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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

2-9-1978

February 9, 1978

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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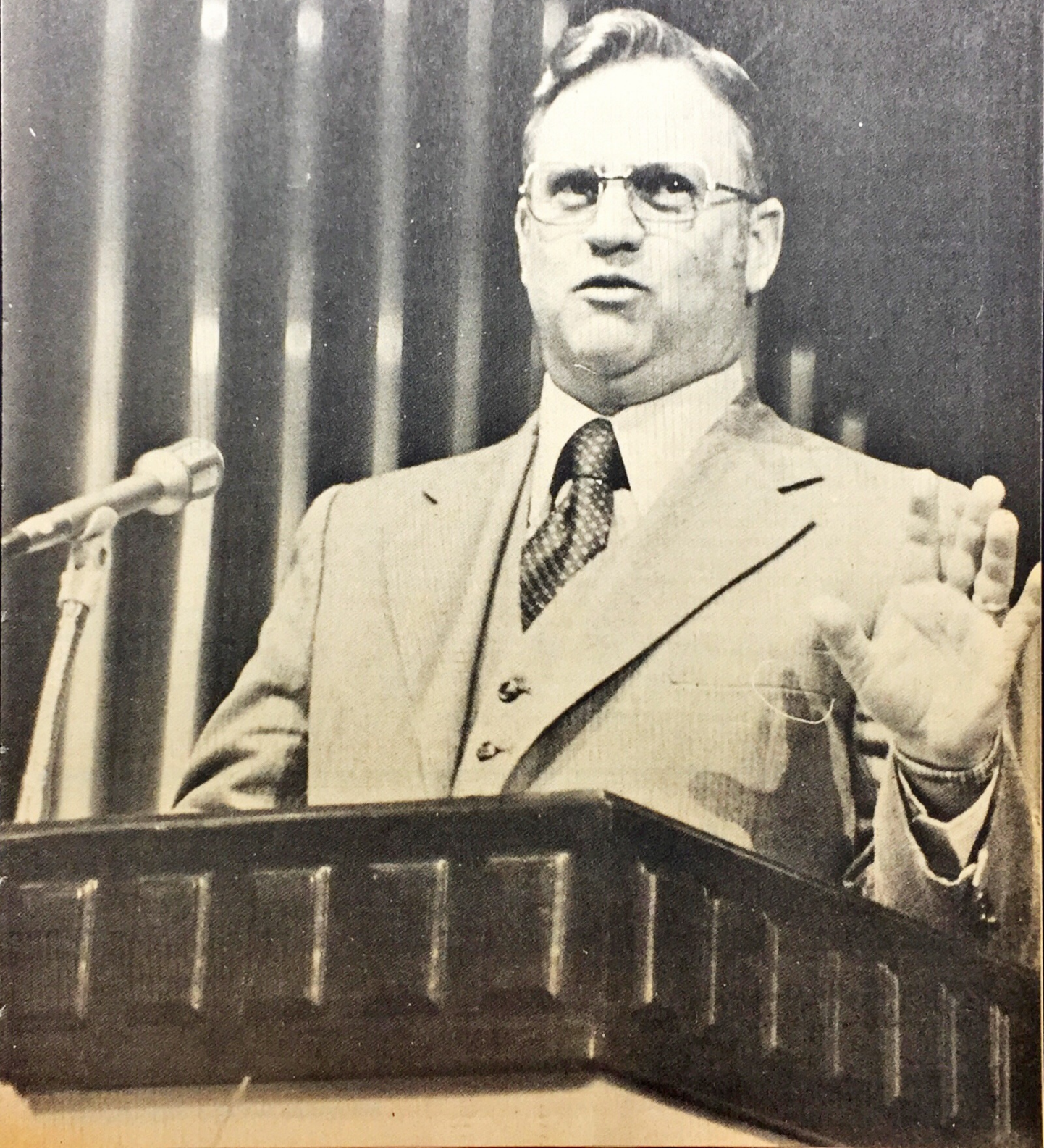
Arkansas Baptist State Convention, "February 9, 1978" (1978). *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1975-1979*. 60.

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February 9, 1978
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

HMB Executive Director
is Evangelism Conference speaker
page 8





I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

Two cheeks, two coats, two miles

Being a Christian is more than walking down the aisle, being baptized, attending divine services regularly and paying your tithe. It involves a day-by-day living the principles of the Christian faith. This includes the important area of public relations, vital to the ongoing of any cause. Christian leaders and public servants have learned well the value of the second mile principle (Matt. 5:38-41). In their sincerity, however, they have often gone the third or the fourth mile and given in beyond the requirements set forth by Jesus. It may be that going beyond reason in this regard may be just as disastrous to the difficult person as stopping short of the two mile limit may be for the Christian. Jesus said a total of two cheeks, a total of two coats, a total of two miles. This therapy, good for both the Christian and his antagonist, breaks down when the limits are exceeded. It is often easier to go the third mile than to reprimand the ugly person who needs it. It is just as important to stop at the second mile post and "have it out" with your adversary than to contribute to his already delinquent character by letting him get away with murder. It, therefore, becomes just as Christian to dump your assailant as it is to carry him free for nothing beyond the limits Jesus prescribed. There are many ways we contribute to the delinquency of difficult people, and it is just as binding that we be correct in the rehabilitative direction as well as in self-mortification.

Paying too much for a product corrupts the seller and is equally dehumanizing to the buyer. Allowing some to abuse you contributes to his depravity as well as encouraging your own cowardice and weakness. Waiting beyond your appointment time is as debilitating upon the man who was to see you as it is despicable upon your part for tolerating the delay. Allowing a repairman to get away with inferior workmanship contributes to your own depravity as well as his. Refusing to discipline an unruly, unreasonable child is but setting him up for a prison term, which is in turn even more destructive for the parent. Permitting trouble-makers to go unchecked is tantamount to endorsing their folly and this in turn curses the Christian who allows it. Waiting in line beyond reason for service is promoting the continuance of the practice and endowing it with dignity for oncoming generations. Christians can be guilty of creating the chaos by accepting unreasonable abuse. Christians are not docile dolls to be tossed hand to hand. They are God's hope of reconciliation and rehabilitation and this will not be real until they stand up to the unreasonable, impossible, ugly people of this world with both firmness and flexibility. The two cheeks, two coats, two miles principle of getting along with people is still 200 percent more than normal. Two means two. We are not dealing here with the infinity of seventy times seven (Matt. 18:22).

I must say it!

In this issue

They met anyway 8



Arkansas Baptists' annual evangelism conference coincided with an untypical bout of ice and snow, but attendance was termed excellent by Evangelism Secretary Jesse Reed. The speakers included Home Mission Board Director William Tanner, who appears on the cover. (ABN photo/J. Everett Sneed)

Sweet in Malawi 11

People in Malawi had never eaten molasses until Southern Baptist missionaries introduced it, with the help of a gift from an American farmer. It's a welcome addition to their diets, writes a missionary from Arkansas.

News around SBC 18

SBC datelines this week includes an update on the suit brought by Madelyn Murray O'Hair to take the U.S. motto off coins.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 77

NUMBER 6

J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor
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Post office box 552, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. Published weekly except at July 4 and December 25. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed doublespace 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.

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

Original poetry cannot be considered for publication.

Subscriptions: individual \$3.25 per year. Every Resident Family plan 19 cents per month or \$2.28 per year per church family. Club plan (10 or more paid annually in advance) \$2.88 per year. Subscriptions to foreign address \$6 per year. Copies by mail 25 cents each.

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer. Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

A helping hand

Criticism of a friend may come naturally, however, it is not as easy to give constructive help to one who is struggling with a sin problem. Most of us have a tendency to overlook our own shortcomings, though we are keenly aware of the sins of others. A sincere Christian has the responsibility of examining his own life first and then extending a helping hand to another.

The more mature a Christian becomes, the less likely he is to criticize a friend. In Galatians 6:1 Paul indicates that our responsibility is not to add to the hurt already done by sin, but to assist a friend in becoming restored to proper fellowship.

It is obvious that the best Christian will occasionally slip into sin. The apostle's word "overtaken" in this passage could be translated "slipped up." The idea is that of a person walking on ice who accidentally falls. It is not a deliberate sin, but one which occurs almost before he knows it.

When one has sinned, he needs help, not criticism. The sin itself produces pain in the life of a Christian; so the need is for restoration. Paul's word "restore" carries the idea of correction or setting into place. The word in the time of the apostle was used to describe the setting of a dislocated limb. If, for example, an arm is dislocated, it will produce pain until properly aligned. The longer the arm is dislocated the more severe the pain becomes and the harder it will be to replace. The same is true of the Christian who has sinned.

The attitude of the one offering help is very im-

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



portant. We will never be successful in providing assistance if we have a "holier than thou" attitude. We can only be helpful when we acknowledge "there, but for the grace of God go I." Thus, our help must be with a spirit of gentleness.

This is not to say that we are to condone sin. It does mean that we are to have true love and concern for others.

In providing help to others we must recognize our own vulnerability. To protect ourselves from sin we must rely continually upon the power of the Holy Spirit. It is vital that we never compare our achievements with those of our neighbors. The standard is God's righteousness. When we compare ourselves with the ideal, we discover our own inadequacy.

Ultimately, comfort can only be found through a restored relationship with God. A true helper will lead his friends to confess the sin in prayer and, if possible, to make amends to the one against whom the sin was committed. The sin need not be shared with persons who were not involved. Once forgiveness has been received, one should forgive himself and, with God's help, try to avoid this sin in the future.

To assist others in overcoming sin, a Christian worker must possess gentleness, love, and concern. Such a ministry requires great dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Not all have attained the spiritual maturity to provide this help. But we can all pray for our friends and avoid unchristian criticism.

Guest editorial Wealth that lasts forever

A disturbing religious philosophy is being spread abroad in our land. It began with radio and television evangelists who proclaim that the way to material prosperity, worldly success and physical health is through Jesus Christ. "God wants you to prosper," they say, "so, just send me your money and see if God will not bless you with double or treble the amount you send." The Southern Baptist pastor in his budget promotion has taken up this theme, but more subtly. "Give a tithe of your income to the church," he proclaims, "and prove God if he will not pour you out a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it," implying that this blessing is material prosperity.

Something is drastically amiss in these appeals. They offer Christ as an Aladdin's lamp of material prosperity. But, he never made such a claim. In fact, he often rejected such a role for himself. When the people 5000 strong, whom he had just "blessed" with plenty of food and to spare, urged him to become that kind of king, he turned from them. This was not to be his appeal. "Listen," he counselled them, "my Kingdom is not of this world. The riches that I give can only be stored in Heaven. Sell all that you have and give to the poor and come, follow me." A desire for things of this world shows that our hearts are not with Jesus.

An appeal to come to Jesus and give gifts to him in order to be given material things is an appeal to one's greed and selfishness. Jesus says that his followers must overcome greed and put self to death. "A person's life," he says, "is not made up of bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. If you seek the things of God first," he promises, "then all these things will be ad-

ded." But, not "if you seek the things of God in order that all these other things may be yours." He does indeed promise that all our needs will be supplied, but our needs may not be what we think they are. To be his followers we might need to know hunger in order to feel true concern for the hungry. Maybe we need a less ample wardrobe to feel compassion for the ragged. It could be that we need to suffer illness in order to understand suffering and disease. It might be that the true blessings of God are expressed in a lack of this world's good rather than an abundance of them. For if our hearts are set upon the things of this world we might miss the joy of Jesus' grace and companionship. If we equate God's blessings with money, houses, cars, clothing, and physical well-being, then what we are saying is that God's blessings are not eternal, for all these things do not last. Jesus says that God's blessings are everlasting.

