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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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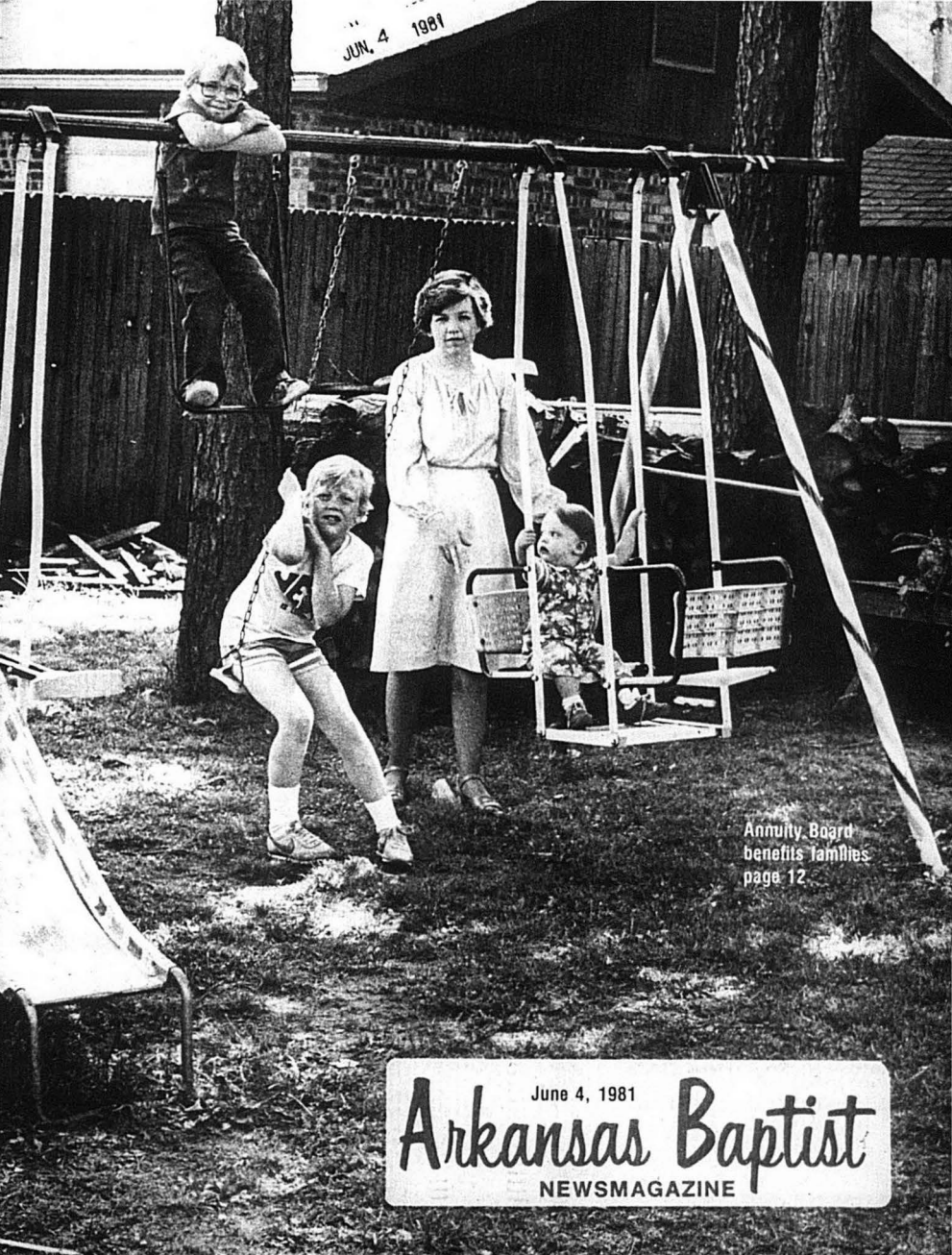
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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JUN. 4 1981



Annuity Board
benefits families
page 12

June 4, 1981

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

Letters to the editor

Questions proposal

In response to Dr. McClanahan's letter to the editor last week, I would like to make some observations.

When Dr. Sneed's article on the subject first appeared in the *Arkansas Baptist* Newsmagazine, I was concerned as I believe every Southern Baptist pastor should be. I wrote Brother Howard Cobble, chairman of the Executive Committee, asking for a verification and explanation for such a change. He was very gracious to answer, and I was quite content, until I later read what the full proposal was. Then I was very upset with our Executive Committee chairman for not telling me the whole story.

I agree with Dr. George Truett, that if you tell Southern Baptist the facts, they will make the right decision. The fact that will be presented at the national convention is that the dollar amount of \$250 be changed to \$10,000 for each additional messenger. The justification is, as Dr. McClanahan put it, run-away inflation. Well, inflation is a reality but, not that much. The 1948 amount of \$250 would be approximately \$625 in 1981, which would mean an increase of \$9,375 above inflation, or 15 times as much as our present standard, including inflation.

If this is an indication of the wisdom of our convention leaders, then our house is out of order. This action or proposal causes one to wonder how Southern Baptist ever managed to become the largest non-Catholic mission force in the world. Have we failed in evangelizing the world by permitting messengers from small churches, many not even grossing

\$10,000, to have a voice in the direction and distance of our great commission?

I'm convinced that our present Constitutional Article III is well and good for another generation or so. Attempts to change it will only increase division, and to those who advocate this, I would invite them to review the birth of this great denomination. — **Jim Glover, Sulphur Rock**

Dollar amount too low

Since my letter to you which was published in a recent issue of the ABN (May 21), I have become aware of additional information which seems to make it even more mandatory that the SBC review the present dollar basis for messenger representation at the annual Convention.

The present membership basis for representation at the SBC does date from the era 1946-48. The \$250 figure, however, was set in 1888! Thus, in the important matter of messenger representation at our annual SBC Convention, we are using a dollar figure which dates from 93 years ago! Do you know of any set dollar figure which has remained the same for the past 93 years?

As we well know here in Arkansas, reapportionment for seats in the United States House of Representatives is an emotional and, at times, a painful experience. This kind of group-action self-discipline is necessary, however, if we are to maintain representative democratic government in our country. What is true for the nation is also true for the Southern Baptist Convention. If we are

to continue to be a great evangelical, democratic denomination, we must have a fair and equitable basis for messenger representation at our annual meetings.

— **John H. McClanahan, Pine Bluff**

Editor's note: Thank you so very much for your letter. I concur that we should retain our present method of messenger representation. However, as I pointed out in my editorial, in addition to a church being eligible to have one additional messenger for each \$10,000 (after their first authorized messenger for being "in friendly cooperation with the Convention") a church can have one additional messenger for "each two percent of undesignated tithes or offerings."

Statistics misused

A last minute story slandering seminary students of the 1970's, based on a 1976 masters thesis, has appeared in a widely-circulated non-Southern Baptist publication and is designed to inflame SBC messengers and thereby influence votes. It deliberately misuses a statistical table from the thesis by interpreting it to mean that many deny God, the Virgin Birth, etc., when, in fact, the table reports only those who chose the most right-wing, conservative of six statements about belief in God, etc. No student chose the statement denying belief in God. I, personally, reject the validity of the six theological statements concocted by a Lutheran and a non-Christian sociologist as a "Christian orthodox index."

