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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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6-25-1981

**June 25, 1981**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist  
June 25, 1981  
NEWSMAGAZINE

Be a Christian Citizen...

**OBSERVE CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 28, 1981**

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

## Controversial translator resigns

Robert G. Bratcher, a Bible translator whose remarks on biblical inerrancy in April created a furor among Southern Baptists, has resigned as a research associate with the American Bible Society.

Bratcher's comments to the Christian Life Commission seminar at Dallas were labeled in a statement released last week by the ABS as "ill considered and in temperate."

(In that address in April Bratcher had called belief in biblical inerrancy as "willful ignorance" or "intellectual dishonesty." He claimed that to invest the Bible with the qualities of inerrancy and infallibility is to idolize it, to transform it into a false god.)

The ABS statement also disassociated the society with Bratcher's statements and added that his remarks had "violated one of the society's basic rules" of not engaging in "theological debate or making comment on the doctrinal positions of the churches and constituencies it seeks impartially to serve."

Bratcher, the son of Southern Baptist missionaries, received his education and theological training from Southern Baptist institutions.

## Arkansas committeemen named

David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Association, and Frank Lady, layman and member of Jonesboro Central Church, were named to the 1982 committee on boards by the SBC committee on committees in Los Angeles.

The Arkansas committeemen serving on the committee on committees ap-

pointed by President Bailey Smith were Ernie Perkins, director of missions for Concord Association, and Wayne Smith, pastor of Sparkman First Church.

The 1982 committee on boards will report to the 1982 convention in New Orleans with nominees to SBC boards, commissions and agencies.

*A new slate of officers for the Southern Baptist Convention's Conference of Ministers' Wives was elected Tuesday, June 9, at their annual meeting in Los Angeles, Calif. They are (left to right) Mrs. Russell McIntire, Oak Park Church, New Orleans, La., vice president; Mrs. J. Allen Kirkpatrick, First Southern Church, Fountain Valley, Calif., president; Mrs. Clyde Glazener, Calvary Church, Little Rock, Ark., corresponding secretary; and Mrs. J. W. L. Adams, Beech Street First Church, Texarkana, Ark., secretary-treasurer.*



Photo by David Hayward

*New officers were elected during the 20th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Associational Missions. They are (left to right) Cline Borders, Shelby, N.C., president; William R. Moyle, Tampa, Fla., president-elect; J. D. Passmore, Corning, Ark., secretary; Daniel F. Page, Greenville, S.C., editor; and Nolan Johnston, New Orleans, La., host director. David L. Morgan, Yuma, Ariz., new treasurer, is not pictured. The associational directors met prior to the Southern Baptist Convention June 9-11 in Los Angeles.*



Photo by Ken Lawson

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## In this issue

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Thirty-two Arkansans graduated in May and June from Southern Baptist-owned seminaries. Their pictures are included this week.

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Editor J. Everett Sneed concludes his five-part series on missions in Middle America with a story on Baptists in Mexico, a "country of continuing revolution."

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Christian Citizenship Sunday is a way to remind Southern Baptists of their responsibilities in a democratic, pluralistic society. Christian Life Council director Bob Parker offers some suggestions for observing this special day.

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Every Baptist would agree that a deacon is one of the most important people in a church. Across the years many ideas have developed as to his role. Some have used him as a church business manager, while others have seen him as one who keeps the pastor straight. A few have felt that the office of deacon should be utilized to honor outstanding men.

The word "deacon" in the New Testament is derived from the Greek word "diakonas," meaning "servant." In the time of Paul life was cheap. A man's power or station in society was often measured by the number of servants he owned. The word "servant" might be spoken like "leper." But the word was given a new and lofty meaning by the inspired men of the early church, for a deacon is a servant of the Most High God.

It is our belief that the seven men appointed in Acts were deacons although the name was not specifically assigned to them anywhere in the scriptures. These men were chosen out of a definite need. The Greek widows were complaining that the Hebrew widows were receiving a larger portion of the resources (Acts 6:1). The disciples said that it was not desirable that they would leave off the proclaiming of God's Word to distribute resources to the needy. The men functioned well. They solved the problem of fellowship as well as relieving the load of the apostles.

By the time of the writing of Philippians, the office seems to have been well established, for Paul addresses "... all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). As heretical ecclesiastical structure developed, by the end of the second century, the deacon's position had changed from the position of lay servant to the lowest position of professional clergy.

The New Testament gives us great insight into the office as it outlines the requirements for these dedicat-

ed men. A deacon is to be one who is grave (serious). That is, one who has Christian purpose (I Tim. 3:8). This does not imply that he should not enjoy a good joke. Every pastor agrees that a good sense of humor helps. He, also, is to be doctrinally sound (I Tim. 3:9), mature in Christian service (I Tim. 3:10), a man with a Christian family (I Tim. 3:12), a man of controlled speech (I Tim. 3:8), a man who is temperate (I Tim. 3:8), and a good steward of his possessions (I Tim. 3:8). In short, the requirements for a deacon are the same as those for a preacher, with the exception of "being apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2).

Many concepts have developed concerning the function of deacons. They are often referred to as the "Board of Deacons." This conveys the idea of decision making, implying that they should have the responsibility of dealing with the business affairs of the church. On the other hand, it should be clearly noted that there are no levels of authority in a Baptist church. Every member is equal to every other member and the congregation, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, must have the final decision in all matters.

We believe the New Testament pattern indicates that a deacon should be a part of the pastoral ministry or spiritual team. They should work under the leadership of the pastor to assist the congregation in accomplishing its spiritual objectives.

Some of the most important spiritual objectives to be cared for by the pastor and deacons would be: (1) Assist in promoting the spiritual fellowship of the church; (2) Assist in proclaiming or carrying the gospel; and (3) Assist in caring for the needy of the community.