Would we wish to be blessed with the same blessings of God that he gave to his son, Jesus? Surely, Jesus received the blessings of God. Indeed, he was that "blessing which God poured out on the earth in so great abundance that there is not room to receive it." Yet he owned nothing of this world's goods. He listed God's blessings as being the knowledge of spiritual poverty, a heart that mourns, a thirst and hunger for righteousness, mercy and the ability to be merciful; a pure heart; the ability to be a peacemaker, and ability to accept persecution and insults for being a follower of Christ. These are the blessings of God according to Jesus. Without these blessings, one cannot please God, nor do Christ's work in the world. — **Prue Compton in the "Baptist Courier" of South Carolina. Mrs. Compton is secretary to the executive secretary of South Carolina Baptist Convention.**



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

Suffering from terminal idealism

Sportswriters will undoubtedly still be commenting on the disciplinary decision of Coach Lou Holtz of the University of Arkansas Razorbacks when the earth has completed another annual orbit around the sun. I soaked up as much of the analysis and evaluation as the next person, and had just about decided everything had been said that possibly could be said on this subject. That is, until I saw the reprint of Joe Gergen's article from *Newsday*, a Long Island, New York, daily newspaper with one of the largest circulations in the nation.

Gergen made two points — one about Coach Lou Holtz, and the other about the difference between professional football and college football. He reviewed Coach Holtz' courageous decision to discipline three outstanding football players because they violated his "Do right rule." He reminded the reader the decision was made at the risk of losing the Orange Bowl game. He then concluded with a striking paragraph:

"There's no question that the man

suffers from terminal idealism. It seemed oddly out of place on the professional level . . . When the time comes that it is found unsuitable at the college level, we are all in trouble."

That paragraph is not written for the speed-reader. It is good for the slow-reader who has plenty of time to think about it as he stumbles over each word. Two thoughts occurred to me. The idea of being afflicted with "terminal idealism" is a very appealing one. I have found myself wishing there were more people in this world willing to stand up for a very demanding standard of "doing right," even when the cost of such a stand seems heavy and sure.

The other thought is the question of whether such terminal idealism is really "oddly out of place on the professional level." If so, our society and our nation are already in trouble. I think I know what Gergen was driving at, but I really wonder if we must agree that "terminal idealism" is in place on the college campus, but out of place in the professional world.



Woman's viewpoint

Ruth Ann Wade

A virtuous sweetheart

There is probably not a young person anywhere that has not thought at one time or another, "I'd love to have a home, a wonderful companion and precious children. What I do, I'm going to do things this way. I'd never do my child that way. My companion will be just so and never do this or that."

Do you know when you began your preparation for your future home? The day you were born.

I can imagine you have dreamed dreams and had ideas of what your Prince Charming will be like. Imaginations can do lots of wonderful things, but reality is frequently quite different. We all must live in a very real world. Though dreams are nice, they end when we awaken.

I wonder as you envisioned your dreamboat, if you caught a glimpse of yourself in the picture. Are you the kind of lady your Prince Charming would desire? Are you your best self? These wonderful, desirable characteristics do not just happen overnight. They must be

worked at from the beginning.

If you envision a Christian home where you are equally yoked together, sharing the fullness that God intends for you, you cannot compromise in your very earliest relationships without running the risk of marring your dream.

Someone careless about their personal appearance and habits now, will have difficulty changing later. Now is the time with God's help to make yourself into the sort of person you'd like to be and that is a joy to be around.

Be all that you were meant to be. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

God is love. He invented it, shared it, and exemplified it. Since he knows more about it than anyone else in the world, why not trust your life in this matter to him, just as I pray you have trusted him for your eternal salvation.

When you are the best self God made you to be, God will bring your "dreamboat" in sight.

Letter to the editor

Commends NBC censor

Since many readers have written letters of protest concerning SOAP (I am among them.), I would like to recommend that they now write letters of commendation concerning NBC censor, Jerry Stanley.

Stanley ordered changes in an episode of "James At 15" which resulted in the resignation of the program's creator. The episode concerns James' first sexual experience and promoted the idea that sex outside of marriage is natural and good as long as contraceptives are used. As a Bible believer I know that this idea is contrary to God's Word. In addition, as a minister of youth, I have dealt with enough teenagers to know that pre-marital sex does not make one feel wholesome and does not lead to a healthy attitude about sex. It does make them feel guilty.

Stanley gave his reason for ordering the change in the show: "We didn't want youngsters watching the show to feel that if you use contraceptives, then it's all right to have a sexual experience. We wanted the characters to show a feeling of guilt or remorse or retribution — so that viewers would see that it isn't proper for kids to just jump in bed and have sexual intercourse."

I believe Stanley needs our support in this unpopular but Biblically based stand. I'm writing a letter of commendation and sending it to Mr. Bob Mulholland, President, NBC, TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, NY, NY 10020. I urge others to do the same. — Cliff Springer, Minister of Youth, Geyer Springs First Church, Little Rock

Easter offering near goal

ATLANTA (BP) — The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions received \$10,745,967 during 1977, or 95.52 percent of its goal of \$11,250,000.

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, announced final receipts of the offering taken each year by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for the support of home missions work in the United States and its territories.

"We could probably say this is the largest offering ever given for home missions anywhere in the world," Tanner said in his report. "This is very encouraging to me: I never cease to be amazed at the way Southern Baptists give."

The 1977 offering is \$1,114,911 more than the amount received in 1976, Tanner said.

'Thy kingdom come'

by Jon M. Stubblefield
(Sixth in a series)

A significant feature of the Lord's Prayer is its brevity. It contains an address, six short petitions and a doxology. The prayer can be repeated easily in 30 seconds. Some congregations can probably say it in less time than that! However, we must never allow the brevity of the prayer or our familiarity



Dr. Stubblefield

with it cause us to overlook its profound message.

The second petition challenges us to pray, "Thy kingdom come" (Matt. 6:10). Pious Jews in the first century were taught to pray at the close of the synagogue service the words of the Kaddish (an ancient Aramaic prayer), "May he rule his kingdom in your lifetime and in your days and in the lifetime of the whole house of Israel, speedily and soon." Clearly, the Jewish people anxiously awaited the inauguration of God's kingdom. Tragically, they refused to accept Jesus as the promised Messiah.

The kingdom of God was a central theme in Jesus' teaching. At the beginning of his ministry he declared, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15, RSV). The "kingdom of God" means God's reign or sovereign rule in the lives of men. In the person and mission of Jesus the kingdom had become a present reality. God had acted decisively in the arena of history to redeem his people and to establish his rule. Jesus affirmed, "Behold, the kingdom of God is within — or among — you" (Luke 17:21). For those willing to pay the price, entering the kingdom is like finding a hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44) or discovering a costly pearl (Matt. 13:45-46). The growth of the kingdom is compared to that of a mustard seed (Matt. 13:31). Its transforming influence on life is similar to the effect of leaven in the dough (Matt. 13:33).

However, the kingdom of God also has a future dimension. God's sovereign rule has not been fully realized. Forces of evil are still at work in our world. Therefore, we are urged to pray, "Thy kingdom come." This petition is intensely personal. It challenges us to "put feet to our prayers." Among other things, we are to seek perfection (Matt. 5:48), put our talents to work (Matt. 25:14-30), watch for Christ's return (Mark 13:33-37), and be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Perhaps we have captured the spirit of this petition when we are truly able to pray with the Apostle John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

Jon M. Stubblefield is pastor of Central Church, Magnolia



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

Taffy pull

Looking for a wintertime activity to get your family or church group out of the doldrums? An old-fashioned taffy pull is a possibility. The ingredients for a good taffy pull are a cold day, a group of fun-filled kids or adults, and a spacious kitchen that can accommodate the mess and clutter of candy making. Taffy is simple to make; but when it's time to pull, all hands must be ready. Kids love it. For about 10 minutes while the pulling goes on, the fun and confusion reach a peak.

Make a list of directions if the group has never pulled taffy before. Start with "Wash your hands" and then "Grease them thoroughly." When the hot lump of taffy is handed each person, he or she should pull it individually until it begins to harden a little. They may have to cool their hands under running water at first. Then pairs should combine their lumps and pull together to a length of two feet or so, fold the taffy back on itself, and repeat this motion rhythmically. It should be worked rapidly and pulled enough that the color begins to change from dark brown to blond. When it begins to harden so that it cannot be pulled, twist it to form an attractive rope. It should be put in a cold place — the back porch, for example — to finish hardening. Let each pair put their taffy on a well greased plate or tray so that they can take home the product of their own labor.

While the taffy is cooling, the group will be ready for refreshments. Something like chips, dip, and drinks is good. Our kids like to bring frozen pizzas and cola. The pizzas can be cooked while the pulling is in progress.

If the kids are ready for a quiet time, the group might look at Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and discuss the importance of "pulling together" in their lives. The passage focuses upon man's inter-dependence, a principle that the taffy pull should help them understand.

This taffy will become quite hard. Break it into small pieces with a heavy knife.

Taffy

- ¼ cup margarine
 - 5 cups sugar
 - 2½ cups milk
 - 2½ cups white corn syrup
 - 2 tsp. vanilla
- Mix all ingredients except vanilla in a **large**, heavy pan. Cook on high or medium high heat almost to the hard crack stage (about 290 degrees), stirring constantly as it begins to turn brown. At this stage it can scorch easily. It may take 30 minutes or more to cook, depending on the size of the pan and amount of heat. Stir in vanilla. Pour into shallow buttered pans. When cool, pull until stiff. Cool in buttered pans or hang over a clothes line.



BOLD COMMITMENT

Arkansas all over

Eddie Simpson is serving as pastor of Lonoke Church. He came to Lonoke from Bellaire Church near Dermott. Simpson is a graduate of Ouachita University and Southwestern Seminary. He and his family now live in Lonoke.

Henry G. West, pastor of Ingram Boulevard Church, West Memphis, was elected president of the West Memphis Ministerial Association for 1978. Prior to coming to West Memphis in 1976, he was pastor of the First Church, Covington, Tenn., for 15 years.

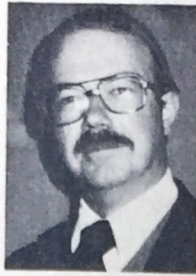
Leonard Williams, who has been pastoring New Hope Church, Pollard, for the past 30 months, is now pastoring First Church, Center Hill. Williams led the New Hope church in a membership increase of 47 and also in church improvements that included adding a new steeple, paving the parking lot and adding central heat and air to the parsonage.

Alfred Roy Major has been called to serve as pastor of the Elaine Church. He is a graduate of Ouachita University and New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor of a number of Arkansas Churches prior to going to Brazil under appointment by the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board. He has also served as pastor of a church in Juneau, Alaska, and worked in cooperation with the Home Mission Board in a pioneer mission church in Middletown, Rhode Island. Major has served the past 10 years as pastor of Second Church, Cumberland, Md. He has taught Bible at Alleghany Community College, and taught seminary extension courses for Southern Seminary. He is married to the former Sarah Myatt of Elaine. Mrs. Major worked for the State Department of Social Services in Child Care for 10 years in Maryland. The Major's are parents of two children, Liz, a graduate of Frostburg State College and Fred, a senior art student at the Frostburg State College.

