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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1985-1989

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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October 3, 1985

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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An aerial black and white photograph of a large campus, likely a university or conference center. The top portion of the image shows a large stadium with a curved roof and a large open area in front of it. Below the stadium are several large, rectangular buildings, some with flat roofs and others with more complex structures. The campus is surrounded by dense trees, and there are parking lots and roads visible throughout the scene.

ABSC annual meeting 1985
preview

October 3, 1985

Arkansas Baptist
Newsmagazine

On the cover



OBU photo

Arkansas Baptists have been invited to join Ouachita Baptist University in celebration of their centennial by holding the 1985 annual meeting on the OBU campus Nov. 19-20. The Physical Education Center in the upper center will be the site of annual meeting sessions, with auxiliary groups meeting elsewhere on the campus at other times.

In this issue

4 help wanted

"The church needs willing workers," says Erwin L. McDonald, ABN editor emeritus, in an article which reminds us how important responsibilities at church are and encourages workers to be committed and dependable.

17-19 Nashville news

The finances of the American Christian Television System, a challenge to a Dallas SBC vote, proposed changes in the SBC constitution and a status report from the Peace Committee were among the many agenda when the SBC Executive Committee met in Nashville recently.

Baptist Book Store hosts children's book fair

Because of the popularity of a children's book fair held last year, the Baptist Book Store in Little Rock is hosting another book fair Oct. 7-9 for school age children grades four through six.

The fair, featuring authors and illustrators of children's books, will help youngsters understand the development of a book from manuscript to finished product, said store manager Bob Barnett. Exhibits on publishing also will be displayed, and children will have a chance to talk with "real, live" authors and illustrators.

Featured personalities will include William

Armstrong, author of *Sounder*; Annie Fitzgerald, an Irish illustrator who is the creator of "Dear God Kids;" Martha Whitmore Hickman, author of 10 books; and Chris Conover, an illustrator of 12 children's books.

Hours for the fair are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, with an open house scheduled for the public on Oct. 8 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Advance reservations for daytime fair activities are recommended, Barnett advised. Public and private school groups from Little Rock and surrounding areas may schedule visits by calling the store at 255-6009.

McDonald, Evans begin lesson commentaries

Two new writers begin this week writing lesson commentaries for "Lessons for living." Erwin L. McDonald, editor emeritus of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* begins his series of commentaries on the Life and Work series of Sunday School lessons.

McDonald, a native of Pope County, is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. A former city editor in Russellville and pastor of churches in Arkansas and Kentucky, McDonald edited the ABN for 15 years, from 1957-1972.

McDonald is married to the former Mary Elsie Price of London. They have two daughters.

Carroll Evans, pastor of First Church, Hughes, begins this week writing commentaries for the Bible Book series of Sunday School lessons.

Evans is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist



McDonald



Evans

University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He served as pastor of churches in Manila, McCrory and Crossett before coming to the Hughes church. He has served First Church, Hughes, for 13 years.

Evans and his wife, Margaret Lucille, have two children, a son and a daughter.

West German congregation seeks pastor

Trinity Church, Metterich, West Germany, has begun looking for a pastor who can take the field in May 1986.

The congregation, located in a community between the cities of Bitburg and Spangdahlem, ministers primarily to U.S. military personnel and their families connected with air bases in the two cities, according to Ann Kelb of Trinity's pastor search committee.

Anti-pornography groups meet in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (BP)—Pornography "has escalated in the past 10 years," ABC-TV producer Ken Wooden told the crowd of 350 who attended the third National Consultation on Pornography in Cincinnati Sept. 4-6.

Representatives of 70 denominations, including Southern Baptists, were told the pornography industry "is changing sexual attitudes" and harming countless women, teenagers and children. In tightly guarded "men only" or "women only" rooms, conference participants browsed through hard and soft-core pornography. They saw pictures that included violent sex, sex with children and sex with animals.

The executive director of the National

The congregation runs an average Sunday morning attendance of 175 and is financially stable, Kelb explained. It is one of the few churches in the European Baptist Convention which owns its own building.

Persons interested in communicating with the committee should send a resume, brief life history and sermon tape to: Ann Kelb, Box 4055, APO New York, NY 09132.

Coalition Against Pornography which sponsored the meeting said afterwards most churchgoers have an "ostrich" attitude when it comes to pornography. "I don't read it; I don't buy it; so I stick my head in the sand and ignore it," said Richard E. McLawhorn.

Carl B. Turner of the Illinois National Baptist State Convention agreed. "Eighty percent of our people are not fully informed," he estimated. "Many still think pornography is occasional nudity. They don't know... of things like Satanism and bestiality."

(Among those attending the conference were Arkansans Bob Parker, of the ABSC Christian Life Council, and John Finn, of the Christian Civic Foundation.)

Our Baptist name

Our name "Baptist" carries with it more significance than may be apparent at first thought. Obviously, it declares our emphasis on baptism by immersion. But the name, also, emphasizes our belief in regard to authority in religion, our emphasis on salvation by grace and our emphasis on soul liberty.

Our name was not chosen by our forefathers. It was given to us by our adversaries, because our attitude in the matter of baptism was the thing most apparent to them. Unfortunately, this has made some believe that baptism is the central point of our faith. Although Baptists agree that baptism is important, it certainly is not the central focus of our faith. We are not sacramentarian at all. We do not believe that any ceremony will produce salvation for any individual.

But how did our adversaries come to give us such a name? They did it because of our refusal to accept non-biblical baptism such as sprinkling, pouring and pedo-baptism (the baptism of children).

The New Testament clearly teaches that baptism is to be by immersion only. The word "baptism" is not a translation but a transliteration. The original Greek word "baptizo" means "to dip, dip in, or immerse" (*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 95). The word in Greek has no other meaning.

The English New Testament also conveys this idea. For example, "...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away..." (Acts 8:38-39).

Paul further describes baptism as a burial and resurrection. "...We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we should walk in newness of life..." (Rom. 6:4).

But as we examine our baptismal views, we discover that a great deal more is involved in our name. First, it testifies to our belief that the Bible is our only source of authority. When Martin Luther broke with the abuses of the church of his day, he was challenged as to his authority. He declared that he would acknowledge no other authority for the conscience than the Word of God.

The Anabaptist movement of the Reformation century and the Baptist movement of the following century held to this fundamental principle even more strongly than did Luther. They rejected pedo-baptism because they found nothing about it in the teachings of the New Testament. The revolt against traditionalism in the matter of baptism is vitally connected to this basic Baptist principle.

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



The will of Christ as revealed in the New Testament, interpreted by the Holy Spirit, is our only source of authority in the matter of faith and practice. Our rejection of infant baptism coincides with our refusal to bow to creeds, councils, bishops and man-made authority in religion. To change our practice in baptism, in effect, would be to betray the first principle for which we stand, the unlimited sovereignty of Christ.

Second, our insistence on biblical baptism is consistent with our emphasis on the spiritual character of our religion. Infant baptism arose in the ancient church because individuals came to believe that baptism was essential to salvation. It followed that, if only those baptized could enter heaven, it was essential for children to be baptized. Many of our forefathers were martyred because of their emphasis on believer's baptism.

Our emphasis on baptism, then, is synonymous with our belief in justification by faith alone. If faith, awakened by the Word and the Spirit, produces right standing with God, then no outer ceremony is required. It is contrary to the nature of a spiritual birth to make salvation dependent upon anything except repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Immersion, sprinkling or pouring can have nothing to do with salvation, if we believe in justification by faith and faith alone.

