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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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February 23, 1978

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

Danger areas
for missions
page 18





I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

Retired churches

On a recent trip I visited a number of retired citizens and made some observations. These retired people did not fuss over regular hours and tight schedules as in other days. There was an overall marked reduction in activity. The phone rang less and the bulletin board was bare. Dress regulations were vastly changed and the atmosphere was more than just casual. I noticed the coffee breaks were longer and talk over the back fence became a ritual. In some cases the night engagements were deleted and others listed as optional. These observations gave me the impression that retirement for individuals may be a good thing, but a very poor procedure for churches.

On this same trip I observed churches marked by a noticeable lack of activity. I observed schedules and regular hours were less important. I did not hear the phone ring while I visited with the pastor. The dress style did not reflect the atmosphere of a moving situation. There was more relaxation at the long coffee break, and some of the staffers did not rush back to their duties. Attendance at the evening worship, prayer meeting and committee meetings had decreased to the metabolism of hibernation and I got the impression the church had retired.

In scores of churches in Arkansas the attendance, activities and ministries are far below the level of the same churches 25 years ago. This is not easily explained and the reasons given are often without substantive validation. Among the statements, "The neighborhood has changed and we have lost a lot of our regular families." "We have had a succession of bad experiences" is also heard. "Other churches are too close to ours, and our church is boxed in" is mentioned as a cause. Some say, "People just don't love the Lord as much anymore." Further listing of alibis will only irritate the already frayed ends of human patience, so I will mention some options to these retired churches which are so because of the retired Christians which comprise them. (1) Appear on time, in full dress uniform, ready to welcome any comers. (2) Park your car straight between the lines if it is the only car on the lot. (3) Formulate a schedule of activities which will be compatible with the Great Commission priorities. (4) Except for emergencies, follow your stated schedule so people will know how and when to see you. (5) Maintain a current church roll and give supervised attention to looking after the spiritual needs of the church family. (6) Adopt one of the many effective systems of reaching people. (7) Forget worrying about what is happening to the neighborhood, saving a little energy to help the people who live there. (8) A vigorous preaching of the gospel (whole counsel) has resurrected many dead churches. (10) A full day's work for a full day's pay has worked in some cases.

I must say it!

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A Smackover pastor and his wife are the first couple in the entire Southern Baptist Convention to meet the qualifications as approved leaders for marriage enrichment courses.

Building notes 8

While some Arkansas churches rejoice over new buildings one has had to begin again after a fire destroyed their almost new building.

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Foreign lands are not the only dangerous place of service for missionaries. Some of those serving in the United States also live with the threat of harm to life and property.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 77

NUMBER 8

J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor

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Prejudice and its cure

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Most of us would not wish to be accused of prejudice. Yet, almost without exception, everyone is prejudiced about something. Our prejudice may be in an area of small significance or it may affect the basic rights of others. Prejudice has produced many tragic events in history. God's love is the only cure for this deadly stigma.

The word prejudice means to form an opinion without taking time to acquire and evaluate the facts fairly. Sometimes a few selected facts may be used so as to slant the conclusion toward a preconceived or fixed idea.

Some years ago, I observed an unimportant and amusing example of prejudice. I was a dinner guest in a very lovely home. Our hostess served a tossed lettuce salad as the first course. One of the guests, an otherwise intelligent and cultured person, refused the salad. Our hostess assumed that he was allergic to lettuce. "No," he said, "I just don't like lettuce." Someone jokingly said, "Have you ever eaten it?" The man replied, "No, but I know that I wouldn't like anything which rabbits eat."

Sadly, prejudice has often affected the rights of others. In the time of Christ, the Jews and the Samaritans would have nothing to do with each other. Their feud had its roots in about 720 B.C. when the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom. The Assyrians transplanted many of the Hebrews to Media (II Kings 17:6). They brought other people into Samaria. The Hebrews intermarried with the incoming foreigners. According to Orthodox Judaism, those people had lost their right to be called Jews. The Jews

of the Southern Kingdom maintained their racial identity even in captivity. When they returned in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, the people of Samaria offered their help in repairing and rebuilding the temple. It was refused. The results were separate places of worship, bitter hatred, and no contact whatever.

An even more deadly prejudice was promoted by Hitler in Germany. Hitler told the Germans that they were a super race and should, therefore, control the world. This prejudice led to the wholesale slaughter of Jews, who were considered degenerate, and the plunging of the entire world into a war in an effort to prove German racial superiority.

Usually, prejudice is directed at things which are close at hand. It often involves half-truths. For example, we may see someone near our community who is poor and lazy, so we conclude that all poor people are lazy. Anytime we make categorical judgments of people, we are expressing our prejudice.

The most important question is, "How can we overcome our prejudice?" First, we must acknowledge the probability of our being prejudiced. It is only when we recognize the existence of this sin that we can cope with it. Determining our areas of prejudice requires constant vigilance and acquisition of the facts.

Second, we must recognize the close relationship between prejudice and hate. The cure for both of these diseases is God's love. As we grow in grace and knowledge of our Master we will begin the process of overcoming prejudice. It is essential for each of us to become victorious in this important area of our Christian life.

Guest editorial / 13,000,000 Baptists can 'Share'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — When plans were being dreamed for Bold Mission Thrust in home missions, it was suggested that Woman's Missionary Union should set appropriately bold goals for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

This we were eager to do, especially as we sensed the excited willingness of our Convention to attack missions with new determination.

We asked, "What are the bold plans for home missions that deserve a dramatic increase in the Easter Offering?"

That is when we heard for the first time the now-famous words, "Evangelize and Congregationalize." This simple strategy captured the enthusiasm of WMU leaders, just as it has all informed Southern Baptists. We could see the door opening on mass evangelism projects, communication media, and volunteer witnessing campaigns wherein we could actually share the Gospel with every American. We could see the wisdom of planting a congregation within reach of every American and of saturating key population centers with ministries and churches.

Most of all, we could see why the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions needed to stretch like a balloon to float into new heights of mission support.

So, WMU suggested that a national goal for the Easter Offering might be a bold \$13,000,000. As it has developed, that will require a 21 percent increase over last year's offering. Any church or individual who wants to keep in step

with the challenges of Bold Mission Thrust can begin to do so by setting a target of giving 21 percent more than last year to the Annie Armstrong Offering.

We didn't suspect at goal-setting time that the \$13,000,000 goal would equal the overall number of Southern Baptists. This is the only time in our history that we could say, "One dollar from every Baptist will reach the goal."

It would really be a great strength to home missions and to every local church if every person on our rolls were concerned enough to give at least \$1 to home missions.

Practically, we realize that our actual resident membership is much less than 13,000,000. In the last couple of years, the average gift per resident member has been less than \$1.05.

We know that those loyal and faithful to home missions give sacrificially much beyond ones and tens of dollars. But even if every resident member gave at least \$1, our base of giving and our actual total would be vastly expanded.

In light of the unprecedented opportunity of this year, I would like to challenge every Baptist, including those thousands who have never given before, to "Share" at least \$1 in home missions. To those who have been faithful in the past I would like to suggest a 21 percent Bold Mission Thrust in "Sharing."

A goal of \$13,000,000 from 13,000,000 Baptists seems an easy minimum to me. Does it to you? —Carolyn Weatherford, Southern Baptist Convention WMU Executive Director

'Our daily bread'

(Eighth in a series)

by Jon M. Stubblefield

In our study of the Lord's Prayer we come now to the three petitions which relate to man's need. God's name, kingdom, and will must surely be our first concern in prayer. But we must never fail to commit our own problems and



Dr. Stubblefield

needs to the heavenly Father. The fourth petition reads, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11).

Some of the Church Fathers spiritualized this petition. They found it difficult to believe that Jesus was referring to material bread. "Daily bread" was taken to mean the Scriptures, the bread of the Lord's Supper, or even Jesus who

spoke of himself as "the bread of life" (John 6:35). It is true that Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone" (Matt. 4:4), but we also remember that he provided bread for the five thousand (Matt. 14:13-21) and prepared breakfast for his disciples beside the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14). Jesus took seriously the physical needs of men. Clearly the primary focus of this petition is upon the necessities of life.

Notice several things about this petition. First, it reminds us of our dependence upon God. Life is a gift. This is God's world. We should never take anything for granted. Our attitude should be that of the little girl who after having eye surgery was able to see for the first time in her life. While walking in the hospital garden she discovered a beautiful flower. Looking up at her nurse she asked, "Do you think God

would mind if I picked one of his flowers?"

Second, praying that God will give us daily bread does not relieve us of the responsibility of working for a living. The Apostle Paul commanded, "If any one will not work, let him not eat" (II Thess. 3:10, RSV).

Third, this is an unselfish prayer. Notice the plural pronouns "us" and "our." We cannot pray just for ourselves while the rest of the world is starving. Here we find a plea that everyone will have enough to eat. It is also our job to help answer this prayer (Matt. 25:31-46).

Fourth, this is a prayer for "bread." We are told to pray for necessities, not luxuries.

Finally, this is a prayer for "daily" bread. We are to live one day at a time, leaving the future in God's hands.



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

Christian vengeance in a snowball fight

The snow and ice that descended upon our nation this winter almost overwhelmed us with all kinds of problems and new circumstances we are not accustomed to facing. Most of them had to do with our inability to conduct business, travel, and hold meetings at our usual breakneck American speed. We learned that a lot of things are not quite so important in our busy world as we thought they were.

But I experienced a different kind of problem following one of the snowstorms. It occurred as I was minding my own business in a committee meeting in the administration building of Ouachita Baptist University, sitting with my back to the door. I heard the door open and without warning, in rapid succession, two beautifully packed snowballs descended upon my head. As I rushed to the door, I learned that the rapidly retreating footsteps belonged to two of our more distinguished and dignified chemistry faculty members, Joe Nix and Joe Jeffers.

The more immediate problem, that of toweling off and cleaning up the mess in the committee room, was fairly quickly

solved. A longer range problem began to rear its ugly head — a many-faceted moral, theological, educational, and pragmatic problem. In view of the biblical teaching, "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord," is it really Christian for me to seek revenge for this sneak attack? On the other hand, it was all done in fun and they really would be disappointed if no counterattack takes place. But then again on the other hand (that's the third hand) wouldn't the best revenge of all be simply to leave my two professor friends guessing anxiously about when the ax of reprisal and justice will fall on their repetitive heads?

I may need some counsel and advice from Ouachita's chairman of the Bible Department, Vester Wolber, in this matter. I do recall that the Bible teaches one should return good for evil. It seems to me we are taught that in so doing we will "heap coals of fire" upon the heads of those who have wronged us. A more modern translation of this passage might well be "to heap piles of snow and ice upon their heads." It may or may not be theologically sound, but it is a beautiful and satisfying picture.

Grant heads Education Commission search

NASHVILLE (BP) — Daniel R. Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, has been named chairman of a seven-person search committee to find a successor to Ben C. Fisher, who will take early retirement Sept. 30 as executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Education Commission chairman, George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, also named J. M. Boswell, president of Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; John E. Johns, president of Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; Tom J. Madden, director of the convention ministries division, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood; and James L. Sells, president of Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo. Bagley will serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

Fisher, who will be 63 in May, will announce retirement plans at a later date.

Couple qualifies to lead marriage enrichment retreats

A Smackover couple, Ray and Carolyn Wells, is the first to qualify in the Southern Baptist Convention as Basic Leaders for Marriage Enrichment Retreats using the plan developed by the Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department.