The office of deacon is an exciting and rewarding calling. We thank God for the dedicated men who serve in this capacity. Today, we have some of the finest men who have ever served as deacons.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 180 NUMBER 25

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

ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D. .... Editor Emeritus

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

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

Copies by mail 25 cents each.

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

Advertising rates on request.

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### Are leaders out of step with the people?

Sometimes I have real trouble with the old statement attributed to Will Rogers: "All I know is what I read in the newspapers." Occasionally I read a report that something is clearly true, and later in the same paper I am told it is clearly false.

Not long ago Lloyd Shearer wrote in his widely syndicated "Intelligence Report," that despite the "rising fulminations of so-called Bible Belt groups," many film executives realize they are living in a sexually permissive era in which "liberated career women" can choose to bear offspring without the prerequisite of a marriage license. He quotes a movie producer as saying he doesn't know anyone who will refuse to see Faye Dunaway, Ursula Andress or Jessica Lange in movies because each had a baby outside of marriage. Shearer reports that Hollywood took the illegitimate births in stride, "giving none a second worry."

In just a few days what seemed to be

clearly true was said to be clearly false by George Cornell, reporting on a comprehensive study of the "values that sway American attitudes and actions." A professional survey team made two remarkable discoveries: (1) Religion is the central core guiding most people's approach to life (even though the researchers "weren't hunting for religion"); and (2) leaders in various professional fields were found to be drastically out of step with the general public, being less religious and much less concerned about moral conduct.

Researcher John C. Pollock said there is a substantial gap, perhaps a chasm, between the public and leaders in government, education, the news media, the military, law, science and community affairs. An interesting discovery was that religious leaders are closest to the people in attitudes, and are also the most admired. Business leaders were found second in similarity to public views, but are

among the least admired.

The gap between leaders in professional fields, and the general public, was shown by attitudes toward what is immoral: 65 percent of the public regard abortion as immoral, but only 36 percent of leaders so believe; 71 percent of the public regard homosexuality as immoral, and only 42 percent of leaders do; 57 percent of the public consider smoking marijuana immoral, but only 33 percent of leaders do; and 71 percent of the public regard sex before 16 as immoral, but only 55 percent of leaders believe this.

It would seem that columnist Lloyd Shearer, and the "many film executives" need to read George Cornell's column. They might stop referring to the morality of the general public as "rising fulminations of so-called Bible Belt groups."

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



## Woman's viewpoint

Polly Reynolds

### Preventative maintenance

Many things require maintenance. Among these are cars, houses, churches, and our bodies. If our cars are not taken care of they begin to slow down, become less efficient. The same is true of our bodies. The old saying "A stitch in time saves nine" still applies today. This means taking care of the small things before they become big.

An intangible that needs preventative maintenance is prayer. Prayer time is a very fragile thing. So many things come between me and God. But isn't it amazing, how quickly I seek him when things begin to go wrong? Wonder how many things could be prevented by maintaining praying in my life?

Why is prayer important? Many books have been written about prayer. Many formulas for praying have been worked out. But after you have read all the books and all the techniques have been tried, it still is a matter of making time to be alone with God. God wants to hear from us. We need to talk to him and listen to

him.

Prayer is communicating with God. We are told to ask, but prayer should be more than just asking.

In Brother Lawrence's book *Practicing His Presence* he says, "The Lord does not really lay any great burden on us. He only wants you to recall him to mind as often as possible, to pour out your adoration to him, to pray for his grace, offer him your sorrows. Return from time to time to him, and quietly, purely thank him for the benefits he pours out upon you even in the midst of your troubles. The Lord asks you to let him be the one who consoles you, just as often as you can find it in you to come to him."

All of us have the ability to come to God in prayer. It may be easier for some but God knows this even better than we do.

Great things have happened because people prayed believing. All spiritual awakenings have started because of prayer. There is a real need for a spiritual

awakening now and many are praying for this. Would you join us in prayer at noon for spiritual awakening?

How is your prayer life? Are you practicing preventative maintenance?

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.

### News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Billy B. Tisdale, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for medical leave (address: c/o A. C. Tisdale, Box 747, Tatum, Texas 75691). Born in El Dorado, Ark., he grew up in Joinerville, Texas. She is the former Helen McWilliams of Joinerville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1955, resigned in 1970, reapointed in 1978.

## Baptists to observe U.S. independence

Several Baptist groups in Arkansas are planning to mark U.S. independence with worship services with patriotic themes.

Those which have been reported to the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* are the following:

**Fort Smith First Church**, which will hold their annual God and country observance Sunday, June 28.

Pastor Bill Bennett has invited Arkansas Gov. Frank White and Rick Stanley, stepbrother of the late Elvis Presley, to speak to his 9 a.m. Sunday School class and to give testimonies in the morning worship service at 10:40 a.m. A 200-voice choir will present patriotic music.

**Booneville First Church**, which will observe the holiday with musical performances July 1-3.

Pastor Allen Thrasher reports that a 100-voice choir will sing "I Love America" and that the presentation will include drama and slides.

**North Pulaski Association**, which will hold their second annual God and Country Celebration at Northeast High School at 5 p.m. June 28.

The program will include a choir of more than 200 voices, accompanied by a 25-piece orchestra. A military color guard will participate and speakers will include U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers, Lt. Governor Winston Bryant, and former Governor Bill Clinton.

## Ray to be director for Mount Zion

Harold B. Ray will become director of missions for Mount Zion Association July 6.

Ray, 51, has been pastor of the Jonesboro Nettleton Church for the past 17 years, leading in the addition of more than 1,000 new members in this tenure.

A native of Valdosta, Ga., he is a graduate of Southern Baptist College, Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Seminary.