— **Duke K. McCall, President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.**

In this issue

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Baptist work in Honduras is described this week in the editor's continuing series of reports on his recent visit to mission stations in Middle America.

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Linda Gallegly is a pastor's widow in Little Rock who benefits from the Annuity Board's insurance plans. Her experiences could help other church workers considering the effectiveness of their coverage.

Five people received Distinguished Citations from Southern Baptist College at its May commencement. The recipients and their awards are (seated left to right) Mrs. J. I. Cossey, the Distinguished Service Award in memory of her late husband; Jerry D. Gibbens, chairman of the Division of Humanities at Southern, Distinguished Alumnus Citation; W. O. Taylor of Melbourne, the Distinguished Baptist Minister; and Mrs. LaDelle Moody of Bald Knob, the Distinguished Baptist Lady Citation. Standing from left to right are Edward Maddox, Earl Humble, Delton Cooper, Frank Shell and Mrs. Jack Nicholas.



Ordination: it's meaning and purpose

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Most of those who have been ordained look back upon the event with pleasure. Ordination, however, in no way imbues mystical power or authority. It does signify that the ordaining church has confidence in the spiritual qualifications of the individual.

A series of closely connected false concepts developed in the post-New Testament era. Among these ideas were the doctrine of papal infallibility, absolute autocratic authority of church leadership, salvation by works through the church, mediation for sin made only by the priest, and the merit of ecclesiastical ordination.

W. T. Conner, in discussing priestly intercession, said "Ecclesiastical ordination has nothing to do with it. The laying of a bishop's hands on the head has no weight with God. Such things belong to the realm of ecclesiastical red tape rather than the realm of spiritual power" (*The Doctrine of Redemption*, Third Printing, 1946, page 272).

Baptists have, across the years, practiced ordination of both preachers and deacons. While there is ample biblical evidence to validate this practice, great care should be exercised not to allow misunderstandings to be connected with the event. Ordination is simply a recognition by a church of the gifts and calling that God has already given to an individual.

The practice of laying on of hands is rooted in the Old Testament. Jacob blessed Joseph's sons by the laying on of hands (Gen. 48:14-16). The children of Israel "put their hands on the Levites" (Numbers 8:10-11). In each instance they were looking to God who could alone bestow a blessing or select people for his spiritual service.

In the New Testament the practice of laying on of hands was continued for those who were to serve God in a special way. In some instances it seems that the act

was done by a presbytery (a small group of ordained individuals), while on other occasions it is possible that the entire congregation participated. Frank Stagg says, "The text of Acts 6:6 and the grammar of the verses strongly suggests that the 'they' who laid hands upon the seven referred to the whole congregation" (*New Testament Theology*, 1962, page 258).

The scripture further indicates that great care should be exercised in ordination. Often, haste in ordination produces severe future problems. Paul said of a person being set aside as a minister, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (1 Tim. 3:6).

Practical experience indicates that a congregation should not rush into ordaining one who has just surrendered to the ministry. Immeasurable harm has been done on some occasions by a church ordaining an individual, without first properly observing his work. Actually, almost every function of a pastor can be performed by an individual who has not yet been ordained. Thus, it is the part of wisdom to not ordain "a novice." Since both experience and the scripture indicate caution, a congregation should not proceed, if there is the slightest doubt as to the candidate's stability, character or call.

Ordination is placed in proper perspective when we realize that it acknowledges only the following three things: (1) A call to the ministry already issued by God; (2) The acceptance of this responsibility by the person called of God; and (3) The prayers of God's people for the one being ordained.

Much of the future of our work depends upon the quality of our preachers and deacons. Let us never settle for less than proven God-called individuals. As we seek God's guidance, he will provide for our future abundantly.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

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NUMBER 22

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

ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

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

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

The beautiful sound of "thank you"

Sometimes saying "thank you" is like trying to throw away an old boomerang. It just keeps coming back to the one who sends it out. This was the case during the spring commencement at Ouachita Baptist University when we tried to say "thank you" to James C. Hefley for bringing credit to his alma mater Ouachita. He responded primarily by expressing his thanks to many people who helped him along the way.

James Hefley is a free-lance religion writer of growing international reputation, who has authored or co-authored over forty books that have been published by every major American religious publisher, as well as by many secular publishing houses, with editions appearing in Chinese, Swedish, Finnish, German and Spanish. Two of his most recent books, co-authored with his wife Marti, are *By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the Twentieth Century*, and *Unstilled Voices*. The latter commemorates the

25th anniversary of the brutal killing of five American missionaries by the Auca Indians in Ecuador, and is also being published separately in England and by six other European publishers. The book on modern Christian martyrs received a first place award "in recognition of excellence in evangelical Christian literature," at the 1980 meeting of the Evangelical Publishers' Association. Each new book reads like a modern Book of Acts.

He was the oldest of eight children, and attended a one-room school in Newton County, Ark., where he completed the first seven grades in three years. He entered Arkansas Tech at the age of 13, and recalled being an agnostic, aspiring to operate a gambling casino. He tells of becoming a Christian during a service held in his family's living room by mountain missionary Ottis Denney, and of transferring to Ouachita through the friendship of three boys at Siloam Springs Assembly — John McClanahan,

Glendon Grober and T. W. Hunt. He graduated from Ouachita in January, 1950, and pays his tribute to many of his Ouachita teachers including Erma Simmons ("she was the first person to arouse my interest in serious literature") and R. C. Daily ("he made history come alive").

We set out to thank James Hefley with an honorary doctor of letters degree for his remarkable contributions in the field of Christian communications, but he made it a day of reverse Thanksgiving for all those people who have touched his life and helped to make it what it is. He demonstrated that it is even more blessed to give thanks than to receive thanks.

At the end of that busy but beautiful day, I decided I need to start working on my, thank-you list.

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



Woman's viewpoint

Polly Reynolds

Some things are not optional!

Optional means leaving something to choice. So, those things which are not optional are Teaching Missions, Supporting Missions and Doing Missions.

Missions to me is simply sharing Jesus. Sharing Jesus with those around me and giving my money and prayers to support those who go where I can not go. Studying about missions is important. Baker James Cauthen has said, "We do in direct proportion to what we know", so we study missions in order to do more.

The missions program of the Southern Baptists has never been and is not a matter of chance. It has always required hard work and a lot of time. But then most important things in life require these. Southern Baptists have reached this place because of the challenges given through Baptist Men and Women, Acteens, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action and Mission Friends organizations.

How many times multiplied have you heard a missionary say, "I heard the call to missions through G.A.'s or R.A.'s?"

Do we dare minimize or make optional such a dynamic force for missions? And yet how many of you reading this article are members of churches without some or all of these organizations?

We read about people who have given their all in sharing Christ and our hearts are stirred, but to do what? A man leading in prayer asked God to be with the missionaries, those who had gone where we couldn't and even if we could we wouldn't go. Doesn't this sound like most of us?

I challenge you to be open to God's leadership in the area of missions. Pastors, if you have had a bad experience with WMU (and I hope you haven't), please do not give up because of one bad time. You may not always get along

with the Sunday school director, but you don't quit having Sunday school. Realize missions education is an important part of the church program. Women, remember you are a part of the church program. Not the only part but a vital part, because without your contribution and that of Brotherhood, missions education will be inadequate in your church.