Ray Wells is pastor of First Church, Smackover, and Carolyn Wells is secretary-treasurer of Liberty Association and an experienced Sunday School and Church Training leader. "We hope to help couples find in and through the dynamics of Christ the joy of marital living," Wells said.

To qualify as Basic Leaders, a couple must participate in two marriage enrichment events, complete 15 hours of Family Ministry Department-sponsored leadership training, and lead one marriage enrichment retreat in the presence of a Family Ministry Department trainer. Also, they must submit a personal statement of philosophy of marriage and family, read several books, and be active in the family ministry of their church.

About 40 other couples are now in the process of qualifying as retreat leaders. Both the training program and the retreat model were developed by Dick Waggener, consultant in the Family Ministry Department.

"Our goal is to be able to provide denomination-sponsored marriage enrichment experiences within reach of couples in every Southern Baptist church," Waggener said.



NASHVILLE — Gerald Jackson (center), associate in the Arkansas Church Training Department, congratulates Ray and Carolyn Wells, Smackover, the first couple in the Southern Baptist Convention to qualify as Basic Leaders for Marriage Enrichment Retreats using the plan developed by the Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Colleges emphasize religion with week of programs

Both of Arkansas Baptists' colleges have emphasized religion in the lives of their students this month by setting aside a week to focus the student's attention on spiritual values.

Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia called it Christian Focus Week and observed it Feb. 6-10, while Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge held Religious Emphasis Week Feb. 13-16.

Ouachita's activities included chapel programs, afternoon seminars, concerts, dorm devotions and religious drama presentations. Theme for their BSU-sponsored event was "Catch a Vision". Ron Bohannon, chairman of OBU's RFW, said one of the highlights of the week was the drama presentations by Jeannette Clift George, who portrayed Corrie ten Boom in World Wide Pic-

tures' recent release "The Hiding Place". Pastors and laymen and their wives from Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma, spoke and led seminars each day. Other attractions of the week were a concert by the "Jeremiah People", a "midnight breakfast" at 10:30 p.m. which included fellowship and entertainment, and a "Sonlight Service" Friday night. The "Sonlight Service" included a performance by Mrs. George and student music and drama groups and was designed to draw the week together.

Southern Baptist College activities included BSU chapel services daily at 12:30 p.m., an evening service at 7 p.m., and dorm devotions led by the guest speakers. The speakers, all from Arkansas, also spoke in selected classes during the four days. Theme for this year's REW was "Now abiding: faith, Hope, Love".

Southern College has homecoming

Southern Baptist College celebrated Homecoming Feb. 4.

The student body chose Miss Larna Acklin as the 1978 Homecoming Queen. Other members of the court were second runner-up Patricia Sullivant from Bearden; Sheila Eagan, fourth runner-up from Black Rock; Kathy Snider, third runner-up, from Russellville; and first runner-up Lori Cheatham from Sage.

The events of the week were planned and implemented by the Student Government Association. Keith Allred from Mountain View is president of the organization.



Sardis Bever, formerly pastor of First Church, Strong, and pastor of Kelso Church, Rohwer since April, 1977, was recently honored with a doctor of divinity degree from Lennox Christian College, Atlanta, Ga. Bever is a graduate of Ouachita University and received his seminary training at New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La.

Bruce Morris, formerly pastor of First Church, Grants, N.M., has recently become pastor of Trinity Church, Ft. Smith. Morris is a graduate of Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. Pastor Morris and his wife, Betty, are the parents of three children. Their daughter, Becky, attends Wayland College, Plainview, Tex.; their son, Barry, is a sophomore in high school; their youngest daughter, Barbi, is 12 years old.

Mary Beth Gentry, education secretary of First Church, Searcy, for the past 20 years, was honored by the church on Sunday, Feb. 5. She was recognized in the morning worship service and given a silver tray from the

church by David L. Crouch, pastor, for her years of service. She also received letters of appreciation from former pastors.

J. R. Hull has been called to serve as pastor of First Church, Bay. He formerly served as pastor of the Rosebud Church.

Tom Stafford is serving as pastor of the Dixie Church near Lake City.

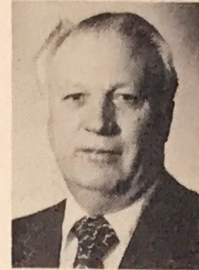
J. W. Glidewell has resigned as pastor of the Lunsford Church and returned to Oklahoma.

Guy Shempert has resigned as pastor of the New Hope Church, Black Oak. **R. W. Goodman** of Jonesboro has been called as pastor.

Bill Cardwell has resigned as pastor of Rowe's Chapel near Monette.

Bob Reeves has accepted the call to become pastor of the West Hartford Church.

Irby Bryan is serving as pastor of the Temple Church near Waldron. Bryan, who formerly served as pastor of the Nodena Church, is a graduate of Mid-



Bever



Morris

America Seminary. He and his wife are parents of eight children.

Paul Hammond, chairman of the church music department at Ouachita University, has had an article published in *The Hymn*, the quarterly journal of the Hymn Society of America. The article is entitled "The Hymnody of the Second Great Awakening" and discusses revival hymnody in America between 1800-1835. He has had several articles published previously in *The Hymn*.

Leonard Williams, formerly pastor of New Hope Church, Pollard, has accepted the pastorate of Center Hill Church, Paragould.

W. Lloyd Cloud has resigned as pastor of First Church, Hot Springs, to accept an administrative position with Ouachita University.

Keith Plummer has resigned as youth director of Trinity Church, Ft. Smith.

Pastor **R. L. Hillerby** has resigned New Hope, Greenwood, to accept the pastorate of Oak Ridge Church near Stigler, Okla.

Doyle B. Bledsoe has been called as interim pastor of First Church, DeWitt and is now on the field.

James A. Overton is now serving as pastor of Buie Church in Central Association.

Don E. Carter, a sophomore at Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, is the new youth director at Second Church, Hot Springs.



Woman's viewpoint

Ruth Ann Wade

Minutes make lives

Broken down and analyzed, our years are made up of segments of time. Divide them however you choose, but what you do with them will determine what you are and what is most important to you in life.

I would like to assume that since you are reading this article in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* that you are a Christian and that you have affiliated with a group interested in promoting the study of God's Word in an effort to live more for him. Even if my assumption is wrong, I'd like to challenge you to a game, a game with minutes that can change your life.

You can begin playing right now or you can set an appropriate time and circumstances to help you keep your score. The object of the venture is to see how much of a minute and how many minutes of an hour or day you can spend in some way consciously relating to God.

The fun begins as you start to see how

God is and wants to be a part of your every day activity. You can be as innovative and creative as you like, but here are a few suggestions to get you started.

Smile God loves you. Hum a hymn. Count your blessings. Get up to watch the sunrise. Listen to the birds sing. Memorize some of God's promises. Play good music (records, tapes, or musical instruments). Tell some one of God's love. Encourage someone who is discouraged. Comfort the sorrowing. Read the Bible. See God in nature. Flash prayers for fellow workers or travelers. Write lines of poetry, do something "for one of the least of these my brethren". That should get you started.

Why not check your score each Sunday? Perhaps the best time would be during the morning worship service. After the offering plate is passed or during the prelude, you can finish tabulating your score. You can't lose and you have I-i-f-e to win.

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Graves Memorial Church, North Little Rock, conducted a Lay Evangelism School, Feb. 5-8. Clarence Shell, associate/evangelist of the Evangelism Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, taught the 25 who were enrolled.

Concord Association has planned its first Senior Adult Retreat for Friday afternoon, March 17, at Windsor Park Church, Ft. Smith. "Goldenaires," is theme for the retreat at which J. Harold Smith of Orlando, Fla., will be speaker. This retreat has been planned by the association to help the Senior Adults become aware of the ways they can continue to utilize their talents in Christian ministry.

Calvary Church, West Memphis, held a deacon ordination service for Lavern Ballard on Sunday evening, Feb. 12. The church is in revival Feb. 19-26 with Benny Jackson as evangelist. Tommy Gaines is directing music. Milton Wilson is pastor.

West Church, Batesville, will be in revival March 12-17. Peter McLeod, pastor of First Church, Waco, Tex., will be evangelist. Don A. Nall is pastor.

Central Church, Jonesboro, will be in revival March 28-April 2. Johnny Jackson, pastor of Forest Highlands Church, Little Rock, and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will be evangelist. Beverly

The fourth annual conference on "Ministering to Prisoners and their Families," will be conducted April 3-4 at Cummins Prison, Grady. Dewie Williams, senior chaplain at the prison, is in charge of arrangements for this conference which is open to pastors and interested lay persons. He is being assisted by Charles Yaerger, chaplain, Jim Mabry, director, and Jerry Campbell, warden. Huey Perry, Director of Institutional Chaplains of the Home Mission Board, will be leader. Others on the program will be Campbell; Tom Cashion, parole examiner of the Arkansas Department of Correction; John Hagan, chaplain of the Tucker Unit; Mabry; Larry Norris, assistant warden of the Cummins unit; Guy Whitney, chaplain of the Women's Unit; Williams and Yaerger.

Wynne Church will be in revival Feb. 26-March 5. Joe Shaver of Memphis will be evangelist and Fritz Smith of Tyler, Tex., will be in charge of music. John R. Maddox is pastor.

Faulkner Association is sponsoring a slide presentation on March 11, 7:30 p.m. at New Bethel Church near Conway. W. R. Probasco, pastor of First Church, Conway, will be in charge of the presentation on his recent tour of

Israel. He will discuss the problems of witnessing in Israel, the growth of the Baptist Mission in Nazareth, and the role of the Baptist School.

Ebenezer Church, El Dorado, will be in revival April 16-23. Gerald Jackson, associate director of the Arkansas Church Training Dept., will be evangelist. Samuel Adkins is pastor.

Harmony Church, El Dorado, is in revival Feb. 20-25 with Bernes K. Selph of Benton as evangelist. Curtis Johnson is pastor.

First Church, Cabot, will have a spring revival March 19-26. Don Womach of Memphis will be evangelist and Jim Snelling of Dallas will direct music. W. Keith Loyd is pastor.

Freeman Heights Church, Berryville, will be in revival March 5-12. Bob Perry, a missionary to Mexico, will be evangelist. Steve Spurgin of Texarkana, Tex., will direct music. Bill Combs is pastor.

First Church, Piggott, will be in revival March 26 through April 2. Evangelist Gene Bynum of Texas will be the speaker. Music Evangelist Sam Craig Jr., also from Texas, will direct the music.

Calvary, Little Rock, has their spring revival scheduled for March 19-22. Laney Johnson, pastor of Mobberly Avenue Church, Longview, Tex., will be the evangelist.

Sunset Lane, Little Rock, will be in revival March 6-12. Pastor Ron Coppock, Bethany, North Little Rock, will be the evangelist.

A revival is scheduled for April 9-16, at **Woodland Heights Church, Harrison**. Pastor Arnold Teel, Amboy Church, North Little Rock, will be the evangelist.

Dallas Avenue, Mena, held their annual Christian Home-Child Dedication service Feb. 5. Those dedicated to the Lord were: Danny Aynes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Aynes; Andy Threlkeld, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Threlkeld; Jeremy Powell, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Powell; Jamie Steele, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Steele; Carrie Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lewis; Jason McMillan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill McMillan; Shawn Overturf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Overturf; Amy Pearce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Pearce; Amy Brewer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brewer; and Timothy Hamm, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hamm Jr. After the dedication service Pastor Max Deaton cited the need for Christian homes and emphasized that the home is the foundation for the church, government and all society.