Third, our doctrine of baptism is vitally connected to our doctrine of the church. Most denominations, if not all, who practice pedo-baptism, count the infants as members of their church. A study of the New Testament, however, will reveal that only those who were capable of believing and were baptized were counted as church members.

Finally, our doctrine of soul competency (sometimes called soul liberty or priesthood of the believer) has led us to be the great champions of religious liberty. If we had accepted infant baptism, Baptists could never have lifted the banner of religious liberty so high and so consistently. If church or state can save no one through external means, and if salvation depends solely upon the surrender of a believing heart, then it becomes a travesty for any power or authority on earth to force any individual to accept any form of religion. If Christ is Lord of the conscience, then it is a crime against the conscience for any ecclesiastical or secular power to coerce a soul in matters of religion. Each soul stands responsible before God alone.

Baptists have many other important doctrines. But it is apparent that many of our doctrines are closely related to the important doctrine of believer's baptism. Let us cherish it, hold it high and thank God for this important distinctive.

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 38
J. Everett Sneed, Ph.D. Editor
Betty Kennedy Managing Editor
Erwin L. McDonald, Litt D. Editor Emeritus

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Hollywood as drug-pusher to young people

The Sunday supplement turned traitor recently. It bit the hand that feeds it. All too often, the popular magazines mirror the "anything-goes" morality of Hollywood, but *Parade Magazine* featured an article blowing the whistle on Hollywood's role in glamorizing drug-taking and thus encouraging its use among young people.

It mentioned specifically the showing of such motion picture hits as "Private Benjamin," "Nine to Five" and "Poltergeist" during prime time by the CBS and ABC networks. *Parade* writer Michael Satchell pointed out that these movies featured such actresses as Goldie Hawn, Jane Fonda and Dolly Parton "giggling their way through a marijuana high" and, in effect, endorsing its use for millions of teenager television viewers.

Although the article commends network

television for virtually eliminating positive drug references from its current programming and for some programs carrying strong anti-drug messages, it condemns the networks for continuing to show motion pictures that are "drug favorable." It identified 60 major "drug favorable" movies during the past five years, and could find only eight films with clear anti-drug sequences or messages.

Hollywood has always been frightened at the thought of government regulation or censorship of its industry and has been dragged kicking and squalling into a little bit of self-regulation: the rating system by the Motion Picture Association of America. When several concerned organizations approached the president of MPAA about adding a "Substance Abuse" (SA) warning on films that glorify drugs, they received an amazing

response. Jack Valenti, who initiated the movie rating system 16 years ago, said, "I don't know a single film where drugs are glamorized; there is no glamorization."

Apparently Valenti doesn't include the use of marijuana in his definition of drug abuse. He said, "To me, drugs are things like heroin and cocaine. I'll wager marijuana is used by half the people on Capitol Hill and Wall Street... Yuppies are the biggest users of pot."

With this kind of moral insensitivity at the top of the Motion Picture Association of America, it seem clear that the fox is in charge of the chicken house. Or, to put it another way, the morally blind are in charge of our children's favorite TV corner.

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

The church needs 'willing workers'

A big outdoor bulletin board in front of a church located on one of Arkansas' busiest highways is an extra pulpit helping the pastor "preach" to a tremendous mobile "congregation" passing that way each day. As a part of the traffic recently, I suddenly found myself confronted by this provocative nugget: "Cruelty is important, but dependability is crucial."



McDonald

How appropriate this is at this time of year when just about every local church in the nation is caught up in the annual task of filling all of its jobs for the new year about to begin. Frankly, this column is written to all of you who are church members to call your attention to the never-ending need for disciples who are fully committed to "living for the Lord" and doing the work he has commissioned us to do wherever we are and throughout the world.

Church jobs too often are thought of as something church members do part-time and when and if "the Spirit moves them." As a result, workers frequently do not take their jobs too seriously. In my experience as a pastor, in days now gone, we used to have a hard time selling teachers on the importance of their assignments. Back then—more than today, I believe—classes would frequently come up without teachers on Sun-

day mornings. We seem to have made progress toward greater commitment on the part of those teaching classes. But we have some distance yet to go in evoking similar loyalty in those in positions sometimes regarded as less important.

The thing I'm trying to emphasize is that every job in the church is important and should be filled by persons who are fully committed to being on hand and performing their duties faithfully. Most of the church budget is given and most of the church jobs are filled by the more dependable members, not necessarily by the members having greatest ability!

So, if you have been in the habit of saying no to opportunities offered you to serve your church in some capacity, please face up to the fact that the most important consideration is not so much that you are the person best qualified for the job. The big thing is that you are willing to do the assignment with the Lord's help. Surely he helps us to do well the assignments to which we are called.

Something I borrowed and used here at the beginning of the current calendar year is worth repeating, a "new year's resolution for every new year": "I will do the best I can with what I have, where I am, for Jesus' sake today."

According to New Testament teachings, every born-again person is qualified and expected to be a witness for Christ. The thing that qualifies one of us to serve is what Paul wrote about in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

No matter who you are as to race, educational attainment, social status, economic security or the condition of your physical body, the one qualification for Christian service outranking all others is that you are a new creature in Christ. Paul takes us a big step further in this same note to the Corinthians: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

If you are asked to take a job assignment for the new church year, consider it as coming from the Lord. If you are not asked to take a job, volunteer. You'll like it!

Erwin L. McDonald is editor emeritus of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

Greg Warner named Florida associate editor

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Greg Warner, news coordinator for the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission for the past five years, has been elected associate editor of the *Florida Baptist Witness* effective Oct. 1.

The New York native is a graduate of Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and North Texas State University.

You'll be glad to know. . .

... Excitement comes to a church people when they expect God to do things in their services. The biggest excitement takes place in the heart of the preacher, because he feels that what he has been called to do may come to fruition in that very service. This can only happen if unsaved people are being brought to the services.

A lot of complaints have been expressed that most preachers no longer are preaching simple, powerful, gospel sermons. Is there anything better than gospel preaching when the preacher is aglow with the promise of the gospel? His eyes are twinkling with expectation as he speaks the word that may be used of God to bring someone over who has been tottering on the brink of decision. The warmth and concern of his heart beats out with rapid, even electric communication as the Holy Spirit makes his move toward the lost.

This kind of experience can't be had in services where there are no unsaved people. Why should the preacher repeatedly preach a message of salvation to the saved? He shouldn't, and he doesn't. We must realize that the thing that blesses us and pleases God most can't happen in services where no unsaved are present.

"There are not any lost people in our community." This may be true in a very few places. But, in most communities, they are there but not in church. It is not because our Baptist people do not care, nor is it because the lost want to stay lost. It is because the people have not been singled out, identified and assigned to somebody to be responsible for a consistent witness to them.

Witness, prayer and ministry cannot fail to be used to bring souls to Jesus Christ. It will never happen without knowing who they are, where they are and having someone responsible for them. This will result in lost people coming to Sunday School, worship services and revival meetings.

The joy and excitement of preaching and church life will return when we return to an organized, concerted effort of getting the lost "under the gospel." Every church needs to do a People Search in October. Then every prospect needs to be assigned to a Sunday School class for cultivation. Work with your association to find the lost this fall!

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



Moore

Letters to the editor

Vows are binding

Millions of words are spoken by our conference leaders each summer at Ridgcrest and Glorieta. Our Baptist publications select a few for vast exposure. This year, nothing has been given greater play than the moral counsel of a Louisiana pastor (*Arkansas Baptist*, July 24; *Baptist Standard*, July 24; *Facts and Trends*, September).