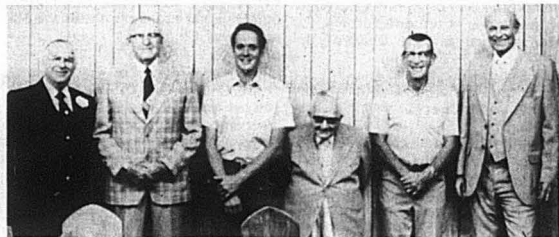
As Paul admonished the church in Ephesians we are to use all that God has given us "for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the service, to the building up of the body of Christ." May this be our goal as we work together in missions education.

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

Beaver Lake organized into church

The Beaver Lake Mission, located six and one-half miles west of Eureka Springs on Highway 187, and two and one-half miles east of Beaver Lake Dam, was constituted into a church May 24. The newly-organized church had 34 charter members at its inception but will keep its charter membership open until September 30. Twelve of the 34 people who have united with the new congregation, sponsored by First Church, Eureka Springs, have united through baptism. The newly-formed congregation will have a full program of activities including Sunday School, Church Training, prayer meeting and WMU.

The newly-constituted congregation's property is debt free. The auditorium will seat 80 people and there are three permanent classrooms in the basement with a fellowship hall that can be divided into one, two or three classrooms. The pastor's home is located on the first floor immediately behind the auditorium. The property owned by the church was purchased at a cost of \$60,000 and has an insured value of \$75,000 and includes six acres of land. The property was purchased with a grant from the state Missions Department and a personal contribution from Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Tyson. Pictured left to right are Pastor Elmer Griever, C. J. Tyson, Trustee Bay Bissat, Trustee Lawrence Tackett, Trustee Charles L. Roberts and Trustee Norbert Stock.



Alth photo by J. Everett Smeed



The Southern Accent

This I believe: about sanctification

by Earl R. Humble

Sanctification is the continuous application of the merits of Christ's death by which the holy disposition imparted to the believer in regeneration progresses toward the image of Christ. The root idea in sanctification is not sinlessness but separation.



Humble

If we are saved we are set apart for God, but being set apart, we grow toward the image of Jesus.

The time of Sanctification — It is not instantaneous, like regeneration or justification. It is a process usually referred to in the Bible as "growing in grace" (2 Peter 3:18). John was as good a Christian as ever lived but he said, "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

The method of Sanctification — Sanctification relates to the baptism of the Holy Spirit only in the fact that the baptism of the Spirit places the believer in the body of Christ, and this is the beginning of the process known as sanctification (1 Cor. 12:13). All believers are baptized with the Spirit, for that is the way we are saved (Rom. 8:9; Titus 3:5). Our sanctification progresses as we are filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18; 2 Thes. 2:13). The Holy Spirit makes use of the Word of God which is called the sword of the Spirit (Heb. 4:12). He makes use of prayer, Christian fellowship, witnessing, obedience to God's Word, and many other things.

Sanctification moves a believer from spiritual infancy to maturity (1 Cor. 2:10-15). When God's child dies the Spirit accompanies the departing spirit to the presence of God. When Jesus comes the Spirit will raise our bodies and glorify them. By this means He makes us fit for eternal dwelling — a redeemed spirit in a glorified body in God's presence. (Rom. 8:11).

Earl R. Humble is professor of religion at Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge.

Arkansan's bequest benefits seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — In appreciation for a recent \$2 million bequest from the estate of Mrs. Ida M. Bottoms of Texarkana, trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville have designated the seminary's teaching area of missions as "The Ida M. Bottoms Department of Christian Missions."

The action came during the board of trustees annual meeting on the seminary campus in April. The missions depart-

ment, founded in 1900, is celebrating its 80th year as the oldest teaching department of missions in any seminary.

With a portion of the Bottoms endowment, the trustees established the "M. Theron Rankin Chair of Foreign Missions," and named professor W. Bryant Hicks to be its first occupant. Hicks, a former missionary to the Philippines, joined the seminary faculty in 1965.

And some . . . evangelists

Conway evangelist also sings

Wallace "Wally" Ferguson has entered the field of evangelism to do both preaching and/or singing.

He attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway.

Ferguson has served churches in Warren, Little Rock, Crossett, Harrison and Conway, serving as either pastor or minister of music/youth.

In recommending Ferguson, Kendell Black, Conway Second Church pastor, said, "I have worked with Wally for several years, and I have never known a finer Christian gentleman. He is sincerely interested in seeing people saved."

He can be contacted by writing P.O. Box 566, Conway, Ark. 72032 or by calling (501) 327-6565 or 327-2568.



Ferguson

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Ray McClung

was called May 20 by Hot Springs Second Church to become their minister to senior Adults. McClung, who has been serving the church for 21 months as interim minister of education, has a 14 year ministry with the church, serving from 1947-1960 as minister of education and music. He served two churches in Colorado in that capacity before returning to Arkansas to join the staff of Little Rock Baptist Tabernacle. He retired in 1977 after serving eight years as Director of Missions for Pulaski County Association.

Gerald (Jerry) Hill

received his graduate of theology degree from Baptist Christian College of Shreveport, La., May 8. He is pastor of the Gillham First Church.

Tom L. Harris

received his doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla., May 8. He serves as pastor of Clinton First Church.

H. E. Williams

was honored May 31 by the Campbell Station Church in recognition of 50 years of ministry following his ordination. Williams, president emeritus of Southern College and a Missions Service Corps volunteer, is serving the church as interim pastor.

Alvin A. Harms

has moved to Jonesboro from Troy, Ala., to become pastor of the Sedgwick Church there.

Marvin E. James

recently received the degree of doctor of divinity degree from the International Bible Institute and Seminary in Orlando, Fla. James, pastor of Hot Springs Harvey's Chapel Church, received his bachelor of divinity degree from Luther Rice Seminary and his master of ministry degree from the International Bible Institute.

Gene Trantham

is serving Ward First Church as summer music/youth director. He is a music major at Ouachita Baptist University.

Gary Glover

was recipient of the Charles Davis Memorial Scholarship awarded annually by the North Little Rock Levy Church. He is a freshman at Ouachita Baptist University.



McClung



McCallum

Bobby Tucker

has joined the staff of Wynne Church to serve as summer youth director. He is a student at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Donnie Stroope

is serving the Hot Springs Grand Avenue Church as youth director.

Jack Pollard

of Ft. Smith has been elected to serve as secretary of the Golden Gate Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees for 1981-82. He is associated with the Ft. Smith Sparks General Hospital as an endorsed chaplain of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

Les Aldridge

began serving May 24 as pastor of the McRae First Church.

Freddy Blevins

has resigned as pastor of the Grandview Church.

Jim Box

resigned May 3 as pastor of the Manila Westside Church to become pastor of the Bald Knob Central Church.

Terry Floyd

is serving the Charleston Northside Church as pastor. He attended Mid-America Seminary. Floyd has served as pastor of the Forrest City Beck Spur Church and as an outreach leader of other Arkansas churches.

Bobby Cook

celebrated his first anniversary March 29 as pastor of the Higginson Church.