His other Arkansas pastorates include the Wardell, New Hope, Clear Lake and Blytheville Calvary Churches. He has held associational leadership positions in Mississippi County and Mt. Zion Associations as well as serving on the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and as a trustee of Southern Baptist College.

Ray is married to the former Betty Lou Cullins of Harrisburg. Their children are Phyllis, 21, Joel, 20, and Timothy, 17.



Ray



## The Southern accent

### Heard lately from Solzhenitsyn?

by D. Jack Nicholas

Alexander Solzhenitsyn emerged from the obscurity of a Russian prison to achieve international literary fame. At first celebrated (nominated in 1963 for a Lenin Prize by the Union of Writers of the U.S.S.R.) and later repudiated in Russia, he appears to be suffering much the same fate in America.

At first warmly welcomed and celebrated in this country to the point of being awarded a Nobel prize, his popularity has obviously waned sharply since his June, 1978, address at the commencement of Harvard University. There is a marked difference in the frequency of quotes from and reference to Solzhenitsyn in the American media before and after that address.

Why did the American media lose interest in Solzhenitsyn? Could it be a form of discretionary censorship exercised by the media people themselves simply because they ceased to approve of what Solzhenitsyn is now saying?

Examine with me again some of Solzhenitsyn's comments at Harvard which stirred so much attention and which ap-



Nicholas

parently disenchanted the American press. After the fashion of a John the Baptist or a Savonarola, he lamented the moral decline, the spiritual decadence of the West. He cited "the revolting invasion of publicity," America's passion for comfort, safety, and well-being, its loss of will-power, its unwillingness to take risks or die for its beliefs and values, a decline in courage.

He characterized much broadcasting in America as "T.V. stupor." He denounced modern music as "intolerable." He chided the American press which he characterized as more powerful than all branches of the federal government for its preoccupation with "gossip, nonsense, vain talk."

He charged that the moral and spiritual decline of America is due to an emancipation from "the moral heritage of the Christian faith" and that it can be traced to a "rationalistic humanism" stemming from the Renaissance when the West "turned our backs upon the Spirit and embraced all that is material." He then traced the course of such materialism to liberalism, thence to radicalism, thence to socialism, and thence to Communism.

We would do well to listen to this prophetic figure even if we don't agree with every word he is saying.

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

## Buckner Association names Darr director

Buckner Association has selected Johnnie Darr to succeed Elva Adams, who is retiring as director of missions, effective July 1. He currently is serving as pastor of the Fort Smith Northside Church.

Darr has served churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas for the past 21 years. He was licensed to preach in 1958 while serving with the military in Germany. The Roseville Church ordained him to the gospel ministry in 1960.

He is a graduate of Booneville High School, Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Darr and his wife, Pat, have four children, Phillip, age 18, Karen, 15, Carol, 13, and Mark, 7.

He was elected by the associational missionary search committee, headed by Paul McClung. A unanimous call was then extended to him by the associational executive board.



Darr

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

**Neal Prock**

became pastor June 7 of the Fort Smith Haven Heights Church, coming there from a seven and one-half year pastorate at the Oakwood Church of Anderson, S.C. A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Prock has been pastor of churches in Oklahoma, Arkansas and South Carolina, and has been a full-time Southern Baptist evangelist for four years. He and his wife, Nita, have two sons, Tim, age 18, and Mark, age 14.

**Roy V. Cook**

will become pastor of the Texarkana Faith Church July 1, going there after a five-year pastorate at Little Rock South Highland Church. He is a graduate of Centenary College of Shreveport, La., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Cook, a native of Louisiana, has served churches there and in Arkansas, and has held both state and associational denominational leadership roles. He and his wife, Beverly Ann, are parents of six children.

**Steven Jarvis Gimenez**

was ordained May 24 to the gospel ministry by the Lead Hill Southside Church. The ordination council was composed of pastors and deacons from the North Arkansas Association. John Finn, associational director of missions and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, preached the message. Others participating were the candidate's father, Del Gimenez; Jack Ramsey, pastor of Harrison Eagle Heights Church; Jim Thomas; Ray Farmer; and Kenneth Threet, pastor of the Southside Church.

**Donald W. Parks**

will join the staff of Jacksonville First Church July 1 as minister of music. A native of El Dorado, he is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in both Arkansas and Texas. He is married to the former Sandra Anne Webb of Arkadelphia, who teaches elementary music.

**Jim Akins**

is serving Batesville Calvary Church as minister of outreach/youth. A native of Atlanta, Ga., he is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Gertrude McMenis**

of Murfreesboro died May 28 at the age of 85 in a Greenville, Miss., hospital. Sur-



Prock



Cook



Gimenez



Parks



Metcalf

vivors include three sons: Freeman McMenis, pastor of the Eudora Northside Church and Joseph C. and J. Altus McMenis, both of Shreveport, La.

**Robert Lamar Metcalf**

will join the staff of Little Rock Calvary Church July 1 as the church's first full-time minister of youth. He will come there from the Birdville Church in Fort Worth, Texas where he has served as minister of family life since August, 1979. He has also served on the staff of other Texas and Louisiana churches. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Metcalf and his wife, Barbara Ann, are parents of one son, Matthew Preston, age one.

**Bill Barnett**

is serving the Little Rock Markham Street Church as full-time minister of music and

youth.

**Dennis McCrackin**

will join the staff of Little Rock Parkway Place Church in mid-July. Coming there from Nicholasville, Ky., he will serve as minister of music, education and youth.

**Kyle Johnson**

has been called as pastor of the Grady First Church. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he began his ministry there June 14. Johnson is married to the former Jo Ann Parham.

**Joe Stevenson**

resigned June 1 as pastor of the Hot Springs Rector Heights Church.

**Frank Shell**

has resigned as pastor of the Walnut Ridge First Church.