I write because, though I am a fan of his, I'm persuaded that he has made a serious mistake. He identifies the practice of marrying divorced people with the practice of forgiveness. His approach, he explains, serves the church which is a "hospital" rather than a "firing squad."

On the surface, this is compelling. We're all for forgiveness and against firing squads for Christians. But there's a confusion here.

If a man buys a bottle of whiskey with a charge card, take it home, gets drunk, repents, receives Christ as his Savior and Lord and pours the rest down the drain, then there is no sin laid against his account in

heaven. He is utterly forgiven. But, when the monthly charge statement arrives, he should pay. The contract is morally binding. God's forgiveness does not erase all earthly debts and, if a liquor store charge is morally binding, how much more binding are the vows of marriage.

Notwithstanding all the talk about forgiving, meeting people where they are and working redemptively, it seems curious for pastors to conduct ceremonies establishing relationships which the Bible calls adulterous (Mark 10:11-12). Has the church, in its efforts to become a hospital, accepted the world's definition of health? — Mark Coppenger, El Dorado

Letters to the editor expressing opinions are invited. Letters should be typed double-space and must be signed by one person, though the name may be withheld on request. Mailing address and phone number of the writer should be included. Letters must not contain more than 350 words and must not defame the character of persons. Letters must be marked "for publication." Only original letters will be considered.



Woman's viewpoint

Mary Maynard Sneed

The ideal self

As a rule, a person is about as deserving as he thinks himself to be. Psychological studies show that a good opinion of oneself naturally accompanies a well developed personality, sound emotional adjustment, good mental health and a sense of well-being.

However, the difference between the actual self and the ideal self can considerably affect a person's self-esteem. The greater discrepancy between the way one sees himself and the way he feels he should be, the lower his self-esteem. The greater success one experiences in aligning his ways and attitudes with his own ideals, the more likely he is to enjoy a feeling of self-worth.

Even the quality of one's relationship with others may depend to a great degree on the opinion he has of himself. Parents who feel good about themselves are better mannered and more affectionate with their children. The children, in turn, are better behaved and more attentive to their parents' correction and advice.

The ability to make sound judgments is not inherited; it is learned through educational experience. By examining the various choices available to him, a person figures his chances of success in any given endeavor. Whereas negative thinkers are inclined to

perceive new ideas as little more than a tangle of problems and risks, according to a study of the University of Michigan School of Business Administration, positive thinkers tend to view new ideas "in terms of profit potential or opportunity impact." The best decision makers, then, are those who possess a positive attitude toward life.

University of California studies show that persons who are justifiably confident of their own decisions make higher scores on personality, self-reliance and intelligence and are better balanced emotionally. Overconfidence is found to be the result of too narrow a range of interests, lack of originality and insight and the tendency to be dogmatic and defensive. Lack of confidence results from self-centeredness, "soul searching," poor social adjustment, self-abuse, guilt feelings, lack of ambition and absent mindedness.

Believing in oneself and what one is doing may even add years to one's life. In any event, it should improve the quality thereof.

Mary Maynard Sneed of North Little Rock is the wife of the editor, a homemaker and the mother of two daughters. She is a teacher in Park Hill Church.

by Millie Gill / ABN staff writer

briefly

Russell Park Church in Conway ordained Russell Bunch, Darrell Gray and Bill Thomas as deacons Sept. 22. Bill Kreis, director of missions for Faulkner Association, preached the ordination message.

Sparkman First Church honored Nell Fite and Inez Drummond Sept. 15 for their years of service. Mrs. Fite is retiring as church treasurer following 38 years of service. She has served for 35 years as an adult Sunday school teacher and has actively served in Woman's Missionary Union for 54 years. Miss Drummond has served as a primary Sunday school teacher for more than 30 years, as well as working in vacation Bible school and the church nursery. Their recognition program, which included a noon meal attended by 200 members and friends, was coordinated by pastor Randy Cross.

Lake City Church is completing a \$45,000 improvement program that has been done with volunteer labor. Improvements include the addition of a fellowship hall, kitchen, two bathrooms and seven classrooms.

Bowman Church is constructing a pastor's study and five classrooms through volunteer labor of members.

Philadelphia Church at Jonesboro has completed a \$14,000 expansion program on both the parking lots and sanctuary.

Black Oak Church is building a new parsonage valued at \$48,000. Building committee members report that one-third of construction cost has been paid.

Bono Church will ordain H. T. Nutt as a deacon Oct. 6.

Siloam Springs First Church deacons were speakers for a Sept. 8 commitment and worship service planned by them.

Hatfield First Church held groundbreaking services Sept. 8 for a 3,648 square foot fellowship hall and education building. The building will also house a basement youth and activities center. Building committee members are R. L. Hamilton, chairman, Mike Holder, Clarence Morrison, David Clayborn, Carol Fields and LeVeta Watkins. Bryan Webb is pastor.

Gould First Church held a revival Aug. 12-16 that resulted in one profession of faith and numerous other decisions. Bill Lewis, director of missions for Harmony Association, was evangelist. Kent Dixon of Pine Bluff directed music.

East Side Church in Mountain Home, will break ground Oct. 13 for a multi-purpose building as a part of its 25th homecoming celebration. O. I. Ford of near Batesville, the church's first pastor, will be speaker. A noon meal and an afternoon program conclude celebration activities, according to pastor Byron Allen Jr.

Melbourne First Church recently recognized its oldest member, Rosa Shannon Harris, on her 100th birthday. She has been a church member for 71 years, serving as a Sunday school teacher for more than 50 years.

people

Howard Gardner has resigned as pastor of Arabella Heights Church in Texarkana following eight years of service.

Henry Applegate is serving as pastor of Ingram Boulevard Church in West Memphis, going there from Leonard Street Church in Hot Springs.

Mark Winstead was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by Fulton Bridge Church in Hamilton, Ala. He serves as minister of music and youth at Parkin First Church.

Ken Williams is serving as pastor of Immanuel Church in Carlisle. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served, for the past year, as a pastoral care intern at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Williams is married to the former Elizabeth Darling of Crossett.

Ed Adcock has resigned as minister of music at Benton Calvary Church.

Bill Bowen has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Mena First Church. He and his wife, Jo Ann, and their two children, Julie and John, will move to Mena from Sugar Land, Texas, where he is serving as pastor of First Church. Bowen is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained to the ministry in May, 1969 by New Hope Church, Mena, and has served Arkansas churches in North Little Rock, Little Rock and Leslie.

Historical moment—The executive heads of the eight Southern Baptist agencies housed in the Southern Baptist Convention building placed historical and representative articles in a copper time capsule during Sept. 16 dedication ceremonies of the building. The capsule is located in a plaza in front of the building. Above, Wilmer Fields, vice-president for public relations for the SBC Executive Committee, places items from the Stewardship Commission in the capsule. Behind Fields, among members of the Executive Committee building committee, is Rodney Landes, a layman from First Church, El Dorado (fourth from left). To the right are heads of several SBC entities.



(BP) photo by Craig Bird

Convention wives plan fellowship luncheon

Arkansas Baptist Ministers' Wives will hear Laura Fry Allen of Shewsbury, Mass., a former evangelist consultant with women for the SBC Home Mission Board, when they hold their annual meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19. The group will meet in the Banquet Room at Evans Student Center at OBU from 10:15 to 1 p.m. for the program

and luncheon. The program will include three five-minute speakers, Jane Fry, Mary Ida Tidsworth and Sherry Thrasher, according to Carolyn Byrum of Scott, president. The Ouachi-tones, an OBU women's vocal ensemble, will present a portion of the program

Other officers of the organization this

year are Norma Kirkpatrick of Heber Springs, vice president; Ruth Carswell of Little Rock, secretary; and Betty Grant of Arkadelphia, social chairman.