Jerry Smith

will observe his second anniversary June 3 as pastor of the Judsonia Church.

John Sorrell

will begin serving May 31 as minister of

music to the Springdale First Church, coming there from the Lexington Church, Lexington, S.C. A graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University of Nacogdoches, Texas, he has also served churches in Texas and Wyoming. Sorrell and his wife, Debbie, are parents of two children, Elayne and John Ryan.

Alan Quigley

is serving the Helena First Church as summer youth director. A native of Del City, Okla., he is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Jim Turpin

has resigned his position as minister of outreach and evangelism with the Sherwood First Church.

Roy Lewis

is serving as pastor of the Cabot Oak Grove Church.

Edward Harrison Jr.

is serving as pastor of the Pine Bluff Dollarway Church. He is a student at Mid-America Seminary. Harrison and his wife, Linda, have four children, Terry, Timmy, Tammie and Tiffany.

Paul Sanders

observed May 24 his 14th anniversary as pastor of Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Parks

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 20. They are members of Dardanelle First Church. Mr. Parks serves as a deacon and church treasurer.

Tony Berry

observed his tenth anniversary as pastor of Dardanelle First Church May 3. The church honored him and his wife, Ann, with a reception and presented them with gifts and a book of letters.

John Scott McCallum II

has been awarded the Millard J. Berquist Scholarship at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A native of Fayetteville and a graduate of the University of Arkansas, he served as minister of youth at Fayetteville First Church before enrolling at the seminary. He currently serves as associate pastor of the First Church of Lee's Summit, Mo. The scholarship, named for the seminary's first president, is awarded to a student on the basis of academic record, community involvement and ministerial service.

Helen Phelps dies

Helen Phelps, 58, wife of Ralph Phelps, who was president of Ouachita Baptist University from 1953 to 1969, died May 25 in a Brownwood, Texas, hospital.

The Phelps had lived at Arkadelphia and then at Little Rock. Dr. Phelps is now president of Howard Payne University at

Brownwood.

Other survivors are a son, James Phelps; a daughter, Miss Debbie Phelps; her mother, Mrs. Ruth Kennedy; and a brother, Robert Kennedy, all of Dallas.

Funeral services were conducted May

26 in Dallas by Tom. J. Logue and Leon Auddelle, pastor of Coggin Avenue Church in Brownwood.

The Helen Phelps Scholarship Fund has been established at Howard Payne University for memorials.

Black River names new director

Marvin Robert Reynolds became director of missions for Black River Association June 1.

Reynolds, 48, has been missionary-in-residence with Southern Baptist College with responsibilities in student recruiting and counselling, as well as campus missions promotion.

A graduate of Southern College, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has pastored churches in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

He and his wife, Beth, were appointed by the SBC Foreign Mission Board in 1967 to begin Southern Baptist work in the then newly independent country of Botswana, Africa. They served in Botswana until furloughing last year. During their second furlough (1976-77), he served as missionary-in-residence with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Stewardship Department.

The Reynolds have four sons, Randy, a student at OBU; Timmy, a student at Southern College; Teddy, a senior at Walnut Ridge High School; and Robby, a second grade student in Walnut Ridge.

Home Mission Board appoints Arkansans

Three Arkansans have been appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Joe Jones of Nashville was among 75 missionaries commissioned during services at Prays Mill Church near Douglasville, Ga.

Jones is chaplain/director of International Seaman's Center, Port of Freeport, Freeport, Texas.

James and Joe Nelle McDowell of Forrest City were appointed during the Board's May meeting.

McDowell is director of Pilot Mountain Baptist Association in Winston-Salem, N.C.



Reynolds



Jones

Dedication services for the education building attracted a large crowd who assembled in a tent set up in front of the building.

Blytheville First Church

Baptist Men have received an assignment from the Home Mission Board to assist the Hoffman Church near Henrietta, Okla., in remodeling an old school building to be used for a church.

Batesville Emmanuel Church

held services May 17 to ordain Benny Harris, Finus Kelley and Orlando Teague as deacons. O. I. Ford, a former pastor, preached the ordination sermon.

Batesville Calvary Church

ordained Kenneth Ray, Breck Hopkins, Roy Cartwright, Carter Baxter and Paul Woodruff as deacons May 17. Pastor Glenn Hickey presented the candidates and brought the charge to the church. Editor J. Everett Sneed of Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine led the ordination prayer.

Jonesboro Strawfloor Church

honored its graduating seniors Sunday evening May 24. The church has begun organizational plans for its Vacation Bible School that will begin June 15.

North Little Rock Levy Church

observed Adult Choir Recognition Day

May 3. Certificates were presented to all choir members in appreciation for their years of service. Gifts were presented to John Carter, B. P. Elmore, Dorothy Elmore and Sally Fortner for their more than 30 years of service. Phil Hardin is minister of music.

North Little Rock Cedar Heights Church was in a revival April 19-24 led by Huber Drumwright, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Pastor James Hays reported 14 professions of faith.

Gillham First Church

recently purchased and began operating a second bus paid for through a special offering given on a designated Sunday, according to Pastor Jerry Hill.

Pine Bluff Shepherd Hill Church

held groundbreaking services May 17 for an educational building, the first phase of a building program. The chapel is presently using a modular building with an additional trailer. Participants in the service were Sam Hargraves III, Mrs. Annie Allen, Pastor Robert Bledsoe, T. M. Byrd, Bob Wells and Faye Hendrix.

buildings

El Dorado Church dedicates building

El Dorado West Side Church, with a resident membership of 1,313, dedicated April 26 phase one of a three-phase building program.

The \$1.5 million two-story educational building, located on a 20-acre site in the West Hillsboro area of El Dorado, has a fellowship hall, serving as an interim auditorium; a kitchen and a suite of offices.

Land was purchased in December, 1975, with actual construction work beginning in October, 1979.

Pastor Jerry Wilson reports that rapid growth and recorded large numbers of baptisms are causes for this building pro-

gram, the third such program since its organization with five charter members July 8, 1924.

Huber Drumwright, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker for dedication services held in a tent erected for the occasion.

Other program personalities included Vivian Jerry, John Massey, Bob Weaver, Gurvis Vines, Paul Bridges, Roy Batey, Tapestry, Tommy Robertson, Paul Heisner, Worth Camp and Wilson.

Building committee members were Vines, Malcolm Loe, Batey, Paul Ramsey, Bridges, Buddy Blake and Marvin Park.



Second in a series

Honduras: a country of opportunity

Honduras, a developing nation; is much more a victim of the petroleum crisis than the more developed nations. Uncertainty may be the best word to describe the current economic situation in Honduras. But this very uncertainty has opened up many opportunities to hear the gospel.

Economic conditions are difficult within this developing country. An average worker would receive approximately \$6 per day and a school teacher, about \$200 a month.

The missionaries state that the last 10 years have brought dramatic changes in transportation facilities. The nation's major cities are linked by highway networks, and telephone communications have improved tremendously. Many rural sections, however, remain isolated, and the government's active road building program will continue for many years, in an effort to provide adequate

transportation for the country.

Honduras has a population of more than three million people. This may not seem large at first, but the population is growing at a rate of 3.5 percent annually. Consequently, about 50 percent of the people are under 15 years of age. If the growth continues at this same rate, the population will triple before the year 2000.