**Gerald Bruner**

is serving the Enterprise Church as pastor.

**Jim Burleson**

has resigned as minister of music/youth at the Hamburg First Church to join the staff of the Paul Jackson Evangelistic Association.

**Dwayne Chappell**

is serving McGehee First Church as summer youth director. He is a sophomore at Ouachita Baptist University and a native of Helena.

**Rick Hedger**

has resigned as music/youth minister at the Green Forest Church.

**Ray Melton**

is serving the Grubb Springs Church as pastor. He was a member of the Harrison Northvale Church.

**Keith Sanderfer**

is serving the Anderson Tully Church as pastor.

**Larry White**

is serving the Rivervale Church as pastor, coming there from Neals Chapel Church.

**Harry Keathley**

resigned June 7 as pastor of the Post Oak Church.

## briefly

**Fayetteville First Church**

will begin a Bible study June 28 in the morning service that will continue each evening through July 1 at 7 p.m. Executive Secretary Huber Drumwright of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be adult teacher for the study of the book of Philippians.

**Flippin First Church**

was in a revival May 18-24 led by Evangelist Bob Shoemaker of Muskogee, Okla., and Bob Elam of Mountain Home, music director. Pastor Terry Eaton reported five

professions of faith, four baptisms and one addition by letter.

**Russellville First Church**

has voted to assist the Marshall Morning Star Church with Vacation Bible School. Mrs. Evelyn Evans and Mrs. Erma Lee Harrell will coordinate the work.

**Little Rock Barnett Memorial Church**

ordained Elvis Smith to the gospel ministry May 31. Smith has been called as pastor of the Mabelvale New Haven Church.

## Jackson honored for 15 year pastorate



Pastor and Mrs. Johnny Jackson pose behind the cake made in recognition of his 15th anniversary as pastor of Little Rock Forest Highlands Church. They were also given a gift of money.

Little Rock Forest Highlands Church honored its pastor, Johnny Jackson, May 31 with a reception. The occasion was his 15th anniversary as church pastor.

Jackson, immediate past president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, has led Forest Highlands in membership additions of more than 1,265 since coming there from DeKalb, Texas. He has also led in increased total church contributions and missions gifts, plus building improvement programs that have increased property value to \$1 million.

Jackson, not only has directed in church staff increases, but has been instrumental in leading 20 persons to full-time Christian vocations.

He has served in state and associational denominational leadership roles, as well as serving as president of the Little Rock Baptist Pastor's Conference. He is now serving a fourth term as trustee of Ouachita Baptist University and as finance chairman of the Board of Directors of Little Rock Purl Stockton Rescue Mission.

## Dillard Miller marks 25th year as pastor

Dillard S. Miller celebrated his 25th year as pastor of Mena First Church at a service honoring him May 31.

The service for Miller, who has served at Mena since June 3, 1956, included speakers representing the church, the community, the denomination and Miller's family, and was highlighted by the presentation of a love gift from the congregation and the playing of a tape from Miller's children in the Philippines.

The many expressions of appreciation for the pastor's years of service began with church members Monroe Drye, Sam Sanderson, Gladys Johnston, Steve Phillips, Quinton Taggart and Rick Ayars. R. T. Jarrell, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Mena, also spoke for the occasion.

Others participating were A. J. Cole, pastor of Yocana Church; Harry Trulove, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation; and A. R. Fagan, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission.

In addition, Weldon Miller, the pastor's brother, and Rod Miller, the pastor's son, took part in the program.

The church presented Miller and his wife, Nellie, with a check for \$3,073.10, and played a tape recording from Dean and Karr La Dickens, Miller's daughter

and son-in-law who are missionaries to the Philippines. Another tape played in honor of the event was from former church members James and Gena Hampton, serving as missionaries in East Africa.

Church member Monta Philpot presented to Miller a portrait she painted of the pastor as another memento of the anniversary.

Miller came to Mena from the Bauxite First Church. Prior to that he had served the Hatton Church, the Horatio Church, the South Texarkana Church, the Wilmot Church and the Eudora Church.

During Miller's ministry at Mena, the church has had 1,654 additions, 495 of these by baptism. A new church building was constructed in 1963 under Miller's guidance.

Miller is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and has been active in Arkansas and national denominational life. He has been a trustee of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services and the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, and was president of the Arkansas Baptist Executive Board for two years. He has also served on the SBC Stewardship Committee and the Southern Baptist Foundation.



Richard Rose (left), minister of education at Mena First Church, was among those who helped honor Dillard (right) and Nellie Miller on their 25th anniversary for the May 31 celebration.

## Arkansas churches, associations cited

LOS ANGELES — Three Southern Baptist churches and four associations in Arkansas were recognized during the national Annual Meeting of Woman's Missionary Union when it met here June 7-8.

Named as Distinguished Church

Woman's Missionary Unions were Carlisle First Church; Texarkana Beech Street; and West Memphis First Church.

Distinguished associations cited were Calvary, Independence, Liberty, and Southwest.

## No Newsmagazine for July 9

There will be no *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* published for July 9, one of the times each year when an issue normally is skipped. Sunday School lessons for July 5 and July 12 will appear in the July 2 issue. Attendance reports will be published in the following issue.



Billingsley



Blakney



Brisco



Cartwright



Deere



Dunn



Franks



Southwestern



Ledbetter



Lewis



Nall



Thomasson



Vastine



Watkins



Woods

Thirty-two Arkansans graduated from five Southern Baptist-owned seminaries during May and June.

#### Midwestern

Five Arkansans were among 108 graduates who received degrees during commencement exercises at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., May 16.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Bernard Dale Rusert of Oden; Michael E. Suttle of Camden; Steve H. Thompson of Camden; and Harold G. Tyler of Searcy.

