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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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October 10, 1985

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine



State Church Training Convention □ Tuesday, October 22 □ Immanuel Church, Little Rock

wifress
TRAINING



Disciple Youth

 *MasterLife*

*Developing
Believers
1985-86*

On the cover



Leadership conferences, as well as general sessions, will be part of the Church Training Convention to be held Oct. 22 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock. The conferences will offer help in several Church Training emphases, including the ones whose logos appear on the cover, and will introduce a major emphasis on training Sunday School workers in evangelism.



On the features of the state Church Training Convention Oct. 22 will be an emphasis on training Sunday School workers in evangelism, a joint project of the Church Training, Sunday School and Evangelism Departments of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Department heads (left to right) Freddie Pike, Sunday School, Robert Holley, Church Training, and Clarence Shell, Evangelism, planned the project to prepare for the Good News America Revivals in 1986. Sunday School workers and other adults will study a six-session learning module beginning Jan. 19, 1986, the week following Witness Commitment Sunday.

In this issue

8-9 SBC 'backbone'

"Small" churches—those with less than 150 enrolled in Sunday School—are the backbone of the Southern Baptist Convention and the focus of new efforts by the Baptist Sunday School Board, says Daryl Heath, BSSB consultant. An interview with Sunday School head Harry Piland accompanies this article from the recent State Sunday School Conference.

12-13 reports from Mexico City

A nurse is the only Baptist known to be among the 10,000 persons missing after Mexico's twin earthquakes Sept. 19 and 20. Baptists were among the first to render aid to victims of the earthquakes.

Boyce Bible School fall term begins Oct. 18

Boyce Bible School will offer five courses when its fall term opens on Oct. 13.

Open for registration will be: "Developmental Psychology" (0844), taught by Maurice Hurley; "Old Testament Survey" (0520B), taught by W. T. Holland; "Interpreting Hebrews" (0587), taught by C.

Michael Anders; "Growing an Evangelistic and Ministering Church" (0656), taught by Ron Ford; and English Grammar (0901), taught by Cecil Sutley.

For more information, contact Lehman F. Webb, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, telephone 376-4791 or 758-6345.

OBU receives major challenge grant

ARKADELPHIA—Ouachita Baptist University has received a strong boost for its Centennial Advancement Program with a half-million dollar challenge grant from the Frank D. Hickingbotham Foundation. The gift is designated for one of Ouachita's major centennial goals, a \$2 million library improvement project involving construction of a new wing, renovation of the existing Rileigh Library, strengthening library holdings and a cooperative project for automation and an electronic link with the nearby H.S.U. library.

Frank D. Hickingbotham, president and chairman of the board of TCBY Enterprises, Inc., the Arkansas-based national frozen yogurt company, presented a check for \$100,000 to President Dan Grant and specified that an additional \$400,000 would be

given after the remaining \$1.5 million required for the project has been raised. Hickingbotham said he had always hoped he would be able to make a significant contribution to the school that provided both academic and spiritual challenges to him. "I am pleased to have a part in strengthening Ouachita and the things for which it stands," he said.

OBU Vice President for Development Roger Harrod said the terms of the challenge grant call for raising the additional \$1.5 million by the end of 1986. He expressed gratitude for Hickingbotham's gift, which follows a gift earlier this year in the amount of \$100,000 to endow a scholarship for students preparing for church-related vocations.



The importance of associational meetings can not be over estimated. Their importance is derived from the fact they are closer to the churches than any other denominational organization. The district associations are, in fact, the first step in the cooperative effort of Baptists by which we prove our thoughts, our prayers, our resources in a program of evangelism, missions, education and benevolence beyond the local church. For these reasons, all church leaders should plan to be present in their own local associational meeting.

The work of an association is biblically based. A careful examination of the ministry of Paul will reveal that, in large measure, his work was similar to that of the modern director of missions. Not only did he begin numerous churches and then assist them in times of difficulty, but he even coordinated their efforts in assisting one another. For instance, he led the churches in the collection of gifts for the needy congregation at Jerusalem (Rom. 15:25-26).

The two main purposes of an association are to promote fellowship among the churches and to carry out the tasks that require the resources and strength of several congregations. Every church needs the assistance of the association in order to promote "koinonia," or fellowship. Every church gains strength through this inner relationship.

The director of missions has many and varied responsibilities. First of all are his many administrative responsibilities. He assists churches in discovering and setting goals. Realistic goals can be of great importance in motivating individuals and congregations collectively.

Often, the association can provide materials to churches which can make them more effective. Most associations offer an abundance of helpful printed matter on most every area of church life.

An associational leader also assists with the edification of churches. Time has proven the importance of religious education; so associations often provide study courses and leadership conferences in areas of Sunday School, Church Training, music, Brotherhood and a host of others.

The director of missions aids churches, particularly the small ones, with building programs and other special needs.

The association provides an important link in denominational activities. The association acts as a conduit between the local church, the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Thus, by interpreting programs, the Cooperative Program is enhanced. The director of missions also helps local people to

become aware of the value of the Cooperative Program, as well as world mission causes.

The local association often is thought of in relation to direct missions or special projects. The director of missions often is involved in the development of new mission sites. This requires many hours of work in making a census to determine the feasibility of beginning a new work in a particular area.

Many of our associations provide camps, assemblies and retreats which assist young and old alike to understand God's will for their lives.

In most associations, it would be difficult for the work to be carried on without the leadership of the director of missions. The director of missions usually carries a heavy responsibility and plays a vital role in the on-going activities of the association. In addition to other responsibilities, he serves as a counselor for both pastors and laymen. Perhaps his most important function is to see that the priorities set by the association are carried out.

We salute the 42 associations which serve the Baptists of Arkansas. We believe these associations are an indispensable link between the state convention and the churches. The assistance provided to the churches by the associations and the staff members is vital to the on-going work of the Lord.

Reports on these items as well as on state and Southern Baptist work will be presented at the annual associational meeting. Every leader needs to have access to this information.

A major item of business which will be considered during the annual meeting is the adoption of the associational budget. Such budgets should be challenging. A budget based only on our low inflation rate will not provide any opportunity for real growth. Sometimes the work of the association is held back because of a lack of support from the churches. Every church should support the association on a percentage basis. When the percentage plan is used by all the churches, it is likely that the associational program will be adequately financed.

One important item in the budget is the salary of the associational director of missions. Sometimes, these men are not adequately supported. The director of missions salary should reflect the heavy responsibilities he carries, the vital role he plays in the Lord's work and the continuing impact of inflation.

Your association will be holding its annual meeting in the near future. It will be most helpful to every church leader to attend these meetings, as they will receive information and inspiration which will lead to more effective involvement.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 39
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
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Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-spaced and must be signed. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. They must be marked "for publication."

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

Copies by mail 50 cents each.

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

Advertising accepted in writing only. Rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

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The Southern accent

Fred C. Tubbs

"A cord not quickly broken"

While there are those skeptics and eternal pessimists who seem to glory in prophesying the end of the Southern Baptist Convention, there are others who believe our great convention was established by the divine guidance of our heavenly Father way back in 1845 and much work is yet to be done to carry the gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth.

When I think of our convention with its multi-faceted programs, personalities and churches, rather than dwelling upon our diversities, I had rather accentuate the unity. When I consider the Southern Baptist Convention, my heart is warmed to intensify because there is a "cord" traversing the history and heritage of our convention which may be described in numerous ways. To me, that cord is our strength, our reason for go-

ing forward and not retreating backward, nor permitting ourselves to be sidetracked down various dead-end streets. For, while we are on those excursions, humanity is perishing without Christ.