Tickets may be ordered from Ruth Carswell, 5401 Crystal Valley Road, Little Rock, AR 72210. The cost before Nov. 1 is \$5. Tickets will be \$6 at the door.

Religious Education Association starts meeting Monday

The Arkansas Baptist Religious Education Association will hold their annual meeting Nov. 18 and 19 at First Church, Arkadelphia, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday with dinner. Speaker for the evening and for Tuesday morning will be Reggie McDonough, executive vice president of the Executive Committee of the SBC.

The meeting will include entertainment by "Sam and Jesse" Monday evening and a business meeting Tuesday morning.

ABREA is open to church and denominational staff members in education, music and other fields. Officers of the organization this year are Mark Short of Fayetteville, president; Garey Scott of Pine Bluff, first

vice president; and Bill Falkner, associate in the ABCS Church Training Department, secretary/treasurer.

Registration forms for the meeting are available from Bill Falkner, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. These must be returned with a program dues/meals fee of \$12.50 no later than Nov. 8.

Pastor's conference precedes annual meeting

Focusing on the theme "Fire in my bones," the Arkansas Baptist Pastor's Conference will hear a variety of speakers and inspirational music when they meet Nov. 18 and 19. The sessions are to be held in the Ouachita Baptist University Physical Education Center Arena, the same place as the state convention's annual meeting.

Speakers include Nilson do Amaral Fanini, a pastor in Brazil; Robert Naylor, retired president of Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary; and Joe Ford, associate vice president for evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board.

Others are Jerry Vines, a Jacksonville, Fla., pastor; Morris Chapman, pastor in Wichita Falls, Tex.; Calvin Miller, an Omaha, Neb., pastor; and W.E. Thorn, a former president of Dallas Baptist College.

The adult choir of Second Church, Hot Springs, plus soloists and ensembles will provide music for the conference. The

Ouachi-Tones of OBU will open the session Tuesday morning.

Testimonies, scripture and prayer and congregational singing will be included.

The business to be considered by the group consists of the election of officers at 9:55 a.m. Tuesday morning. Serving the group this year are Nick Garland of Hot Springs, president; Ben Rowell of Rogers, first vice president; and Rich Kincl of Berryville, second vice president.

From your host . . .

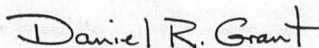
Dear Baptist co-workers:

You have honored all of us at Ouachita already by voting to hold the 1985 convention on our campus during the Ouachita Centennial Year. Some 28 committees are hard at work to help make it the best annual meeting in the history of Arkansas Baptists.

Welcome back to school—your school—your Christian university! We invite you to help us celebrate our one hundredth birthday and dedicate the new O.B.U. Center for Christian Ministries. Director Bud Fray and associate director Mark Baber have exciting plans for this center, located in Berry Bible Building.

A warm Ouachita welcome awaits you. Please call on me if we can help in any way.

In Christian expectation,



Daniel R. Grant, president
Ouachita Baptist University



Grant

Other meetings

Directors of Missions will hold their annual pre-convention meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, in the Banquet Room at Evans Student Center at OBU, according to Carroll Gibson, president of the fellowship.

The Church Extension Division of the State Missions Department will host an appreciation banquet for pastors of churches who sponsor missions, mission pastors, Church Extension Council members, church extension consultants and spouses of all of these on Tuesday evening. The banquet will be held in the Alumni Room of Birkett Williams Cafeteria from 4:30 to 5:30.

The film, "A Church is Born," will be shown immediately following the close of the Pastor's Conference session Monday evening, Nov. 18, in room 401 of the Ouachita Physical Education Center. The Church Extension Division of the State Missions Department is sponsoring the film showing, which is open to everyone.

Ouachita Baptist University students, faculty and staff will be hosting the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. The megastructure of campus buildings was built over the past 12 years with the help of Arkansas Baptists, who own the institution.



A message from the president

Everybody enjoys a birthday celebration, and we are going to have one in Arkadelphia, Nov. 18-20. The one hundred thirty-second annual session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will convene on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. Our senior Baptist school is celebrating its' centennial. Imagine that, 100 years of academic and Christian excellence!

The theme of our convention is "Strengthening Missions," our denominational emphasis beginning in 1985. Three Bible studies led by Wayne Ward, native Arkansan, graduate of Ouachita and professor of Christian Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will focus on biblical

concepts of stewardship in relation to Planned Growth in Giving.

Highlights of the opening session on Tuesday evening include an exciting, inspirational sermon by Calvin Miller, prolific writer and creative pastor of Westside Church, Omaha, Nebraska, and a 100th birthday celebration, with cake served to all the messengers and guests.

The Wednesday evening, session will center on higher education and missions. We will hear from our Baptist colleges, share in the work of Woman's Missionary Union, view an impressive display of flags of the nations and respond to a powerful sermon by Nilson do Amaral Fanini, a

leading pastor and evangelist from Brazil. Punctuated throughout the sessions will be AMAR snapshots, brief testimonies from folks who have been on mission to Brazil.

The purpose of the convention is to conduct business, to hear reports concerning our Baptist work, to receive inspiration and to enjoy fellowship. We will be able to fulfill these purposes and still conclude the convention Wednesday night.

Dr. Dan Grant and his dedicated staff have planned carefully and worked diligently to make this convention an enjoyable, memorable experience for all of us.

We will be making history in Arkadelphia. — **Jon M. Stubblefield, president.**

Program people

Nilson Fanini, a Baptist pastor in Brazil, will bring the closing message Wednesday evening. He serves First Church of Niteroi, RJ.

Calvin Miller is pastor of West Side Church in Omaha, Neb. He will speak in the opening session Tuesday night.

John Maddox, pastor of Wynne Church, will preach the annual convention

sermon Wednesday afternoon.

Ferrell Morgan, director of missions for Concord Association, is president of the ABSC Executive Board. He will present the board's report Wednesday morning.

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He will welcome new Arkansans Tuesday evening.

Jon Stubblefield, serving his second term as president of the state convention, will preside at most sessions. He is pastor of Central Church in Magnolia.

Wayne Ward, is Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Christian Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He will lead Bible study in the first three sessions.

Tentative program

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Strengthening missions

Tuesday evening

Nov. 19, 1985

OBU Physical Education Center Arena

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

Bold indicates priority items

6:00 p.m.	Instrumental prelude	.....	OBU Band
6:15	Congregational singing	.....	Ervin Keathley
6:20	AMAR Snapshot		
6:25	Prayer	.....	Marion G. Fray Jr.
6:30	Bible Study	.....	Wayne Ward
7:00	Call to order	.....	Jon Stubblefield
	Welcome	.....	Daniel R. Grant
	Appointment of committees	.....	Jon Stubblefield
	Enrollment of messengers	.....	J.W.L. Adams
	Adoption of order of business	.....	Jere Hassell
	Tellers committee instructions	.....	Lyndell Worthen
	Resolutions	.....	Homer Shirley
	Congregation singing	.....	Ervin Keathley
	Announcements	.....	Jon Stubblefield
	Fraternal greetings, acknowledgements		
	Recognition of former presidents		
	Welcome to new Arkansans	.....	Don Moore
	Recognition of missionaries	.....	Jerry Wilson
	Tribute to senior ministers	.....	John McClanahan
8:00	"Good News America"	.....	Clarence Shell
8:10	Congregation singing	.....	Ervin Keathley
8:15	Special music	.....	Music Men/Singing Women of Arkansas
8:00	Message	.....	Calvin Miller
9:00	Benediction	.....	Randall J. O'Brien
9:01	Ouachita Baptist University 100th birthday cake		