Theron King is serving as interim pastor of Northeast Church, Texarkana.

Murl Walker has joined the staff of First Church, Van Buren. He will serve as minister of family care.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Taylor observed their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, Jan. 15. Their son, Charles Taylor, honored them with an open house at his home in Harrison. The couple was married on Jan. 11, 1928, in Harrison. Taylor surrendered to the ministry in 1957 with his first pastorate at the Bethel Church in Southwest Association. They returned to Harrison in 1960 and he has pastored the Everton Western Grove Church and Grubb Springs Church and is now pastor of the Parthenon Church, all in North



Compton



Rev. and Mrs. Taylor



Summers

Arkansas Association.

Dorothy Jackson, professor of health, physical education and recreation at Southern College, was recently certified by the American Camping Association as a campcraft instructor. She received her final training at Lake Yale Assembly near Orlando, Fla., at the annual recreational lab, Jan. 5-11, sponsored by the Recreation Department of the Southern Baptist Convention. The basic campcraft course is taught at Southern College every spring semester as a one-hour course. Those successfully com-

pleting the course will now acquire "Campcrafter Rating" with the certification of Mrs. Jackson by the ACA.

Mike Martin has been called to serve as pastor of the Grannis Church. Martin, a student at Ouachita University, was ordained to the ministry by the Gillham Church on Jan. 15, 1978, with Al G. Escott, Director of Missions for Ouachita Association, and Jerry Hill, pastor of the Gillham Church, participating in the ordination. Martin and his wife, Edna, are parents of one child.

Raymond C. Atwood, pastor of First

Bold Mission challenges new Boyce school director

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — When David Q. Byrd, then pastor of the West Jackson Church, Jackson, Tenn., finished his Bold Mission Commitment Day sermon last October, he recalls, "I came near to responding to my own invitation."

He says that on his way home that Sunday, his wife, Floriene, "also had a deep feeling that God was calling us to some place that would be a vital part of Bold Mission Thrust." (Southern Baptists' program to spread the gospel to everyone in the world by the year 2000.)

Two months later, Byrd answered that call by becoming the new director of the Boyce Bible School, a branch of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Boyce School, now in its fourth year, is a training center for ministers who lack a college degree.

Byrd believes that these students are important to Bold Mission Thrust since many come to the school from outside traditional Southern Baptist areas. He points out that 8,000 Southern Baptist Convention ministers are currently without college degrees.

"God is calling more and more people into the ministry," he explains, "people who are mature adults with a family and job. Many of these don't have the opportunity to go to college, but they need practical ministerial training. After a couple of years at Boyce, they receive the instruction that will better equip them in their ministry."

Byrd is also enthusiastic about Boyce Bible School's ability to help the bivocational pastor, a growing number of Baptist ministers who combine secular employment with the pastorate. Off-campus training facilities added to those already in Little Rock, Ark., and Columbus, Ohio, sponsored and supported by the state Baptist conventions, will also aid Bold Mission Thrust, Byrd says.

Byrd succeeded Jim Ryan who resigned to become pastor of First Church, Manassas, Va. He was pastor at the West Jackson Church for 24 years. While in Jackson, he served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (1964), and as a trustee of Union University, Jackson, for the past 20 years. He is presently a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Church, Hamburg, left Jan. 30 for his second mission trip to Africa where he will participate in a revival crusade in Kyela. He will also do mission work in Tukuyu, Rungwe, and Njombe.

Michael N. Compton has joined the staff of University Church, Fayetteville, as minister of singles and administration. He is a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Mo., and is

now completing his dissertation in higher education administration at the University of Arkansas. He served as Director of Student Activities at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., from 1973 to 1976.

Wayne Summers has joined the staff of University Church, Fayetteville, as pastor of education and training. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri,

Columbia, Mo., and Southwestern Seminary. He has also completed courses at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, the Lamar School of Technology, Beaumont, Tex., and the Interamerican School of Spanish, Saltillo, Coahuilla, Mexico. Summers attended Coast Guard Officer Candidate School, New London, Conn., the Coast Guard Atomic Physics School, Washington University, New York, and the Coast Guard Leadership Training School, Yorktown, Va. He was with the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., from 1969-1975 and has served churches in Missouri, Texas and Tennessee. Dr. Summers and his wife, Mildred, are parents of three children.

Chesley Pruet, Jess Merkle and N. P. "Buddy" Hudson, all members of El Dorado First Church, have received special recognition from the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce. Pruet was recipient of the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, and Merkle was given a special community service award for his distinguished career as a developer of the poultry industry. Hudson is the new president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. James Sawyer, president of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, was guest of the Baptist Women of El Dorado First Church on Jan. 23. She taught the Baptist Women Manual to women of the First, East Main, Parkview, West Side and Junction City churches. Don Harbuck, pastor of First Church, welcomed guests and Mrs. Harbuck presented special music. Mrs. John Williamson led the call to prayer. Mrs. Shad Medlin introduced Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Ira Rogers, BW president, introduced Dr. Harbuck. Mrs. Ben Whitfield, WMU Director of First Church, gave the invocation for the noon meal. Mrs. Sawyer was honored with a snack supper in the Shad Medlin home following evening worship services on Jan. 22.

Funeral services for **Robert Madison McMahan**, 40, were held on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 28, at Mount Pleasant Church near Cabot. McMahan was the president and chief executive officer of the Caddo State Bank at Glenwood. He served as chairman of deacons of First Church, Glenwood, was a member of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation Board and served on the SBC Sunday School Board. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie Patton McMahan; a daughter, Kay McMahan of Glenwood; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy McMahan of Trumann; a brother, three sisters and his grandmother, Mrs. Effie Johnson of Trumann.

The work goes on

by Erwin McDonald

As God buries his workmen, he raises up other workmen, for his work must go on.

This was a fact well illustrated for me last Sunday as I was back in Seneca, S.C., for the 25th anniversary of Trinity Church, which I helped to organize on Jan. 18, 1953, as its first pastor. (At that time I was director of public relations for Furman University, at Greenville, S.C., and held the Trinity pastorate for only a short time, on an interim basis.)

We started with nearly 100 members, meeting in a two-story former residence which the enthusiastic group quickly transformed into a near-ideal facility.

In the intervening years, the church has grown to more than 300 members and now has a beautiful church plant and an annual budget of \$75,000. For the big day, Sunday, 400 people packed the auditorium, 300 of whom stayed for lunch and fellowship in the church basement following the service.

Soon after my interim pastorate at Trinity, my family and I moved back to Louisville, Ky., where we were living when we had moved to Greenville. Three years later,

we moved back to our native Arkansas. I had heard from Trinity Church from time to time across the years, but Sunday was my first visit there in nearly 25 years.

Many of the charter members have long since gone to their eternal rewards.

A businesswoman who had been to the church much what Lydia "the seller of purple" had been to the church at Philippi died two days before the anniversary observance.

One of the first deacons of the church was present for the big event but has now been immobilized by a stroke. His wife, who is now his full-time nurse, must bathe him, shave him, feed him, and lead him wherever they go.

As we assembled the surviving charter members for the 25th anniversary picture, we were saddened by the absence of some who were not able to be present, being confined to their homes, or to nursing homes, by illness or disability.

The words of Jesus came to me, in sharp focus: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

New subscribers:

Church

New budget:

River Road Chapel, Redfield
Southside, Damascus

Free trial:

Steel Bridge, Lonoke

Pastor

Harry G. Jacobs
A. Glenn Artt

Glen Smith

Association

Harmony
Faulkner

Caroline

Evangelism Conference has excellent attendance despite bad weather

The Arkansas Baptist State Evangelism Conference, which convened Jan. 23-25, in First Church, Ft. Smith, had excellent attendance despite ice and snow. Evangelism Secretary Jesse Reed says the combined attendance for the conference was between 1,000 and 1,100. "We had one of the sweetest spirits and best programs that we have ever had at an Evangelism Conference," Reed continued "I believe this was one of our very finest."

William Tanner, executive secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., brought three messages, and James L. Pleitz, pastor of Park City Church, Dallas, Tex., spoke twice.

Dr. Tanner first spoke from II Timothy 2:19-21. He explained that in the Old Testament all kinds of vessels were used in honoring the Lord. He emphasized that a vessel unto honor must find its power from within, is successful when it is Holy Spirit controlled, and is life's greatest possibility.

In his second message, based on John 3:16, Tanner asked two questions: "What is the breadth of God's love?" and "How far will God go to prove that he loves man?" He concluded, "It was not enough for God to stand on the outer shore of heaven, he had to become involved. It is our responsibility as Christians to show God's love to those we touch."

Dr. Tanner's last message, based on Matthew 28:16-28, and Acts 1:8, stressed the personal basis for evangelism and the universality of God's love for every individual and of our responsibility in our world of influence. In conclusion Dr. Tanner said, "The Great Commission could read, 'As you are going into all of your world, share what Christ means to you.'"

Dr. Pleitz first spoke from I Corinthians 3:1-3. He said, "The word 'carnal' is not a bad word. It means to walk as men. All too often we, as Christian leaders, act like ordinary men as we live our lives."

The message dealt with four questions: (1) How do we deal with temptation?; (2) How do we react to tribulation?; (3) How do we react when we are sinned against?; and (4) How do we react when we sin? "The way to overcome a sin," he concluded, "is to follow the pattern laid down in I John 1:8-10. This is the most therapeutic passage in all of the Bible in dealing with sin."

Dr. Pleitz' second message was based on Ezekiel 3:13-15. "Ezekiel had power," Pleitz said, "because he sat where the people had sat. It is one thing to preach in the spirit of God, but it is another thing to preach in our own spirit. We should never enjoy lashing out at our people."

Pleitz said that the prophet had learned to identify with the needs of the people. "Jesus could identify with the needs of every man," Dr. Pleitz said, "because 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.'" He appealed to those in attendance to preach in such a manner that their messages would identify with and meet the needs of the people.

Ken Carter, director of mass evangelism, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., spoke twice during the conference. He first spoke on the invitation, pointing out that there were many invitations throughout the New Testament. In most of these the word "come" appears. He said that "come" is a word of authority, of compassion, and of enablement. "We can give an invitation with confidence," he concluded, "because God is able to

save, he is able to keep, and he is able to overcome all the sins and problems that any individual has. In our invitation we must deal with people's needs in such a way that they can respond."

In his second message Carter made a distinction between true Christianity and organized religion. "The greatest enemy to Christianity or the cause of Christ is religion," he said, "some of the meanest people are those who claim to be religious." "Christ," Carter said, "came in headlong confrontation with organized religion as he met with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was prepared to invite Jesus to join in with the established religion of the day. In essence, Jesus was saying, 'You don't even understand the kingdom of God unless you have been born from above.'"

Carter concluded that Christianity is power. He said, "You don't see power, you only experience it. We need to present the message of Christ in such a way that people will respond to this power."

Carliss Odom, whose full-time ministry is sharing his testimony, told of his problems as a boy with cerebral palsy. The turning point in his life was



Arkansans couldn't resist. They had to remind Oklahomans Ken Carter (left) and William Tanner that they were in Razorback Country. Carter, Home Mission Board staffer, and Dr. Tanner, HMB Director, were presented Orange Bowl shirts with the scores at the conference.