The Writer of Ecclesiastes wrote in centuries past: "Two are better than one; . . . For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. . . . And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (4:9a, 10, 12).

The Hebrew word for "cord" is *chebel* from the root *chabal* which means "to bind, to pledge, to be in travail." The *chebel* is a cord, a rope, a line, something twisted together. Although the term is used in various ways, such as figuratively in connec-

tion with death (Ps. 116:3—"the sorrows of death") or Sheol (2 Sam. 22:6), it can be used in a very positive sense. Ecclesiastes 4:12b), "a threefold cord is not quickly broken," suggests strength. What one cord alone cannot accomplish, three cords intertwined together can.

I see a "threefold cord" in our convention: evangelism, missions and ministry, and all are based squarely upon the divinely-inspired Word of God. Let us not cut away a single cord which would weaken the other cords. May we concentrate our emphases upon these, and, in so doing, be "a cord not quickly broken."

Fred C. Tubbs is professor of religion at Southern Baptist College.

missionary notes

Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Fite Jr., missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 36, 76700 Ceres, GO, Brazil). He was born in Mena and also lived in Texas. She is the former Salle Taylor of Lehman, Texas. They were appointed in 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray T. Fleet, missionaries, to Brazil, report a change of address (Caixa Postal 18345, 04699 Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil). He is a native of Memphis, Tenn. The former

Ruby Edson, she was born in Foreman and lived there while growing up. They were appointed in 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Walker Jr., missionaries to Chile, report a change of address (Casilla 9796, Santiago, Chile). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Texarkana and considers Little Rock his hometown. The former Phyllis Orr, she was born in Monroe, La. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. Truett W. King, missionaries to Korea, resigned from missionary service effective July 31 by action of the Foreign Mission Board. They lived in Seoul, Korea, where he served as a religious education consultant and she was a church and home worker. A native of Arkansas, he was born in Little Rock and considers Hope his hometown. The former Nancy Lee, she was born in Oklahoma. They may be addressed at 13600 Otter Creek Pkwy., Apt. 214, Little Rock, AR 72209.

OBU enrollment up in 1985 fall semester

ARKADELPHIA—Fall semester enrollment at Ouachita Baptist University is 1,414, an increase of one percent over last year, according to Mike Kolb, OBU registrar.

Undergraduate enrollment is 5.9 percent lower than last year, but a record enrollment of graduate students caused the overall increase. The full-time equivalent enrollment is down slightly from last year, said Kolb, as is the size of the entering freshmen class, reflecting the continued decline in the number of graduating high school students.

Qualitatively, the freshmen class averaged significantly higher in ACT scores, according to Mike Arrington, assistant dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, who noted an increase of more than one point over the average for the last three years. Nine of the entering freshmen are Arkansas Governor's Scholars, placing Ouachita in the top three colleges and universities in the state in the number of students with this achievement.

BSU director appointed for UA-Pine Bluff

Franklin and Georgia Mae Scott of Pine Bluff were appointed to serve as missionaries by the directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their September meeting.

Scott, 32, a native of South Carolina, is a graduate of Francis Marion College, Florence, S.C., and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a campus minister at Southern Seminary from 1982 to 1984.

Mrs. Scott, also from South Carolina and a graduate of Francis Marion College, has been a supervisor for mailing and switchboard service at Southern since 1983.

In Pine Bluff, the Scotts will give leadership to Baptist Student Union ministries for the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, and assist in other educational ministries. They are serving as joint employees of the Home Mission Board and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The Scotts have two children, Shelynn Katrice, 5, and Stacey Michelle, 1.



Franklin and Georgia Mae Scott

Don Moore

You'll be glad to know...

...Of a great opportunity for church employees and for churches! From Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, 1985, any person employed 20 hours or more per week may enroll in the Medical-Life Insurance program of the Annuity Board of our convention. The open enrollment is available for two months only. The last opportunity was 15 years ago.

Those persons who have been declined life and health insurance before because of pre-existing conditions can now get in and be covered. If there is no treatment of that condition for one year, that condition is automatically covered. If there is a long-standing problem that has required treatment, even that will be covered after 24 months. Persons having restricted coverage now will have restrictions lifted so as to provide full coverage.

The life insurance comes with the medical and provides for spouse and dependent children benefits. The deductible for accident coverage also will be eliminated.

Church, what could you do if your pastor or his wife was suddenly hit with a serious accident or dread disease? Before you know it, their bills would be in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range. He could not begin to cover the costs. The church would care, but they could not begin to do for their staff what they would like to do.

With this insurance, the church can protect themselves and their staff. I hope every church will do their best to meet this basic need through a program that the denomination is providing for them. Don't make the pastor bring it up; it's embarrassing and may be misunderstood by some. Somebody take the lead and explore what your church can do about this. Call James Walker at 376-4791 for more information. But remember, it has to be done in October and November.

Have you received and sent in the State Mission offering? It's that time! Many ministries in Arkansas depend upon your generous gifts. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Don Moore is the executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Moore



Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

World Hunger Day

This Sunday, many churches in our convention will observe World Hunger Day. This observance reminds us of the need for continued prayer and giving for the hungry of the world. Baptists have given record amounts in 1985 to help alleviate the critical conditions in Africa. Gifts totaled more than \$5 million for world hunger in the first four months of the year.

Many of us joined together in prayer for rain in Africa. Some of the drought was relieved when rain came in late spring. But we need to continue to pray for rain, money and the missionaries who are working in relief and agricultural programs. Agricultural missionary Lynn Groce says, "Don't stop praying and giving to support our efforts because one rain and one crop won't solve the problem. We still have a long way to go."

Do you feel a burden for world hunger? If not, pray that God will put that need in your heart.

We have written in this column before about our individual responsibility concerning world hunger. We have to acknowledge that Christ said, "The poor are always with you." There will always be hungry people; no effort we make will wipe out world hunger. Nevertheless, Christ also taught us to give a cup of cold water in his name. We are to do whatever God shows us to do.

This Sunday, be open to his voice calling you to do something specific about the hungry people in your town, in our country or in the world. Gratitude for the good food we set on our own tables each day motivates us to give and pray.

For lunch Sunday, you can remind your family of the type of food that many people in other countries will eat by serving a simple dish like this bean-rice casserole.

Chili bean skillet

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 cup uncooked rice | ½ teaspoon garlic salt |
| 15 oz. can tomato sauce or tomatoes | 1 tablespoon sugar |
| 1 cup water | 2 tablespoons margarine or bacon grease |
| 1 large onion, chopped | 16 oz. can ranch style beans |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 1 cup grated cheese |
| 1 teaspoon chili powder | 3 slices bacon, fried crisp and crumbled (optional) |
| ½ teaspoon cumin | |
| 1 bay leaf | |

Mix rice, tomato sauce, water, onion, margarine and seasonings in large skillet or top-of-the-stove casserole dish. Bring to boil. Cook on low heat for 30 minutes or until rice is almost soft. Add more water if needed. Add beans and crumbled bacon. Top with cheese. Cook until done. Serve with cornbread or warm tortillas. Serves six.