Wednesday morning

Nov. 20, 1985

"... and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the world." (Acts 1:8)

8:30 a.m.	Congregational singing	.....	Phil Hardin
	Prayer	.....	Earl Humble
8:35	Special music	.....	Ouachi-Tones, OBU Singing Men
8:45	Bible Study	.....	Wayne Ward
9:15	Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care	.....	Johnny Biggs
9:25	Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	.....	Everett Sneed
9:35	Arkansas Baptist Foundation	.....	Harry Trulove
9:45	Congregation singing	.....	Phil Hardin
9:50	AMAR snapshot		

9:55	President's message	.....	Jon Stubblefield
10:20	Election of officers		
10:35	Executive Board report	.....	Farrell Morgan
11:25	Congregation singing	.....	Phil Hardin
11:30	Special music	.....	Joe Riggins
11:35	Message	.....	Don Moore
12:00	Benediction	.....	Jim Files

Wednesday afternoon

Nov. 20, 1985

"Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible." (I Cor. 9:19 NIV)

1:30 p.m.	Instrumental prelude	.....	Russell Hodges
1:45	Congregational singing	.....	Ted Stanton
	Prayer	.....	J. Troy Prince
1:50	Bible Study	.....	Wayne Ward
2:20	Christian Civic Foundation	.....	John Finn
2:30	Election of officers (continued)		
2:45	Congregational singing	.....	Ted Stanton
2:50	Special music	.....	Ted Stanton
3:00	Convention sermon	.....	John Maddox
3:30	Nominating committee	.....	Eddie Simpson
3:45	Congregational singing	.....	Ted Stanton
3:50	Memorial moments	.....	Vester Wolber
4:00	Resolutions committee	.....	Homer Shirley
4:20	Miscellaneous business		
4:35	Benediction	.....	Robert C. Parsley

Wednesday evening

Nov. 20, 1985

"... repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations." (Luke 24:47)

6:15 p.m.	Instrumental prelude	.....	OBU Band
6:30	Congregational singing	.....	Bob McGee
	Prayer	.....	Ken Lovelace
6:35	Ouachita Baptist University report	.....	Daniel R. Grant
6:50	Southern Baptist College Singers	.....	Bob McGee
7:05	Southern Baptist College report	.....	Jack Nicholas
7:20	Congregational singing	.....	Bob McGee
7:25	AMAR snapshot		
7:35	Woman's Missionary Union Report	.....	Julia Ketner
7:40	Presentation of flags of the nations		
7:55	Missionary testimonies		
8:10	Congregational singing	.....	Bob McGee
8:15	Special music	.....	OBU choir
8:30	Message	.....	Nilson do Amarel Fanini
9:00	Presentation of new officers		
	Benediction by new president		



Fanini



Miller



Maddox



Morgan



Moore



Stubblefield

Convention committees

Parliamentarian

Carl M. Overton
928 West South Street
Benton, 72042

Credentials Committee:

J.W.L. Adams, Beech Street, Texarkana,
chairman
Randall Everett, Benton
Cary Heard, North Little Rock
Henry G. West, Blytheville
Tommy Roberson, El Dorado

Tellers Committee:

Lyndell Worthen, First Church,
Arkadelphia, chairman
Rich L. Kincl, Berryville
Lynn Robertson, Stamps
Duaine Blackmore, Foreman
Randy Maxwell, Batesville
Tim Reddin, Hot Springs
Greg Kirksey, Camden
Robert McDaniel, Smackover
Sam Adkins, Sheridan
Billy Hines, Magnolia

Resolutions Committee:

Homer Shirley, First Church, Siloam
Springs, chairman
Charles Chesser, Carlisle
William W. White, Little Rock
William H. Elder III, Little Rock
C. Michael Anders, Sherwood

Order of Business

Jerre Hassell, First Church
Stuttgart, chairman
James W. Bryant, Fort Smith
Jerry Wilson, El Dorado

Suggestions from the Credentials Committee

Membership and messengers to the 1985 Convention are determined according to the Constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Article III "Membership," Sections 1, 2 and 3 which state:

"Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist churches which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Convention, and which desire to cooperate with other churches through this Convention.

"Regular Baptist churches are those Baptist churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and the spirit of the *The Baptist Faith and Message* as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.

Section 2. Each cooperating church shall be entitled to three messengers with one additional messenger for each additional

one hundred members or major fraction thereof above one hundred, provided, however, that no church shall be entitled to a total of more than ten messengers.

"Section 3. A standing Credentials Committee of five members shall be appointed by the president of the convention. No member of this committee may serve more than two consecutive conventions. The president of the convention shall fill vacancies and shall name the chairman each year."

An appendix, "Enrollment of Messengers," added in 1980, states: "Any challenge to the seating of any church's messengers and the basis of the challenge should be presented in writing to the convention president and the chairman of the Credentials Committee thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the convention.

"The Credentials Committee will meet prior to the opening session of the convention and report their finding and recommen-

dation to the opening session of the convention."

Another appendix, Number 13, "Seating of Messenger," passed in 1949, states: "Resolution adopted that this convention refuse any messengers from any church that accepts alien immersion; practices open communion; or affiliates with any branch of the Federal Council of Churches, World Council of Churches or any other organization to or growing out of such."

Any challenge to a church's messengers being seated should be sent to the chairman of the Credentials Committee and the president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We are fully aware that the Convention is not in session until we convene. For this reason we can only request your cooperation in this matter. We believe that your help will make for a much smoother and more congenial convention. — J.W.L. Adams, chairman, Credentials Committee

Convention voting limited to messengers

Only registered messengers from cooperating Arkansas Baptist churches as stated in the constitution of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention will be privileged to vote. Each church should keep in mind that an alternate will serve only if the elected messenger is unable to attend and register as a messenger.

This year, voting will be from a book of numbered ballots. Vote by show of hands will be taken by the display of the colored book of ballots. We ask each messenger to put his or her name and address on his or her book so that in case of loss it can be returned. — Lyndell Worthen, chairman, Tellers Committee

Resolutions Committee explains process

Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Jon Stubblefield has appointed a Resolutions Committee to serve during the annual sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia Nov. 19-20.

The committee requests that anyone desiring to present a resolution to the committee mail a copy of his or her proposed resolution to the committee by Friday, October 25, 1985. The committee requests that, if possible, the resolution be presented on one page of typed copy. It is understood

that resolutions may be presented on the floor of the convention proper as defined by the convention order of business.

Proposed resolutions should be mailed to the Baptist Building, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, addressed to the attention of the committee.

Receiving resolutions in advance will enable the committee to give each resolution more careful and prayerful attention.

Thank you for the cooperation in this important regard. — Homer Shirley, chairman, Resolution Committee

Seminary alumni plan meetings

Alumni and friends of Southern Baptist seminaries have scheduled luncheons while Arkansas Baptists are in Arkadelphia for the state convention's annual meeting.

All of the meetings are scheduled for noon on Wednesday, Nov. 20, on the Ouachita campus.

Southwestern Seminary will meet in Evans Student Center, banquet rooms A & B.

Southern Seminary alumni will convene in the Tiger Grill in Evans.

New Orleans Seminary's luncheon will be held in the Birkett Williams Hall Alumni Room.