Allen Dale Thrasher, pastor of Booneville First Church, received the doctor of ministry degree.

#### New Orleans

Four Arkansans were among more than 200 who received degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary May 16.

Robert Stefan Eubanks of Lead Hill received the master of divinity degree. Ray Dean Brown of Crossett and David Warren Henderson of Blytheville received the master of religious education degree. The doctor of ministry degree was awarded to Wayne Blue, pastor of Pine Bluff Centennial Church.

Midwestern



Rusert



Suttle



Thrasher



S. Thompson



Tyler

Southern



Carle



Harper



McMaster



Shock



C. Thompson



Wickliffe

#### Southeastern

Donald L. Hays of Pine Bluff was among 280 graduates at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He received the associate of divinity degree.

#### Southern

Five Arkansans were among 323 graduates at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., who received degrees June 5.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Bob Harper of Sheridan; Richard W. Shock of North Little Rock; and Vern Allan Wickliffe of Hope.

Nancy Wallace Carle of Mountain Home and Donald Robert McMaster of Dewitt received the master of church music degree.

In addition, two Arkansans received

degrees from Southern's Boyce Bible School in Louisville. William Ray Passmore and Aaron Carl Thompson, both of Little Rock, received the diploma in Christian ministry.

#### Southwestern

Fifteen Arkansans were among 430 graduates who received degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, May 15.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Bruce Woodson Blakney of Jonesboro; Thomas Martin Deere of Hot Springs; Gary K. Ledbetter of Fayetteville; Timothy Daniel Nall of Little Rock; and George A. Thomasson of Texarkana.

The master of religious education degree was awarded to Barbara Ann Billingsley of Little Rock; Kenneth Alan



## 32 Arkansans get degrees from SBC seminaries

Cartwright of Royal; Chester Lee Gray of Texarkana; Martha Louise Vastine of Rogers; and Terry Woods of Little Rock.

Five other Arkansans receiving degrees were Johnny Eugene Lewis of Royal, the master of church music degree; Thomas V. Brisco, Ashdown, the doctor of philosophy degree; Billy D. Dunn, Brownstown, the doctor of ministry degree; Janis Nutt Watkins of Mineral Springs, the doctor of musical arts degree; and Ronnie Dean Franks of Fort Smith, the diploma of theology.

The Southern Baptist Convention owns and operates six seminaries. Southern Baptist students at these institutions pay no tuition. Instead, gifts from the churches through the Cooperative Program provide the necessary funds for their education.

Blue

Brown



Eubanks

Henderson

New Orleans

# MK Prayer Calendar

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

July

8 Randy R. Reynolds Botswana, SBC, P.O. Box 353, Walnut Ridge, Ark. 72476



For "Little GAs" (grades 1-2-3) and their mothers

Last call!

## GA

### Mother-Daughter Camp

July 17-18 Camp Paron  
Register now!

Sponsored by Arkansas WMU  
P.O. Box 552  
Little Rock, AR 72203

## Job opportunities

Growing academic program has created several new teaching and administrative positions. Applications are now being accepted for the following positions:

### Dean of College of Applied Arts and Sciences

Will oversee teaching of Business, Criminal Justice, Secretarial Science, Education, Vocational Education, Occupational Education and Health, Physical Education and Recreation. **Dr. Sylvia Nadler — Search Committee Chairman.**

### Dean of College of Arts and Sciences

Will oversee teaching of English, Languages, History, Government, Sociology, Psychology, Public Administration, Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. **Dr. J. Hoyt Bowers — Search Committee Chairman.**

### Dean of College of Christian Leadership

Will oversee teaching of Bible, Theology, Greek, Religious Education, Mass Communication, Radio, TV, Film, Music, Drama, Speech, Art. **Dr. Don L. Cook — Search Committee Chairman.**

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Last in a series of five

## Mexico: a country of continuing

by J. Everett Sneed  
ABN editor

"Long live the revolution!" is the cry which one hears frequently in Mexico. The last shot of the country's long struggle for liberation was fired more than 60 years ago. But the nation's leaders emphasize that the revolution continues. Today, young people are marching to school rather than to war, and the hum of factories is heard rather than the hum of guns. Today, the revolution lives on in the national consciousness, in a revolution of population and in religious life.

Today, Mexico is a federal republic made up of 30 states, one territory and the Federal District (Mexico City) for its capital. The national official name is Estados Unidos Mexicanos (Mexico United States).

Before the Spanish conquest in 1500, the vast territory of Mexico was divided among a number of Indian nations, the principal being the Aztec and the Mayan. Three centuries of foreign domination followed with more than 100 years of bloody civil wars. These conditions left the nation with little or no sense of national unity.

In the last two generations, however, much unification has taken place, producing a strong national consciousness. The basis for this unification is the Mexican Indian heritage. More than 85 percent of Mexico's descendants come from the highly developed pre-Columbian civilization. The Mexican people are proud of their Indian heritage and it is reflected in their monuments, literature and art.

The concept of the poor Mexican farmer beside a donkey is no longer descriptive of modern Mexico. Mexico is the most populated Spanish-speaking country in the world and is rapidly becoming a nation of city dwellers. Twenty percent of the total population of the republic live in Mexico City, and 50 percent of the Mexican people live within a four-hour drive of the capital.

For several years Mexico's annual rate of population increase has been among the world's highest. Improved social, economic and health conditions are reflected in the declining death rate, especially in the infant mortality percentage.

In religion, as in other aspects of Mexican life, one sees the continuing evidence of the revolution. The constitution of 1917 decreed a complete divorce of church and state. The effects of this upon

the Catholic church would be difficult to overestimate. Prior to the revolution, the church owned more than one-half of all the real wealth in Mexico and exercised tremendous political power. Today, no religious group is permitted to hold title to church buildings. A liberalizing trend has taken place in the Catholic church which has produced a growing social consciousness and an emphasis upon Bible reading.