Virginia Kirk, professor emeritus at Arkansas College is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane Purtle teaches at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

Five-year Arkansas increase near 18,000

LITTLE ROCK—If a projected 1985 increase of 5,000 persons pans out, Sunday School enrollments in Arkansas will have increased approximately 18,000 through the five-year '8.5 by '85' emphasis, according to Freddie Pike, state Sunday School director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

A state-wide call-in effort Sept. 29 brought reports from 75 percent of Arkansas' associations, Pike noted. Although an exact figure

has not been totaled yet, he estimated the projected 1985 increase of 5,000 would bring Arkansas Baptists to an all-time high enrollment of 260,000. Arkansas' five-year goal was 271,000.

Pike also estimated SBC-wide enrollments would reach 7.9 million as a result of the enrollment push. Although short of the goal, that figure also would represent an all-time high for Southern Baptist Sunday School enrollment.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

people

Rhonda Clark of Russellville has been named a recipient of the 1985 T.L. Holcomb Scholarship by Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. She is one of four conference center summer employees selected for scholarships based on the quality of their guest and employee relationships, attitude, quality of work, personality and all-around effectiveness. The scholarship is a memorial to the late T.L. Holcomb, chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board from 1935 to 1953. Clark is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University, majoring in Russian studies and languages. She is a member of Arkadelphia Second Church.

Fred "Bud" Fleming has joined the staff of Green Memorial Church in Little Rock as minister of music, youth and education.

Clinton "Junior" Smith died Sept. 17 at his home in Dell at age 64. A life-long resident of the Dell community, he was a retired ginner and veteran of World War II. His funeral services were held Sept. 19 at Dell Church, where he was a member. Survivors include his wife, June Milhorn Smith of Dell; one son, Clint V. Smith of Blytheville; one brother, C.A. Smith of Dell and three grandchildren.

Melvin Robert Rice of Pine Bluff died Sept. 27 at age 77. He was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served churches in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Colorado since 1934. He was a member of Lee Memorial Church in White Hall where his funeral services were held Sept. 30. Survivors include his wife, Inez Boren Rice; a son, Bob Rice of Brackettville, Texas; a sister, Evelyn Devine of Grand Bay, Ala. and five grandchildren.

Doug Grubbs is serving as pastor of Oppelo Church.

Jeff Lake has joined the staff of Hot Springs Second Church as youth director. He has served for four years as director of Camp Ozark. Lake is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University where he was a member of Baptist Student Union and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Tommy Freeman of Minden, La., will begin serving as pastor of Harvey's Chapel, Hot Springs, Oct. 13.

John Heird has resigned as pastor of Batesville Calvary Church and is now residing in Fort Worth, Texas.

Linnie Busby is serving as pastor of White River Church, Oil Trough.

Russell "Rusty" Hart has joined the staff of Crystal Valley Church, North Little Rock, as minister of music and youth. Vernon Wickliffe is pastor.

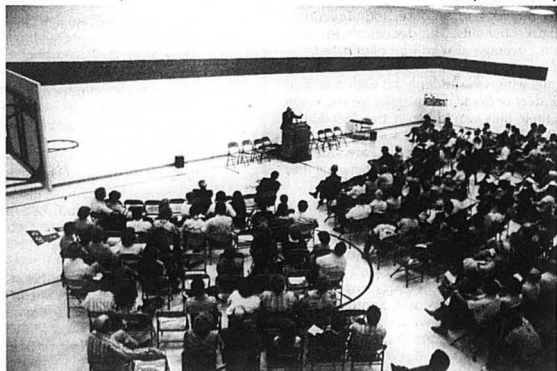
briefly

Harison First Church ordained John Clayborn to the deacon ministry Sept. 25. A rally was held Sept. 22 to launch church program activities for 1985-86.

Mount Zion Association is the first Arkansas Baptist association to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan that goes into effect Jan. 1, 1988.

Batesville First Church ordained Curt Martin as a deacon Sept. 22.

buildings



ABN photo / Mark Kelly

First Church, Gravel Ridge, dedicated a 13,000 square foot Christian activities center Sept. 29. The \$325,000 project provided the congregation with a recreation and fellowship area (shown above), 5,000 square feet of educational space, a kitchen, music room, small banquet room and space for the general church office and three staff offices, according to Pastor Carel Norman. The project also included remodeling of 2,000 square feet of existing space. A "Together We Build" program raised \$227,000 in pledges for a three-year period; \$45,808 of that has been raised since March 31. With an additional \$30,000 a year designated from the budget, a three-year pay-off is planned. Members of the long-range planning committee are Steve Griffin, C.L. Phillips, David Simpson, Bob Henderson and David Beall. Jesse Reed, former evangelism director for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, brought the dedicatory message.

Otter Creek First Church in Little Rock will ordain Steve Rosbury, Larry Page and Mark Kelly as deacons Oct. 13. Kelly's father, Gerald Kelly, of Newkirk, Okla. will preach the ordination message. Max Deaton is pastor.

Clarendon First Church has scheduled a Lay Renewal Weekend Oct. 25-27 that will include two dinner meetings, personal share groups and Sunday worship services. David R. Vosburg is pastor.

Crystal Hill Church in Little Rock conducted a tent revival Sept. 26-29. James Lagrone, associate in the ABSC Evangelism Department, was evangelist. Paul Parker directed music. Pastor Sid Carswell reported five additions by letter, two re-dedications and 11 professions of faith that resulted in eight additions by baptism.

Hope First Church ordained Billy Capps as a deacon Sept. 22. Pastor Richard Stiltner led the ordination service.

Jacksonville church uses day camp to meet needs

by J. Everett Sneed

Second Church, Jacksonville, held a day camp this summer. The day camp, under the direction of Angus Emerson, family life minister, proved to be very successful.

The volunteers convened at 8:30 each morning at the church for last minute instructions, prior to going to Galloway Park, one of Jacksonville's low rent districts. The project involved 22 volunteers from Second Church and enrolled 61 children, grades one through six.

The day's activities started with pledges to the Christian and American flags. After roll call, the children were placed in their groups by grades and began round-robin rotation to their various activities. The activities included Bible study, crafts, BB guns and archery.

The afternoon featured field trips, swimming, canoeing and a visit to a pet shop, where the children saw snakes and lizards. The church used two vans to take the children on field trips, rotating grades one through three and four through six to the various sites. Every group went swimming and canoeing.

Emerson used a variety of means to keep the cost at a minimum. For example, the church used the private pools of its members. The canoes, BB guns and bows were provided by the state Royal Ambassador Camp, and the church secured the lake at the Air Force base for the canoeing.

Although the snacks were furnished by Second Church and its members, several of the fast food restaurants furnished Cokes for the children after they had been swimming.

Emerson is convinced day camps produce positive results. He said, "We touched the lives of 61 children. The Bible study and the example of the workers are certain to have had a positive impact on the lives of the children."

It rained on the last day, which was "Decision Day," reducing the attendance to only 25. The plan of salvation was presented only to grades four through six. Three of these children made professions of faith. The church staff is visiting in the homes of the children who made decisions.

Emerson believes the most important thing in having a good day camp is preparation. He said, "It is important to involve as many people as possible." Emerson will use almost anyone from his church who volunteers to work. "The key is to assign individuals where they can do the best job," he said.

Emerson divides his staff into two groups. The teen agers serve as counselors, while the adults serve as specialists.

The second item of importance is to select and clear with the proper authorities the sites where the day camp will take place. For example, Galloway Park, was cleared with the mayor several months in advance.