Golden Gate Seminary will meet in the Purple Room in Birkett Williams.

Midwestern Seminary's meeting is set for the Birkett Williams Gold Room.

Executive Board recommendations

1

1986 Budget

I. State causes	1986 requests
1. Administration	\$ 119,933
2. Business Services	265,528
3. Annuity	11,855
4. Baptist Student Union	573,410
5. Brotherhood	100,734
6. Christian Life Council	78,215
7. Church Music	152,237
8. Church Training	199,518
9. Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists	123,396
10. Evangelism	217,747
11. Ministry of Crisis Support	88,880
12. Missions	383,308
13. Stewardship	96,290
14. Sunday School	257,332
15. Woman's Missionary Union	257,348
16. Communications	54,119
17. Arkansas Baptist Assembly	175,666
18. Camp Paron - operating	54,253
19. Camp Paron - improvement fund	30,000
20. Annuity dues	188,200
21. Baptist Student Union - buildings	116,250
22. Convention	72,573
23. Historical Commission	8,987
24. Non-department programs and other causes	343,457
Total Executive Board Programs	3,969,236
25. Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care	365,959
26. Arkansas Baptist Foundation	216,983
27. Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine	188,149
28. Christian Education	
(1) Ouachita Baptist University	1,939,314
(2) Southern Baptist University	484,828
(3) Ministerial Education Loan Fund	104,682
Total State Programs	7,269,150
II. Southern Baptist Convention	4,980,850
Total Budget	\$12,250,000

2

Tuition Equalization Scholarships

One of the most important things the 1269 churches of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention could do for Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College would be to adopt a program of "Tuition Equalization Scholarships" to give their high school seniors a genuine free choice in attending Ouachita Baptist University or Southern Baptist College on an equal basis with one of the state colleges in Arkansas. This would demonstrate the commitment of Arkansas Baptist to Christian higher education in one of the most effective ways possible.

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, in view of the

growing importance of local church support in special ways for our Baptist colleges, propose the following recommendation to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention:

In the Centennial Year of Arkansas Baptists' commitment to Christian higher education through Ouachita Baptist University, and in the 45th year for Southern Baptist College, we urge our churches and their individual members to reaffirm their support for the following goal adopted by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1976:

(1) Increase Cooperative Program giving to all Arkansas Baptist causes, including Christian higher education, with a resulting continuation and improvement of the annual rate of increase (10 percent) experienced in recent year.

(2) Encourage churches and individuals to

continue and improve the level of "over and above" gifts to special causes within Christian higher education, such as church scholarships for worthy young people from their congregations.

We especially recommend that churches establish annual scholarships to make possible for their young people to attend Ouachita Baptist University and Southern Baptist College, and that these two institutions assist the churches in determining appropriate ways to establish and administer such scholarships.

3

Annuity amendment: transfer of accumulations

BE IT RESOLVED that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention hereby authorize the adoption of the Transfer of Accumulations Amendment to the Church Annuity Plan, effective July 1, 1985, to permit Members to transfer once each month certain accumulative invested in the Fixed, Balanced, Short-Term or Variable Fund to any other of these four funds.

4

Annuity amendment: lump sum payment of benefits

BE IT RESOLVED that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention hereby authorizes the adoption of the following amendment to the Southern Baptist Protection Program Church Annuity Plan, effective January 1, 1985 as presented at this meeting:

Notwithstanding any provision hereof to the contrary, if the vested amount credited to a Member's Participant Church Contributions Account at termination of service resulting from contributions made on a Member's behalf of the Participant Church is less than \$3,500, the Board may, in its absolute discretion, require the amount so credited to be paid to the Member in a lump-sum. If the amount so credited is \$3,500 or more, payment of such amount in a lump-sum shall only be made at the discretion of the Board and with the written consent of the Member.

5

Day of prayer: Prison Chapels Day

The Executive Board recommends that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention churches set aside a Day of Prayer in 1986 for Prison Chapels Day.

Where to eat in Arkadelphia

ANDY'S □ 2927 W Pine, 246-2714, **hamburgers, chili, baked potatoes, yogurt** Seats 98. Hours, weekdays 10 a.m.-10 p.m., weekends 10:00 a.m.-11 p.m.

BASKIN-ROBBINS □ 2807 W Pine, 246-7036, **ice cream** Seats 20. Hours, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

BONANZA □ 2813 W Pine, 246-6303, **steaks, salad bar** Seats 138. Hours, Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

DOBE'S BARBECUE □ 2805 W Pine, 246-7639, **barbecue** Seats 60. Hours, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

BOWEN'S □ I-30 and Hwy. 7 North, 246-8661, **buffet, ala carte** Seats 325. Hours, 6 a.m.-10 p.m. (Buffet stops at 9 p.m.)

DAISY QUEEN □ 9th and Caddo, 246-6522, **hamburgers (drive-in)** Hours, 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. except Sunday 3 p.m.-10 p.m.

DOMINO'S □ 1303 W Pine, 246-2441, **carry out & delivery** Hours, Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4 a.m.

FAMILY RESTAURANT AND DONUT SHOP □ 706 Main, 246-3181, **pastries, breakfast, short orders** Seats 40. Hours, Monday-Saturday 6 a.m.-1 p.m. except Friday 6 a.m.-3 p.m.

FISH NET □ Hwy. 7 North, 246-7885, **catfish, etc.** Seats 204. Hours, Tuesday-Saturday 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m., closed Monday

GLOVER'S □ I-30 and Hwy. 67 North, 246-3066, **catfish, etc** Seats 65. Hours, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. daily

GRANNY'S □ 202 N. 10th, 246-9974, **pancakes, breakfast, etc.** Seats 40. Hours, 6 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY INN □ I-30 and Hwy. 7 North, 246-5831, **buffet, ala carte** Seats 54. Hours, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN □ 921 Clinton, 246-6149

Seats 56. Hours, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

KEN'S PIZZA □ 2809 W Pine, 246-9826

Seats 90. Hours, Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday-Sunday 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

KREG'S □ W Pine, 246-5327, **catfish, chicken, etc.**

Seats 100. Hours, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

MCDONALD'S □ I-30 and Hwy. 7 North

Seats 150. Hours, 6 a.m.-midnight

PIG PIT □ I-30 and Hwy. 67 North, 246-6552, **barbecue**

Seats 65. Hours, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

PIZZA HUT □ Hwy. 67 North, 246-5895

Seats 130. Hours, 11 a.m.-midnight

SONIC DRIVE-IN □ 303 N. 10th, 246-5873, **hamburgers, etc.** Hours, weekdays 9:30 a.m.-11 p.m., weekends 9:30 a.m.-midnight

TACO TICOS □ 2909 W Pine, 246-9577,

CAMPUS GUIDE

TO EXIT 78, I-30, LITTLE ROCK: HWY. 7, HOT SPRINGS

- Grant Hall Administration Building
- Berry Bible Building
- The Tiger
- Berry Chapel
- Cone-Bottoms Dormitory
- Birkett Williams Dining Hall
- Maddox Public Affairs Center
- McClellan Collection
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Riley Library
- McClellan Hall
- Mabee Fine Arts Center
- Evans Student Center
- Lile Hall
- O.C. Bailey Dormitory
- Conger Dormitory
- Flenniken Hall
- Greenhouse
- Moses-Provine Science Center
- Mitchell Auditorium
- Missionary Residence
- Verser Drama Center
- Home Management House
- Flippen Dormitory
- Perrin Dormitory
- Frances Crawford Dormitory
- Blake Hall
- Johnson Hall
- Terral-Moore Hall
- Ouachita Apartments
- Joint Educational Consortium
- West Hall Dormitory
- Ernest Bailey Dormitory
- Daniel Dormitory (South)
- Daniel Dormitory (North)
- Freeman-Dunklin Tennis Center
- Physical Education Center
- Intramural Field
- Maintenance Building
- Married Students Housing
- Archery, rugby, soccer, football Practice, golf course and driving range
- Eddie Blackmon Field House
- Rab Rodgers Baseball Field
- A.U. Williams Football Stadium
- Public Parking

← TAKE PINE OR CADDO STREETS
WEST TO EXIT 78, I-30,
TEXARKANA, HOPE

OUACHITA

Mexican food

Seats 78. Hours, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

WESTERN SIZZLIN □ 106 Shepherd St., **steaks, etc.**

Seats 280. Hours, Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

DEGRAY LODGE RESTAURANT □ 865-4591 Seats 160. Hours, Sunday-Thursday 7 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 7 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.-10 p.m.