Phil Lineberger

Forrest Bynum

James Pleitz

Arnold Teel

J. Everett Sneed

Sidney Sample



Speakers, hosts, those presiding

Jesse Reed

Johnny Jackson

William Bennett

Kenneth Threet

Carliss Odom

when he accepted Christ and made a commitment to serve God to the best of his ability. In his second testimony, he told of his tithing experience. He is now giving 25 percent of his gross income to the Lord's work. (The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine will carry a full feature story at a later date on Carliss Odom — his life, his family, and his ministry.)

The first message of the Evangelism Conference was preached by Phil Lineberger, pastor of Calvary Church, Little Rock, who spoke from Acts 2:1-21. He emphasized that Pentecost united the fellowship of Christians, produced com-

mitment, filled the people with joy, praise, and hope, and declared the power of God.

"Those who were involved in Pentecost," Lineberger said, "literally turned the world upside down. Pentecost was not just for First Century people. It was for everyone who believes in God."

Roy Hilton, retired pastor of Immanuel Church, El Dorado, presented a Bible study on "Justification," based on Romans 3:24-27. "The three great doctrines of the Reformation," he said, "were the sufficiency of the scripture,

'the right of private judgment' and 'justification by faith.'" He emphasized: (1) The need for justification, (2) The elements of justification, and (3) The benefits of justification.

In conclusion Hilton said that justification produced peace with God, gave the Christian a new position with God and provided the believer with the hope of glory.

Forrest Bynum, pastor of Immanuel Church, Warren, spoke on prayer, using Luke 11:1-4. He began by describing his own struggle in learning how to pray. "The elements of prayer," he said,



Fellowship also was a part of the evangelism conference. Just ask D. C. McAtee of Forrest City (left) and John Finn, Director of Missions for North Arkansas Association, . . .

. . . or Jack Bledsoe of Des Arc (left) and Homer Shirley Jr. of Little Rock. (ABN photos)

Evangelism Conference has excellent attendance

(from page 9)

"were all present in the Lord's prayer. These are: (1) to move into the presence of the King; (2) to praise the Lord; (3) to offer our petitions; (4) to present our problems to the King; and (5) to conclude with praise." Bynum says that effective prayer needs to be specific. He prays for needs of specific church members regularly and keeps a picture file of Baptist Building employees, whom he remembers in his prayers. "Personalizing prayer," Bynum said, "enables us to follow the pattern laid down by our Master."

Prayer was immediately offered for various groups of individuals involved in the Lord's work, including pastors, church, associational, and Baptist Building staff, laymen, and retired religious workers.

Arnold Teel, pastor of Amboy Church, North Little Rock, gave a personal testimony of leading his church to donate half its income to missions. "My desire to involve the church in giving 50 percent of its income to missions causes came as a result of an emphasis made by Dr. Cal Guy, professor of Missions, Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., when I was attending school there. Two years ago, the church voted to do so." Not only does the church give liberally to the Cooperative Program and associational missions, but it is also involved in direct assistance to various mission projects.

Teel then preached on the elements causing a church to become deeply involved in missions. "These elements," he said, "are motivation, message, and money. It takes money to keep our work going, and giving is contagious. If a pastor is to be successful in getting the members to give he must also be giving. When the pastor is giving, the people know about it. You don't have to tell them, but they will know."

J. Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, preached on, "The Bible — the Basis for an Evangelistic Church." He used as his text II Timotny 3:14-17, emphasizing the preservation, the purpose and the power of the Bible for evangelism. In conclusion he urged all to rely upon the tremendous power of the Bible in assisting our churches to become truly evangelistic.

The closing message of the conference was brought by J. Sidney Sample, pastor of Second Church, Hot Springs, who spoke from Romans 8:16-18 on "Glorification". "Glorification," he said, "involves holiness, heirs and heaven." Sample concluded, "The only way we can be glorified is to be justified,

and the only way we can be justified is through Jesus Christ."

The music for the Evangelism Conference was planned by Ervin Keathley, secretary of music for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and

by Jesse Sutton, area four music director. Jesse Reed, secretary of evangelism for Arkansas said, "The music for our conference was truly outstanding. I appreciate the dedicated talents of these men of God."



Music for the meeting was coordinated by State Music Secretary Ervin Keathley (left) and Jesse Sutton. Groups used included (from top) the youth ensemble of East Side Church, Ft. Smith; area members of the Music Men of Arkansas; and the choir of the UA Fayetteville BSU. (ABN photos)



Old sorghum mill makes Malawi a sweeter place

by Judy Garner

We can enjoy home-made sorghum molasses in Malawi now, as a result of a gift of a sorghum mill that hadn't been used for 30 years.

When we were in the U.S. on furlough in 1974, Darrel visited Rev. and Mrs. Gary Swafford (also missionaries to Malawi, who were on furlough) at Gary's home near Winchester, Tennessee. Gary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Swafford, visited Malawi in 1972, so we had the opportunity of meeting them then. Mr. Swafford is a semi-retired farmer, and they are members of the First Baptist Church of Winchester. Since Darrel is an agricultural missionary, they had plenty to talk about. Darrel mentioned that a sorghum mill would be nice to have here, as sorghum cane grows well here, but people just chew the juice from the stalks and feed the seed to the chickens. Did Mr. Swafford know where we could buy a mill? Mr. Swafford said that he had one stored in his barn since 1946. Did we want it?

We arrived back in Malawi in June 1974, and the mill arrived in October. As our growing season starts in November, and the harvest is in April to June, the sorghum crop was not ready until May, 1976, making it 30 years since the mill had last been used. The mill was in excellent condition; the only work we did on it was to oil it before we set it up. There are no mules in Malawi, but we do have a team of oxen on the farm, so we used them to turn the mill.

People here were amazed. They could see that the process was simple enough, but they could hardly believe that something as good as molasses could come from it. Many asked, "How much sugar do you add?" We believe it can make a real difference in the diet and health of the people here. "Store-bought" syrup is imported and very expensive, so most people don't even buy it. Many do not use sugar except on special occasions.

Mr. Swafford said the mill was first used in 1895, and then his Dad bought it in 1905 and used it until 1930. Mr. Swafford then bought the mill from his Dad and used it until 1946. The mill was used every year for 51 years, from 1895-1946. Mr. Swafford said they averaged making about 2,000 gallons of molasses a year. This year we had about 1½ acres of sorghum and made 15 gallons of syrup. We are trying to encourage the people here to raise more cane of their own.

Of 14 Southern Baptist agricultural missionaries in Eastern and Southern Africa, we are the only ones to have a

sorghum mill. Another agricultural missionary has said he is inquiring where he can find one, as he wants to try it.

Darrel and Judy Garner have been missionaries in Malawi since 1970. They

live on a 66-acre farm where they demonstrate improved methods of farming. Garner is also area missionary and helps in church development and leadership training.

Evangelism Conference tapes

\$3 each.

Order by number:

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EC004, Side 1, Roy Hilton
Side 2, Ken Carter

EC005, Side 1, Forrest Bynum
Side 2, William Tanner (second message)

EC006, Side 1, James Pleitz (second message)
Side 2, Carliss Odom testimony

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Arkansas all over

Beech Street Church, Texarkana, recently began supporting two new pioneer missions churches. They are the Pasadena Park Church in Spokane, Wash., and the Ahwatukee Mission near Phoenix, Ariz. The Texarkana church, K. Lindsay Cofield, pastor, is now preparing a scroll to be sent to the two churches so that they might learn of the work and become familiar with members of the church.

Arkadelphia First Church held ordination services on Jan. 22 to ordain Phil Allen, Roger Harrold and Mac Sisson as deacons. Zeph B. Sisson, father of Mac Sisson and a deacon for 38 years and now treasurer of North Crossett First Church, led the prayer of ordination. Jim Berryman brought the charge to the deacons and the church. Nathan Porter is pastor.

West Church, Batesville, held a "Deeper Life Conference" on Jan. 30-31. Tom Dove of Oklahoma was leader for the conference on prayer and personal renewal. Don Nall is pastor.

Watson Chapel Church, Pine Bluff, has announced plans for a spring revival to be held April 9-16. Bill Fitzhugh will be evangelist. Edwin L. Hinkson is pastor.

Calvary Church, Hope, will have a spring revival March 19-22. Alan Finley, pastor of the Papakura Church, Papakura, New Zealand, will be speaker. Vernon C. Wickliffe is pastor.

Floral Church observed Baptist Men's Day on Jan. 22. J. K. Southerland of Batesville was lay speaker. The church held its January Bible Study Jan. 29-Feb. 1. W. T. Holland of Little Rock taught the book of Exodus.

Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, will be in revival March 5-10. Dan Vestal will be evangelist. The church's minister of music, David Doty, will direct music. S. Cary Heard is pastor.

Stuttgart First Church has planned a revival for Feb. 19-26. The evangelistic team will be J. T. Elliff and Glynn Stewart. Jerre Hassell is pastor.

First Church, Heber Springs, held a banquet on Jan. 31 in special recognition of those involved in the church's ministry of leadership. Certificates were presented to those who had served five consecutive years in a position of leadership in the church. Homer Shirley was speaker. S. Ray Crews is pastor.

A Religious Education Fellowship was organized in **Pulaski County Association** on Jan. 10. Officers elected were Dwayne Fischer of Calvary Church, Little Rock, president; Bob Hatzfield of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, music vice-president; and Mark Moore

of Park Hill Church, North Little Rock, education vice-president. The group will meet monthly for the purpose of inspiration, information, and fellowship.

Pulaski County Association Pastors' Conference has elected R. F. Weeks, Douglasville First Church, as president of the organization for 1978. Other officers elected are Malcolm Sample, Hebron Church, vice-president; and Gene Davis, Shady Grove Church, program chairman.

Baptist Tabernacle Church, Little Rock, will be in revival Feb. 17-19. Tal Bonham, Director of Evangelism in Oklahoma, will be preaching. Music will be directed by Ervin Keathley, Music Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. James Wilson is pastor.

East End Church, Hensley, held services Jan. 29 to ordain Dale Keith to the gospel ministry.

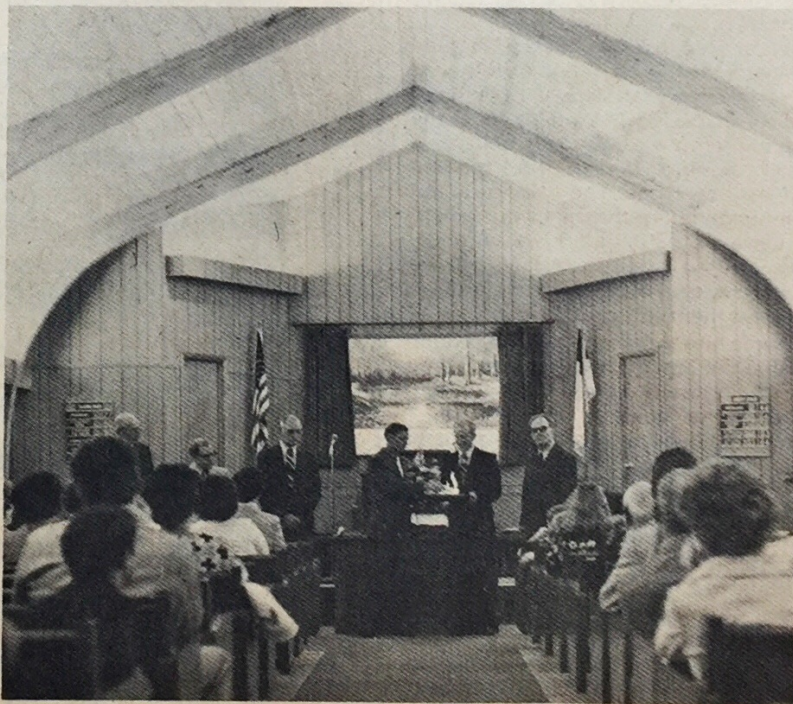
The evangelism committee of **North Pulaski Association** sponsored a one-night evangelistic crusade Jan. 31. The crusade was held at Baring Cross Church, North Little Rock, with Moody Adams as evangelist.