It is important to make sure everyone is invited in the area where the day camp is to be held. Emerson ran an article in the

Jacksonville newspaper. The Saturday before the day camp started, the teenagers at Second Church placed an invitation on every door in the Galloway Park area. They also gave candy or gum to every child that they contacted as they made their rounds.

"During the week we gave bubble gum to each child who brought a new enrollee each day," Emerson said. "This helped us to grow in attendance every day. If the rain had not occurred on Friday, we would have had about 50 in attendance. We were able to increase six to eight each previous day."

Another important ingredient in the refreshments. Senior adults from Second Church brought and served at the park each day. It is important for those who serve the refreshments to realize flexibility is important. Although the activities were divided into three 45-minute periods, sometimes it was necessary to serve refreshments a bit later than they were scheduled. This was necessary, for example, when the Bible study was not completed.

The budget for a mission day camp is an important consideration. Emerson believes the day camp and the amount of money to be budgeted must be settled at least six months prior to the event. "There are a number of things that require finance, even when materials are borrowed," Emerson said. Arrows must be purchased, usually at a cost of approximately \$50, refreshments must be purchased and, if there are no toilet facilities where the day camp is being held, it is often necessary to rent portable toilets. Emerson suggests a minimum budget of \$200 where a church plans to minister to 50 children.

In the Jacksonville community day camp, all of the workers wore T-shirts that were alike. The T-shirt said, "Jesus makes a dif-

ference - Second Baptist Church, Jacksonville." A member of the church gave \$3 for each T-shirt, and each worker paid an additional \$2.

Emerson believes that, where it is possible, a church should give the T-shirts to the workers. If this is done, an additional \$5 per worker should be added to the budget.

The children who attended the day camp were given patches to wear on their shirts or jackets for proficiency in use of BB guns, archery and nature. Each cost 20 cents.

The patches and other awards are distributed on Friday. This helps to increase attendance for the evangelistic service.

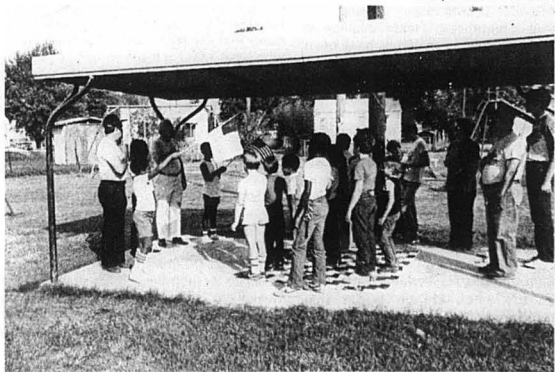
Emerson cautions that a day camp director should not assign himself to any specific job. The director's job is to make sure everything is functioning and fill in momentarily where there is a need. Emerson said, "The director must be the final authority. A day camp can not be run on the basis of majority vote."

Emerson feels it is necessary to get permission slips signed by the parents for the afternoon field trips. He said, "It is also imperative that a church be fully insured against any possible accident."

Both Pastor Ron Raines and Angus Emerson felt the day camp was a success. It is their plan to do it again next year. Pastor Raines said, "We offer this as a ministry to the people of the area. Churches should be aware that they are not likely to see a big influx of people as the result of a day camp. But only eternity can reveal the tremendous good that a church can do by providing day camps to underprivileged and unchurched young people."

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

ABN photo / J. Everett Sneed



Pledges to the Christian and U.S. flags are a universal opening exercise for church day camps and Bible schools, like this one sponsored by Jacksonville Second Church.

Consultant affirms small church as Southern Baptists' 'backbone'

by Betty J. Kennedy

"Small Southern Baptist churches need to know they are not the exception to the rule, not the minority," says Daryl Heath, a man who has spent the last 10 years as a consultant to small churches for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Heath tries to make this point across the convention in conferences like the one he conducted for the Arkansas Baptist Sunday School Conference Sept. 27 and 28 in Little Rock.

He tells the pastors and Sunday School directors of small churches (usually defined as 150 or fewer enrolled) that churches of their size actually are in the majority, since they make up 61 percent of SBC congregations.

"Southern Baptists have, unfortunately, in the past thought of small churches as potentially large churches waiting to grow up," Heath confirms. "We even have tried to convince ourselves that all churches are the same." Before now curriculum materials reflected this viewpoint and churches whose class sizes did not fit well into the lesson plan were expected to adapt.

Heath points out the irony in expecting the smaller church to adapt when it is the larger church which most often has teachers trained to make materials fit their situation.

The amount of teacher training is one of the differences in small and large churches that the Sunday School Board identifies.

Heath lists other common denominators for the congregation with less than 150 enrolled in Sunday School:

- Small teaching units (organization by classes rather than departments.)
- Multiple ages in the teaching units.
- Part-time pastors (which may include bivocational or student pastors.)

The Sunday School Board is responding to these differences, Heath maintains. Children's curriculum materials have been changed to offer a series designed for the smaller teaching units of small churches. And the Board has produced training materials to help with administration of Sunday School for the small church.

"Leaders from small churches sometimes are sensitive about their size," Heath explains. "The big structure where a conference is held can inhibit small church workers," he says, "or having only speakers from large churches can cause them to conclude the conference is not tuned to their needs."

Often unspoken, Heath thinks, is the feeling by the small church leader that "Nashville doesn't hear us!" He says he does not encounter this complaint often, but he thinks he may be anticipating it and answering before questions are asked.

"My years of ministry in small churches and my work with them now makes me sen-

sitive to those feelings," he explains.

Heath works to combat any negative self-image the small church has. He reminds workers that the sheer numbers of small churches gives them the greatest potential for reaching people.

"The focus on 'growing' should not be a threat to the small church," Heath claims. "We really should measure a church's effectiveness by comparing membership to the unreached around the church." He thinks some of the smaller churches would stack up well next to big ones when this criteria is used.

"Somehow we have conveyed to small churches that they are second class, and that bivocational pastors are too," Heath admits. "I deliberately say to my conferences that bivocationalism is becoming more and more accepted." "And occasionally," he adds, "I find pastors telling me they are bivocational by choice, that they feel it is God's call."

Heath has affirmation for the pastor who has another vocation for his income. "He is able to give leadership to the small church without the heavy financial burden on the members."

Clinging to the idea of "growing up," some churches aim at having a "full-time" pastor, he explains, and the bivocational pastor may feel led to move on when they reach that financial stage.

Heath agrees that Southern Baptists may be moving toward more bivocational pastors, with the oversupply of seminary-trained persons being only one factor in the trend. He points out that the small church and the bivocational pastor are often suited to each other.

Heath will be working to help the small church claim its rightful place as the backbone of Southern Baptist work. (He notes that there are only 77 SBC churches who have 3,000 or more enrolled in Sunday School, out of more than 21,000 churches.)

One of the ways he hopes other state conventions (Arkansas was first) will address the needs of small churches is to schedule conferences on Saturdays. Giving the small church visibility by having their leaders on the program would help too, he thinks.

"Small church leaders need to know they are not alone," Daryl Heath says, so he is excited about what the Baptist Sunday School Board is doing to respond to the unique needs of small churches. He hopes Arkansas' responsiveness, illustrated by the weekend conference where he was a leader, will set a trend toward encouraging this not-so-small majority of Southern Baptist congregations.