Correction

An item on page 12 in the Feb. 9 ABN incorrectly identified the church which has begun supporting pioneer mission churches in Arizona and Washington. The Arkansas church which has begun this work is Beech Street, Gurdon, where Lindsey Cofield is pastor.

Scholarship deadline

ARKADELPHIA — The Ouachita Baptist University student aids office has announced a March 1 deadline for scholarship applications for the 1978-79 school year.

This includes all scholarships for incoming students. Present students who have received scholarships, with the exception of the ACT and University, will need to reapply by the same date.

Baptist Men world meeting set

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — An outstanding program of music has been arranged for the Baptist World Alliance's Second World Conference of Baptist Men (scheduled for April 5-9, 1978, Indianapolis, Ind.) by Gene Sutherland, minister of music at Walnut Street Church, Louisville, Ky., who is serving as music director for the international meeting.

The program will feature solos, duets, and choral numbers. Among the soloists who will appear on the program will be Jimmy Smith, baritone, Louisville, Ky.; Robert Bradley, baritone, Nashville, Tenn.; Russell Newport, tenor, Springfield, Mo.; and Galo Viteri, tenor, Brazil.

The famous duo of Hale-Wilder will appear on the program twice. Dean Wilder is a professor of music at William Jewel College in Liberty, Mo., and Robert Hale is an opera singer with the New York Civic Opera Association.

Among the group singers will be the Mizo Choir from Mizoram, India; the Kentucky Baptist Chorale; the Sanctuary Choir from the Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; and a 400-voice combined choir from the National Baptist Churches in the Indianapolis area.

Registration cards are available from the Brotherhood Dept., Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203. Advance registration deadline is March 3.

Arkansas all over

Eastside, Trumann completes building

Eastside Church, Trumann, on Jan. 29, dedicated an auditorium and educational building to culminate a four-year building program.

H. P. Brooks, pastor, said, "this marks a period of sacrifice and patience for the church, but it has been worth it all."

The building effort included the purchasing of property, and getting easement clearances from the city, building aid from the State Missions Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and financing from a local institution.

Pastor Brooks supervised the planning and building. He was assisted by Alford Lancaster, Pete Berry, Jimmy Fowler, Oneal Witt, Marvin Pipping and other members who gave many hours of work on the building which is valued at \$41,000.

The building, 74 feet by 42 feet, will seat approximately 200 in the auditorium. The educational space has ten classrooms that may be opened to provide more seating for worship services. Other partitions can be moved to enlarge a fellowship hall.

A special feature is a nursery room with a soundproof window and a speaker system that will permit workers to share in the worship service.

Brooks said that other plans for church improvement include the complete demolition of the old building, improvement of the parking area, and landscaping of the new building. Long range plans provide for construction of an educational annex to provide space for the anticipated growth of the church in all of its ministries.

Nodell Dennis, pastor of First Church, Trumann, whose congregation had given assistance to the Eastside Church, was a guest at the dedication. Other

guests included Jimmie Garner, Director of Missions for Trinity Association, and R. H. Dorris, Director of State Missions.

Dr. Dorris brought the message of dedication. He called upon the church to make maximum use of its new building for evangelism and religious education. "In so doing," he said, "the church will be filled with the spirit, and will follow the leadership of the spirit so that it might bear the fruits of the spirit with all being to the glory of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church."



The Trumann church's auditorium/education space was built with the aid of members and is valued at \$41,000.

Calvary, Lepanto's building dedicated

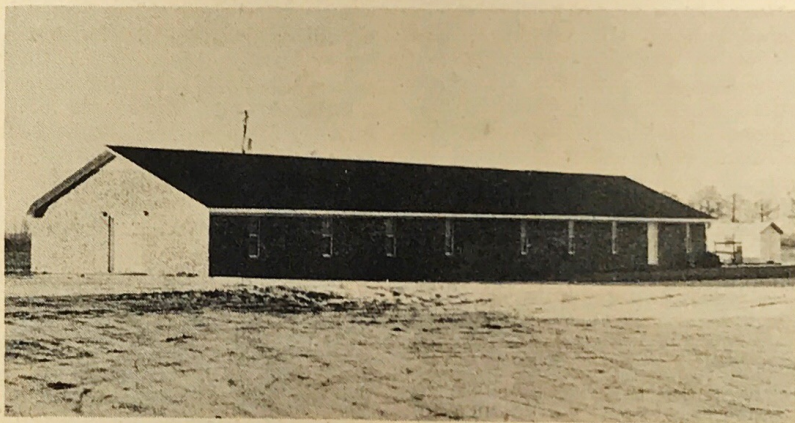
"The completion of this new building is not the end of your service to the Lord, but rather it broadens your obligation and ability to serve him through the quality and spirit of your work for him," was the reminder given to members of Calvary Church, Lepanto, in dedication services on Jan. 8. R. H. Dorris, Director of State Missions, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was dedicatory speaker.

The building dedicated has 3,900 square feet. Construction cost was \$32,000 with estimated value of \$60,000. It is carpeted, has central heat and air, and has plenty of classrooms.

The church broke ground for the building April 24, 1977, and officially opened the building July 3 last year.

The church, organized on Dec. 5, 1976, with 16 members, now has a membership of 47. J. C. Nanney, pastor, said at the dedication, "Our future potential growth and work here at Calvary Church is unlimited."

Jimmie Garner, Director of Missions



The Lepanto church's building was erected on land which the State Missions Department helped them get. (photo courtesy Lepanto News-Record)

for Trinity Association, and Captain Lovell, pastor of First Church, Harrisburg, were also speakers for the service.

Mrs. Sadie Foote gave the history.

Deetress Neal and Mrs. Sallye McMechen were in charge of music. Prayers were led by Glenn Neal, Charles Sandusky, pastor of First Church, Dyess, and Jack Foote.

Salem First Church burns

About all that remains of the year-and-a-half old Salem First Church are portions of walls and charred beams. The building was destroyed by fire the night of Jan. 17. Cause of the blaze has not been determined, but damage estimates are more than \$100,000. Pastor James Whitlock says the church had \$70,000 insurance on the building and

\$10,000 on the contents.

The fire was discovered at 11:50 p.m. Jan. 17 by a Salem police officer. The volunteer fire department fought the blaze for more than three hours, hampered by bad weather and the problem of pumping water uphill.

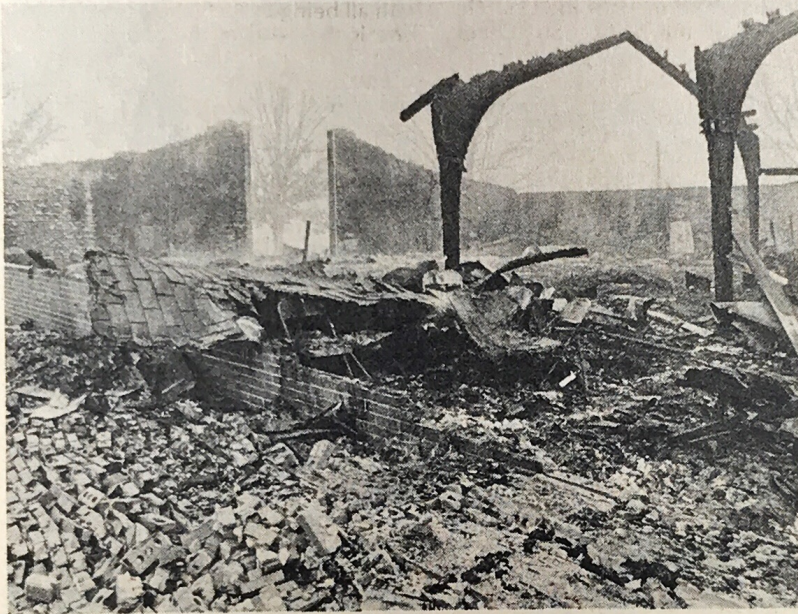
The pastor and five volunteers entered the building and were able to

save most of the pastor's personal library, including notes and tapes, from his office.

The evening after the fire members met to plan for construction of a new building, probably on the same site. A preliminary planning committee was appointed. Pastor Whitlock said that the church would try to build a larger edifice because they already had outgrown the classroom space.

The first Sunday after the fire the church met at the Salem Civic Center, and their plans are to continue holding morning worship there for a while. Sunday evening and Wednesday services are held at the Salem Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Some of their Sunday School classes are held in homes.

Whitlock characterized the fire as an inconvenience rather than a major loss. "We expect to go right on with the things we did before," he said.



The remains of beams which were part of the architecture in the interior of the auditorium are visible across the fallen east wall of the building. At center left is the front entrance of the building. (Photo courtesy of "Salem Headlight")

Dallas Avenue Church, Mena, has voted to enter into a building enlargement campaign. Lee Gandy, Dayton Bray, Edric Hughes, Miles Aynes, C. S. Insall, Mrs. Freddie Ayres, Joe Hale, Weldon Curtis, Bob Gordon and John Chism were named to a planning committee. They will study needs for three major expansion needs that include an auditorium, educational space and a fellowship hall. Max W. Deaton is pastor and Larry Sherman is associate pastor.

Foreign mission briefs

KAGOSHIMA, Japan — The first Japanese Baptist Evangelism Conference, held in the Kogashima Baptist Church here, attracted 145 registrants and a total attendance of more than 200. Another conference, to encompass the entire island of Kyushu, is planned for August. Several years of planning by a committee from the Japan Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and another committee of national pastors resulted in the two-day conference.

MALAYSIA — Although Southern Baptists have not officially begun mis-

sion work in the country of Brunei north of here, some work is being done. Missionary Bobby Evans, assigned to Singapore, has received a visa for Brunei. When the visa was received, however, he and his wife, Dorothy, had just begun working with a new correspondence course in Singapore, making it impractical for them to move to the new field at this time. Evans is flying to Brunei for 10 days each month. While there he assists churches in the cities of Bandar Seri Begawan and Seria, according to Mrs. May (Russell A.) Morris, Southern Baptist missionary here.

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Marian Eugenia ("Gennie") Cowherd, 22, daughter of Charles P. Cowherd and Marian Peeler Cowherd, deceased Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong, was killed in an automobile accident Jan. 21 in Gainesville, Ga. The funeral was to be held Jan. 28 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church here. Miss Cowherd is survived by her stepmother, Mrs. Margaret Cowherd Baker of Yorkshire, England; a brother, Dr. William Gray Cowherd; and two sisters, Mrs. Mary Catherine Mullins and Mrs. Virginia Louise Love.