First Church, Sherwood, honored Charles Allen, Don VanNess, and Dick Timmerman as outstanding laymen and leaders for the year 1977 when Baptist Men's Day was observed on Jan. 22.

Beech Street Church, Texarkana, held a fellowship luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 29. Korean men, who are in training and study at the Red River Army Depot for two months were special guests.

Hillside Church, Camden, has planned a spring revival for April 23-28. Roger McDonald, pastor of First Church, Garland, Tex., will be evangelist. Music will be directed by Harrell Slack, consultant for the Texas

Arkansas all over



First Church, Hatfield, took a special offering in September and the church was able to clear the debt on their new building in half the time planned. The church paid off the 10-year note in only five years, and held a noteburning ceremony Oct. 16. They broke ground for the building in August, 1972, and held services there for the first time Sept. 16, 1973. Speaker for the noteburning service was Charles H. Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Participants in the ceremony were (from left) Willard Trotter, building fund treasurer; A. C. Lyles, former pastor; R. L. "Doc" Hamilton, trustee; Don Jones, pastor; Earl Hays, chairman of building committee; and Leonard Wolf, chairman of deacons.

Baptist State Convention Music Department. Randy Maxwell is pastor.

Dallas Avenue Church, Mena, was host for the Ouachita Association Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador workshop on Jan. 29. C. H. Seaton, Director of Brotherhood and Royal Ambassadors for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, led the workshop. He was also speaker for the morning worship services. Mrs. Mary Lou Baker recently joined the staff of the Dallas Avenue Church as church secretary. The church has elected Dayton Bray, a deacon, to serve as Sunday School director.

Conway-Perry Association held a workers' conference Feb. 5 at the Harmony Church. Johnny Jackson, pastor of Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock, who is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. Glenn

Kauffman moderated the meeting and D. J. Boyette directed music. Others on the program were Bill Howard and Refus Caldwell, Director of Missions.

First Church, Fayetteville, held a personal evangelism workshop on Feb. 6-7. Phil Lineberger, pastor of Calvary Church, Little Rock, was leader.

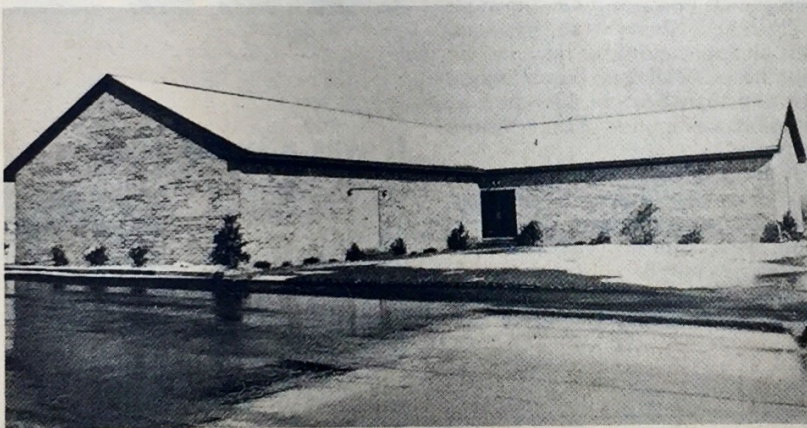
Rupert Church, Van Buren County Association, was in revival recently with Eunice Koone and Lester Passmore as evangelists. There was one profession of faith.

Van Buren County Association held an associational Sunday School meeting at the Pee Dee Church on Feb. 6. S. D. Hacker, Director of Missions of Independence Association, was speaker. Refus Caldwell is Van Buren County Association Director of Missions.

TOKYO, Japan — The Baptist Women's Union of Japan recently sent two checks amounting to nearly \$4,000 to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for use in world mission work. The gift was from the union's 1976 World Baptist Week of Prayer Offering. The 1977 offering, on which figures are not yet available, is being designated for pioneer work in Japan and for world missions, with work in Brazil, Korea and Indonesia being given special emphasis.

KUCHING, Malaysia — James Leong Vui Chee was installed recently as the first national pastor of Kuching Baptist Church here. He is also the first full-time pastor of the church. Six Chinese-speaking adults made professions of faith, and one rededicated his life to Christ at the close of the special installation service.

buildings



Trinity Church, located on Highway 71 North of Alma, dedicated their \$50,000 church plant Jan. 8. The 3624 sq. ft. masonry and frame building is located across the highway from their old buildings. The building contains an auditorium which will seat 230, eight classrooms, a nursery, and pastor's study. The building is carpeted throughout and has central heat and air conditioning. Pastor William D. Russell says the church is now beginning a visitation program to the Alma area, which has doubled its population in the past three years. The new building will allow for growth, and the pastor sees a fellowship hall in the near future.

First Church of Wakefield, Little Rock, dedicated a new sanctuary Jan. 8. The \$58,000 building has 4,000 square feet of space. T. P. Gladden, the church's first pastor preached the dedicatory sermon. The church was organized under his leadership Dec. 3, 1967. Pastor Larry J. Stovall brought the prayer of dedication. Others participating were H. Lee Lewis and Ray McClung. A potluck lunch was served after the service. Pastor Stovall says he sees the building as a "gift from God through the faith of our members," and he hopes it will be an aid in training members in spreading the Gospel.



Your state convention at work

Missions adds two staffers

The Missions Department of the state convention has employed two staff members, one to fill a vacant position, and another to serve in a new work. Pete Petty and Lehman Webb already are at work serving Arkansas churches.

Pete Petty is the new Director of Special Missions Ministries. He succeeds Tommy L. Bridges who joined the faculty of Southwestern Seminary last August.

Petty comes from the office of Director of Associational Missions for Washington-Madison Association, Fayetteville, where he had served since 1971.

As Director of Special Missions Ministries he will work closely with associations and churches in all aspects of Christian social ministries, including the Migrant Mission Center, disaster relief, weekday ministries, drug abuse and other non-traditional ministries. Also, he will promote and supervise student summer and resort missions. Inter-faith witness conferences will be planned and conducted under his direction.

Petty was born in Oklahoma City and was reared on a farm near Davis, Okla. He was ordained to the ministry by the Sumner Church, Perry, Okla., in 1956.

His education includes a bachelor of science degree in sociology from Oklahoma State University in 1957 and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1968. Other specialized training includes courses in Associational Leadership Development offered by Baptist seminaries under the direction

of the Home Mission Board.

After pastorates in Oklahoma and Arkansas he came to the Washington-Madison Association as Director of Missions from the Immanuel Church, Norman, Oklahoma.

Petty is married to the former Bonita Elizabeth Miller of Stillwater, Oklahoma. They are parents of four children.

Lehman Webb has been jointly appointed by the Home Mission Board and the Executive Board of the State Convention as Field Missionary for Church Extension. He will be responsible for leadership and program development of this area of work in the State Missions Department.

Webb has been under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board for seven years serving as pastor of the International Baptist Church in Singapore.

As Field Missionary for Church Extension, Webb will be available to associations, churches, and pastors for counsel and assistance in starting new missions and churches. He will receive and process all applications for new mission site purchases, small church building aid grants, and loans for consideration by the Missions Committee of the Missions Department.

Prior to his foreign mission service he was pastor of First Church, Hot Springs. He has also served Second Church, El Dorado, First Church, Harrison, and West Helena church.

A native of Walnut Ridge, Webb is a graduate of Ouachita University and

holds the bachelor of divinity and the master of theology degrees from Southern Seminary.

He has previously served as a member of the State Convention's Executive Board, Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Baptist Hospital; Ouachita University, and the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis. He is presently a member of the Corporation of the Baptist Medical Center System, Little Rock.

He is married to the former Virginia Bryant of Warren and they have one daughter and two grandchildren.



Petty



Webb

Annuity

It was a good year

I am grateful for an excellent year in the work with Annuity Board programs. The good response during 1977 has resulted in 99 new plan members and 96 upgrades. One new association and 23 new churches have been added to participation. But we have a long way to go ... there are still several hundred churches not providing this protection for the pastor and church staff members.

The new retirement plan offers a choice of funds, a good return and flexible benefits. Please let me help you.

A very excellent program of insurance has been designed by the Annuity Board for employees of Southern Baptist churches. I shall be pleased to mail brochures on the insurance at your request.

The Annuity Board has again made available the very popular *Minister's Guide for 1977 Income Tax*. If you failed to return your request card, I have some copies here in my office, yours for the asking as long as they last. — Nadine B. Bjorkman, Annuity Representative



Mrs. Bjorkman

Media Center Regional Clinic

First Church

Little Rock

Feb. 24-25, 1978

Choose one of two conferences:

- Media Center Development Plan, Books I & II (new)
- Providing a Media Education Program

The Clinic begins at 2 p.m. Friday and concludes at noon Saturday, with a banquet Friday night.

For registration and other information, contact Church Training Department, Box 552, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 (376-4791)

Sponsored by
Church Library Department Baptist Sunday School Board

Missions tour planned to Central and South America

The first annual Cooperative Program Missions Tour has been scheduled for June 24-July 8 and will include visits to Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Colombia.

The tour is sponsored by the state convention's Executive Board, which last August approved an annual two weeks' tour. The tours are to be arranged in consultation with the Foreign Mission Board staff and the missionaries on each field.

The purpose of the tours is to provide an opportunity for Baptists to visit mission fields, meet the missionaries in their place of service and observe for themselves the use of Cooperative Program funds. The tours are not designed to compete with any commercial or private tours, but by being planned and directed by a state convention, can provide a contact with missionaries and mission work that would not be possible on an individual or commercial

basis.

A unique feature of the tour will be a dinner meeting in each city with the local missionaries, which will be hosted by the tour participants. While missionary education is the primary objective, some commercial sightseeing will also be scheduled in order to give the tour members an insight into local culture.

Travel arrangements are in the process of being completed, and first class hotels will be used in each city. The cost is tentatively estimated as \$1290.