Betty J. Kennedy is managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Piland sees 'best da

Harry Piland, department director for the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., said, "Pastors and church leaders need to see the tremendous potential of the Sunday School." Piland led the general officer's meeting for pastors and Sunday School directors of churches with 500 or more enrolled in Sunday School at the State Sunday School Conference Sept. 27-28.

The convention, which convened at Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock, had a little over 1,500 in attendance, the largest state Sunday School convention in Arkansas history.

Piland believes one of the great needs today is for churches to be committed to growth. He feels many churches have become traditional and apathetic in their approach to ministry. "It is necessary for many churches to have a rebirth experience," Piland said. "They need to ask a number of questions, such as, 'What is the meaning of the church?' 'What are we here for?' 'What are we supposed to do?' and 'Why did God place us here?'"



s' ahead for SBC and Sunday School

by J. Everett Sneed

Piland feels trained and committed leadership is absolutely essential. He quoted the late James B. Conant, president of Harvard University from 1933 to 1953, "Give me the right teachers and everything else will follow. You give me the wrong teachers and nothing else matters." Piland said that we could say the same thing regarding Sunday School workers. Success is predicated on proper leadership and proper training.

Piland believes methods are important, but the character of the teacher is of the greatest importance. We don't remember so much what we learn or where we learned it, as we do who taught us, he said. It is people who influence our lives.

An individual who has aptitude and commitment for teaching can have his skills enhanced. Piland believes one of the best ways is by watching effective teaching. Videos are available that model proper teaching, and the Sunday School Board has a number of videos to help improve teaching skills.

Piland said if he were a pastor of a church, the first thing he would do would be to lead his people to understand the basic purpose of the Sunday School. He would then work to fit into that purpose in every way he could.

Piland said he feels it is absolutely essential for a pastor to identify with the Sunday School and listed a number of ways a pastor can do this. First, he said the pastor needs to be the pastor of the Sunday School workers. This doesn't mean he wants to do all the work of the Sunday School, but it does mean close identification with it.

Second, Piland feels the pastor should demonstrate his close relation to the Sunday School. For example, the pastor should help the nominating committee in enlisting workers. This does not mean he does the enlistment, but it does mean he will give guidance and suggestions, Piland said.

The pastor should appear at the church's Sunday School workers' meetings, he added, and should take his people to the state

Sunday School convention and go with them to Glorieta or Ridgecrest.

The pastor should publicly praise those who are doing an excellent job in Sunday School leadership, Piland said. Occasionally, he should have testimonies from individuals, telling what God is doing through the Sunday School. Piland also believes the pastor should periodically visit various Sunday School departments on Sunday morning.

Piland said much of the success of the Sunday School, or any other area of the Lord's work, depends on motivation. He said, "The best motivation occurs when leaders do the work and say 'We did it ourselves.'"

Leaders need to direct the people in such a way that they want to do what they ought to do by themselves, Piland added.

A major key in the success of Sunday School is enlisting the proper kind of leaders. Piland listed a number of characteristics of proper Sunday School leaders. Among these are a feeling of a call from God, a willingness to work, enthusiasm, a willingness to delegate authority, a proper understanding of the mission of the church and a capacity

ABN photo / Millie Gill



Arkansas Baptist
Sunday School
Conference

for loving people.

Piland said, "I personally believe we usually create our own problems by enlisting the wrong kind of leaders. Because of this, the enlistment should be done face to face and expectations of what an individual is to do should be shared up front."

Piland's requirements are not numerous, but he stresses their importance. He said teachers and workers should be asked, "Can you be regular in attendance?" Sickness and vacation, of course, would be exceptions. Second, they should attend the weekly officers and teachers meeting. Finally, workers should understand the mission of the church is to reach the lost and unenlisted. Each Sunday School teacher should lead his or her class to be committed to outreach, and he or she should be personally involved in modeling this before the class.

Piland said, "Of course, before an individual is enlisted, it should be known that he is doctrinally sound and a person of integrity."

Piland said he was excited about the potential of Sunday School in the life of SBC. He said, "I feel certain that our best days are ahead in reaching, winning and training people."

J. Everett Sneed is editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School Department for the Baptist Sunday School Board, told people at the annual state Sunday School Conference he sees bright days ahead for Southern Baptists "reaching, winning and training" people.

Your state convention at work

Media Library

Media library at work

Media—books, audiovisuals and other items—are necessary for a church and its leaders to conduct an effective program of



Lewis

reaching and leading persons. An active media library is necessary to make teaching aids, study materials and other resources readily available to leaders and members.

"A Church Media Library at Work" will be featured in a conference at the state Church Training Convention, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1985. The conference will provide participants basic information about the needs for a media library plus guidance in providing leaders, space, finances and other elements in an effective church media library.

The conference will provide the knowledge leaders need to develop a basic media library program. It is designed for new and inexperienced library staff members. Also, the conference will meet the needs of leaders from churches interested in beginning or reactivating a media library.

Jack Lewis, consultant in the Media Library Department at the Sunday School Board, will lead this conference. Sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. Contact the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, for additional information. — **Gerald Jackson, associate**

Evangelism

GNA planning

The directors of missions and directors of evangelism were challenged to enlist each of their churches in the Good News



Shell

America revival effort. It is our heartfelt desire that every single church in Arkansas would be involved in these revivals. I cannot think of a single reason for any church not to want to cooperate in this great effort for our Lord.

A special guide for associations was printed for our leadership. Every director of missions and director of evangelism was invited to a National Revival Preparation Seminar at Camp Paron in December 1984. They were fully trained to lead their churches in revival preparation.

Each association was asked to set up a steering committee. This committee is guided by a coordinator, who is the director of missions, and the general chairman, who is usually the director of evangelism. We drove many miles and spent many hours working with the associational leadership in training the steering committees. Their efforts will greatly determine the victory celebration in each association. — **Clarence Shell, director**

Missions

New church growth

Some keys are essential for new church growth. One is the pastor. He should know this mission or new church is the highest calling from God for him on earth. He should come with the attitude of staying for life. He needs to "fit" the community the church seeks to serve. He should be prepared by experience and training to serve the people of this community.

Tidsworth

Another key is location. The church has the possibility to reach about 25 per cent of the unchurched on its field. The property should be easy to reach, usable and desirable. It should be large enough to allow for future expansion.

Still another key is the congregation. Does the church want to grow? Does it welcome strangers, create new classes, expand the building and parking space? Will the congregation work with the pastor?

A fourth key is the churches' relationship to its community. Can the community see the church as caring and serving? Is the church a vital part of its community or isolated from it?

A fifth key is that a new church must face and solve its problems in order to grow. Is parking a problem?

A sixth (really number one) key is that a new church must grow in its spiritual development. If not, jealousy and power struggles will disrupt the fellowship and growth. — **Floyd Tidsworth Jr., church extension director**

Family and Child Care

Ministries available

What ministries are available through your agency? Arkansas Baptist Home for Children; Group Home for Boys, foster homes, counseling services to children, families and individuals, emergency receiving homes for children and battered mothers and referral services.

Where are you located? Baptist Home for Children, Monticello (367-5358); place-

ments can be arranged through our area or satellite offices; Group Home for Boys, Jonesboro.

Area offices and directors: Little Rock, David Perry (376-4791); Jonesboro, Tom Stafford (935-5134); Fayetteville, Gary Gray (521-1295); Harrison, Clint Morrison (741-3806); Hope, Earlene Clearman (777-1896).

Emergency receiving homes: Little Rock, Sherwood, Camden, Searcy and Paragould (under construction). Placements are arranged through our offices.