Protestant churches have been assisted



Baptist representatives to Mexico include Jurhee and Jim Philpot (top photo) and Shirley and Joe Bruce. Philpot is president of the Mexico Mission and Bruce, a graduate of Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge, was recently named assistant to the area director for Middle America for the Foreign Mission Board. Mrs. Bruce is a native of Clarendon.

by the revolution. This is reflected in the growth of membership as well as in the activity of non-Catholic religious groups. In 1921, there were only about 74,000 Protestants in Mexico. By 1971, the number had grown to almost one million.

It is difficult to determine the number of Baptists in Mexico. The National Baptist Convention issues an annual statistical report, but this does not include independent groups. A recent survey showed about 55,000 in the churches of the Convention, plus two or three times as many "sympathizers."

Baptist work began in Mexico in 1862 with the coming of Irishman James Hickey. In 1870, the American Baptist Convention (then Northern) sent their first missionary to Mexico. Ten years later, Southern Baptists started work in the nation. Both Southern and American Baptists have supported missionary endeavors during the first century of Baptist growth. Both groups have led the churches they formed to cooperate with a single convention. Thus, the churches are united as one denomination in the Mexican National Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptist missionaries work with the Mexicans to promote the growth of Baptist life and work. To this end, they assist in the development of theological education, evangelistic programs, radio and television ministries and in the general undergirding of all of the Mexican National Baptist Convention's activities.

The seminary and First Church of Satellite City, a suburb of Mexico City, meet in the same chapel. A church must be maintained in order for the teaching of religion to take place under Mexican law. This church has approximately 200 members. Normally, there will be 250 to 300 in attendance in a given worship service.

Currently, the seminary has approximately 100 students enrolled. On May 30, there were 22 students who graduated from the seminary. Through the seminary and an extension program which has about 450 students, there is an effort to provide complete training for the Mexican people, so they can carry out their own work.

Currently, the National Baptist Convention of Mexico is involved in a major evangelistic thrust. A part of the campaign in the central area of Mexico (this includes Mexico City) was a revival conducted by Billy Graham and a simultaneous evangelistic campaign. Forty churches and four missions participated in this endeavor and there were 1,340

ABN photos/J. Everett Sneed

conversions.

Goals to be completed by the end of 1982 include doubling the number of churches (currently, 46 congregations) and the conversion of 10,000 people.

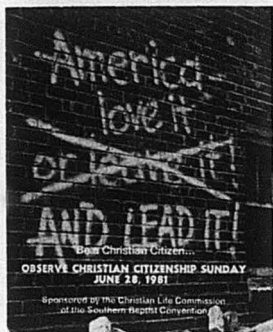
Jose S. Velez, director of the campaign, believes that these goals can be met. Dr. Velez, a psychiatrist, said, "We are bringing in well known people from the United States who will give their testimony in local churches, fire stations, police stations and on radio and tele-

vision. We believe that the Holy Spirit will use the testimony of these people to reach many people for our Lord."

Jim Philpot, president of the Southern Baptist Mission and former assistant extension agent for Independence County, Ark., said, "We have not begun to visualize what we can do. We must use the old method as well as the new. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit Mexico can become truly a Christian nation."

## Christian Life Council

### Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday



Churches throughout Arkansas and the S.B.C. are asked to observe June 28 as Christian Citizenship Day.

In recent months we have been made to seriously re-think our role as Christian citizens of our state and nation. We are to be responsible and faithful as lights of the world and salt of the earth, lovingly and faithfully extending our Christian influence.

Here are helpful suggestions for observing Christian Citizenship Day in your church:

1. If you are a pastor consider preparing and preaching a special message on Christian citizenship. Proverbs 13:34, Psalm 33:12, Matthew 22:21 are possible texts.

2. This would be a splendid time to ask that worshippers join in giving pledges of allegiance to the Bible, Christian and American flags. You might ask a person serving in the Armed forces to lead in these.

3. Include at least one or two patriotic hymns in the order of service.

4. Honor in a special way any in the congregation who serve in the military, as police and firemen or any other public service, elected or appointed. Have special prayer for these.

5. Encourage voter registration, especially for newcomers in the church or community and for new 18-year-old youth.

6. Encourage involvement in the political arena as potential office holders or party committee members. As Dan Grant has suggested, more Christians need to be willing to serve where party platforms are being formulated. Encourage involvement in writing or calling elected officials regarding your beliefs or feelings on issues. Also, assure them of your prayers.

7. Discourage falling for cliches such as "politics are dirty" and "you can't legislate morality." Such are not thought through.

If for some reason your church does not observe this special day, please adapt the above suggestions for your own use as an individual or family. — **Bob Parker**

## Bit bites the dust

JIBLA, Yemen — At 580-feet, drillers finally struck water for the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen, but they have a "bit" of a problem. The flow of 700 gallons per minute offers enough water to supply the hospital and the community with potable water and also irrigate a vegetable garden which will produce dietary

supplements for hospital patients. But the bit used to bore the well is embedded at the 580-foot mark and drillers are "trying desperately" to get it out, says missionary Anne Dwyer. The hospital, which has been without an adequate water supply for more than a year, has had to truck in water.