A preliminary announcement is being circulated to each church, and additional information will be shared as it becomes available. — Roy F. Lewis, Associate Executive Secretary

Looking ahead: Arkansas events

February 1978

- 5-10 Religious Emphasis Week, Southern Baptist College
- 6-10 Christian Focus Week, Ouachita Baptist University
- 6-10 Associational training schools (Sunday School)
- 12-18 WMU Focus Week
- 12 Race Relations Sunday
- 14 State Vacation Bible School Clinic, Pulaski Heights, Little Rock (Sunday School)
- 17 GA Day Camp Workshop, West Memphis, First
- 18 GA Day Camp Workshop, Jonesboro, Central
- 18 Youth choir festivals, Immanuel, Little Rock, and Little Rock, First
- 19-22 Home Mission graded series study (WMU)
- 23 GA Day Camp Workshop, Little Rock, First
- 23-24 Ouachita Baptist University church music workshop
- 24-25 Regional Library Clinic (Church Training) Little Rock, First
- 28 GA Day Camp Workshop, Ft. Smith, Immanuel
- 27-March 1 Pastors Planning & Leadership Seminar, DeGray Lodge (Church Training)

March 1978

- 1- 3 Directors of Missions Retreat
- 3- 4 Handbell Festival, Pine Bluff Convention Center
- 5-12 Week of Prayer for Home Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 6 Northwest District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Rogers, First
- 7 West Central District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Paris, First
- 9 North Central District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Melbourne, First
- 10 Central District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Benton, First
- 10-11 Baptist Men's Meeting, Little Rock
- 12 Home Missions Day in Sunday School
- 12-19 Youth Week
- 13 Southwest District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Hope, First
- 14 Southeast District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Warren, First
- 16 Northeast District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Central, Jonesboro
- 17 East Central District Bible Drills & Speakers' Tournament, Forrest City, First
- 17-18 State Renewal Evangelism Workshop, DeGray Lodge
- 17-18 Interpreters for the Deaf Workshop
- 18 Associational Baptist Youth Night
- 21-22 WMU Annual Meeting, Park Hill, North Little Rock

Child Care Birthday offerings are important

During recent visits over the state I have been impressed with the number of churches that participate in the Birthday Offering.

A contribution of a penny for each year of age seems such a small amount. However, if every Arkansas Baptist church member participated, it would result in several thousand dollars annually for our child care ministry.

In addition to helping children to whom we minister, it teaches sharing of possessions. I recently observed a mother carrying her young child forward and helping him make his contribution. That child will be influenced forever in a positive way toward missions.

Gifts received from Birthday Offerings help provide for the needs of children who depend upon us for care. Many churches receive the offering in Sunday School Departments. Some receive it as the entire Sunday School is assembled together.

The money is sent in periodically during the year. We encourage you to designate the offering as "Birthday Offering" so we can keep an accurate record.

Birthdays are special days. Your participation in the Birthday Offering is special to children.

If your church does not participate in this offering, why not consider beginning it in the new year. Thank you for your support. — Homer W. Shirley Jr., Director of Development, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services

Sunday School 'The People Reacher' aids small churches

A Sunday School growth project has been designed for Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches which have fewer than 150 enrolled in Sunday School. It has been titled "The People Reacher".



Hatfield

There are distinctive needs in small Sunday Schools which require distinctive application of growth principles. Leaders in small Sunday Schools have identified their needs in the following six areas: visitation, training, planning, overcoming indifference, recruiting workers and literature. The well known Flake formula for growth can be applied to these needs. The Flake formula includes: locate prospects, provide space, enlarge the organization, train workers and visitation.

"The People Reacher" project is a 13-week-long activity which applies the growth principles to the specific needs of the small Sunday School. And it works.

Past reports of the first model project have been given in the *Newsmagazine* and in other places. This experience was with the Higginson Church near Searcy. Their experience was an increase in enrollment, attendance, baptisms and budget receipts. Actually, Higginson led Calvary Association for the year in baptisms, with 41.

More churches are planning to use the project in two associational efforts this spring. They are Red River and Clear Creek. Other associational leaders are giving the project consideration as a possible project.

"The People Reacher" can be a vital factor in reaching more persons for Bible study, Christ and his church. Evangelistic clout is the ultimate result. — Lawson Hatfield, state Sunday School director

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April 24-25

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2. The Teachers Manual



Jesse S. Reed
Teacher

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4. How To Use WIN Materials

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School, 7-9 p.m.

April 30-May 4

For additional information write:

Jesse S. Reed
P.O. Box 552

Little Rock, Ark. 72203

Or telephone 376-4791, extension 132

News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Burnett, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States (address: 6343 Richmond Apt. 4, Dallas, Tex. 75214). A Texan, he was born near Wills Point and grew up in the Terrell area. The former Barbara Evans, she was born in Hazelvalley, Ark., and lived in Wichita and near Haysville, Kan., while growing up. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1966, he was minister of music and

education, First Church, Dimmitt, Tex.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex F. Garner, missionaries to Paraguay, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Casilla 1171, Asuncion, Paraguay). They are natives of Arkansas, he of Ft. Smith, and she, the former Charleta Beindorf, of Pope County. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1952, he was pastor of First Church, Leedey, Okla.

Correct address

An SBC Foreign Mission Board news item, carried in the Nov. 3 ABN, gave the Brazil address of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Kidd. Mrs. Kidd has advised the Foreign Mission Board that part of that address was incorrect. Their correct address is Caixa Postal 409, 30000 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil.



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For more information, contact the State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203 (376-4791).

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The Music Men and the Singing Women of Arkansas have released their first recording together. Ervin Keathley, secretary of the Church Music Department, shows the record jacket for "A Song Is a Gift to God" to Paul Williams, president of the Music Men, and Donna Bain, president of the Singing Women. The two groups are composed of music leaders in state churches, including ministers of music, other staff and staff wives. The 70 men and 35 women provide music at the state convention and the state evangelism conference. Their record was produced by a Little Rock firm and is available from the Church Music Department. (ABN photo)

Black Woman to aid WMU

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — A black woman has been named consultant in cooperative ministries with National Baptists in a joint effort of the Home Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Perkins

Margaret Perkins, 30, of Birmingham, will begin as consultant on Jan. 30, with an office in Birmingham. Emmanuel McCall, director of the Home Mission Board's Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, said she will work mostly in Birmingham with the WMU but her salary will be paid by the Home Mission Board.

The Home Mission Board and the WMU have shared consultants in the past but this is the first time a consultant has been named to work with the predominantly black National Baptist groups.

The WMU has wanted to have a black person help in preparation of mission action materials, McCall said. The majority of Perkins' work will be with the WMU and she will be available as a consultant to the Home Mission Board.

"They also felt that because of the large number of black Baptist churches in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), they needed someone to help relate SBC structure and terminology to these black churches," McCall said. "Some National Baptist WMU's were attempting to relate to SBC WMU's and this person will be able to assist in that role."

Perkins and her husband, Bill, were serving as appointed home missionaries when she accepted the new position. Her husband will continue as director of interracial ministries in Birmingham. "They are both talented persons with a lot to offer," McCall said.

Perkins, a Tuscaloosa, Ala., native, is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C. She holds a master of arts degree from Wellesley (Mass.) College.

Before her appointment as missionary to the Birmingham area in 1976, she was a teacher in the Newport News, Va., city schools. She also has worked as a teacher at Talladega College in Alabama and in a government program in Washington, D.C.

Government moves to dismiss O'Hair suit

WASHINGTON (BP) — The lawsuit filed by atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair against the national motto "In God We Trust" is now pending in the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Texas (in Austin).

Here is the chain of events according to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which is monitoring the case: On Sept. 1, 1977, O'Hair filed suit to have the court declare unconstitutional the law that requires the national motto to "In God We Trust" to be imprinted on the coins and paper currency of the United States.

On Nov. 11, 1977, the attorneys for the government filed a motion to dismiss the suit on the grounds that O'Hair does not have sufficient personal stake in the outcome to bring such a suit and that she did not state sufficient grounds for the suit.

O'Hair was then given until Jan. 5, 1978, to respond to the motion to dismiss her suit. In the meantime, she hired new lawyers, who filed an amended complaint at the same time they answered the government's arguments for dismissal of the case.

The attorneys for the government have filed a reply to the amended complaint and have renewed their motion that the case be dismissed. The court at the time of this writing (Jan. 27, 1978) has not announced its decision on the motion to dismiss the suit.

SBC's Allen, Rabbi plan TV dialogue

FT. WORTH (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee, will participate in a nationally televised conversation program on ABC-TV Feb. 12.

Appearing on the network's "Directions" program, sponsored by the SBC Radio and Television Commission in cooperation with ABC, Allen, pastor of First Church, San Antonio, and Tanenbaum will discuss human values and some of the understandings which developed from a dialogue seminar

between Baptists and Jews in December in Dallas. The seminar was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the American Jewish Committee, which Tanenbaum serves as national director of inter-religious affairs.

"Directions", ABC's public affairs program, will be aired on the network at 12:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, although local stations may vary time of broadcast.

House approves child pornography statute

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives has given final approval to a bill to protect children from sexual exploitation. The measure now goes to President Carter for his signature.

The bill finally passed was introduced into the U.S. Senate on May 23, 1977, by U.S. Senators John C. Culver (D.-Iowa) and Charles McC. Mathias (R.-Md.). Several other bills dealing with child prostitution and child pornography were introduced in Congress last year.

Culver noted that the new law, if signed by the President, will make three changes in the United States code. It will make it a federal crime to use any child under 16 in the production of pornographic material; ban the sale and distribution of obscene material that depicts any child in sexually explicit conduct; and prohibit the interstate transportation of any child for the purpose of prostitution or other commercial exploitation.

The measure provides penalties of up to 10 years in prison with a \$10,000 fine for first offenders, and up to 15 years in prison with a \$15,000 fine for second offenders.

U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D.-Mich.), who managed the bill in the House voting, noted the difficulties in writing a bill that would stand up to challenges in court. "I feel both houses of Congress acted carefully to avoid unnecessary infringement on First Amendment rights," Conyers said. "None of us wished to present to the country a law which we knew was in danger of being declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court."

The House accepted Senate language which inserted the word "obscene" in the portion of the bill prohibiting sale and distribution of pornographic material. This is to meet the Supreme Court test which protects the freedom

of speech and the press.

Conyers asserted that the measure was "a necessary and responsible piece of legislation that represents a suitable compromise between the bills passed by the Senate and the House. In addition, it is the bill that will give the Department of Justice a constitutional tool to employ against the evils of child pornography and child prostitution."

Mayor's wife chairs deacons

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP) — Second Church of Lubbock has chosen the city's first lady to chair the executive council of deacons. Mrs. Anita Bass, whose husband Roy is mayor of Lubbock, was one of five women ordained at Second last year.

This is Bass' second time on the executive council. As chairperson, she hopes to "help the deacons to find meaning and ministry as the ordained." Bass is currently one of four women on the 64-member Southern Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Graham voted most influential

CHICAGO (BP) — Billy Graham has been named the most influential person in the field of religion in the U.S. today in a poll of 35 religion writers and editors taken by *The Christian Century* magazine.

The ecumenical weekly said "the clear winner, receiving almost unanimous support, is evangelist Billy Graham, described by one writer as 'the one and only.'"

Martin E. Marty, an associate editor of *The Christian Century*, was second in the poll.

President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman, ranked third. *The Century* quoted one writer as saying he "demonstrates that evangelical religion and politics mix," and another as having written that he "sets the style for the born-again movement — has popularized it so that even hardened newspaper editors are sure there is a revival going on." A third writer said, "He has made civil religion respectable again without losing us in piety."

Education Commission director retiring

NASHVILLE (BP) — Ben C. Fisher, who has spent 40 years in service to Southern Baptists including 30 years in Christian higher education, has announced early retirement, effective Sept. 30, 1978.

Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) since 1970, will be 63 in May. Commission chairman George Bagley, executive secretary for the Alabama Baptist Convention, will name a search committee to look for Fisher's successor.