Satellite offices (counseling services one day per week): Blytheville, Tuesday (762-2432); Pine Bluff, Tuesday (534-1021); Camden, Tuesday (777-1896); Fort Smith, Wednesday (782-5041); and Bentonville, Tuesday (273-5442). Appointments can be made in advance at these numbers.

You may call 376-4791 if you need assistance or information about any phase of our child care ministry. Call us if we can assist you. — **Johnny G. Biggs, executive director**

Christian Life Council

Pardon me, ladies

Jehovah, through Isaiah, his prophet, came down tough on the women of ancient Zion. Isaiah deplored the sinful conditions



Parker

of his time and pronounced God's judgment. He described the women as proud, walking with heads held high (literally with outstretched necks), seductive eyes, mincing steps and tinkling bangles on their feet. Some might know what mincing steps are, but what are foot bangles?

Isaiah even listed their beautiful jewelry and clothing which the Lord would eventually dispose of. Some of those were: anklets, headbands, crescent ornaments, dangling earrings, bracelets, veils, head-dresses, ankle chains, sashes, perfume boxes, amulets, finger rings, nose rings, festal robes, outer tunics, cloaks, money purses, hand mirrors, undergarments, tunics and veils (Is. 4:16-23 NASB).

Just prior to this listing, the prophet noted what he was most concerned about: "The plunder of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people, and grinding the face of the poor?" declares the Lord God of hosts" (14b-15).

In our affluent nation, we all, Christian ladies and gentlemen, had better be more concerned for the physical and spiritual welfare of people everywhere than for ourselves. God's judgment for now and eternity is still a reality. — **Bob Parker, director**



Visiting theologian—Fisher Humphreys, professor of theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, visits with colleagues on the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University prior to speaking in chapel services. He spoke on the topics, "The Baptist Theological Heritage," "The Purpose of God and the Gospel of Christ" and "A Unique Christian Understanding of God."

SBC photo



Curriculum lab—Southern Baptist College's Goodson Library now offers area Baptists an opportunity to review Bible study, missions education and leadership training materials in a new curriculum lab. The collection displays the full range of materials produced by all SBC agencies. An open house has been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 14, from 1-3 p.m. Pictured above is Billy Wiggins, pastor of Success Church and an SBC Christian Ministries student.

Study reveals health crisis in rural U.S.

by David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A national study of nutrition among the rural poor adds evidence that "rural America is on the verge of becoming an agrarian ghetto," a Southern Baptist hunger specialist warned.

Robert Parham, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said new data indicate the gap between the rural poor and the rest of the nation continues to widen.

A study by Public Voice, a consumer research and advocacy organization, found low birth weight and infant mortality occur much more frequently in low-income rural counties.

While these problems have been declining nationwide, they have been increasing in recent years in rural areas, said the report's findings, which were announced at a recent news conference held by Public Voice and the House Select Committee on Hunger.

The study covered rural counties in which there were no cities with populations above 50,000 and where at least a third of the population in 1979 was below the government's official poverty line. Seventy of the 85 poorest counties are located in the South, a fact that "ought to cause alarm" among Southern Baptists, Parham said.

"Poverty and hunger have moved from Southern Baptists' backyard to the back porch," he noted.

States with the largest number of poor counties are Mississippi (17), Kentucky (14) and Texas (11). The other poorest counties

in the South are in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana and Tennessee.

Using government health statistics, the study found:

—Nationwide, 13.5 million poor people live in rural areas, compared with 12.9 million in inner cities. Seven million poor live elsewhere.

—Eleven of the 85 poorest rural counties are on or adjacent to Indian reservations.

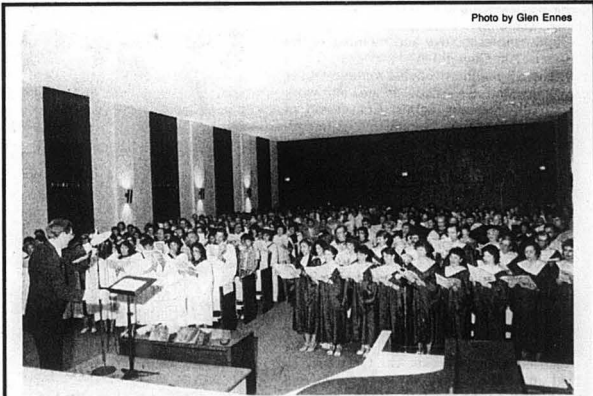
—The proportion of low-birth-weight children, infants weighing 5.5 pounds or less at birth, in the 85 rural counties, which had fallen to 8.21 per 100 live births in 1980, rose steadily to 8.73 per 100 live births by 1983. Meanwhile, the rate in the rest of the nation fell from 6.81 per 100 in 1980 to 6.73 in 1982.

—Infant mortality, the proportion of children dying in the first year of life, rose in rural counties from 15.82 per 1,000 live births in 1981 to 16.55 in 1982 before leveling off to 16.29 in 1983. Nationally, the rate dropped from 11.9 in 1981 to 10.89 in 1983. The gap between the aggregate infant mortality rate in the poorest counties and the rest of the nation widened by 39 percent from 1981-83.

"In the midst of the hunger holocaust in Sub-Saharan Africa, we must not forget that pockets of hunger exist in America," Parham said. "These findings are a call to action in behalf of the poor and hungry in our midst."

David Wilkinson is director of news and information services for the SBC Christian Life Commission.

Photo by Glen Ennes



Adult choir festivals—Six area adult choir festivals drew 1,068 persons from 28 Arkansas churches recently. Festival clinicians were Tanner Riley, University Church, Fayetteville; Charles Vance, Beech Street Church, Texarkana (pictured above at Calvary Church, Little Rock); Paul Williams, Calvary Church, Little Rock; Jean Pilcher, First Church, Little Rock; Gary Hook, The Village Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Randy Morlan, First Church, Fort Smith.

Baptist nurse presumed dead in quakes; Mexico aid rushed

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Baptists in Mexico City continued to help neighbors devastated by dual earthquakes as reports listed a 22-year-old Baptist nurse as missing and presumed dead, the first known Baptist casualty.

Thus far, surveys indicate damage to Baptist church buildings to be light.

Noemi Avila Betancur, a nurse in Mexico City, is the only Baptist church member known to be among the 10,000 reported missing in the earthquakes. Officials list more than 4,600 dead, 8,000 injured, and 17,000 homeless in the city. An estimated 50,000 persons are without jobs—at least temporarily—according to reports. Damage estimates have reached \$1 to \$2 billion U.S.

Betancur, a member of Bethel Church, had just reported for the 7 a.m. shift at General Hospital when the first earthquake struck Sept. 19. Her body has not been recovered.

(James and Jurhee Philpot, from Mena, Ark., were enroute to a hospital where Jurhee was to have eye surgery when the quake struck. Not realizing the seriousness of the quake, they continued to the hospital, where Jurhee had surgery on schedule. Philpot is chairman of Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico.)

The 55 Baptist congregations in greater Mexico City were, for the most part, spared the horrible suffering of so many of their fellow citizens. Several churches reported some families without homes or jobs. One congregation, Emmanuel Church, reported structural damage to its building and may have to spend up to \$10,000 to repair its ceiling, according to Eldon Sturgeon, a Southern Baptist representative and member of the Baptist Aid Committee.

The 35 Southern Baptist representatives who live in the Mexico City area and work with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico in joint educational and church efforts were uninjured and reported no damage to their homes.