PALMER'S RESTAURANT □ 10th & Caddo, 246-9587, **buffet, ala carte**

Seats 160. Hours, 6 a.m.-9 p.m. daily (buffet-breakfast, lunch, dinner)

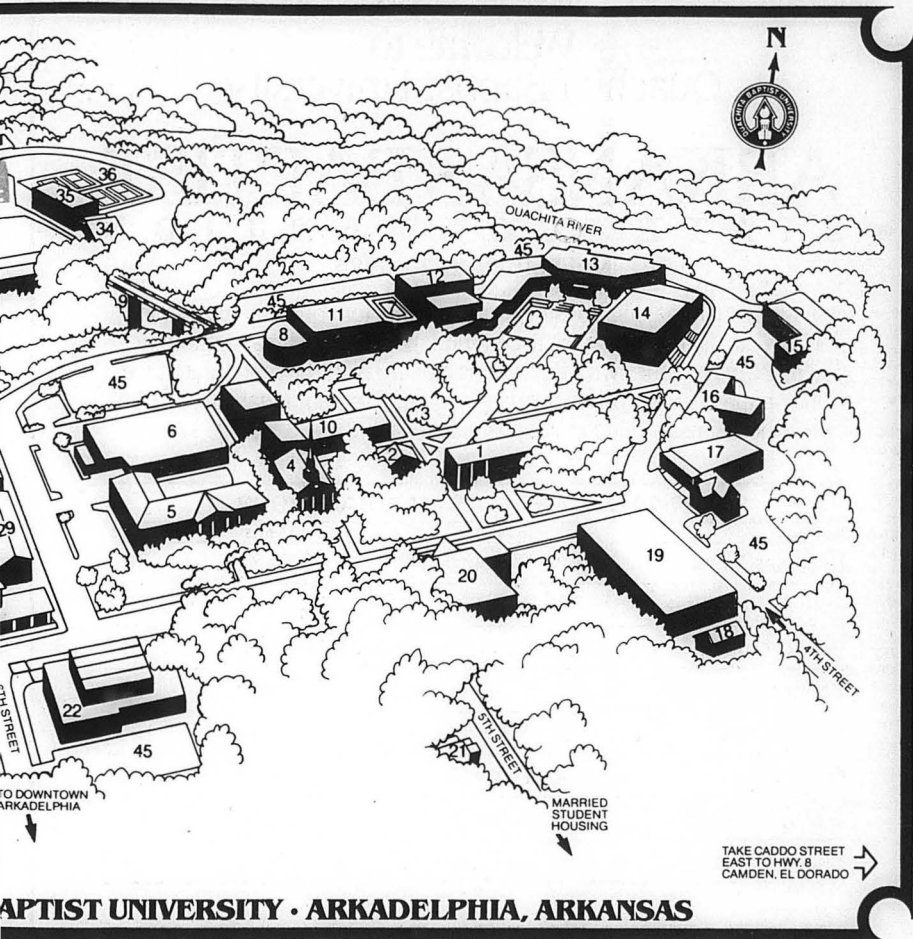
CHINESE GARDEN □ North 10th St. 246-6490 Seats 60. Hours, 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

WAFFLE HOUSE □ I-30 and Hwy. 67 North, 246-9406

Seats 43. Open 24 hours

TWIN RIVERS MEDICAL CENTER CAFETERIA □ 3050 Twin Rivers Drive, 246-9801

Seats 125. Hours, 7 a.m.-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 5 p.m.-7 p.m.



Child care planned by Ouachita

Pre-school child care will be offered by Ouachita Baptist University to messengers and their families during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention at OBU in November.

Facilities will be located in the OBU Physical Education Center, site of the convention, to provide the care. Child care for school age children will not be provided.

The child care operation will provide a snack for children off baby food for the Tuesday and Wednesday luncheon times, which serve as meeting/meal times for various organizations and institutions. The child care operation also will serve baby food provided by the parents to the infants, per their families' instructions.

Local churches, organizations and in-

dividuals are providing beds, equipment and workers for the operation. Ouachita students and others connected with the school will be assisting in the child care.

Ouachita also will provide a planned program for each age group headed by trained workers, according to Jim Berryman, chairman of the OBU committee in charge of the child care operation.

Welcome to
Ouachita Baptist University

ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 18-20, 1985

To assist you in making housing arrangements for your stay in Arkadelphia, we are listing below the accommodations in this area. Although you must make your own reservations directly with the motels, etc., we will be happy to help you in any way we can. For additional information, call Carbon Sims at Ouachita Baptist University, 246-4531, ext. 171.

ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS 71923

MOTEL	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	ROOMS
Arkansas Motel	Hwy. 67 South	246-4581	36
College Inn Motel	1015 Pine	246-2404	25
Comfort Inn	10th & Caddo	246-6792	56
Continental Motel	Hwy. 67 North	246-5592	47
Holiday Inn	I-30 at Hwy. 7	246-5831	100
Quality Inn	I-30 at Hwy. 7	246-5855	64
Siesta Motel Inn	Hwy. 67 & I-30	246-3031	40
Super 8 Motel	Hwy. 7 & I-30	246-8026	60

BISMARCK, ARKANSAS 71929

DeGray's Lakeview Cottages	Route 1	865-3389	—
DeGray State Park Lodge	Route 1, Box 144	865-4591	96

To be certain of accommodations, please make reservations early. A limited number of rooms in private homes are also available. For information, please contact Carbon Sims at the above number.

Clinton First Church celebrates 50 years, dedicates building

by Millie Gill

Clinton First Church, with a heritage of being founded during the depression years by a small group whose faith was said to be much stronger than the economy, celebrated its 50th anniversary Sept. 22.

The dedication of a \$175,000 educational building also was part of the celebration.

The Clinton church organized as the result of a canvass by J. D. Reeves and first met in a tent provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention Missions Department.

It was found in historical notes that a week's tent revival led by W. F. Couch resulted in the church's organization Saturday night, Sept. 14, 1935, at 11:20 p.m. It was chartered with 18 members following the reading of Baptist ordinances.

Sunday services included the baptism of some 43 people in a nearby creek. At the close of that day, Clinton First Church had a membership of 72.

Bess Bryan served as superintendent when a Sunday school was organized Sept. 22 with 120 members. W.L. Standley, C.W. McKnight and G.D. Davenport were ordained as its first deacons Oct. 6. Mrs. G.D. (Lena) Davenport served as president of the first Woman's Missionary Union, organized Dec. 16.

