31).

It is sad to note that Israel continued in their failure to believe God. Moses said, "Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God" (v. 32).

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

Confidence for conflict

Winston Churchill, in the early stages of WW II, promised his people hard times. His prediction instilled assurance.

John received and wrote Revelation to give persecuted Christians confidence. They needed to taste victory beyond conflict.



Walker

The woman

John, using apocalyptic literature, describes a woman in verses 1-2. Who was the woman?

Some state emphatically that the woman was Israel. A few compare the woman with the church. Others believe the woman represents the messianic community that produced the Messiah. The woman is sometimes identified as Mary, the mother of Jesus.

H. H. Hobbs states that however the woman is viewed, the main point is Christ's introduction into history to refute Satan's claim to sovereignty.

The Dragon

John's readers did not have trouble identifying the dragon. Nor should we. He is identified as, "that ancient serpent, named the Devil, or Satan, that deceived the whole world" (v. 9, TEV). Satan was, and is, powerful. The seven heads, ten horns and seven diadems, picture Satan's might.

The Dragon was determined to destroy Christ. Twice he worked through Rome but failed. Herod could not destroy him and Roman power could not keep the crucified Christ in the tomb.

God cared for his people even though Satan persecuted for an indefinite period, symbolized by three-and-one-half years. Some think the 1,260 days refer to God's protection of Israel, or the church, during the tribulation.

The Lamb

Revelation 14 presents God's view of the suffering believers. John saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with 144,000 branded followers. The picture is one designed to give persecuted Christians confidence. They needed a vision of victory.

This assurance was further confirmed

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Life and Work

June 14, 1981

Revelation 12:1-6; 14:1, 8, 12-13

by James A. Walker
Stewardship Director
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

by the second angel's message. Babylon, Rome to the early Christians, "did fall," an accomplished fact in God's purpose.

The Voice

What if believers were killed? John heard a comforting voice. Jesus gave another beatitude through the Holy Spirit to John. The Apostle passed it to struggling believers who needed confidence for the conflict and victory for the end.



Hacker

Bible Book

June 14, 1981

I Samuel 21:1 to 26:25

by S. D. Hacker
Independence Association

David: a fugitive from Saul

David believed that God would cleanse the throne of Saul's reign without a political coup on his part. His preoccupation with self-preservation resulted in his becoming a refugee and his living in the enemy's camp (chapter 21). How often do we resign our God-service and hide in the world of enemies?

I Samuel 22 — A band of outcasts

Hiding in the cave of Adullam along with David were outcasts of Saul's kingdom, distressed, in debt and discontented. History reveals these later became the mighty men of the new kingdom. Meanwhile, Saul ordered the slaughter of the priests because Ahimelech had helped David.

I Samuel 23-24 — The state of affairs

Saul's preoccupation with hatred for David ran wild while the affairs of the nation evolved into hopeless confusion. David waged a successful war against the Philistines that led to the last meeting with his friend, Jonathan. Their meeting confirmed that Jonathan was sure David was to be king of Israel and that their friendship and love was as strong as ever.

David pleaded with God about memories of old and happier days and would not kill Saul as opportunity came. He declared that God would be the avenger and that he, David, would not lay a hand on Saul.

I Samuel 25 — Samuel's death and David's marriage

Saul's nation never realized Samuel's high ideals, greatness and faithfulness as a servant until after his death. Nabal was a miserable and hateful man who rejected David and his men. His life was spread because of his wife's intervention, but later he died while extremely fearful of David's anger. Later, David married Abigail.

I Samuel 26 — Harm not the Lord's anointed

David took Abishai and entered the camp of Saul while they slept. David told Abishai not to kill Saul for three reasons: (1) Either the Lord would smite Saul; (2) Or, his day would come to die; (3) Or, he would go into battle and perish.

David took Saul's spear and cruse of water and from a great distance away revealed how he had spared Saul's life during the night. Saul, rendered helpless, repented, and blessed David.

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JACK R. TAYLOR

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Idleness and mourning absorb days in Thai refugee camps

by Marv Knox

ATLANTA (BP) — Idleness, accompanied by mourning for a terrible past and a bleak future, remains a crushing problem for Indochinese crowded into Thai refugee camps, reports a Southern Baptist who recently returned from a stint of service in the camps.