Your state convention at work

Looking ahead: Arkansas events

February 1978

- 23 GA Day Camp Workshop, Little Rock, First
 23-24 Ouachita Baptist University church music workshop
 24-25 Regional Library Clinic (Church Training)
 Little Rock, First
 28 GA Day Camp Workshop, Ft. Smith, Immanuel
 27-March 1 Pastors Planning & Leadership Seminar,
 DeGray Lodge (Church Training)

March 1978

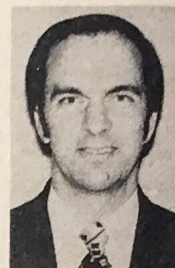
- 1- 3 Directors of Missions Retreat
 3- 4 Handbell Festival, Pine Bluff Convention Center
 5-12 Week of Prayer for Home Missions &
 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
 6 Northwest District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Rogers, First
 7 West Central District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Paris, First
 9 North Central District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Melbourne, First
 10 Central District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Benton, First
 10-11 Baptist Men's Meeting, Little Rock
 12 Home Missions Day in Sunday School
 12-19 Youth Week
 13 Southwest District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Hope, First
 14 Southeast District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Warren, First
 16 Northeast District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Central, Jonesboro
 17 East Central District Bible Drills & Speakers'
 Tournament, Forrest City, First
 17-18 State Renewal Evangelism Workshop,
 DeGray Lodge
 17-18 Interpreters for the Deaf Workshop
 18 Associational Baptist Youth Night
 21-22 WMU Annual Meeting, Park Hill, North Little Rock
 24 Youth Convention, Robinson Auditorium, Little
 Rock (Church Training)
 27-30 Acteens Leaders Mission Tour
 27-31 Church Architecture Consultations (Sunday School)
 30-April 1 Marriage Enrichment Retreat (Church Training)

April 1978

- 1 Young Musicians Choir Festivals, Elmdale, Springdale;
 Central, Jonesboro; Calvary, Little Rock;
 Cullendale, Camden; and Pine Bluff, First
 2 New Day for Training (Church Training)

Internationals discover Arkansas

The number of International students in Arkansas remained steadily at about 300 to 400 for many years. Three years ago the number had jumped to 700, and this school year between 850-900 students from over 30 different countries are enrolled in Arkansas colleges.



Sims

The largest event the Student Department sponsors for Internationals is the International Student Conference, jointly hosted with Women's Missionary Union. Next year's retreat will be Nov. 3-5. During the weekend leaders interpret the Christian faith to the students, and among other things, give help in cultural adjustments. For the Christian Internationals, the retreat is an especially good opportunity for fellowship and exchange.

For several years, Maureen Thompson, of First Church, Conway, has directed a Friendship International House during the Christmas holidays to provide housing and entertainment in a Christian setting for foreign students wanting to spend their holidays in Arkansas. The Conway Friendship International House was one of many promoted by Southern Baptists throughout the nation.

Another ministry to Internationals is Friendship International, sponsored by several Southern Baptist churches in Little Rock and North Little Rock. Meeting each week at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, Baptist people seek to provide needed ministries to the growing international community in Little Rock. A similar organization ministers through First Baptist Church Fayetteville teaching conversational English and providing other assistance to students and student families from the University of Arkansas.

Families wanting to have an International visitor for a holiday or weekend should contact the nearest Baptist Student Director. This can be a blessing and opportunity for both the student and the host family. — George E. Sims

Arkansas men needed for Brazil evangelism

The SBC Foreign Mission Board is requesting 24 men from Arkansas who are interested in personal witnessing and soul winning to participate in an evangelistic effort in Brazil March 19-April 2. These men will be asked to pay their own travel and living expenses, which will be approximately \$1,200.

More information is available from the Brotherhood Department, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203, phone 376-4791.

There's good news when offering goals are exceeded

There's good news today! The 1977 Dixie Jackson offering for State Missions reached \$180,648.63.

This exceeded the goal of \$175,000 for another record in state mission giving. The WMU organization and leadership are to be commended for promotion and promotional material for the Season of Prayer for State Missions.

In 1972 the goal for the Dixie Jackson offering was \$85,000 which is exactly half of the 1977 goal. In the six-year span the goal and the giving has doubled.

These funds helped meet budget needs for all the work of the Department of Missions. The state mission offering carried the work of 52 ministries for almost five months in 1977. It helped by giving support to the Migrant Mission Center, the Little Rock Center of the Boyce Bible School, the growing needs of language and ethnic



Dorris

groups, resort ministries, chaplaincy ministries, disaster relief, and new churches and missions.

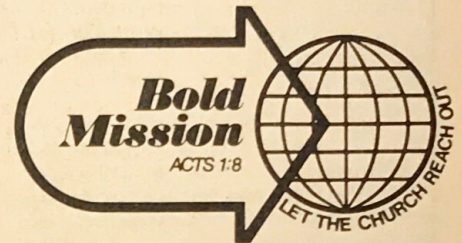
It is interesting to examine the record of support for the Season of Prayer and the offering for state missions for 1977. Of the 42 associations in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 30 of them and/or some of their churches received some form of financial help from the Missions Department during the past year.

In 1977 a total of 57 churches or missions received one or more types of financial aid, such as site purchase, construction grants, church building loans, pastoral salary supplements, and similar assistance. Only 25 of these responded with a season of prayer and a freewill mission offering. This means that 32 churches or missions received help but did not share in mission education, special prayer, nor give their membership the opportunity of helping support the total state mission effort.

There are 1229 churches and approximately 34 missions now in the State Convention; yet, in 1977 only 627 of these gave the \$180,648.63. Individual

church gifts ranged from \$5 to \$4,192.15, but each church or mission that gave was practicing the Christian ethic in recognizing that it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

Yes, there's good news today! There will be better news tomorrow when the other 636 churches and missions join in the benefits and blessings of state mission education, prayer and giving to strengthen God's great kingdom in Arkansas, this land of missions opportunity! — R. H. Dorris, Director, Department of Missions.



Directors of missions attend evangelism workshop

The Directors of Missions are coordinators to help the State Evangelism Department staff and the 12 trained PREP Men do effective work with the local churches.

These men and others who serve in this important position are key men in promoting total evangelism in our state. There was an effort in the last Evangelism Workshop to help equip them in the following areas of evangelism: associational evangelism, perennial evangelism, WOW and renewal, area crusades, partnership revivals and working with the associational chairman of evangelism.

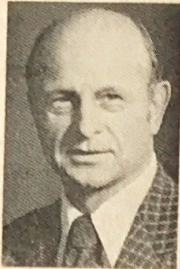
The following Directors of Missions participated in the workshop at Paron: Refus Caldwell, Elva Adams, Carrol Gibson, John Finn, Carl Overton, Robert Tucker, J. A. Kuehn, Carl Fawcett, J. D. Passmore, J. C. Montgomery, Thomas Darter, Bedford Jackson and Leo Hughes. — Clarence Shell Jr., Associate, Evangelism Dept.



BSU
Third
Century
Campaign

Memorial gifts

Mr. and Mrs. Ode Maddox, members of First Church in Oden, have made a generous commitment to the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign in memory of their son, Edward Lee, who passed from this life Dec.



Jones

12, 1976. While a student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Edward Lee was active in the Baptist Student Union.

Gifts to the BSU Third Century Campaign in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones or friends are very appropriate. These gifts will provide additional financial resources for expanding and improving our Christian witness and ministry to countless college students throughout the years ahead.

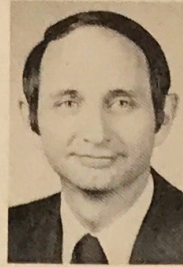
The results and benefits of these gifts in the lives of students will be many and varied. Some will become Christians. Some will enter full-time church-related vocations and become pastors, missionaries, ministers of Christian education, music, youth, etc. Some will become more effective and responsible churchmen. Some will grow and mature as Christians through the various emphases and activities of BSU — Bible study, evangelism training, worship, prayer, missions, etc. Some will be ministered to by the warm, caring, supportive BSU fellowship at a time when loneliness, pressures and temptations are very great. Some will be helped by the friendship and counsel of a BSU Director when they really need an older adult Christian friend.

There is no way to enumerate or anticipate all of the possible results of such gifts. The foregoing are a few results which I have seen year after year for more than 30 years.

If you would like more information, please contact me at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Or call me at 376-4791, Extension 141. — Jamie Jones, Director BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign

Sunday School
Single adult seminar in March

Second Church, Little Rock, will host a single adult seminar March 10-11. The seminar includes Friday night activities, Saturday daytime discussions, and will conclude with a dinner on Saturday evening.



Cooper

Britton Wood will be the seminar leader. Wood was one of the pioneers in singles' leadership among Southern Baptists. He was the first full-time minister to single adults in the Southern Baptist Convention. He began this effective ministry at

the Park Cities Church in Dallas, Tex.

Wood has taken part in single adult retreats at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Conference Centers. He has authored the book, *Single Adults Want To Be the Church, Too*. He has had other writings published in journals and periodicals.

For further information concerning the seminar, please contact John Hough, associate pastor, Second Baptist Church, 222 East 8th, Little Rock, Ark. 72201. You may phone Mr. Hough at 374-9286. Reservations would be most helpful.

The seminar is designed to be helpful to singles and to leaders of singles. — Don Cooper, Sunday School department

Announcing the 1978 - - -

State Youth Convention

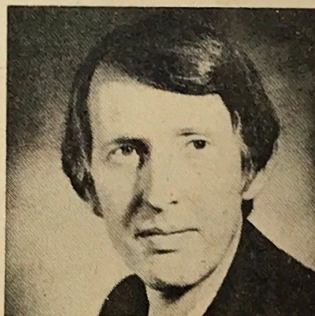
“Youth Experiencing Discipleship”

Friday, March 24

Robinson Auditorium

Little Rock

Speaker



Nelson Price
 Pastor

Roswell St. Church
 Marietta, Ga.

Program features

- Inspirational messages
- Multi-media presentation
- Music
- Fellowship
- Bible Drills and Speakers' Tournament

Cooperative Program

Joining hands for Bold Mission Thrust

During a hike in the woods, a group of Royal Ambassadors came across an abandoned section of railroad track. Each, in turn, tried walking the rails but eventually lost his balance and fell off.

Suddenly two of the boys, after consulting privately, boasted that they could both walk the entire length of the track without falling off. Challenged to make good their boast, the two boys jumped up on opposite rails, reached out to take each other by the hand, and walked the entire section of track with no difficulty whatever.

There, in a nutshell, is the principle of the Cooperative Program. We do things better, we produce more, and we live better by helping each other. The fellow who lends a helping hand benefits

himself at the same time as he helps someone else.

The reverse is also true. When we don't help each other, when we refuse to cooperate, the whole system starts to crumble and fall.

For Southern Baptists to be successful in Bold Mission Thrust and to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 A.D., we must undergird our efforts financially. To reach our goal of doubling Cooperative Program giving by 1982, we must join hands and walk together in the same direction.

Reach out and join hands. Commit yourself to become a Bold Believer in Giving for our Bold Mission Thrust! — Michael L. Speer, Stewardship Commission, SBC

WMU

Acteen leaders to see missions

Indians and inner city missions will be the focus of a training tour for leaders of Acteens March 27-29. The group will leave Little Rock by chartered bus March 27. The first stop will be Okmulgee, Okla., where B. Frank Belvin, Consultant on Indian Affairs for the Home Mission Board, will guide them through the new Creek Tribal Headquarters and Council House.

Ed Onley, Associate in Church Ministries for the Capitol Baptist Association will serve as guide for the leaders while in Oklahoma City. The itinerary includes the Christian Family Health Care Center, Grace Rescue Mission, Indian Baptist Center, Baptist Community Center and the Women's

Center.

On the last day the group will go to Shawnee where Jimmy Anderson, General Missionary to the Creek-Seminole churches. They will be joined by Indian women for a prayer meeting and lunch of typical Indian food. From this point they will return to Little Rock.

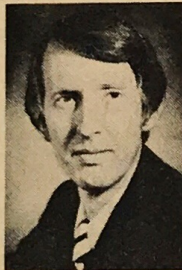
Every available minute during the tour will be spent in training the leaders in the scheduling of training the girls and executing a successful working mission tour for Acteens. Acteens leaders and directors who did not receive information through the mail should write Woman's Missionary Union, Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203 for registration form and cost.