Baptists were among the first to respond to the disaster. At Mexico City's First Church, located two blocks from the hard-hit Paseo de la Reforma area but which sustained only plaster damage, church members, led by Martha Ortiz, pastor's wife, were serving food and coffee to neighbors and rescue workers by 1 p.m. Sept. 19.

A low-rent apartment building across from First Church fell, trapping many. The building housed 37 families, and 21 bodies were recovered from the ruins. Mrs. Ortiz was called upon to help identify bodies and comfort relatives and friends waiting to see if loved ones were rescued. She worked especially with mothers so distraught they hindered rescue workers by clawing in the rubble to find missing children.

Money, food and clothing began to pour in from Baptist churches almost immediately. An emergency allocation of \$25,000 in

hunger funds from the Foreign Mission Board reached the city the afternoon of the first quake. The funds made possible the immediate purchase of foodstuffs for teams of volunteers at First Church and the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary. The seminary, located in suburban Ciudad Satelite, was not seriously affected by the earthquake.

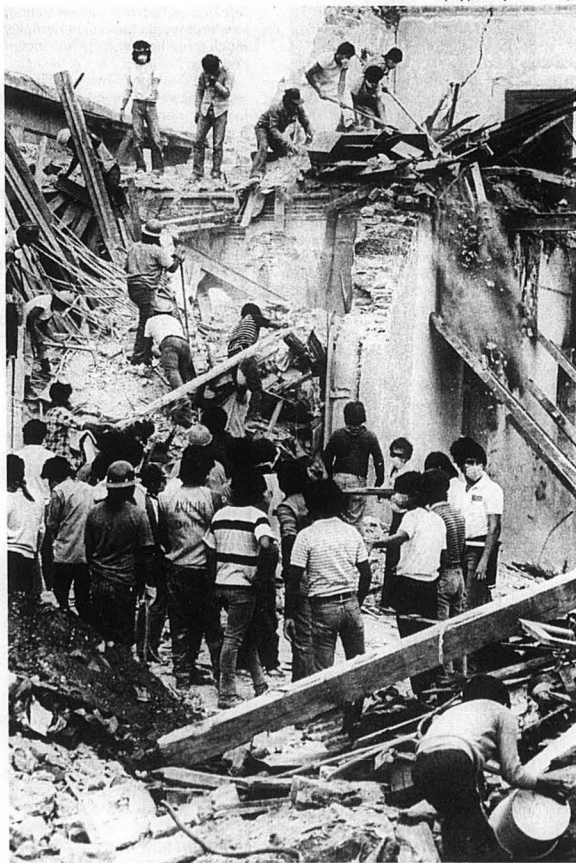
Another \$10,000 in hunger funds was sent Sept. 26 and Don Turner, FMB consultant in

human needs, was to spend Sept. 26-27 in Mexico City, helping assess longrange needs.

Because of its location, First Church was the hub of the Baptist crisis response from which food, medicine and clothing were distributed to 20 shelters and other churches.

On Sept. 19 they fed 500 people. Three days later, 3,000 to 4,000 sandwich meals were being prepared daily at the seminary by volunteers from the student body, staff,

(BP) photo by Don Rutledge



This apartment building near Mexico City's First Church is one of an estimated 450 destroyed in September's twin earthquakes. Baptists from all over Mexico have funneled food, medicine and clothing to those who lost family members, homes and jobs.

o devastated areas

faculty and nearby churches.

First Baptist's volunteers were cooking 1,500 meals a day in their kitchen in addition to what was brought in from other places, according to Pastor Juan Ortiz. The church also housed overnight 235 people. A medical dispensary offered treatment and preventive immunization by five doctors and 10 nurses. They treated approximately 500 people in the first few days.

Texas Baptist Men sent a field kitchen, jackhammers and other equipment, tents, injection guns and tetanus and typhoid serums. A similar team of Oklahoma Baptists was scheduled to enter Mexico Sept. 27. Relief units from Louisiana and Mississippi reportedly left for Mexico the afternoon of Sept. 27. Plans are to place the kitchens in neighborhoods with major needs that don't have a Baptist church to house relief efforts.

(BP) photo by Don Rutledge



A massive effort to tear down dangerous buildings, clear streets and restore services to residents is just the beginning for Mexico City as it tries to rebuild.



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Campus hit by shells

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Shells exploded on the campus of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary Sept. 28. None of the four Southern Baptist missionary families, 10 students and several employees was injured.

The shells fell during a random bombing of areas in east Beirut. One blast broke 12 windows in the home of missionaries David and Maxine King on the seminary campus and destroyed a tree in their front yard. The Kings were at home at the time.

Glass blew into the King's basement, where missionaries Bill and Vivian Trimble were sitting with their daughter and son-in-law, missionaries Jerree and Gary White, and the Whites' two children.

A second shell hit an international ministries building still under construction on campus, doing only slight damage. Shrapnel from another shell hit a room in the home of missionaries Emmett and La Nell Barnes from Monette, Ark.

Normal activities resumed at the seminary the next day. Missionaries reported worshipers crowded into the seminary chapel for the Sunday morning service of the Mansourieh Church. Two young women were baptized.

Earlier fighting endangered missionary homes in other parts of the area. Shrapnel broke windows in the apartment of missionary Nancie Wingo. During recent artillery battles, a village near Beirut was the target of an intense nighttime attack. Missionaries Wayne and Frances Fuller and Mack and Linda Sacco live in the village. The Fullers are from Wynne, Ark.

Numerous shells fell around the Sacco home. More shells slammed into the hills above the Fullers' home, destroying water pipes and power lines and showering the roof with shrapnel.

Frances Fuller said the Southern Baptist missionaries in Beirut "want to thank all who pray for them and for Lebanon."

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International

Immorality weakens

by William H. Elder III, Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 5-6

Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Central truth: Because immorality of church members weakens the church and harms one's body, Christians should seek to glorify God with their bodies.

This week, the focus of our lesson is on the gospel's definite implications for the way we treat our bodies. That should not surprise us. Surely a whole gospel would speak to whole people. The Bible clearly teaches human beings are not to be understood as separate parts that somehow function in concert. We do not so much have souls as we are souls. We do not so much have bodies as we are bodies. We do not so much have minds as we are thinking and willing creatures. Therefore, as we reveal the good news of Jesus Christ to people, we must do so in a way that speaks to all of the dimensions of life: the mental, the volitional, the emotional, the physical and the spiritual, the dimension which should pull all of the others together and point them toward fulfillment.

When Paul spoke to the church at Corinth, he was encountering some Greek philosophy that ran contrary to the gospel. The Greek view was that human beings had a soul and a body which were separate from each other. Therefore, the body could act in any way it so desired, and the soul was unaffected by it. A person could be immoral with his body and still follow in the so-called "good" path with his soul. Some of that thinking was rubbing off in the church and undermining the wholistic nature of the gospel. That undermined the effectiveness of the church and the progress of individual Christians toward maturity and fulfillment.

So, Paul made the point that the body is a part, indeed a vital part, of a person's relationship with God. That's because God is concerned with all that we are. God reveals himself most clearly and dynamically through flesh and blood human beings. Remember, God chose to come to earth, not as a theological system, but as a real person, in the flesh.

Commitment to Christ means giving him our lives, and that involves all that we are. If we hold back our bodies from being involved in that commitment, we make a terrible mistake. We compromise our commitment and keep God's fulfillment for us as individuals and as a church at arm's distance.