George Sheridan, an interfaith witness missionary of the SBC Home Mission Board, took a six-month leave of absence to work in Thailand. He spent most of the time working with SBC foreign missionaries in the Mairut camp in the southeastern corner of the country.

In the early days of the refugee crisis,

weak they couldn't extricate themselves—and die like worms run over in the street."

Worse still, the future for many refugees is just as bleak, he said. They have three prospects: remain in the camps with no freedom and nothing to occupy their time, return to their strife-torn homelands and face fighting and hunger again or seek passage to other countries.

The third option is most promising yet extremely arduous, he noted.

"These people write and write and write," asking permission to enter other countries, Sheridan said. "Then one day, a list is posted on the wall or names are called on a loud speaker, announcing the people who can go elsewhere. When their names are not on the lists, it crushes them."

Of Cambodians, Laotians and Vietnamese seeking to immigrate to the United States, Laotians and Vietnamese have the highest priority because of their countries' relationships to the United States in the Vietnamese war.

"Almost any Vietnamese or Laotians who want it can eventually get here," Sheridan said, "but Cambodians have little hope. There's only a slim chance if they have families already here or if they work for Americans."

Out of his experience, Sheridan has

resolved to help five Cambodian families come to the United States, even though he will have to help sponsoring that many people.

He urged other Baptists to sponsor Indochinese refugees and to write their congressmen and senators asking that the quotas of Cambodians allowed to enter the country be raised. "I've had wonderful success with my own congressman," he reported. "Maybe these little pieces of paper (letters) will add up and break the dam of bureaucracy."

But even with present quotas, the number of Indochinese refugees which the SBC can bring into the United States is limited only by the "capacity of Southern Baptists' hearts," claimed Randy Cash, director of SBC refugee resettlement.

He said the government will allow immigration of 14,000 Indochinese refugees per month, adding Americans "are not coming near that."

Cash urged Southern Baptists to support Sheridan in his project to sponsor five families and to take the initiative in sponsoring refugees on their own.

For more information about refugee sponsorship, contact the SBC Refugee Resettlement Office, 2715 Peachtree Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30305.

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hunger was a major problem, Sheridan said, but has now been replaced by the "agonies of idleness." Refugees are confined in close quarters in the camps all over Thailand; they have food and shelter, but no work or freedom.

All they have to do is remember the past and speculate about the future, Sheridan said. Both thoughts are grim.

Sponsorship, resettlement and legitimate work have replaced the basics of food and shelter as primary needs of the thousands of refugees jammed into the camps, Sheridan explains.

"These people have lost half the people they knew six years ago," he added. "They've seen friends and families tortured, starved and assassinated. They've watched people fall in the mud—so

Lottie Moon tops \$41.4 million

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Receipts from the 1980 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering reached a record \$41,467,719 with more than six weeks remaining before books are closed on Southern Baptists' annual special offering for foreign missions.

The figure represents 92.2 percent of the \$45 million goal.

Late totals, revised even during the board meeting as later word was received from Nashville, Tenn., were reported as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board concluded its three-day April meeting. At this same time last year, 92.4 percent of 1979's \$40.5 million goal had been received. The 1979 offering topped its goal by reaching \$40,597,113.

Shortly before getting the late report, the board had allocated almost \$4.3 million of this offering for capital needs overseas, with another \$700,000 expected to be voted at a later meeting. More than \$750,000 of the funds had been released early in the year for projects so urgent they couldn't wait until the normal release time.

Because of increasing financial pressures, the board this year budgeted the entire \$45 million Lottie Moon goal with \$38 million of it designated for overseas operating needs. The other \$7 million

was budgeted for overseas capital needs, such as churches, missionary homes and cars, and other special projects.

Board members also:

—Appointed 24 new career missionaries to serve in 11 countries at a special service in the Lakeland (Fla.) Civic Center attended by an estimated 5,000 Florida Baptists;

—Elected Travis Berry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Plano, Texas, who served eight years as a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, as chairman, succeeding John W. (Jack) Patterson of Virginia;

—Took steps toward transferring a large number of properties in Spain to Spanish Baptists and authorized missionaries in Zimbabwe to negotiate the transfer of title to the Sanyati Baptist Hospital into the name of the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe.

Outgoing chairman Patterson said the Foreign Mission Board "still remains among Southern Baptists as the engine that pulls the Cooperative Program train, and this fact in no way diminishes in the least the importance and the strategic significance of every aspect of the Cooperative Program on the state level and on the conventionwide level."