Church Training

Nelson Price to speak at Youth Convention

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., will be the featured speaker at this year's State Youth Convention meeting at Robinson Auditorium on March 24.

Nelson Price has been pastor of the 5,000 member church at Marietta since 1965. He speaks to an average of over 100,000 students a year and was recently selected as one of the Outstanding Young Leaders of Metropolitan



Price

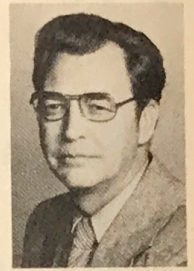
Atlanta. He is a member of the National Board of Trustees of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He preached the inaugural message for the presidential party just before President Carter took the oath of office. His message at the Youth Convention will deal with the theme, "Youth Experiencing Discipleship."

Clyde Spurgin, pastor of the First Church, Green Forest, an outstanding ventriloquist, will also appear on the program with his friend, Archie. Other program features will be announced later. Youth groups should begin now making plans to attend the 1978 State Youth Convention. — Robert Holley

Brotherhood

Continue growth through conferences

The year 1977 was a year of growth and advancement for Brotherhood in Arkansas. Figures compiled from associational letters, indicate a 7.18 percent increase in enrollment. This is one of the largest of any state in the convention.



Cecil

For this increase we are grateful. We trust that this year will show a continuing growth in missionary education and mission activities.

An excellent way to encourage and challenge men for missions is to attend meetings emphasizing men and missions.

The State-wide Baptist Men's Meeting on March 10-11, at Camp Paron, will provide an opportunity for men to learn about missions. Those attending will be meeting men involved in mission activities on every level.

James Cecil, Consultant in Laymen Overseas of the Foreign Mission Board, will be sharing ways and means men can become involved in foreign missions.

He has served on the mission field and is well acquainted with what men can do even on a short-term basis. There are many opportunities for men to serve on foreign fields even though they may be visiting only on a business trip or vacation.

"Bold Missions' Opportunities" that have never been tried here at home will be discussed. There will be a sharing time for presenting work being done by men in local church areas.

Good music, as only men can present, will be a feature of the meeting.

Bible study at each of the three sessions led by W. W. Dishongh will deal with "Bold Missions" and men involvement.

Plan now to attend all three sessions. Accommodations are available for only 200 men. Information and reservation forms have been mailed to all Brotherhood officers, pastors, and ministers of education. Make reservations early. — C. H. Seaton, Director



Grant program 63w—will education: is it educational?

by Harry D. Trulove,
President, Arkansas Baptist
Foundation

Recently, several pastors forwarded material to me that had been received from a corporation in California. The cover letter indicates the church has been selected to receive a "Will Education Grant". The material was submitted to our attorneys for evaluation. Their response was as follows:

At your request, an evaluation has been made of the Grant Program 63W-Will Education material. I understand several Arkansas churches have received the packet. The material bears a return address of Institute of Christian Services, Box 4128, Riverside, Calif., 92504.

In my opinion, there are several problems involved. First, although it is not stated, the material is a part of a fund raising program of the California firm. This in itself is deceitful. Second, each state has

different laws relating to the valid execution of a will. A very real danger is that a will form prepared by a California institution might not provide for proper execution under the laws of the State of Arkansas. In that event the will would be invalid and thus potentially very harmful. An out of state institution, particularly one that is not licensed to render legal advice, is in no position to promote the use of a document which must satisfy the technical requirements of Arkansas law.

Third, the offer of "blank will forms" raises two important questions. First, it implies that a will can be made by filling in certain information on a blank form. This approach can create many more problems than it solves, even for the small estate. Second, in today's economy, the ownership of a home, life insurance and modest

investments, can easily create an estate that could face tax problems. A more sophisticated plan may be needed to avoid taxes and other unnecessary expenses.

I would advise any group in Arkansas interested in promoting a conference on wills, to contact their local Bar Association or the Arkansas Bar Association. Printed information on wills is also available from banks and other financial institutions. A Baptist group may want to use the services offered by your office.

The growing interest in estate stewardship is an encouragement. Free materials are available from your Foundation office and local conferences can be conducted as the calendar allows. For further information, write Harry D. Trulove, Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. The telephone number is 376-4791, ext. 119.

Baptists continue protest over Israeli law

by Elizabeth F. Smith

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP) — Baptists across Israel continue to react sharply to recent legislation which has the potential to limit Christian activity and endanger religious liberty.

Under the provisions of the December 1977 law, it will be illegal, as of April 1, 1978, to offer or receive material inducements to change religions.

Fuad Sakhni, chairman of the Baptist association of churches and pastor of Nazareth Baptist Church, said, "Of course we are against any kind of material enticement to be given to people. But," he continued, "everything we do is done to influence people for the gospel, including preaching, teaching and helping. The difficulty lies in the interpretation which may be given to this aid. If it is interpreted that preaching the gospel is against the law, then we are ready to go to jail rather than to stop preaching."

Southern Baptist representative Dale G. Thorne adds: "Actually we are not interested in inducing people to change religion. Our interest is in introducing them to Christ. I don't feel that a person can be truly influenced to accept Christ

by physical enticements.

"But the problem of this law is its disparaging attitude toward the Christian message," Thorne continued. "We are commissioned to spread the Christian message. There's possible danger of restricting freedom of Christians and people of all religions."

Robert L. Lindsey, Southern Baptist representative in Israel, said the intention of those who proposed the new law was "to give legal grounds for further intimidation of the Christian citizens and residents in Israel."

The Israel Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist representatives known locally as the Baptist Convention in Israel) and the association of Baptist churches have cooperated with the United Christian Council in its efforts to point out dangers of the law. The 20-member body believes the law offers opportunity to trap Christians and accuse them of bribery.

Although some Israeli journalists call this law the first real anti-missionary legislation ever attempted in the 30-year history of Israel, a number of provisions exist in various laws dealing with con-

version. The criminal code as it exists today also deals with the changing of religion by a minor.

Persons participating in ceremonies for the changing of religion of a minor are subject to a prison sentence. It's also against the law for minors to change religion without written consent of parent or guardian. Minors must change to the religion of one of the parents. Adopted children must be of the same religious background as the adoptive parents.

Jewish leaders have pointed out that the law does not only include Christians but also Jews trying to induce others to convert to Judaism.

Fuad Hadda, Baptist deacon and assistant headmaster of Nazareth Baptist Schools, believes, however, this law is aimed mainly at the Christians "because they are the only group that has a call to go out and teach about Christ to all people. "This law," Hadda warns, "could be misused and become a dangerous weapon in the hands of scheming people."

Elizabeth (Mrs. James W.) Smith is a Southern Baptist representative serving in Israel.

Board said ready to meet disaster needs promptly

by John J. Hurt

BANANIER, Guadeloupe (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is prepared to "respond appropriately and promptly to disasters" in foreign lands with both humane and spiritual ministry, some 40 participants at the board's first disaster response training session were told.

Missionary personnel who coordinate disaster response met with Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator for worldwide response, and his associates at the four-day conference to share experiences in planning with others who had served in times of disaster. The major agreements which emerged from the conference were:

1. The best response from Southern Baptist Convention churches and individuals is to provide money for the Foreign Mission Board to make purchases of needed supplies.

2. Members of Southern Baptist churches who volunteer for work assignments in subsequent months should offer their services through state convention offices or the Foreign Mission Board so there can be coordination with missionaries on the scene.

Robert Zimmerman of Washington, U.S. government overseas disaster assistance officer under the Department of State, said to his knowledge this was the first such conference to include long-range planning. Uniquely, plans here were made at a conference center halfway up La Soufriere Mountain where a volcano 18 months ago threatened eruption and caused evacuation of 70,000 people to an adjoining island for six months.

Missionaries from Honduras and Guatemala, where Southern Baptists have conducted major reconstruction projects, shared liberally in the conference. Honduras was wrecked by Hurricane Fifi in 1974 and Guatemala had 23,000 killed in an earthquake in 1976.

Charles Bryan, the board's area secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, reminded the coordinators that ministering to people in times of disaster is one of the responsibilities of missionaries. "You are the person whom God has put his hand on," he said, reminding them it also is a duty "to let the world know there is hope in Jesus."

Teddy E. Yarbrough of Alabama, response coordinator in Guatemala, told the missionaries "I have had some of my greatest spiritual experiences" with volunteers from the Southern Bap-

tist Convention in farewell services with nationals after reconstruction assignments.

"I have seen tears and embraces in a language everybody understands," he said.

Missionaries with experience in both Honduras and Guatemala emphasized that advance planning with national conventions will make response more effective. They also agreed local Baptist churches should be used as centers for distribution of relief supplies.

Grubbs told the conference an enlarged board coordination staff and experience in this decade guaranteed "appropriate and prompt" response to appeals from the field. He agreed with the missionaries that it was essential "to keep in mind the spiritual dimension and follow through with evangelism."

Two medical missionaries said a pastoral ministry is essential in an emergency. W. David Harms, Florida doctor assigned to Honduras, and Lee Baggett, Texas doctor serving in Mexico, gave as much attention to the pastoral as to the medical in their reports. Baggett said it was not unusual for disaster victims to stand in line for hours for medical attention when "a pastoral ministry was the major need."

Both Bryan and James Cecil, a furloughing missionary working as associate consultant on laymen overseas, had high praise for volunteers who had gone to disaster areas to help rebuild churches and homes. "These men

became home missionaries," Cecil said in reference to their returning to churches to tell their experiences on mission fields.

"We are using these volunteers in our own programs and priorities," Bryan said. He added that the long-range planning in the conference would make the work of volunteers more effective in addition to providing a quicker response from teams already assigned for emergency response.

"This is the most effective and significant thing our office will participate in this year except in the event of a disaster," Grubbs said of the conference.

Grubbs expressed his concern that Southern Baptists become more aware of needs resulting from disasters in areas more remote than the Caribbean and Middle America. He said Southern Baptists must be alert to continuing hunger in such places as Bangladesh and to disaster response assistance throughout the world.

The response coordinators were advised on how to purchase emergency supplies quickly in times of disaster, how to organize local residents to assist in relief centers, and left with the admonition from Bryan: "See the immediate need but keep your focus on the eternal."

Hurt, retired editor of Texas' "Baptist Standard," took part in the disaster response conference.

DISCUSSING DISASTER RELIEF — Three Southern Baptist medical representatives with extensive experience in disaster relief confer about their experiences during the Foreign Mission Board's first Disaster Response Training Conference in Guadeloupe. From left are Dr. W. David Harms, working in Honduras; Dr. Lee Baggett, serving in Mexico; and Southern Baptist nurse Katharine Weldon, also working in Mexico. (BP) photo by John J. Hurt



Harry Piland elected Sunday School director

NASHVILLE (BP) — Harry M. Piland, minister of education for First Church, Houston, since 1973, has been elected director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, effective Feb. 27.



Piland

Piland, 49, succeeds A. V. Washburn, who retired in August 1977 following 20 years as secretary of the Sunday School department. He had been employed with the board in Sunday School work for 44 years.

Following Piland's election by the institution's trustees, board president, Grady C. Cothen, noted that "a careful and prayerful search has gone on for three years to find a new director for the Sunday School department.

"We know that God has led us in this search to Harry Piland," he said. "He is skilled in growing Sunday Schools and in developing strong leadership. His credentials — academically, professionally, and practically — are superb. He is a skilled administrator and an effective communicator. We are highly pleased to have secured the services of Dr. Piland for this crucial post in Baptist life."