The capital of Honduras is Tegucigalpa, which has a population of approximately 460,000. Most Hondurans are "Mestizos," having Spanish-Indian parentage. Although there is a strong Indian influence, less than one percent of the population are Indians with a language other than Spanish.

The first evangelical witnesses in Honduras were the Jamaicans who came to the country to work in banana plantations and railroads. All these people, however, were basically English-speak-

ing and kept to themselves.

The most important evangelical pioneers among the Spanish speaking Hondurans were the Central American Mission, a non-denominational agency based in the United States. The United Church of Christ, Moravians, and Mennonites all have strong denominational groups in Honduras. Also, a variety of Penecostal groups are active in the country.

Baptist work began in 1946, when Baptist churches were organized from congregations who had been using Baptist literature. These people contacted our missionaries in Panama, who assisted them in organizing churches. Soon after Southern Baptist missionaries arrived, a book store was established, which has been one of the chief instruments in the evangelization of Honduras.

In Tegucigalpa there are four Baptist churches. The Central Baptist Church has



Missionaries (left to right) Nancy Kelley Chafin and H. Rhea Chafin and P. Thomas Canady (photo above) talk in front of Light and Truth Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa. The youth choir (above, right) of Central Church sings for a service.



Your Will and Ouachita

Can one gift annuity benefit both husband and wife?

Yes. As long as either partner lives, the income from a gift annuity may go to both husband and wife. There are some important things you need to know about income tax and estate tax savings, tax free income, how you can increase your present income, and also help Ouachita Baptist University after your death.

For more information write to Lloyd Cloud, Senior Development Officer, Ouachita Baptist University, Box 754, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, or call 246-4531, Extension 169.

and uncertainty

by J. Everett Sneed

had 60 professions of faith since January, but many of these are still awaiting baptism. There is normally a waiting period prior to baptism. The congregation currently has 250 members, and approximately 50 percent of those in attendance have never made a profession of faith.

The Light and Truth Baptist Church was constructed with volunteer labor in 1971. The congregation remained a mission until seven years ago, when it was constituted into a church. It was originally a mission of the Central Church. They now have 70 members but average approximately 200 in attendance.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1956 but did not have a building in which to meet until 1959. The pastor, Elexas Gonzalez has been with the congregation one year. The church now has 320 on the Sunday School roll and averages approximately 200 in attendance.

The Bethel Baptist Church has 230 members and averages about 270 in Sunday School. The pastor, Cesar Penal has been serving the church for five years and is 26 years of age. They have a mission which is now one and one-half months old. The pastor uses logos and other innovative methods to attract people to attend his church and to involve them in Bible study. Currently he is working to departmentalize his Sunday School.

One of the great opportunities for Baptists in Honduras is the use of radio and television. Currently, two television channels are carrying Baptist programs. This, according to the pastors, is producing a great deal of interest in the Baptist work and opening many doors. The uncertainty in Honduras is creating inroads for Baptists. There is a friendly attitude toward North Americans in the country, and the pastors are open to innovative methods. Honduran Baptist churches are seeking to make Christ known to their country. The motto of their convention is, "Baptists on the March-Advance."

SW Africans choose first missionaries

SWAKOPMUND, South West Africa (Namibia) — Baptists in South West Africa have asked Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kapia and their family to serve as home missionaries in Arandis, a new city of about 5,000 people, and the nearby Rossing Mine area. Kapia will seek to establish Baptist work in Arandis and will be a part-time chaplain for the mine. The three Baptist churches and two missions in South West Africa will support the Kapias.

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Bailey E. Smith is pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Oklahoma, and president of The Southern Baptist Convention. **Real Evangelism** and **Real Christianity** are two of his previous Broadman titles.

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WMU

Youth missions retreat

The Max Alexanders, missionaries to Thailand, will be special guests for the Youth Missions Retreat at Camp Paron, June 19-20. The retreat is sponsored by Arkansas WMU and the State Brotherhood Department. Beginning Friday evening and continuing through Saturday afternoon the agenda will be packed with fun and inspiration. Sports, swimming and campfire will be blended with music, missionary conferences and quiet time to make an unforgettable impact on the youth who attend.

Information about registration will be channeled through youth directors, R.A. and Brotherhood leaders, WMU Directors and Acteens leaders. If you would like the youth in your church to be a part of this experience you may write or call Arkansas WMU or the State Brotherhood Department, Box 552, Little Rock, 72203 or telephone 376-4791. — Betty Jo Lacy WMU

GA camps emphasis on missions

GA camp time is just around the corner and this summer's camps promise to be the best ever. Of course, that is just my opinion . . . and who am I to know — I'm just the director. If I go to Camp Paron alone, GA camp will be no good at all. Even if



Moore

the staff joins me and all 16 of us work, study and play together, GA camp still will not accomplish its purpose. In order for GA camp to be a success we must have campers — GA girls who enjoy learning about missions, hiking, studying God's Word, swimming, meeting new friends and much more.

Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union exists to assist the churches. Our GA camp is planned to reflect this basic principle. GA camping is different from just camping, or even just Christian camping. The elements that make this difference are found in Arkansas GA camps. Our main emphasis is missions. We use camp as a learning instrument, trying to present missions in a different, vital way.

This summer several home and foreign missionaries will challenge us to be missionaries "where we are" and to support them through praying and giving. Following is a schedule of those who will share a week with us:

July 6-10: Chandra Tagnani, US-2er,

Migrants, Hope, Ark., and Mrs. Bill Holloway (Linda), Japan.

July 13-17: Mrs. Bridge Chuckluck (Linda), Indians, Okla., and Mrs. Don Anders (Sharon), CMS, Mo.

July 20-24: Mrs. Max Alexander (Betty), Thailand, and Mrs. Dalton Haggan (Martha), Indians, Miss.

July 27-31: Mrs. Mike Wolf (Pat), Taiwan, and Mrs. Ken Robertson (Margaret), Senegal.

Promote GA camps for girls in your church (finished 3rd — finished 6th grades). Girls do not have to belong to GA in order to attend. Make available the opportunity for many of your girls to participate in this special missions opportunity. It will be an experience they will always remember. — Debbie Moore

Sunday School

It is time to enlist Sunday school workers

The fourth of the nine basics of Sunday school growth is "enlist workers."

A recent gathering of associational Sunday school leadership listed inconsistent attendance as a problem of many Sunday schools. Many members show little interest in attending on a regular basis. Several reasons were suggested, but the most crucial one seemed to be poor teaching on the part of some teachers—adult, youth, children and preschool.

Enlisting teachers who are willing to study, plan, train and visit is vital to a growing Sunday school. This enlistment is usually the task of the nominating committee and department directors, and this task should not be taken lightly. It must be carried out with much study, prayer and consideration.

The nominating committee works with the Sunday school director and general

officers in discovering and enlisting the department directors. The department directors then work with the nominating committee in discovering and enlisting teachers for their department.

Not just anyone can teach adults or youth or children or preschoolers. It takes a special person to fill each position in each Sunday school.

Decide on qualities desirable in your Sunday school staff. Use these as a guide in your enlisting.