A native of Webster, N.C., Fisher served as a pastor in North Carolina, 1938-47, before becoming chairman of the English department at Gardner-Webb College in 1947. He later served as executive assistant to the president and director of public relations at Gardner-Webb.

In 1952, he became associate secretary of the SBC Education Commission and associate editor of the commission publication, "The Southern Baptist Educator," and served also as executive secretary of the Department of Christian Education of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

He joined Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., in 1954, as administrative assistant to the president, director of public relations and professor of Christian education.

Fisher became executive secretary of the Council on Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in 1962, serving until 1970, when he rejoined the SBC Education Commission as chief executive and editor of "The Southern Baptist Educator."

During his tenure at the Education Commission, Fisher has emphasized continuing efforts to merge academic excellence, transmission of Christian values and concern for the local church and missions in the sphere of Baptist higher education.



Fisher

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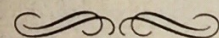
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Allen says SBC must 'storm the barricades'

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Jimmy R. Allen challenged SBC leadership to redouble efforts in "storming the barricades" which would hinder efforts to reach the world with the message of Christ.

Allen, addressing a wide cross section of leadership at the SBC Interagency Council Forum, identified the barricades as time, territoriality, tokenism and timidity.

Elaborating, the pastor of San Antonio's First Church characterized territoriality as a tendency which could entrap the SBC. "It is absolutely essential and part of our genius that we are able to minimize duplication and maximize impact with procedures and program statements," he declared. "But we must avoid becoming so trapped in our program that we look at each new idea or emphasis to see how it can help our program, instead of asking what our resources can do to forward that concept."

"Tokenism," he continued, "is our curse. Southern Baptists are an energetic and able group, and we've done a little something about many things in seeking to change our world. Tragically, we have often substituted those token efforts for a continuing, concentrated drive which would produce the changes needed. A new slogan, a new emphasis, a new problem

catches our attention and we move on."

He enumerated a four-pronged approach to breach the barriers which could blunt the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust goal to reach the world for Christ by the year 2000 and hinder efforts to heed "the desperate cries of humanity." He identified them as cries to escape emptiness and meaninglessness, gain freedom from tyranny, achieve order in a day of moral chaos, and solve widespread hunger and starvation.

"First," he declared, "we must pray for spiritual awakening. No programming will do it. Praying is the essential ingredient for this day. Our evangelism awaits it. Our nurture must be bathed in it. Our mission enterprise will be accelerated by it. We must pray . . . if we are to become part of God's plan instead of God's rejects."

Allen further urged emphasis on church growth which includes the spiritual growth of Christians as well as numerical growth of churches, renewed efforts to close the credibility gap for the gospel of Christ by the way we live, and insistence on "battling with the Bible instead of over the Bible."

"I'm weary of nitpickers and headline hunters predicting schism in the nation's largest evangelical group (the SBC) over authenticity, authority, accuracy and inspiration of the Bible," Allen declared.

"If these folks would join us as a peo-

ple of the Book, they are welcome. If they are going to spend all their time trying to find the mistakes of judgment which occasionally occur in a group as large and diverse as ours, and try to make a mountain out of every rhetorical mole hill, I say we have too much to do to greet these brethren in the way. The urgency of the command says move on, brother."

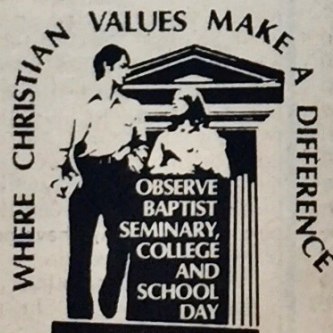
The SBC president also reminded denominational leaders to redouble emphasis on "the new force in the Southern Baptist picture — an unprecedented resource in lay persons ready for missions."

He lauded the Mission Service Corps, which would put 5,000 volunteer missionaries on home and foreign mission fields by 1982 to supplement career missions. He said he has a goal that 1,200 to 1,500 of that number will be appointed by the time of the 1979 SBC annual meeting in Houston. (An earlier report inadvertently quoted Allen as setting that goal for the 1978 SBC in Atlanta.)

Allen said "Southern Baptist freedom fighters," striving to set the world free of ills which plague it, must overcome at least four barricades in their efforts — time, territoriality, tokenism and timidity. Only then, he said, can we realize what many feel is an unprecedented moment for outreach in the history of the 13-million-member, 132-year-old denomination.

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For more information write to

Education Commission, SBC

460 James Robertson Parkway/Nashville, Tennessee 37219

The joy of faith in the Lord

Psalms 146

Feb. 12, 1978

Someone has expressed the idea that God's joy is overflowing and from that overflowing of joy the world was created. Certainly the stars sang and the sons of God shouted for joy when the world was created (John 38:4, 7). David tells



Dishongh

us in the sixteenth Psalm that in God's presence "there is fullness of joy". If this be true then the Christian, of all people, should be a person filled with joy. There is a joy in being a Christian that cannot be explained. It comes with complete trust in God.

Joy is thought of as being "extreme pleasure" or "of great delight", but joy for the Christian goes a bit deeper than this. To have a consciousness of God and to know he walks beside you is joy.

Joy in trusting God (Psalms 146:1-5)

There seems to be a note of vibrancy as the psalmist begins with "praise the Lord." This is as it should be. God's people should be exuberant or effervescent. Some Christians are very depressing and drab, seemingly they believe that a long face demonstrates Christianity. Not so, we are to be delightful and spontaneous. Also the psalmist says "praise the Lord, O my sou." This is an indication of the depth of praise. If it is true praise it must come from the heart and soul and not just from the lips.

These verses are actually a personal testimony of the psalmist. "I will praise" is the overflowing of joy within himself and is an invitation for others to join him in praise to God. One might think of this as a call to formal worship, and if so, what more delightful way is there to begin a worship service than by praising God from whom the blessings flow.

As the psalmist continues he speaks of how long he will serve. "While I live I will praise the Lord" is actually saying "as long as I live." Our praise is not to be a passing fancy but involves a lifetime commitment. Some people talk about how they have served and now it is time to let someone else have their place of

service. There really isn't any place to stop. The psalmist is saying "when I got saved I gave all my life to my Savior and I'll sing his praises all my life." This is full commitment.

The basis for joy (Psalms 146:6-10)

God had been working in Israel, as we gleaned from last week's lesson. God had proven himself to be both powerful and compassionate. God made the heavens and the earth and the fact that he continues to preserve them testifies to his power, wisdom, and compassion. True happiness is found in a faith relation to God. God really wants us to be happy. It is noteworthy that in the first words of the Sermon on the Mount the Lord congratulates the Christian on his attainment of happiness. The Christian finds happiness in a God controlled life, in realizing his spiritual helplessness, and in his encounter with God's son.

Another source of joy is God's creation and our unhappiness sometimes is a result of a lack of ability to cope with life, but God is capable of empowering us and in this we find joy. The fact that God "keeps his truth forever" is another source of joy for the believer. God is not fickle. James tells us that "with him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). God is reliable and capable of keeping his promises. God had promised to make of Abraham a great nation and he did. He had said all nations would be blessed through Abraham's seed and the blessing has come, not only to Israel, but to us. Jesus was the fulfillment of promise.

God is full of compassion and when the psalmist says he "looseth the prisoner" we are reminded of how God delivered Israel from the Egyptians, how he loosed Daniel from a den of lions, and how in today's world we are loosed from the bonds of sin by his power. God's compassion extends to the opening of the eyes of the blind and the raising of those bowed low. We are aware of how Jesus actually caused the blind to see, but, think of men today who are blind spiritually but by God's power

they have their eyes opened to new ways of life. Think of those who are discouraged and who are down cast being raised up from that condition to a new joy. Those of us who may have experienced an unusual demonstration of God's power will understand the psalmist attitude.

Note that the compassion extends to the "righteous." This points up the fact that even the righteous or Christians may suffer a blindness in some areas or may be at the point of despair but if and when this happens we are assured of God's love and care.

The basis for our joy is in the fact that God preserves the stranger and relieves the fatherless and widow. The foreign-born, the stranger, is so many times scorned, but we can rejoice in the fact that our Lord is concerned for all people. No doubt Israel was reminded here of her own position as a stranger in Egypt. God is equally concerned for all who have no father, or husband to care for them. Neither will he allow all the planned wickedness to be accomplished. He will overthrow it or turn it upside down. Proverbs 26:27 tells us that "he who digs a pit will fall into it." This is saying the thief will be caught up in his thievery. Recall that Haman who plotted to destroy the Jews was hanged on the scaffold he'd built for Mordecai. God is a wonderful creator but he is a compassionate Lord. He is not only the hope and joy for the oppressed but he is our hope and joy.

Let's note that this is the first of the five "hallelujah choruses" with which the book of psalms closes. We are urged, not once, but over and over again, to praise the Lord and surely God, who shows no partiality and blesses all who put their trust in him, deserves a joyful thanksgiving and praise. These two, joy and praise, go together and they ought to be spontaneous. This means they ought to flow freely, and not be forced. Christian joy does not depend upon what we have outwardly but on what we are within.

Conclusion

Just because we are Christian does not keep trials and difficulties away. But Christian joy has a quality that lets it survive in the midst of trouble. God's presence, no matter how difficult the way, enables us to rejoice. A deep faith in God is the greatest joy we can know.

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Resources for facing opposition

Feb. 12, 1978

John 15:18-20, 26-27; 16:20-24, 33

Most Christians have never tasted the bitter forces of Satanic opposition like Anita Bryant has in recent months. We have faithfully attended many "spiritual pep rallies" and we have at times yelled loudly in the stands. Yet very few have done battle on the field where our very lives and livelihood were at stake. We don't know what it is like to be publicly heckled, nationally maligned and openly threatened. It is as if we have only sailed on a small backyard pond and never faced the vicious waves of the ocean.

Anita Bryant's ordeal demonstrates the ferocious, underlying current of opposition. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light as long as he can get away with it. But once he is revealed, he will test every belief you profess. If your convictions have not been tested, he will test them to the utmost as soon as you begin to live by them. Did he not pursue Christ all the way to the cross? Did he not use every conceivable weapon to break Christ's power? So if you begin to live as Christ lived, you can expect the same treatment as Christ received. You may as well get prepared for Satan's dogged pursuit. But don't worry. Christ has provided many resources by which you can face opposition. One such resource is . . .

Christ's example

God has not left his world in darkness. He has not left us to imagine what he is like nor what he will do in certain situations. Instead, he came to us as one of us so we could see what he has designed us to be. Christ is our model, our example, our pattern. We know what can be done as men because he became man and did it. Especially is his example valuable in learning to face opposition.

Jesus accomplished his work in spite of opposition. He spent so much time with the Father that opposition could not move him from his course. He lived his life by what the Father said rather than by what the opposition desired. Jesus said the world will hate you because the world first hated him and



Brockwell

that hate is now transferred to you because Jesus is no longer visible to the world.

Jesus was very perceptive in understanding the opposition because he measured it against his Father's will. Don't listen to Satan's logic. He is expert in twisting God's truth. He is a liar. If you get confused by his opposition, just re-study the example of Christ. Walk in his footsteps until you can see as Christ saw.

Another resource for facing opposition is . . .

Christ's words

In some ways, the words of Christ to his followers were a strange language. They simply had not read the Old Testament the way he had read it. They could not grasp his mission so they could not understand the meaning of his words. So Jesus assured them that they would be so taught by the Comforter.