As the national leader for Southern Baptists' Sunday School movement, Piland will manage a department that employs 135 persons in editorial and promotion activities. Currently 73 quarterly and monthly Sunday School publications are produced with a combined circulation of 39,980,100. The nationwide projected enrollment for Sunday School during 1976-77 was 7,421,083.

During his years of service at Houston's First Church, Sunday School attendance has increased to between 2,400 and 2,500 persons each week. In the early 1970s, attendance had been between 600 and 700 persons each week.

A native of Austin, Tex., Piland has served as minister of education for the Hyde Park Church, Austin; the James Avenue Church, Ft. Worth; and the University Church, Ft. Worth.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and holds the master and doctor of religious education degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

A frequent contributor to Southern

Baptist publications, Piland is active in the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association and the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association. He is the president of the Association of Christian Educators, Union Baptist Association, Houston.

He has been a member of the Human Welfare Coordinating Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and has served as president of the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association and of the Southwestern Seminary Texas Alumni.

Study pilot tapes excite trustees

NASHVILLE (BP) — Pilot tapes of a new television Bible study series received strong support after a preview for trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board at the semi-annual meeting in Nashville.

"This concept has a tremendous potential for reaching thousands of people for Christ," said Presnall H. Wood, trustee chairman and editor of the *Baptist Standard*, newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "It's one of the finest vehicles we've had for some time."

Two separate shows were prepared to provide a choice of styles between two different programs. Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss., was the Bible teaching host on both programs. Singing artists Cynthia Clawson and Joe Ann Shelton each appeared on one of the programs.

Trustee Lloyd E. Batson, pastor of First Church, Pickens, S.C., said, "I'm excited about the Home Bible Study programs, especially when you consider the amount of time people spend in front of the television. The idea is great."

Houston, Tex., attorney Jerre H. Frazier said he considered the television programming concept the "most significant program considered since I've been on the board of trustees. It expands our efforts into new areas, with a great opportunity to reach people."

The Home Bible Study Series television programs will premiere nationwide in October. Free curriculum materials also will be available from the Sunday School Board at that time.

The pilots were taped in the studio facilities of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Ft. Worth, marking the first joint effort between that agency and the Sunday School Board. The Sunday School Board is

providing all curriculum materials to accompany the television series, while the Radio and Television Commission is providing the technical expertise for filming the programs.

Seminary extension accreditation renewed

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Accrediting Commission of the National Home Study Council has renewed its accreditation of the Home Study Institute of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department in Nashville.

Acting on a report from an examining committee which visited the Seminary Extension offices last fall, the commission granted the renewal "without stipulation." William A. Fowler, executive secretary of the Washington-based commission, noted that they were "most impressed with the high quality of the (Home Study) Institute's educational programs and service."

The Home Study Institute received its accreditation from the commission in 1972. An assessment of the program for re-accreditation is required every five years.

"This action by the commission reaffirms the Home Study Institute's standing as a member of the academic community," said Raymond M. Rigdon, Seminary Extension director. "It further strengthens the hands of students who may wish to transfer Seminary Extension credits to a degree program at a college or university."

A major element in the re-accreditation process was the preparation of a thorough self-evaluation report by Home Study Institute director Robert L. Lamb. After reading that report, an examining committee spent one day in an on-site investigation of the institute's materials, facilities, and staff.

Annuity Board benefit payments escalate

DALLAS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Annuity Board paid benefits amounting to \$19.1 million to retired persons in 1977 — "light years away from the Baptist world of 1918" when it paid \$1,397 in services, Darold H. Morgan told board trustees.

Since 1918, the first year the board paid benefits, retired ministers and church and denominational employees

or their dependents have received \$177,641,286, the board's president said at the agency's 60th annual meeting.

He said the \$19.1 million also exceeds benefits paid during the first 23 years of existence of the board, which began operation with only \$100,000.

The board also paid relief benefits in 1977 totaling \$324,096, an increase of \$38,591 over 1976. The relief program provides financial aid for aged ministers or widows with inadequate income from funds allocated through the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget. No other funds handled by the board come from the Cooperative Program.

"The dollar figures paid through the years are impressive," Morgan told the trustees in his historical overview. "Our ministry is supposed to do that, but another important fact is the financial security these funds have meant to thousands of men and women across these six decades."

In his report, Morgan said with the exception of the stock market, 1977 was a very good year. "Like everyone else, we watch the market closely. We expect it to turn upward at any time, providing the investment earnings experience that will allow the board to once again credit additional interest."

In recent years, earnings over and above what the plans required allowed the board to credit additional interest called Good Experience Credit to active members and a "13th Check" to annuitants.

Morgan pointed to key 1977 accomplishments, headed by the declaration of a permanent 8.33 percent increase in retirement benefits for most annuitants, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1977, and the development of an investment strategy intended to cope with the declining stock market. One of the major objectives was the installation of the new Fixed Fund in which interest was credited at the rate of 7.5 percent per year during 1977 and projected for the same amount in 1978.

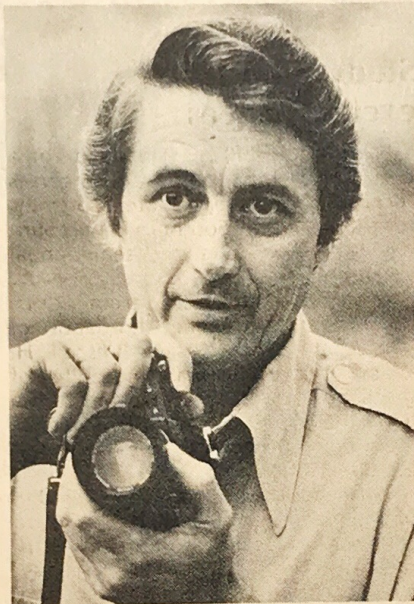
Other successes, he said, included inauguration of the new retirement program for career ministerial personnel; enlistment of 545 new churches and 2,169 pastors and church employees in the retirement program, and upgrading of plans for 3,000 participants.

Including the new members and upgrades, the board recorded a total of 26,516 members participating in Plan A program, 15,669 in Plan B and 1,970 in Plan C.

"This was the finest year ever in enlistment," Morgan said. Financially, the board reported assets of funds held

in trust reached \$498,977,661, an increase of \$26,758,992 over 1976.

Income from premiums and dues for retirement protection of churches and agencies reached a record \$45,603,942, an increase of \$3,123,540. In the insurance program, the volume of life insurance in force amounted to \$584,772,550, exceeding the 1976 figure by \$48,971,100. This total includes almost \$5.6 million for life insurance for seminary students, an area of significant growth for the Annuity Board, Morgan said.



OKLAHOMA CITY — Home Mission Board photographer Don Rutledge is displaying his work in a "one-man-show" at an Oklahoma City photographic gallery.

Thirty-six color prints framed and signed by Rutledge are hanging now through March 18 at Concepts in Photography, 2929 Wilshire Blvd.

Rutledge, who has won secular and religious awards in photography, has covered home missions in all 50 states since 1966.

His work has appeared in numerous secular publications, as well as in "Home Missions" magazine and two HMB photo-text books, "The Human Touch" and "Love With No Strings".

Many of the pictures on display were made while covering home missions; others were taken on weekends for pleasure.

One photograph of particular interest to Baptists is of the chapel in the cemetery where Annie Armstrong is buried.

Transportation plans made for SBC Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP) — Extensive plans to simplify transportation problems have been made for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets in Atlanta, June 13-15.

About 20,000 persons will attend sessions in Atlanta's World Congress Center in the heart of downtown Atlanta.

Three special bus routes are already planned to bring convention-goers from downtown hotels to the World Congress Center. Twenty hotels within a 10-minute ride of the congress center have already committed 4,392 rooms to SBC messengers.

In addition, Atlanta Civic Center parking lots will accommodate 2,300 automobiles about one mile from the SBC hall. Shuttle buses will carry messengers from this lot to the center. Cost for parking here is \$1 per day for SBC messengers.

Also, a fourth bus route is being considered serving the Northeast Expressway. Five major motels on this expressway have committed 1,200 rooms for SBC use.

Atlanta arrangements leaders have said that transportation plans are still flexible, depending upon how messengers make hotel reservations.

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) buses will be used. Fare will not exceed 35 cents.

William L. Self, chairman of local arrangements, said that some 5,000 public parking spaces are near the World Congress Center. But most of these spaces are filled during the day by working Atlantans.

"We are urging SBC messengers to plan to use a shuttle bus from their hotel, or park in the Civic Center lot and ride a MARTA bus to the World Congress Center," Self said.

"Messengers need to make reservations soon. Downtown hotels are already filling up. Address of the SBC Housing Bureau is 233 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta 30303," he said.

Hotel and motel reservations should be made on application forms printed in "The Baptist Program" or available from the Baptist state convention offices.

Tom Duvall, chairman of the SBC transportation committee, is deputy director of MARTA and a deacon in Rainbow Park Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

Missionaries face danger but still minister in cities



by Dan Martin.

NEW YORK (BP) — Murders, gang fights, drug operations and human tragedy mark the lives of Southern Baptist missionaries who live and work in the high crime areas of our nation.

Richard Wilson had both eyes blackened and his nose broken while breaking up a fight; Mary Vorsten saw a gang fight erupt on a street outside her office late one night; Sam Simpson confronted a group of angry youths intent on mayhem and possibly murder near his Bronx church;

A young woman was knifed to death and her small children — ages two and four — were abducted during another gang fight near where Jim Queen and a group of volunteers were conducting a Vacation Bible School in Chicago; Bruce Schoonmaker discovered a \$30,000-a-day drug operation across the street from a vacant lot he and volunteers had cleared for a playground.

These — and other — Southern Baptist home missionaries daily brave personal danger to confront crime, despair, hopelessness and fear in the brick and steel mountains and windswept concrete canyons of the nation's large cities.

But, despite the context in which they work, many missionaries live and go about their lives in an almost normal manner.

"You cannot work here and be threatened all the time," says Ray Gilliland, director of Christian Social Ministries for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. "If you are going to live here, you can't live that way . . . in fear."

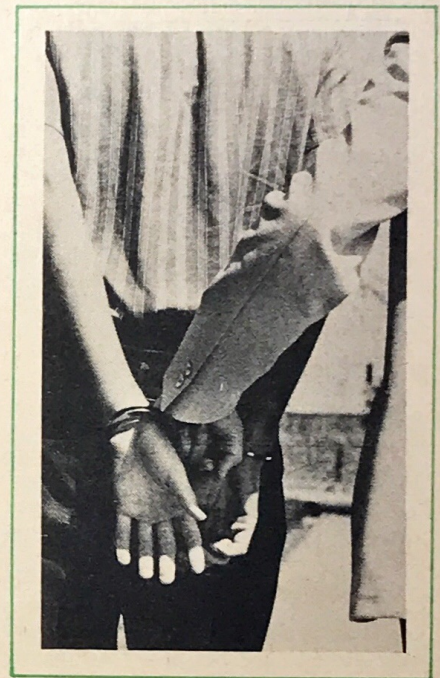
Schoonmaker, who directs Graffiti Center on the Lower East Side of New York City, says those to whom he ministers have "everyday lives composed of slums, poverty, unemployment and visually depressing sights," and that drugs are coupled with crime and hopelessness.

"There just aren't jobs for most of the people on the Lower East Side," he says. "Most people are poor. Unemployment is chronic. Some of the jobs are like watching a flower stand on the street to make sure they don't get ripped off. It pays \$75 a week . . . not even as much as welfare."