Develop job descriptions for Sunday school teachers and officers. Place these in the hands of potential workers, and ask them to consider them and pray about accepting the position outlined. People tend to do what we expect of them. A Sunday school responsibility should be made challenging and important. We need to expect more of our Sunday school leadership.

Basic Sunday School Work by Harry M. Piland and the April issue of *Sunday School Leadership* can help your church in the enlistment process.

After enlisting workers we need to train them. That will be the next article in this series. — Pat Ratton, preschool consultant.

Family and Child Care Share your life

"We have plenty of love to go around." This statement was made recently by a 10-year old boy whose home was being evaluated as a foster home by our agency. His response was shared in answer to the question, "How would you and your brother feel about having another child in the home to share the attention of your parents?" "That will be fine, we have plenty of love to go around."

Although young in years, his answer revealed a young person firmly grounded in the security of love of his family. He knows a great deal about life and of life's basic need — to love and be loved. He has also caught a glimpse of the Christian concept of sharing love with others.

During one of my regular visits to the



Ratton

MK Prayer Calendar

Home and foreign Missionary Kids who attend college on the Margaret Fund

June

- 19 Stephen Lee Eufurd (Hawaii) OBU, Box 509, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
21 Barry Scott Burnett (Brazil) OBU, Box 601, Arkadelphia, AR 71923
30 Marcia O. Carswell (Brazil) OBU, Box 383, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Your state convention at work

Red Cross Blood Bank, I noticed a poster hanging on the wall which read, "Blood, Gift of Life." How striking! That is literally true. As I think about foster care, I want to say, "Foster Care, Gift of Life." Foster care is a family sharing part of everything that they are and part of everything that they have with a child. Literally they are sharing their life with another person. Life is precious. Life is a gift from God; what we do with it is our gift to him.

Would you like to share your life with a foster child? — Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services.

Christian Life Council

Warning label needed

"Warning—using this product: Too fast may cause sickness or death; may impair driving ability; may create dependence or addiction; and during pregnancy may harm the unborn. Legal age required for purchase."

The American Council on Alcohol Problems has recommended that the above warning be placed on alcoholic beverage containers. Currently, Rep. George E. Brown of California is again sponsoring legislation in Congress to require some type warning label. This legislation is entitled the Alcohol Beverage Labeling Act Amendment, H.R. 2251. His efforts have failed in the past. It is hoped that with additional and substantial scientific evidence he will be successful this year.

Each member of the Arkansas delegation to Congress has been written to by our Christian Life Council office. We have urged their strong support for warning labels. One has already responded that he favors such a warning label, but it is not likely to be approved under the present administration's effort

to eliminate government regulations. I would propose that letters be written to the President and others in Washington, particularly our Arkansas Congressional delegation, that there are some regulations that should be required despite such commendable efforts. Warning labels should have been placed long ago on products containing toxic, mind and body destroying elements. Many have expressed concern about the lack of interest in getting such labels on alcoholic beverage containers as presently are required for cigarettes and other products. The great majority of the American public should not be overridden by a few powerful lobbyists representing alcoholic beverage interests. Write today! Don't just gripe! — Bob Parker

OBU announces summer schedule

ARKADELPHIA — The 1981 summer school session at Ouachita Baptist University will be divided into two four-week terms, according to Carl Goodson, vice president for academic affairs at OBU.

The first summer term will begin June 8 with registration at 9 a.m. in Life Hall. Classes will begin the next day and will continue until July 3.

Beginning with the July 6 registration, the second term will last until July 30 with summer commencement on July 31.

Attention retired Arkansas ministers

The 1980 annual is available to retired ministers in Arkansas. Please write: Office of Executive Secretary, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203 or call: 376-4791.

BSU Third Century Campaign

BSU supported me by Deanna Gobert

I support the BSU Third Century Campaign because for the past 8½ years BSU has supported me in many ways.

As a freshman at Henderson, BSU gave me many lasting friendships with students and directors and, most important of all, led me into a personal relationship with Christ. It was a BSU-er that I began my Christian pilgrimage. Through the ministry of BSU I was able to learn and grow as a Christian and as an individual during my college years. I was "volunteered" for positions of responsibility that I never would have sought ordinarily and then provided with the support and love I needed to become more confident of my abilities and of God's ability to work through me.

As I graduated from college, served in Semester Missions, and attended seminary, I always knew there were BSU friends at home praying for me and ready to help me at any time, in any way they could. That means a lot to a student hundreds of miles from home.

As I've tried to find and follow God's will for me in work, school and, now, in my marriage, I've always known and felt the love and support of BSU friends. When I work with my husband now as he serves as a pastor, I see college students involved in church and am grateful for them and for my BSU director who taught me the importance of church involvement.

There is a void left in a college student's life when he has to be separated from family and friends. I am so thankful BSU was there to help fill that place and guide me in the right direction. I hope that by supporting Third Century Campaign the lives of other college students may be affected as mine was. It's a ministry with unlimited potential, and I'm happy to have a part in it.

Deanna Gobert Johnson is a graduate of Henderson State University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



Gobert



State officers of Baptist Student Union were elected recently during the annual Leadership Training Conference. Lou Leventhal (left) of Arkansas State University will serve as president, Susan Bogy (center) of the University of Arkansas as vice president, and Deanna Travis (right) of Ouachita Baptist University as secretary.

Experience shows young widow the need

by Robert H. Dilday

A pastor's widow receiving benefits from the SBC Annuity Board generally brings to mind images of a grey-haired woman in the later years of her life. Anyone with that idea would be surprised to encounter Linda Gallegly.

Since the death of her husband Rudy in April, the 34-year-old mother of three is one of the thousands of Southern Baptist widows who are benefitting from Annuity Board plans.

Rudy Gallegly, a graduate of Ouachita University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, had been pastor of the Danville First Church and, while serving Eureka Springs First Penn Memorial Church, was stricken with cancer of the lungs. After two years in and out of Little Rock's University Hospital, he died

April 15, leaving Linda with three children: 8 years, 6 years and 14 months.

Without the benefits offered by the Annuity Board, Linda believes it would have been much harder to cope with her loss.

"I'm so thankful for what we have," she says. "I'm thinking about going back to college in order to get a job and if I didn't have these first three years of extra benefits, I couldn't manage that."

But for Linda, as for other pastors' widows, the unexpected loss prevented the fullest preparation for that event.

"Probably if I had known three or four years ago that this was going to happen we would have sacrificed more and gotten more benefits," she explains. "But it would have been a very big sacrifice

for us to make, because we were just making a normal, livable salary. Most husbands think they have to provide now, and that was always our point — we're just making ends meet now."

Does she think Baptist churches could do more to provide for their pastors' futures?

"Arkansas Baptists really came to my aid in the last six months," she insists. "Most of the aid we've gotten has been from former churches. I don't know what I would have done without them."

"I really think it's great that churches provide the basic plans, but most churches — not all, but most — could go a little further."

According to Nadine Bjorkman, An-

On the cover



ABN photos/Marie Gill

For Linda Gallegly, time with her three children is worth the sacrifice it might entail (left); but the routine of paying bills and running a household demand attention as well (above).

Your state convention at work

Cooperative Program Post Office delivers letter

Letters, millions of them daily, are addressed to people, institutions or causes.