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Life and Work

Believing God's promises

by Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus, North Little Rock

Basic passage: Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21; 17:1-27

Focal passage: Genesis 15:1-7, 13-16

Central truth: We can believe God's promises as we make life-changing decisions.

In the second of our studies on "God's people make crucial decisions," we see how one of the great patriarchs of the Old Testament, living centuries before the coming of Christ, answered God's call to go out "into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and . . . went out, not knowing whither he went" (Heb. 11:8b).

1. Abram's dilemma (Gen. 15:1-3)

Sometimes, when we are trying to follow God, circumstances around us seem to come between us and the fulfillment of God's call. Abram had left home trusting God would help him and his descendants possess a new land. But now he was old and had no son to continue his inheritance, and he was feeling frustrated and defeated. He cried out to God for reassurance.

2. The promise of God (Gen. 15:4-6)

Though beyond the years for childbearing, Abram and Sarah nonetheless had faith to believe God would yet give them a child. And God "counted it to him for righteousness." Sometimes, the greatest thing we can do is to believe, not insist on understanding, the amazing promises of God.

3. The promise of a home (Gen. 15:7)

Most of us as children tried at one time or another to count the stars. We learned, as Abram did a long time ahead of us, they cannot be counted. That was how God assured Abram of the unbelievable number of his descendants.

4. The future (Gen. 15:13-16)

In these verses God, raises the curtain and permits Abram to see how his family would prosper under God's direction. Abram would not fully possess the promised land in his lifetime, but his descendants would. Christian parents of all generations often have their lives fulfilled in their children.

In one regard, Abram would feel quite at home in our world. One of the characteristics of our age is our mobility. It is almost the rule rather than the exception that families are frequently transferred to new places by their employers. For Christians, this gives us opportunity to witness to an ever widening circle of people who desperately need to hear the message we have for them.

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Bible Book

Idolatry condemned

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes

Basic passage: Ezekiel 6:1 to 11:25

Focal passage: Ezekiel 6:11-14; 8:13-16; 9:4-5

Central truth: Ezekiel's prophecies against Israel's idolatry warn us we must worship only God.

Ezekiel's acted-out messages are now to be augmented by the spoken word. Chapters Six and Seven bring the people face to face with God's judgment. The end has come. Their flagrant idolatry can no longer be tolerated, even by a patient and long-suffering God. A terrible, consuming calamity is coming upon Judah and its people. The destruction will be total.

In chapters eight through 11, Ezekiel's vision of the people's gross and total turning away from God comes into sharp focus as the spotlight of divine anger falls upon Jerusalem and the Temple. What he sees may be actual practices, or the description may be symbolic. In either case, the meaning is the same.

There has been a total apostasy. The image of a Canaanite goddess has been set up in the temple. National leaders secretly worship the animal-like gods of Egypt. The women practice ritual mourning for the Sumerian god, Tammuz, a vegetation god who died in the winter and rose again in the spring. The men of Judah had actually turned their backs on God to worship the sun (8:16-18).

Contrary to popular belief, God not only sees this wickedness, he judges it as well. Only those who grieve over the prevailing wickedness and weep over the loss of the true faith will be spared (9:4-6).

Chapter 10 reveals the reason for the total calamity about to befall Israel. Ezekiel sees again the vision of God's glory as seen in chapter one. No greater contrast is imagined than the sight of the holy God in his majesty and the loathsome scenes of idolatry in God's Temple. Because of all of this, God's glory and presence will finally depart from the Temple and Jerusalem, the price we inevitably pay when we put anything before God.

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Decisions recorded at youth meetings

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—National youth-related summer conferences and camps resulted in 6,676 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 5,386 youth, or 23.78 percent of those attending, made public decisions. These included 678 professions of faith, 4,116 re-dedications and 592 vocational decisions.

Centrifuge, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's recreation department, was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers; Mobile College, Mobile, Ala., and North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C. Two traveling staffs

conducted camps in the West and Midwest.

A total of 1,290 spiritual decisions were recorded at youth conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta sponsored by the church training department. These decisions included 227 professions of faith, 906 re-dedications, 73 vocational decisions and 84 others.

Also at Centrifuge, a missions offering of more than \$84,000 was contributed by youth and their sponsors for hunger relief in Africa.

In addition, weekly offerings for the Cooperative Program collected at Ridgecrest and Glorieta summer conferences totaled \$54,242.13—\$24,895.42 at Ridgecrest and \$29,346.71 at Glorieta.

Uganda unrest continues; some missionaries return

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)—Continued unrest in the wake of a July 27 coup in Uganda is keeping seven Southern Baptist missionaries in neighboring Kenya, but nine others have been able to resume work.

However, Rob and Mickie Norman again left their home in a Kampala suburb in mid-September after the neighborhood was occupied by soldiers seeking to fend off attacks from guerrillas camped nearby. They are staying at Brackenhurst Baptist Conference Centre, Limuru, Kenya.

Missionary George Bery reported from Kampala Sept. 22 that the Normans' neighborhood was calm again, but five army roadblocks were set up between their home and the city.

Bery said the capital was quiet, but another military roadblock in front of the Baptist bookstore was keeping customers away. His children were able to continue attending school.

Missionaries Jimmie and Peggy Hooten and journeyman John Dina were still at their

home in Jinja at last report although the road outside Jinja also had seen fighting between government and guerrilla soldiers.

The National Resistance Army, one of the four groups which fought deposed President Milton Obote, has refused to join the other three in the new government and has continued fighting while demanding at least half the seats on the ruling military council.

Sept. 22 the resistance group seized a bridge near Jinja atop the dam that supplies the nation's hydroelectric power and cut off the main route from the capital to Indian Ocean ports. Guerrillas also cut off roads to farm areas in the southwest, halting food shipments and creating food shortages in Kampala.

At least two other missionary couples are staying in Kenya. Walter and Billie Allen, whose home in Lira was destroyed in the coup, are in Kitali, Kenya, and David and Darlene Sorley, who are stationed in Mbale, and their children are at Brackenhurst center.

South Africa violence grows, disrupts mission work

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (BP)—As violence escalates on the Cape of South Africa, Southern Baptist missionaries are experiencing increased disruption of their work.

Student worker Keith Blakley, from Fort Worth, Texas, reports tension on the three university campuses where he works has reached an all-time high. Tensions are especially bad on the campus of the University of the Western Cape, a primarily "coloured" (mixed race) school where student boycotts, demonstrations and resulting police action have brought this ministry to a halt. Because of controlled access, Blakley is unable to enter the campus.

Earlier, a Baptist Student Union prayer meeting had narrowly escaped intrusion by groups known on the campuses as "disruption squads." The squads break up classes and disrupt lectures, sometimes using force, to assure the success of a campus-wide

boycott of classes.

Baptist Student Union members at the University of Western Cape heard news outside, but were unaware the "disruption squad" was threatening to break up their meeting. They later learned that a young non-Christian who had been witnessed to by one of the group members convinced the disrupters not to intrude.

Charles and Evelyn Hampton, who work primarily with "coloured" churches, at first avoided going into some neighborhoods after dark, but continued normal ministries during the day. But they now say some meetings have been canceled because of rioting and unrest and that travel in some communities is extremely limited. Blacks particularly have been unable to participate in much of the work in the province recently because of the unrest, they say. The Hampsons are from Monticello and Helena, Ark.

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