"Money is to be had on the streets. Many people have no ethics and so they see nothing wrong with going onto the streets, dealing in drugs, crime and human flesh. That is where the prestige and money are. They can make more money on the streets than on welfare."

The whole situation, he says, "just makes you want to cry."

While Schoonmaker attributes high



crime to lack of jobs and general hopelessness, Gilliland says crime is high because people are frustrated. "I realize any word I use would be an oversimplification," he says. "But I think many times individuals in cities such as New York do things because of frustration."

"The tenements are what we call 'layered living.' They're constantly surrounded by people, being buffeted. The



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP:

The marks of youth gangs — such as the Racine Lords — dot the inner city.

AT LEFT:

(The cover) Crime — and arrest — are facts of life to the nation's inner city dwellers.

THIS PAGE:

Home missionaries, such as Jim Queen of the Uptown area of Chicago, work in inner cities.

HMB photos by Jim Wright

frustration builds up. If they do not have a vital contact with Jesus Christ, they don't have anyone to lean on, to love them. They want to be recognized as people."

The frustration often erupts into self destruction, says Schoonmaker, telling about a young boy who watched his mother die when she jumped off a tenement building the night he returned from a field trip.

Occasionally, the frustration takes the form of anger and outward violence and there are gang fights between such groups as the Latin Lords, Insane Maniacs, Imperial Gangsters, Disciples, Latin Kings, Unknowns and others.

The missionaries are careful and they warn visitors to avoid walking by abandoned, vacant or burned buildings "where the muggings occur."

Gilliland says he is not fearful, but cautious and insists on a strict code of conduct for visitors. "We tell women not to carry shoulder bags or any kind of handbags, but to keep their money in their pockets or shoes," he says. "We also suggest the women go in groups and never travel alone. We also tell them to wear grungy clothing . . . not their best attire."

Graffiti Center has been burglarized, as have apartments of most of the people who participate in the center's programs. "It is the kind of thing that is going to happen eventually," Schoonmaker says. "If you take adequate precautions, you are relatively safe, but at one time or another nearly everybody gets burglarized."

Despite the context in which they work, they continue to witness and minister. Wilson, who directs Rachel Sims Center in New Orleans, says danger has not stopped the Baptist witness even in the roughest areas.

"About four blocks from our center is a federal housing project called Irish Channel," he says. "It is very rough; few single police cars go in there. Usually there are four or five cars at a time

because of the danger. We usually go in there in the daytime. We do not go alone and most often go in triples, two to visit and one to watch the car."

Human tragedy stalks the lives of the missionaries who work in high crime areas. Schoonmaker related the story of a boy with whom Graffiti Center had worked:

"They (drug merchants) had taken him on as one of their flunkies . . . sort of the lowest man on the rung. It was very exciting and glamorous to him, even though he was running errands and washing cars," he says.

The boy came to summer programs and storefront activities although "he was never very active. He was friendly and we had some contact with him. I had hoped to do some individual work with him this year . . . but if he is making these kinds of contacts (with drug pushers) it will be very difficult to do anything with him now.

"It really tears your heart out because you know how it is going to end. If he gets sucked into drug dealing, his life will not be worth two bits. He is going to end up dead."

The boy, the missionary said, is 11-years-old.

Queen works in Uptown, an area which has been called the "dumping ground of Chicago," and has established a ministry of walking the streets, visiting and talking to people in the deteriorating tenements.

"Chicago is a big metropolitan area with lots of people in it," he says. "Uptown is a forgotten little corner of it. Uptown is a ghetto, which is a place where once you get in, you can't get out of."

Queen maintains Baptists "have to deal with cities in a different way than we have been dealing with them. We have a tendency, as a church grows, to move them out from the center city. We have forgotten that most of the people with heartaches and problems are located in the city. There is massive need in the city.

"The city is where all the poor are . . . where all of the scrambled people are. I think the church needs to come to the city. If Jesus were here today, I think he would say, 'I have to go through Uptown,' just like he went through Samaria. I think he would make special trips to places like this."

Perhaps through the lives of people like Jim Queen, Mary Vorsten, Bruce Schoonmaker, Ray Gilliland, Richard Wilson and many many others. Jesus is visiting the hopeless, frustrated, despairing people who live in the Humboldt Parks, East Seventh Streets, Irish Channels, and the Bronxes of America.

Sunday School Board changes conference center setup

by Bracey Campbell

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board approved a number of recommendations to improve the use of Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers and elected Robert M. Turner as director of the conference center division in their semiannual meeting here.

The recommendations concerning the Baptist centers in New Mexico and North Carolina — dealing with a number of topics including rate structure and reservations procedures — came from a task force appointed last May.

DeVaughn Woods, the board's vice president for finance who led the task force, said the changes approved by the trustees were designed to improve the use of conference center facilities, enhance the centers' public image and to improve the financial results.

Turner, 46, moves to the conference post from the position of manager of the accounting and control department in the board's management and services division. A native of Tennessee and a certified public accountant, Turner came to the board in 1958 and has served in a number of positions.

Sunday School Board President Grady Cothen said, "Bob Turner brings a rich background of technical experience and management skill to this position.

Steps taken by the trustees concerning the centers include:

—Approving a public relations campaign to reduce the number of cancellations and to help make the public aware of the problems caused by cancellations.

—Changing the date of reservation acceptance from Jan. 1 to Feb. 1, effective next year.

—Changing the policy to return none of the deposit to those who cancel during the last 30 days prior to a conference; to return only half of the deposit to those who cancel 30 to 59 days prior to conferences; and to return 100 percent of the deposits for those who cancel two months before a scheduled session.

—Approving a detailed study of

procedures for processing reservations and registrations.

—Basing room rates on a single occupancy and elimination of family discounts effective 1979.

—Offering special rates for youth who stay in bath-on-hall facilities and the development of a separate program for youth for as many weeks as feasible during the summer months.

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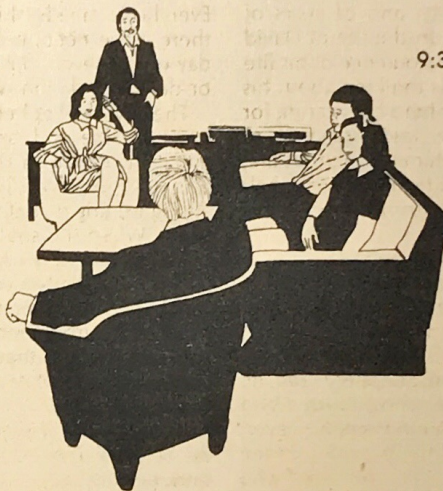
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Trusting in God

Feb. 26, 1978

Psalms 23

Probably there are no words of the Bible better known than the opening words of the twenty-third psalm. Kyle Yates calls it "The pearl of the psalms." The words are of rare beauty and they have deep significance.



Dishongh

We find here a deep affirmation of faith, the personal testimony of the psalmist, and a note of complete confidence in Jehovah. In all probability David wrote the psalm late in life for it exemplifies a man of experience, of maturity, and of years of trust. As we reflect on the life of David we understand the turbulence of his life and can visualize his thinking about his experience as a shepherd boy, caring for the sheep, and his understanding of how God cared for him throughout life. A trust such as David experienced challenges us to a deeper trust in God's daily concern for us.

The Divine Shepherd (Psalm 23:1-4)

Here the Divine Shepherd is presented as supplying every want. A shepherd, literally, is one who "feeds." Jesus was the Good Shepherd and he fed spiritually those who followed and listened to his teaching. Here, however, God is projected as the provider, as the one who protects, or the one who guides, and as the one who never fails. The psalmist says "He is my shepherd." He relates himself as belonging to God. The "my shepherd" puts the personal touch to the relationship. This is our position if we have been born into the family of God through faith in the living Christ.

The divine shepherd gives rest and refreshment as needed. Verse two tells us what is continually happening to the psalmist and how God is protecting and caring. Here David is bearing testimony of how good God really is and of how God guided him. The shepherd, of that day, knew where the beautiful green pastures were and he could lead his sheep to the lovely oasis and allow the flock to graze on the grass and rest beside the cool springs. In the same manner our Father knows our need for

periods of calm, and rest. These rest periods allow us to acquire new strength. "He maketh me to lie down" is the occasion to "be still and know." This is time out provided by the father for us to gain spiritual strength for the tasks he has for us.

The hectic world in which we live makes demands that drain the energy from our bodies and the good shepherd, the father, says "come unto me and rest." This was Jesus' appeal when he said "come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). We have the privilege of drawing aside from the world in worship one day out of seven in order to gain spiritual strength. Everybody needs this time, however, there is the need, not only for this one day out of seven, but for daily devotion or daily association with the master.

The divine shepherd prepares us for great service and provides protection and consolation in the dark moments. The purpose of the rest and soul strengthening is that we may have new vigor. When the soul grows weary, the good shepherd vitalizes it, when the soul is sinful it is the good shepherd who sanctifies it, and when the soul is weak it is he who strengthens it. The restored soul is not simply that we may be happy souls, but that we may serve better and more extensively.

In our world millions of people have no rest for their souls, they are busy endeavoring to develop themselves. Where they are grazing there isn't enough and they need a shepherd that can provide them with the bread of life and living water. No matter where we go, what path we take, the heavenly father is present. Though the road be dark and the way unknown there is nothing to fear for the father walks beside us.

A heavenly host (Psalm 23:5, 6)

The first part of the psalm vividly portrays the shepherd and the sheep, however in this latter part we see God, the Father, receiving his children as guests. The image changes, but the basic ideas are the same. God here is

portrayed as a bountiful host and we, God's children, are guests at the table.

In the near East a guest is treated with special honor and even protected from his enemies if he has any. This is our position as God's children. Our lives can be a daily feast that is provided by the heavenly father.

When we think of the Lord's table we think of the "Lord's Supper" but this is not the only table the Lord spreads. The table of praise and worship provided on the Lord's Day is for our enjoyment, nourishment, and development. There is also daily feasts of Bible study, prayer, and personal meditation.

The table has been prepared "in the presence of enemies." These enemies are enemies of the soul, such as fear, temptation, greed, and selfishness, but even though they may be strong they cannot overcome because the divine host is a shield about his guest and nothing can penetrate that shield. In the spiritual life always there is God, the divine host. Regardless of conflicts, there is always God's power.

The banquet brings joy. "Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over." The oil applied by the gracious host has a beautiful aroma and will cling to the garments long after the feast is over. How beautifully this describes God's spiritual birth. When David says his cup runs over he is simply saying that when we live close to God life has a fuller, richer meaning. The only limitation to what we have is the size of the cup we present.

This banquet will satisfy all the wants of life and it is a pledge of an everlasting feast in the banquet hall above. The psalmist personifies goodness and mercy as escorts through life and then he closes with the expectation of living in God's house forever. Our life in Christ is not just a "one time feast," but an eternal experience. "All the days of my life . . . in the Lord's house forever," tells us that we are not merely guest for one meal, but we are personal friends of our host and we will enjoy this fellowship forever. Right now as Christians we are experiencing a bit of heaven in the fellowship we enjoy with the Lord, but we note the personal touch as the writer uses "my." One must know him to be "my shepherd" and not just a shepherd for only then can one really trust, really rest, and really drink of the water of life.

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Martyr or savior?