## Attendance report

June 14, 1981			
Church	Sunday School	Church Tring	Church address
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	194	26	
Alpena, First	63	31	
Alpena, First	176	33	
Batesville			
First	252	79	1
West	188		
Bentonville, First	425	79	12
Berryville			
First	205	78	
Freeman Heights	224	68	1
Blue Eye, Mo., First	123	48	
Bonnieville			
First	309		
South Side	164	110	3
Bryant			
First Southern	330		2
Indian Springs	126	41	2
Cabot			
First	363	114	
Mt. Carmel	391	165	
Camden, Cullendale First	330	50	
Caraway, First	121	104	
Cherokee Village, First	110	36	1
Conway			
Hartan Park	113	91	
Oak Bowery	124	42	
Pickles Gap	193	99	
Second	445	194	1
Crossett			
First	428	79	6
Mt. Olive	300	123	5
Danville, First	120	16	
Nursing Home	28		
Des Arc, First	196	61	
El Dorado			
Parkview	157	61	
Nursing Home	29	404	
West Side			
Forrest City, First	396	87	
Fl. Smith			
First	1,842		7
Grand Avenue	1,253	249	5
Mission	25	36	
Westside	87		
Gassville	119	36	
Gentry, First	130	39	
Grandview	90	53	
Green Forest, First	180	43	
Hampton, First	152	71	
Hardy, First	113	45	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	291	120	6
Woodland Heights	85	48	
Hot Springs			
Grand Avenue	378	106	
Harvey's Chapel	196	68	3
Memorial	75	41	
Park Place	239	25	1
Hughes, First	138	62	
Jacksonville, First	338	26	11
Jesseville	96	52	
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	125	103	
Nettleton	346	96	
Kingston, First Southern	106		
Lavaca, First	383	121	2
Magnolia, Central	615	137	
Monticello, Second	236	71	
Mountain Pine	82	37	
Newville, Ridgeway	156	83	2
Paragould			
Calvary	197	147	
Cantrell Hill	77	37	2
East Side	414	220	
First	438	82	
Paris			
First	322	59	1
Southside	345	56	5
Pea Ridge, First			
Pine Bluff			
Central	112	31	
Centennial	113	99	
First	539	69	4
Hardis	130	50	
Lee Memorial	196	38	3
South Side	528	183	3
Sulphur Springs	173	62	
Wilson Chapel	386	83	
Prairie Grove, First	147	69	
Rogers, Immanuel			2
Russellville, First	471	19	5
Sandusky, Okla., Faith	32		
Springdale			
Berry Street	62	43	
Cassida Avenue	108	41	
Elmdale	307	114	
First	1,762		
Texas			
Highland Hills	96	76	
Shiloh Memorial	167	80	
Trinity	286	185	4
Vandervoort, First	63	28	
Ward, First	119	66	
West Helena, Second	204	104	
Woolsey, First	113	54	
Yellville, First	177	71	1



the BSU Directors of Arkansas

(from left) Jamie Jones, U of A; Jackie Burton, Southern Baptist College; Gary Glisson, Henderson State Univ.; Dan McCauley, U of A at Little Rock; Pat Herrin, ASU Beebe; Rosie Simpkins, Westark; Bob James, Arkansas College; Tom Logue, Student Department; Emer Goble, Quachita; Karen Brandon, Student to Student Worker, ASU; John Gilbert, Arkansas Tech; Robert Turner, Student to Student Worker at UALR; Mike Weaver, U of A Monticello; Arlis Dickerson, Arkansas State Univ.; Jonesboro; Jim Kelsey, Student to Student Worker at UAM; Dick Boyles, Univ. of Central Arkansas; D. C. McAtee, Community Colleges; Lynn Loyd, Southern Arkansas University; James Smalley, U of A Medical Sciences and Baptist Medical Center.

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Miller

## International

June 28, 1981

Deuteronomy 4:32-40

by Norman Miller  
Barton Church

### Experiencing God's presence

One of the beautiful doctrines of the Old and New Testaments is that God is present with his people. His presence is real and experiential. At times he makes his presence known in unusual and dramatic ways.

#### God reveals his power (Deut. 4:32-34)

God demonstrated his power and presence in Horeb when he spoke to the people out of midst of the fire (v. 32). This was a unique revelation of God's presence. God had never revealed himself in such a manner at any other time, nor in any other place, nor to any other people. God spoke, they heard and lived to tell it.

God also demonstrated his power and presence when he delivered Israel out of Egypt (v. 34). It was a demonstration "by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm and great terrors" (v. 34).

#### God reveals his love (Deut. 4:35-38)

God makes himself known by his love. Because God loved Israel he made himself known to them as their only God (v. 35). He spoke to them from heaven out of the midst of the fire.

God acts to benefit man because of his love. By his love he chose Israel, and brought them out of Egypt (v. 37). He also drove the nations out of the land and gave the land to Israel.

#### God reveals his truth (Deut. 4:39-40)

God wanted his presence to be experienced as a present reality. Moses instructed, "Know therefore this day", . . . consider in thine heart" (v. 39). True religion is based upon true knowledge and experience. He states God is the god of heaven, as well as the god of the earth. He is present in truth in his people.

Since God is present in truth, he requires true obedience. "Thou shalt keep therefore his commandments, which I command thee this day" (v. 40). True obedience brings true blessings: "That it may go well with thee, and thy children after thee, and that thou may prolong thy days upon the earth."

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## Claim your destiny

Future promises possess an eternal attraction for heaven bound people. The Communist charge of "pie in the sky" does not devalue heavenly treasures for believers.

It takes heavenly citizens to understand Revelation's language. Unredeemed people have trouble, just as the Roman persecutors did, deciphering the believer's inheritance.

But John's readers understood when he urged them to claim their destiny. Being robbed of earthly comforts, the Asian Christians looked for a better day. What was in store for the people who suffered martyrdom, wept bitter tears, wondered how long and felt disenfranchised?

God, through John's pen, offered these eternal blessings.

The Father promised togetherness. John saw a new heaven and earth with "no more sea." The sea separated John from the people he loved.

John wrote of the Father's presence. A voice announced, "The tabernacle of God is with men" (v. 3). The tabernacle, or tent, symbolized God's presence in the wilderness. Those who felt God had forsaken them could relate to the promise of God's presence. The Father's presence is what will make heaven, heaven.