Human reason is baffled by "dying to live", "giving to receive", "turning the other cheek", "going the second mile", "loving enemies" and many more paradoxes. A few brilliant men of the past had espoused one or two such sayings but no one had ever packaged them all as a way of life. Christ's words are truth, pure and simple, from the Father. Indeed, Christ's words explained who he was and Christ's deeds verified his words. Thus the Spirit would testify of Christ and they would then understand his words. The two go hand in hand.

Remembering Christ's example is a powerful resource for facing opposition. Likewise, believing Christ's words will enable you to continually face opposition. And another resource is . . .

Christ's presence

It seems the more Jesus talked with his disciples, the more they shook with fear. Words like "death", "see me no more", and "travail" sent shudders through their hearts. The one thing they feared the most was grimly before them: Jesus was going away. They could not bear to give him up so they hardly heard the neutralizing words of comfort spoken. "It's going to be like a painful birth," he

said to his disciples. "And when the birth is accomplished, you will forget all about the pain."

Christ did disappear as he said. He did go down to the grave as all men before him had. They sealed his tomb and despair smothered their last bit of hope. They kept asking "Why?" and "Where has he gone?" The last dregs of disbelief finally spilled out.

Then joy came in the morning and the presence of Christ completely turned their world upside down. They were so intoxicated by his presence that they moved solely under his control. They kept asking for boldness and power and faith and the Father kept on giving it just as Christ said he would.

Christ's example may at first seem so long ago and Christ's words may become familiar but the presence of Christ is transforming to all who know it. And that presence brings on yet another resource for facing opposition, namely . . .

Christ's power

The world first thinks of power as that which conquers, dominates, or forces one way upon another. Jesus said his presence would bring the greatest power of all — the power of peace. Christ settled the issue of who is supreme at the cross. We have only to trust Christ. We do not have to fight the world — Christ has already done that and won. We have only to let him live in us.

Remember, God's way is by substitution. He substituted the death of his Son on our behalf so we would not taste eternal death and he substituted the life of his Son in us so we can taste eternal life.

Faith is the only way we will ever live as Christians. We trust Christ to give us life and we trust Christ to continue living. We cannot long endure and we can never succeed against opposition without Christ. But by his example, his word, his presence, and his power, we can be what he has designed us to be, a trophy of his marvellous grace.

A Christian is one who remembers to call upon Christ day after day after day. Living in Christ is the only way to face opposition. Any other way is spiritual suicide.

So be it!

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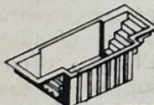
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A smile or two

In Brussels, a shoe store hired a new clerk and the proprietor laid down the law: "Don't let a pair of shoes out of this store without full payment." The new salesman smiled and said he understood. A few minutes later a customer came in and picked out a pair of shoes and said, "I only have twenty francs with me. Let me take the shoes and I'll bring the rest of the money tomorrow. The salesman said that was all right and the happy customer left with the shoes under his arm.

The proprietor rushed over, furious. "What kind of stupid transaction was that after what I told you?" he demanded. "What makes you think he'll come back tomorrow and give us the rest of the money?" "Don't worry," replied the clerk, "he'll be back. I gave him two left shoes."



The great Arturo Toscanini was known for his ability to conduct operas from memory, without using the score. He was conducting "Lohengrin" one evening when a critic, standing in the wings, commented to a stagehand that he could distinctly see the maestro was busily turning the pages of a score as he conducted! The stagehand was quick to tell him that that was actually the score for "Carmen" which he was brushing up on for the next evening's performance! — *Funny Funny World*



Old Doc Jones had a work schedule on Wednesdays that he followed to a tee.

Attendance report

Jan. 29, 1978

| Church | Sunday School | Church Training | Church addns. |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Alpena, First | 39 | | |
| Ash Flat, First | 61 | | |
| Batesville, First | 251 | 107 | 1 |
| Bentonville | | | |
| Central Avenue | 77 | 38 | |
| Mason Valley | 86 | 32 | |
| Berryville | | | |
| First | 171 | 50 | |
| Freeman Heights | 140 | 53 | |
| Biscoe, First | 93 | 45 | 2 |
| Booneville | | | |
| First | 262 | | |
| Blue Mountain Chapel | 29 | | |
| South Side | 103 | 54 | |
| Bryant, First Southern | 194 | 97 | 2 |
| Cabot | | | |
| First | 456 | 95 | |
| Mt. Carmel | 266 | 157 | 4 |
| Camden, Cullendale First | 507 | 132 | |
| Charleston, First | 171 | 55 | |
| Conway | | | |
| Pickles Gap | 176 | 113 | 1 |
| Second | 387 | 141 | 3 |
| Crossett | | | |
| First | 497 | 128 | 2 |
| Mt. Olive | 314 | 112 | |
| Danville, First | 177 | 53 | |
| Des Arc, First | 167 | 81 | |
| El Dorado, West Side | 416 | 410 | |
| Elliott | 384 | 138 | |
| Forrest City, First | 418 | | |
| Ft. Smith | | | |
| First | 1451 | | 15 |
| Grand Avenue | 1017 | 212 | 5 |
| Mission | 16 | | |
| Trinity | 129 | 35 | 1 |
| Fouke, First | 80 | 46 | 2 |
| Gentry, First | 153 | 55 | |
| Gillham | 92 | 51 | 1 |
| Grandview | 80 | 82 | |
| Hampton, First | 138 | 53 | |
| Hardy, First | 85 | 47 | |
| Harrison, Woodland Heights | 127 | 58 | 2 |
| Hilldale | 39 | 19 | |
| Hope, First | 353 | 88 | 1 |
| Hot Springs | | | |
| Harvey's Chapel | 101 | 40 | |
| Park Place | 293 | 90 | 2 |
| Hughes, First | 148 | 33 | |
| Jacksonville | | | |
| First | 389 | 77 | 1 |
| Second | 160 | 47 | |
| Jonesboro, Nettleton | 281 | 84 | |
| Kingston, First | 50 | | |
| Lavaca, First | 301 | 126 | |
| Little Rock | | | |
| Crystal Hill | 145 | 48 | |
| Life Line | 462 | 132 | 1 |
| Martindale | 103 | 52 | |
| Magnolia, Central | 563 | 260 | 9 |
| Mammoth Spring, First | 92 | 52 | 1 |
| Melbourne, Belview | 162 | 74 | |
| Mulberry, First | 233 | 126 | 1 |
| Murfreesboro, Mt. Moriah | 53 | | |
| North Little Rock | | | |
| Calvary | 388 | 110 | |
| Harmony | 58 | 44 | |
| Levy | 450 | 114 | |
| Park Hill | 1061 | | 3 |
| Paragould | | | |
| Calvary | 250 | 171 | 2 |
| East Side | 315 | 135 | 3 |
| First | 424 | 105 | |
| Paris, First | 346 | 64 | 2 |
| Pine Bluff | | | |
| Centennial | 148 | 35 | |
| Central | 117 | 57 | |
| East Side | 135 | 67 | |
| First | 654 | 102 | 1 |
| Lee Memorial | 249 | 73 | |
| South Side | 542 | 82 | 3 |
| Watson Chapel | 407 | 119 | 3 |
| Rogers | | | |
| First | 571 | 165 | 9 |
| Immanuel | 464 | 108 | 1 |
| Russellville | | | |
| First | 514 | 95 | 2 |
| Second | 132 | 62 | |
| Springdale, First | 1555 | | 4 |
| Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial | 191 | 71 | 2 |
| Van Buren, First | 528 | 126 | 2 |
| Vandervoort, First | 70 | 31 | 3 |
| Ward, First | 110 | 48 | |
| Wooster, First | 119 | 82 | |
| Yellville, First | 186 | 72 | |

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Opinions clash at tax credit hearings

by W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Carter administration has teamed up with religious liberty organizations to oppose proposals for income tax credits for tuition paid for private school tuition on all levels during three days of hearings on bills now pending in Congress.

The hearings were held by the Senate

Senate Finance Committee.

The earlier Senate-passed tax credit bills never have been enacted into law. They either died before passage by the House of Representatives or were eliminated by conference committees between the House and Senate. Predictions by political observers in Washington about the prospects for the enactment into law of the current proposals are rather uncertain.

Since such proposals have passed the Senate six times before, and since half of the Senate members are listed as sponsors of the Packwood-Moynihan Bill (S. 2142), it may pass the Senate, although this is by no means certain. Observers point out that it will have much more difficulty in the House. Also, since the administration is in opposition, it is possible that the bill would face a presidential veto.

The Packwood-Moynihan Bill proposes a tax credit of one-half of the tuition paid by parents to parochial and other private schools up to a maximum of \$500 per student. This bill includes both elementary-secondary and post-secondary tuition.

Another bill (S. 311), proposed by Sen. Roth, includes tuition only for higher education. It begins with a \$250 tax credit the first year and on a graduated scale increases to a maximum of \$500 the fourth year after enactment.

At the hearings, in addition to the Carter administration, those opposing the tax credit proposals included the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, constitutional lawyer Leo Pfeffer, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL), the National Parent-Teachers Association, the National School Boards Association and the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO). The National Education Association did not appear at the hearings, but it is lobbying heavily against tax credits.

Those in favor of the proposals included the Federation of Catholic Teachers; Antonio Scalia, professor of constitutional law at the University of Chicago, the Council for American Private Education, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, National Association of Independent Schools, Congress of

Racial Equality, Citizens for Educational Freedom, and professors from two universities in Canada.

The obviously biased attitude of the Senate sponsors of the bill turned the hearings almost into a mockery of those who appeared in opposition. For instance, Sen. Moynihan accused those who objected to his proposal on constitutional grounds, including the United States Supreme Court, of being ignorant of the history and meaning of the First Amendment. He charged those who objected on grounds of religious liberty and separation of church and state with being handovers from 19th Century know-nothingism and anti-Catholic bigotry, and of holding Ku Klux Klan viewpoints.

As for the Carter administration, Moynihan in a lengthy and highly charged emotional outburst, accused President Carter of violating his campaign pledge of seeking constitutional aid to private education. Moynihan said he was tired of the government lying to the American people and accused the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare of being dedicated to the destruction of the Catholic parochial school system. The New York Democrat was so incensed over the Carter opposition that he threatened to stump his state in the next election and urge the people to vote Republican.

Those who argued against the tax credit proposals in general claimed that the plan is unconstitutional, that it would be harmful to the public education system of the nation, that it would aid those people who need help the least, and that a program of tax credits for school tuition is not the proper way to provide for the educational needs of the nation.

Those who argued in favor of tax credits in general claimed that the proposal is constitutional, that it would aid the beleaguered middle class in America, that it would provide parents freedom of choice in the education of their children, and that it would help to destroy state monopoly in education.

Many college groups were neutral on the proposals and some felt that the best way to aid higher education is through other channels such as more and better help to needy students.

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Subcommittee on Taxation and Debt Management of which U.S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. (D.-Va.) is chairman. Byrd never showed up for the hearings, which were presided over by U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood (R.-Ore.) and were attended only by U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D.-N.Y.) and U.S. Sen. William V. Roth Jr. (R.-Del.). U.S. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D.-Conn.) and U.S. Sen. Clifford P. Hansen (R.-Wyo.) attended one session briefly.

Although the Senate has in previous years passed bills providing for some form of tax credits for tuition paid to private schools, these are the first hearings on the subject ever held by the