John 18:1-27

People seem to have a greater interest in death and dying today than has been noticed in previous years. News coverage makes us aware of instances of strange deaths the world over. Wars among the nations produce atrocities. National strife engenders terrorism. Murders of the bizarre sort spring up here and there. Starvation in underdeveloped parts of the world create concern on the part of many. Violence on the television screen is a source of worry to some Americans. We are made to feel like life is cheap. And yet there is resistance in many of the states to restore or carry out the death penalty. Although to many life seems cheap, it is still the most precious possession of the individual.

Nearly 2000 years ago one of the most puzzling and disturbing deaths of all history occurred when Jesus of Nazareth was put to death on a Roman cross. He had plenty of accusers, yet they had expected him to come for centuries. He was arrested, tried and executed declaring he came to save them. Was he just a first century martyr, or was he the Savior of the world?

The next three lessons we study from John's gospel focus on the events of Jesus' last hours: his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Was Jesus martyr or savior? Who took Jesus' life? Was he victim or victor?

The arrest (18:1-5)

Let us follow Jesus and his disciples out of Jerusalem across the murky waters of brook Cedron up toward the Mount of Olives to the garden. Jesus and the disciples had been here before. It was a place of quiet retreat and where he had told his followers about the things that were to come to him soon. But their understanding was slow and his words about his suffering and approaching death made little impression on them. No one — not even the disciples — was looking for a Savior who was to suffer and die. They had hoped for an earthly king to reign over Israel.

John's gospel is described as the Gospel of Belief. His account does not include as much of the historical details as the other writers, but he shows us instead the struggle between the forces of



McClung

belief and unbelief. Although prophesied in the Old Testament that the Messiah was coming, John says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (1-11). He wants his readers to see that in belief there is life everlasting, but in unbelief there comes death. In this scene the forces of unbelief are poised to make their move and Jesus, the "captain of our salvation" is also ready to face the enemy (unbelief) head on.

Judas' attack was immediate. Judas and his band came forth equipped "with lanterns and torches and weapons" (v. 3) but in verse 4 it is said "he went forth." At last his hour had come and he was ready to meet the enemy. Remember, he had held the people off who wanted him to move out to conquer by saying such as "Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come" (John 7:30). Now he is ready. Knowing that his sufferings were ahead he moved right toward them.

Judas was the captain of the forces of unbelief. Although he had been in the garden with Jesus previously, now he stood in the company of those who refused to believe. How strange that the enemy of Jesus, even with the counsel of Judas, would have thought the elaborate battle equipment necessary. Had Jesus ever been known to resort to force? Only when he forcibly drove the money changers from the temple as recorded in Matthew 21:13 and Mark 11:17. But then, do not the forces of unbelief find violence as their chief weapon?

The identification (18:6-9)

So, then Jesus came forward asking "whom seek ye?" They said "Jesus of Nazareth" and Jesus replied, "I am he." The reaction of his enemy at his courageous identification of himself indicated their recognition of his authority. For it is said "they went backward, and fell to the ground" (v. 6). No effort on Jesus' part was made to conceal his identity. Many has been the times he had revealed his purpose for coming into the world. Again he boldly asserted his identity even to his enemy.

How faithful am I to identify my faith in this Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the world? Am I as ready as he was to identify himself? How many times and places have I taken my stand against the forces

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of unbelief? Peter alone of the disciples of Jesus exhibited valor for the Lord. But Jesus was to help him see that kind of courage could be demonstrated in other than violent acts. Later many opportunities were given Peter and the disciples to live and die for their Lord.

In addition to his courage and authority, Jesus showed his protective love for his disciples. When asked a second time if he were Jesus of Nazareth the Lord asserted that he was and that the band should let his disciples go (v. 8). Is this not an act of the Mediator, a go-between, a protector of those who believe? Jesus knew all things that would come to him. "When people would have forced him to a crown, he withdrew," writes one commentator, "but when they came to force him to a cross he offered himself; for he came to this world to suffer and went to the other world to reign."

The surrender (18:10-14)

Surely by now it is clear that Jesus chose to die. It is clear that he could have escaped death if he had so wished. He could have walked through them and gone his way, but he did not. He even helped his enemies in the arrest. He chose to die. We discern his utter obedience "... the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (v. 11). That was God's will, and that was enough.

The feature John made most important was the voluntary surrender of Jesus. Read in chapter 10: "No man taketh it (my life) away from me, but I lay it down of myself." From verse 4 we understand his surrender was conscious. No power could have made him do it. It was voluntary.

The surrender was vicarious. "Jesus answered, I told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, of them which thou gavest me have I lost none" (vv. 8, 9). He gave himself in the place of his disciples. Is not this the essence of the atonement? He purchased their security, and ours, by his sacrifice.

The surrender was loving. Peter committed a rash act in drawing the sword and severing the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest. Jesus demonstrated in contrast by rebuking Peter and healing the servant (though not recorded by John. See Luke 22:51), that the entire surrender was motivated by love, love for the Father, love for the disciples, and love for his enemies.

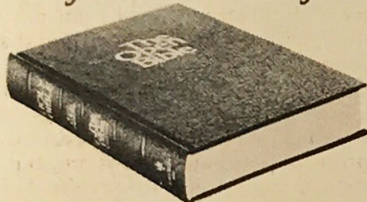
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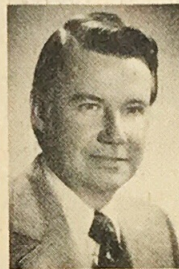
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Attendance report

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church adds.
Alexander, First	119	63	
Ash Flat, First	82		
Batesville, First	232	96	
Bentonville			
Central Avenue	77	25	
Mason Valley	97	37	
Berryville			
First	165	45	
Freeman Heights	165	73	
Rock Springs	55	33	2
Biscoe, First	91	37	
Booneville			
First	283		
Blue Mountain Mission	29		
South Side	90	47	
Cabot			
First	455	127	1
Mt. Carmel	325	153	3
Camden, Cullendale First	517	142	
Charleston, First	172	47	
Colt	58		
Conway, Second	418	142	
Crossett			
First	509	149	2
Mission	39	31	
Mount Olive	341	122	1
Danville, First	200	44	
Des Arc, First	180	74	
El Dorado, West Side	472	470	3
Forrest City, First	539	69	1
Ft. Smith			10
First	1422		
Grand Avenue	976	186	
Mission	29		
Trinity	135	32	
Fouke, First	118	51	
Gentry, First	161	53	1
Gillham	99	40	1
Glendale	56	42	
Grandview	95	81	
Green Forest, First	195	70	
Hampton, First	166	102	
Hardy, First	146	43	1
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	242	114	
Woodland Heights	150	53	
Hector, First	33	22	
Hilldale	31	17	
Hope, First	377	86	
Hot Springs, Park Place	274	77	
Jacksonville			24
First	455	86	
Second	156	42	
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	121	84	
Nettleton	282	96	
Kingston, First	44	26	1
Lavaca, First	358	203	1
Little Rock			
Crystal Hill	134	58	
Life Line	505	144	3
Martindale	100	61	2
Mammoth Spring, First	103	62	1
Melbourne, Belview	168	68	
Monticello, Second	347	76	
Mulberry, First	234	121	
Murfreesboro			
First	150	31	
Mt. Moriah	46		
North Little Rock			
Calvary	380	120	
Levy	411	103	
Harmony	75	44	
Park Hill	972		2
Paragould			
Calvary	274	196	
East Side	328	171	
First	467	95	
Paris, First	353	60	
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	167	65	
Central	111	55	
East Side	139	79	
Hardin	169	56	3
Lee Memorial	305	103	3
South Side	580	83	1
Watson Chapel	459	176	3
Rogers			
First	592	120	6
Immanuel	457	102	
Russellville			
First	533	80	1
Second	152	51	
Sheridan, First	164	50	1
Sherwood, First	252	82	
Springdale			
Berry Street	55		
Caudle Avenue	156	66	
Elmdale	267	95	
First	1605		4
Texarkana, Shiloh Memorial	199	72	2
Van Buren, First	516	140	8
Vandervoort, First	75	42	
Wabash, Immanuel	64	38	
Ward, First	124	46	
West Helena, Second	189	94	
Wooster, First	102	72	
Yellville, First	169	64	1

January giving sets record

NASHVILLE (BP) — Bolstered by an all-time record month of giving, the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget has registered an 8.82 percent increase over last year after the first four months of the 1977-78 fiscal year.

Cooperative Program contributions total \$18,778,808 through January — more than \$1.5 million ahead of the same period last year. Total con-

tributions for the year-to-date amount to \$27,427,505, including the \$18,778,808 figure and another \$8,648,696 in designated contributions. The grand total tops last year by more than 2.1 million, or 8.41 percent.

Contributions to the Cooperative Program in January totaled \$5,784,485, a record for one month and the second time in Southern Baptist history Cooperative Program giving has topped \$5 million in a single month. The previous record of \$5,328,221 was set in January, 1977.

Total giving in January 1978, including the Cooperative Program amount and another \$7,401,460 in designated contributions, totaled \$13,185,945 — an 8.99 percent increase over January 1977.

Opinion

The good news and the bad news

by Duke K. McCall

(Reprinted from the December issue of "The Tie")

The preacher announced to his congregation, "In response to your questions, I have prayed for God to tell me whether there are golf courses in Heaven. The good news is there are many golf courses in Heaven; the bad news is that five of you have a tee time on the South Pearly Gate Course later this month."

But the Apostle Paul viewed departing to be with Christ as the best news he could get. Why have so many Christians lost their eager anticipation of Heaven?

A recent seminary chapel speaker reported that a woman church member answered his inquiry about her health by saying, "I feel so good that I feel bad because I know I will never feel this good again."

Perhaps God's blessings that permit most of us to live in a relatively secure, affluent society have made the present so attractive that we dread tomorrow. This world we live in is so good that we cannot imagine a better one.

I can hear you disagreeing with me because you think the news media with their exposes have left us with frustration, despair, and insecurity. That is what I thought until I studied a recent Kettering Foundation survey conducted by the 30 members of Gallup International Research Institutes. In each of the 10 items North America scores higher than any other part of the world, in the study which covered 70 nations and 90 percent of the population of the free world.

Here is a sample:

"Satisfaction with Family Life": North America, 73 percent; West Europe, 64 percent; Latin America, 60 percent; Africa, 18 percent; Far East, 18 percent.

In terms of "Health" the same geographical divisions came out: 63 percent; 51 percent; 48 percent; 33 percent; 18 percent.

For "Leisure Time" the response was 58 percent; 48 percent; 51 percent; 30 percent; 13 percent.

"Housing": 55 percent; 49 percent; 37 percent; 14 percent; 14 percent.

In summary, Americans are better satisfied with life in this world, despite all of the disturbing exposes and clever advertisement to make them want something else, than any other people. Further, they are preoccupied with trying to improve their present lot. No wonder millions are not interested in news about the eternal tomorrows; and even some Christians consider the preacher or the physician who reminds them that Heaven is close at hand, to be the bearer of bad news.

Recently, I was talking by long distance to my brother when the surgeon came into the hospital room to report on his wife. "Bad news — cancer." I caught the plane home as soon as I could to visit my sister-in-law at the hospital. How do you tell a beautiful, young woman that Heaven is closer — and make it good news? That was what was on my mind as I entered the hospital room, but she had already prepared a message for her visitors. It was a little sign in front of the flowers on the window sill beyond her bed. It said, "God is greater than all my problems."

Now that is Good News. God sent his only begotten son into this world to make it a better antechamber for our house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

Duke K. McCall is president of Southern Baptist Seminary.

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