A letter sent to your mother carries a definite name, address and city.

People write letters to Southwestern Bell. The University of Arkansas receives mail from concerned citizens. Causes, such as the United Way, aren't without addresses.

Does a letter addressed to the Cooperative Program wind up in the dead letter

file? No. The post office kept the envelope moving and it ended its journey on my desk. Cooperative Program letters have a way of getting around.

The addressee could have been any one of thousands whose ministries are supported by the Cooperative Program. Alvin Hutton, Ted Samples or Jimmy Allen could have had their name on the envelope.

The writer might have used Ouachita, Southern or Home Mission Board instead of Cooperative Program. Hundreds of letters are addressed to our many Bap-

tist institutions and agencies.

Baptist work includes many good causes and the letter addressed to the Cooperative Program could have gone to mission causes, media causes, ethical causes, educational causes or a camp tucked away in an Arkansas valley.

Even though people complain about the mail service, a letter addressed to the Cooperative Program got through. Cooperative Program funds do get through and minister in those areas approved by Baptists in open meetings. — James A. Walker, Stewardship/Cooperative Program

for more income security

nity Board representative in Arkansas, "too many Southern Baptist churches in Arkansas offer only the basic plans for their pastors."

"This is changing," she acknowledges, "but slowly."

Bjorkman says one of the most promising changes among church provisions for their pastors' financial stability is the trend toward helping pastors buy their own homes. Without the equity that accrues from owning a home, pastors (and especially their widows) often find it difficult to find adequate housing away from a parsonage.

Linda agrees housing is her biggest problem now.

"I think that (owning a house) would be something that would be as much a benefit to a pastor as any other benefit."

Linda looks forward to getting an elementary education degree and beginning a career in the schools. Though she didn't work before and the lack of experience will be a disadvantage, she doesn't regret it. "It was very important to me

and Rudy both that I stay home and raise the children. So we sacrificed. Maybe we would have gotten more retirement benefits if I had been working, but we sacrificed a lot so I could stay home with my children."

In advising young pastors' wives to prepare for future events, Linda encourages them to "get your education."

"We spent all of our time and money educating Rudy," she remembers. "I kept planning on going back to school every year, but never did. If there is any way a wife can get her education she should go back and do it. That might be the only thing I'd have done different: I'd have gotten my degree five years earlier."

Linda expects a continuing help from the Annuity Board and Christian friends.

"I don't know what people who are not Christians do in a situation like this. I don't know what I would have done without Arkansas Baptists."

Robert H. Dilday is an intern with the ABN and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Attendance report

May 24, 1981

Church	Sunday School	Church Trng.	Church adds.
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	195	72	
Alpena, First	62	19	
Atkins, First	110	52	1
Batesville, First	222	88	1
Bentonville, First	387		
Berryville, First	196	85	3
Blue Eye, Mo., First	122	47	
Booneville			
First	242		4
South Side	150	104	1
Bryant, Indian Springs	120	70	2
Cabot			
First	383	110	
Mt. Carmel	409	140	2
Camden, Cullendale First	369	102	
Caraway, First	105	91	
Conway			
Pickles Gap	179	79	2
Second	456	171	2
Crossett			
First	415	92	1
Temple	210	106	
Des Arc, First	189	52	
El Dorado, Parkview	121	53	1
Forrest City, First	584	112	
Ft. Smith, Westside	70	41	
Green Forest, First	161	41	
Hampton, First	152	81	
Harrison			
Northvale	118	40	2
Woodland Heights	80	37	
Hot Springs			
Emmanuel	71	49	1
Grand Avenue	353	106	
Harvey's Chapel	126	75	1
Memorial	75	55	
Millcreek	31	28	
Park Place	277	89	
Rector Heights	87	51	
Hughes, First	157	76	2
Monticello, Second	263		
Mulberry, First	216	107	1
Nashville, Ridgeway	195	89	6
North Little Rock, Stanfill	76	49	4
Paragould			
Calvary	176	120	1
East Side	305	211	3
First	374	125	1
Pea Ridge, First	202	50	2
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	121	39	
Hardin	131	53	
Lee Memorial	169	36	
Watson Chapel	420	112	5
Prairie Grove, First	141	61	
Rogers, Immanuel	719	91	
Russellville, First	466	5	
Sandusky, Okla., Faith	29		
Springdale			
Caudle Avenue	116	58	
Elmdale	237	109	2
First	1,590		5
Texarkana			
Shiloh Memorial	122	58	1
Trinity	304	183	4
Valley Springs	65	15	
Van Buren, First	419	82	
Vandervoort, First	58	29	2
West Helena, Second	280	104	4

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Miller

International

June 7, 1981

II Kings 23:1-2

by Norman Miller
Barton Church

Hearing God's command

Hearing God's commands means more than hearing with the ear. It means to hear with understanding and obedience.

A revival of hearing God's word (II Kings 23:1, 2)

For many years the temple and the word of God had been neglected. Young King Josiah ordered the temple to be repaired (II Kings 22:3-6). During the restoration Hilkiah, the high priest, found a copy of the law in the temple.

They showed the book of the law to King Josiah and he ordered the priests, the prophets and the people to gather in Jerusalem. They came and heard the King himself read the law of God to them. The result was revival and reform in Judea.

Requirements of God's commands (Deut. 10:12-13)

Moses asked Israel, "What does the Lord your God require from you?" He answers them with five requirements: (1) "To fear the Lord your God," (2) "to walk in all His ways," (3) "to love Him," (4) "to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," and (5) "to keep the commandments of the Lord and his statutes."

Response to God's commands (Deut. 10:14-11:1)

In these verses Moses describes the person of God and his word for his people, Israel, and how the people should respond.

First, he says that God is the creator and possessor of the heavens and the earth and all its inhabitants (v. 14). The great creator loved and chose Israel to be his people (v. 15). Therefore they should respond to opening their hearts to God and by repenting of their stubbornness against the Lord (v. 16).

Second, he says that, "the Lord your God is God of gods, Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty and a terrible (God)" (v. 17). Then God is described as an impartial God (v. 17), one who administers justice to the widows and orphans, and loves and provides for the stranger. Based upon these things the people are admonished to love the stranger (v. 19), to remember that they were strangers in Egypt, and to fear and serve God (v. 20).

Third, he says that the Lord is their praise, and that he is their God (v. 21). He reminds them of the great things that God had done for them by bringing them out of Egypt and increasing their multitude. Then he urges them to respond by loving God and keeping his word.

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Abuse prevention seminar set

SCAN Volunteer Service Inc. (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect) will sponsor a training for persons interested in volunteering their time to work with families who have a child abuse problem. The training will provide information on the dynamics of child abuse, child management and development and observations on human behavior. There will also

be a panel of parents who have received help with a child abuse problem. The training is Wednesday and Thursday, June 10 and 11, at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Woodlawn and Monroe Streets, Little Rock, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. For more information, including registration, call the SCAN office at 371-2773.

Christ holds the future

Most of us have lived long enough to witness the future. It is upon us. The future slips into present tense realities. Our tomorrows become today's. We live out yesterday's hopes, frustrations and plans.

One thing becomes evident as we turn the years. Christ holds the future. He is always present.