Happiness can't always be deferred but John assured the Christians their eternal destiny would be a happy place. The death, sorrow and pain of this present world will disappear.

The old will also vanish. The One on the throne promises to "make all things new." He is the first and the last. God, the source of all things, will bring all things to consummation, or completion. The aged John saw a new heaven and a new earth for God's new people to inherit.

Early Christians were out of tune with worldly behavior. The Holy City, the new Jerusalem, was not inhabited by unbelievers or immorality. The Christian destiny includes redeemed company.

Christ's followers had more share than glory in communities dominated by Roman persecution. John promised the glorious presence of Jesus, just as the ancient temple was the glory of Israel, the

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Walker

## Life and Work

June 28, 1981

Revelation 21:1-7, 22-25

by James A. Walker  
Stewardship Director  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Lamb is the glory of the heaven. Earthly kings will recognize His glory and bring their glory to him.

A closed door greeted first century believers. Jobs and privileges belonged to those who worshiped Domitian. The gates of the new city "shall not be shut." Heaven's gate is open for those who will claim their destiny.



Hacker

## Bible Book

June 28, 1981

1 Samuel 30:1-2, 8, 17-18, 24;  
31:1-4

by S. D. Hacker  
Independence Association

## David's victory and Saul's defeat

In David's absence, the Amalekites ransacked Ziklag. Immediately the true spirit of a patriotic heroism was stirred within David and he began to avenge the wrongs done already. He was successful in inflicting punishment on his foes and rescuing all who were his own.

It is from this story that the history of 1 Samuel moves into the next book. Having gathered spoils from his enemies, David sent presents to all the elders of Judah. This act alone, probably, prepared the way for David to establish himself among them.

David was determined to rid his people of their foes and to enlarge his army by enlisting the leaders of each tribe.

### Saul's last stand

The closing chapter is saturated in sackcloth and ashes. It gives the account of the end of the career of one of the most disastrous failures on record in Biblical history. Defeat at the hands of the Philistines drove Saul to tragic desperation. He was wounded in the final fight, and fearing that the last blow might come to him by the hand of an enemy, called upon his armor-bearer to slay him. When the armor-bearer refused, Saul committed suicide. The irony here is that Saul died by his own hand as he had slain himself morally by his own sin and folly.

### Disrespect for the dead

Tragically terrible, and ghastly beyond compare, is the account of the Philistines carrying Saul's head about in token of their triumph and his defeat.

### Conclusion

The chief and highest spiritual value of this whole book consists in the solemn lessons it teaches by the life and failure, death and enemy's ridicule of Saul. The story proclaims forevermore that advantages and remarkable opportunities are no guarantee of success unless the heart stands firm and steady in allegiance to God both in loyalty and principle.

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## Sunday School Provide adequate space and equipment

Where is the church that does not provide space and equipment for teaching, worship and other ministries? There just isn't any.

If there is one (which is yet to be demonstrated) there are thirty thousand others that do provide facilities for ministries. Not all churches provide space that is adequate for growth, nor equipment that is conducive to effective teaching.

Many churches are presently full. Well, full may not be the word, but they are filled to 70 percent capacity, which is about normal.

This means your church may need to almost immediately start thinking about providing more space, provided you ever seriously anticipate permanent increase in attendance.

Trouble is... many leaders erroneously think they can grow out of their present absences. This would be true, only if average attendance of Sunday School enrollments increased from 50 percent to about 70 percent.

Even on our largest Sundays we seldom reach this higher percentage of attendance. On Great Day In the Morning (high attendance day) some churches reach 60 percent or more of their enrollment. But churches do not sustain this highest attendance more than a Sunday or two.

This does not mean an occasional high attendance promotion is bad. Even one high attendance day proves that people can be reached. It also proves that we simply must live with the averages. Like it or not, this is so.

Now, something we can do to permanently raise the attendance. To do this it is required that we increase the enrollment. This can only be accomplished by providing new classes, new teachers and new space for the classes. In most

churches 8.5 by '85 awaits provision of additional space. You can do it. What is necessary? It is to get the "want-to" turned on. Better equipment is also valuable. Space is required.

The next article in this series will deal with the seventh basic growth action: "Conduct weekly workers' meetings." — **Lawson Hatfield**, state Sunday School Director



Hatfield

## Church Training The important role of the association

The Church Training Department will conduct its sixth annual Associational Church Training Leadership Conference Aug. 21-22 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock.

Directors of missions, associational Church Training directors and age-group leaders will receive the latest training and information available to enable them to offer the best possible assistance to their churches.

The conference will begin with a banquet on Friday night and will adjourn at noon on Saturday. All of the conferences will be led by Sunday School Board consultants and State Church Training Department personnel. Sunday School Board personnel who will assist in the conference include Luell Smith, general officers; Stephen Combs, adults; Wesley Black, youth; Robert Brown, children; and Dan Fowler, preschool.

This year's conference will be especially important as we introduce such special emphases as DiscipleLife, Bold Growth in Discipleship and the role of Church Training in our state's Bold Mission Thrust planning.

Now is the time for associational nominating committees to enlist their leaders for the coming year. Leaders should make their reservations for the Associational Church Training Leadership Conference by July 1 if possible. — **Robert Holley**



Holley

### Address change ????????

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## Cooperative Program report: May

\$ 666,608.09	Gifts for May	\$ 742,414.62
591,258.08	Budget for May	669,511.50
75,350.01	Over (under)	72,903.12
\$3,037,442.73	Gifts year-to-date	\$3,437,506.81
2,956,290.40	Budget year-to-date	3,347,557.50
81,152.33	Over (under)	89,949.31

Gifts are 13.17 percent above gifts last year. — **James Walker**