The early believers needed this message. Roman might overwhelmed them. Present realities darkened their hopes. They worried about the future. John declared God's sovereignty in Christ. The theme in Revelation four is continued in the fifth chapter.

The Sealed Scroll

The scroll, held in God's right hand, was written on both sides, not to save money, but to reveal the completeness of the message from God.

Seven seals sealed the scroll. "Seven," the complete or perfect number, meant the scroll was completely sealed. No person knew its contents.

What did the sealed scroll mean to John and his readers? Some think the scroll meant destruction. Others feel it referred to God's justice or to his eternal purposes. A Southern Baptist scholar suggests the scroll shows God at work in the course of human history.

An angel asked, "Who is worthy to open the book" (v. 2, NASB)? John was greatly disturbed because he could not find a single person worthy to break the seals. His loud weeping was interrupted by an elder who presented the "Lion from the tribe of Judah." This title, along with "root of David," presented the Christ of history. He alone was worthy to open the sealed scroll.

The Worthy Lamb

A slain Lamb stood near the throne. He was the sacrificed Lamb who was wounded for our transgressions. He lives beyond time and events. His seven horns symbolize conquest and his seven eyes keep careful watch over his suffering children.

Three groups declared the worthiness

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Walker

Life and Work

June 7, 1981

Revelation 5:1-12

by James Walker

Stewardship Director

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

of the Lamb. Four living creatures and 24 elders praised him. An unnumbered host of angels attributed honor, glory and blessing to Christ. Finally, all creatures joined in praise to the Lamb.

The weary persecuted Christians could lift their heads. God reigns through Christ. The past, the present and the future were and are subject to his control.

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Hacker

Bible Book

June 7, 1981

I Samuel 18:1-20:42

by S. D. Hacker

Independence Association

Saul's jealousy of David

The story of David and Jonathan is a perfect example of love and friendship in the world. The three chapters considered in this lesson feature the devoted loyalty and support they shared. Even in the shadow of great difficulty, this bond between friends remained strong and sure. Jonathan even chose his friendship with David over his own right to the throne of Israel.

An enemy's hatred

Saul's hatred for David manifested itself in wicked schemes to murder him; he stooped so low as to try to use Jonathan to betray David. The enmity of Saul against David grew, even while the friendship between Jonathan and David grew. Jonathan interceded for David, causing Saul to cease his unholy persecution for a time; however, the enmity broke out again resulting in a direct attempt on David's life.

Standing on principle

David fled to Samuel where he was able to bear the bitter testing and not, in the heat of self-defense, kill the stalking predator of his life. While there, God intervened in a remarkable manner to protect David from the fury of Saul, as his Spirit took possession of Saul's messengers and finally Saul himself, and compelled them to prophesy.

The will of God revealed

Chapter 20 further highlights the finest character of Jonathan as he helped David and willingly cooperated with what he knew to be the will of God. Aware that God had chosen his friend to be king, and evidently without any pang of regret, he acquiesced in that divine appointment and remained true to David, loving him more rather than less because he saw in him the anointing of God.

Saul added to all his sins by attempting to take the life of his own son. Saul is revealed as rapidly becoming an irresponsible madman. On the other hand, David is seen as being disciplined by the enormous threatenings of Saul to being prepared for the work as king over all Israel.

Conclusion

Who can know what God has in store for those of us who endure great testing protected by the divine will of God? Be faithful to God, wait on his time table, in due time, his purpose and plan will be revealed.

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SBC datelines

Commissioning service held for 75

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga. (BP) — Seventy-five Southern Baptist home missionaries were commissioned for service in 27 states and Puerto Rico during ceremonies at Prays Mill Baptist Church.

Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner, in commissioning the missionaries, said it is academic to talk about "winning the whole world to Christ if there is no spiritual awakening in our own land."

Tanner told about 1,200 guests and members of the church the Home Mission Board has about 3,000 other mis-

Jewish members named to ADL-SBC committee

NEW YORK (BP) — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has named eight members to a joint committee to improve Baptist-Jewish relations.

The concept of a joint committee was established in December after Bailey E. Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, met with ADL leaders in New York. Smith named five Southern Baptist leaders to serve with him on the group in February.

Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., asked for and attended the New York meeting after two controversial remarks he made concerning Jews were widely publicized.

Smith will co-chair the group with Ronald B. Sobel, chairman of the ADL's national program committee.

Williams to head foundation group

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — C. Fred Williams, president of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, has been elected president of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives for 1981-82.

Williams, an ordained minister who has served the Oklahoma City-based Baptist convention for 13 years, was named president during a business session at the 35th meeting of the association, succeeding Glenn E. Bryant of Alexandria, La.

The Association of Baptist Foundation Executives is made up of Southern Baptist leaders who administer endowment funds for the denomination's institutions, agencies and other causes.

Nonprofit postage increase is likely

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Baptist state newspapers and agency publications, and other nonprofit mailers, appear headed for severe postage increases in October.

It is apparently now a question of how severe the hikes will be.

A spokesman for the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service told Baptist Press some cuts are "likely" in the subsidy which allows nonprofit organizations to move gradually from partial to full postage rates.

The proposed cut, already recommended by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, would eliminate the final six years of a 16-year plan implemented by Congress to cushion the impact of requiring nonprofit mailers to pay full rates for mailing their publications.

The House Committee recently held two days of hearings to examine what Chairman William B. Ford, D-Mich., described as "the implications of President Reagan's proposal to make major spending reductions in postal appropriations."

Both the House and the Senate already have approved the president's overall budget spending limits for fiscal year 1982, but individual committees are now in the process of recommending ways in which the specific cuts will be made.

Ford's committee is required by the House Budget Resolution to cut \$5.5 billion in 1982 spending and could choose to accept or reject the administration

recommendation to cut the nonprofit mailing subsidy.

In the hearings, Edgar R. Trexler, representing Associated Church Press, American Jewish Press, Catholic Press Association and Evangelical Press Association, told the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service that elimination of the phasing process "may well be a disaster."

Trexler, speaking for more than 750 publications with total circulation of approximately 70 million, said eliminating the phasing process would more than double postage costs of these nonprofit organizations.

Trexler's example of a 137 percent hike in the cost of mailing his own publication, *The Lutheran*, parallels the estimates made by editors of Southern Baptist state newspapers and agency publications.

"The religious press is willing to pay fair postal rates," Trexler asserted. But he feels "Congress is on the verge of breaking faith with the religious press by suddenly forcing religious publishers to assume an exorbitantly heavy postal increase."

Trexler cited a survey showing that 10 percent of religious publications would die if postage rates more than doubled and more than half would be forced to mail fewer copies.

Trexler further challenged the notion that the postal service should be self-supporting, saying that such a goal "is not as important as service to the general welfare."

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sionaries with the same kind of dedication and commitment as the 75 who were commissioned.

Twenty-three of the missionaries, the largest number, are involved in church extension work, most as church starters.

Twenty were commissioned for language work, including seven for international seamen's center work.

A dozen Christian social ministries workers were commissioned, most of them for work in Baptist centers.

Four missionaries were commissioned for work through the HMB's black church relations department, and eight each were commissioned through the board's metropolitan missions department and rural-urban missions department, almost all of them serving in associational missions.