A theater provided a meeting place for some time. Ground was broken April 30, 1936, for the first church building. Men of the church constructed this worship center, assisted by women who carried water from nearby wells for mixing cement and prepared noon meals. This building was dedicated June 9, 1940. Other building programs were undertaken in 1947, 1968, 1980 and 1985.

Clinton First Church, not only has expanded its weekly budget from \$64.12 to \$2,621, but it has assisted in the organization and financing of churches at Rupert, Burnt Ridge (today called Standley Memorial) and Macedonia Mission in Dennard.

The church also reached out to others when Clinton was devastated by 12 feet of flood waters Dec. 2, 1981. The church opened its doors to serve as emergency headquarters for the National Guard, Red Cross, Mennonites, ham radio operators and some displaced persons.

The church, in its 50 years, has had 18 pastors and led in the licensing or ordination of seven men to the gospel ministry. Former pastors in attendance were Audie Miller, R.A. Bone, Carl Overton and Tom Harris.

Don Moore, executive director of ABSC, spoke at the morning worship service,

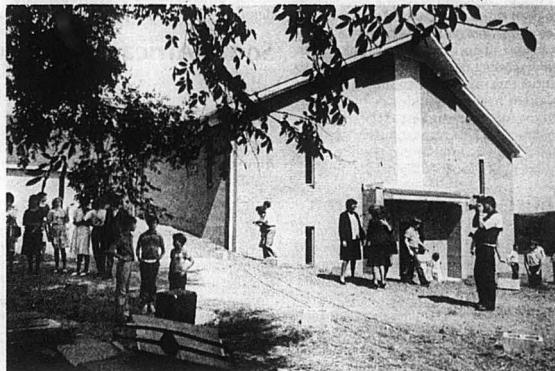
followed by a noon meal and afternoon dedication program.

Pastor Frank Shell led dedication services for the 14-room educational building, which houses preschool, nursery, young adult and adult facilities.

A "Building Through Faith" program has financed the project. Eldon Boone served as building committee chairman, assisted by James Tyson, Don Hensley, W.M. Horton, Bill Dowling Jr., John Bayer and Randy McCaslin.

Millie Gill is a staff writer and photographer for the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

ABSC photo / Millie Gill



Members of First Church, Clinton, and their guests, celebrated 50 years of Christian ministry and dedicated a \$175,000 educational building Sept.22.

TWIN RIVERS MEDICAL CENTER

Welcomes ABSC Messengers to Arkadelphia

For the convenience of messengers, the Twin Rivers Medical Center cafeteria will be open from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight Monday through Wednesday, November 18-20. Shuttle buses will run from the convention site to local motels and the hospital. In addition, we invite all messengers to tour our hospital during normal business hours Monday through Wednesday. Twin Rivers will also provide first aid service at the convention. We look forward to seeing you.



TWIN RIVERS MEDICAL CENTER

Operated by Baptist Medical System

Youth directors:

Interested in taking your youth to ski over Christmas or spring break?



Ministers:

Holy Land brochures available...

Others:

Need help planning a trip?

Theresa Davis Kimberling



Kimberling
Children's Travel

P.O. Box 1298, L.R., AR 72203 (501) 227-8447

Foreign missions briefs

Mexican Baptists growing

ACAPULCO, Mexico—Mexican Baptist ranks have expanded 15 percent in the last year. Churches have baptized a record 7,269 people for the year ending in July, according to National Baptist Convention of Mexico statistics, bringing total convention membership to 55,297. Mexican Baptists also are planning to reactivate their foreign mission program, which has been on hold for two years.

Rebels don't stop school

SANTIAGO ATITLAN, Guatemala—The Paul Bell Baptist Theological Institute recently awarded a diploma to its first graduate in more than three years, despite guerrilla activities in the area. Guerrillas burned a courthouse two miles from the institute in January, causing pastors and missionaries to question the safety of continuing classes. Enrollment has been hindered, but classes continue for nine students. The institute, named for Southern Baptist missionary Paul C. Bell Sr., gives rural bivocational pastors an opportunity for theological training.

Baptists educate children

RECIFE, Brazil—Some 150,000 children in the Brazilian city of Recife are too poor to go to school. But Baptists make education possible for at least 1,000 a year. The Baptist Friendship House is aiding 1,300 children from poverty-stricken families this year. Each child receives a school uniform, books, paper and pencils. The children must pass in school to get the same help next year. Many alumni credit the program with helping them escape poverty. Southern Baptist hunger relief funds finance the effort.

Czechs lend a hand for church's centennial

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (BP)—Baptists throughout Czechoslovakia helped the First Church of Prague prepare for its 100th anniversary celebration.

A two-year renovation by the first Baptist congregation in what is now Czechoslovakia has included an expansion of its auditorium from 240 to 400 seats and addition of closed-circuit video equipment for adjacent rooms.

Volunteer teams from the 26 churches and 76 missions of the Baptist Union of Czechoslovakia helped renovate the Prague church, tallying more than 15,000 work hours. Special offerings for the renovation also were taken in the union's churches and missions.

The annual meetings of the European Baptist Federation Council were scheduled to be held at the church Sept. 25-29.

The congregation began in 1885 in a house at Nelahozev, now a suburb of Prague, in what was then Bohemia.

BWA speaks out against apartheid

WASHINGTON, DC—The Baptist World Alliance, a voluntary fellowship of 134 Baptist conventions and unions with headquarters in 93 countries and a total membership of 34 million, has sent an open letter to Pieter W. Botha, president of the Republic of South Africa, expressing deep concern about "indiscriminate arrests, imprisonment and persecution of black South Africans seeking their just rights under God."

The letter refers to the resolution on racism passed at the Baptist World Congress meeting in Los Angeles where 8,000 assembled Baptists called racism "a crime against humanity and a sin against God."

BWA General Secretary Gerhard Claas writes in his letter to President Botha: "We abhor and denounce apartheid and its demonic system, including forceable reloca-

tion of black populations and destruction of their homes by bulldozing; humiliating discrimination in many public places with rigid pass laws; arbitrary arrest and detention indefinitely without trial; and the disenfranchisement of the black majority."

The open letter further states: "We Baptists join with Christians of South Africa and the world in praying for a peaceful solution to the tragedy that confronts your country. We call upon all men and women of good will to work constructively for the dismantling of apartheid and for a democratic system of government.

"Mr. President, the hour is late; you must act now to avoid further bloodshed. In the name of God, please seize the opportunity to work for the freedom of all people in South Africa."

South African prof urges response to plight

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Speaking to a Church-State Relations class at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, John N. Jonsson, W.O. Carver Professor of Missions and World Religions, pointed to the omission of blacks from the decision-making process as the planting of the seeds of violence in South Africa.

Jonsson, a citizen of South Africa, emphasized that South African violence must be dealt with in its immediate context of the frustration of people who have been the victims of "Big Brother" decision-making and "philanthropic paternalism in which they were viewed as dependent children at the mercy of white decision-making."

Some of the causes of violence in South Africa he listed include conflicts of interest, urbanization and overcrowding, frustration and deprivation, structural injustices within legal systems, unwillingness of leaders to give up power and politico-ideological conflict.

Effective change, Jonsson argued, will have

to come within the political structures themselves, allowing blacks to be included within the governmental process at the highest level of decision-making.

Jonsson call for Christians to stand against social structures which are used by authorities out of vested interest, which he described as the "societal incarnation of evil." He also warned white Christians against coming as "Job's comforters, giving theological advice drawn from the portals of abstract, ontological distance from the human scene."

Christians, he claimed, "cannot speak of justice and the righteousness of God if we are not dealing with these structures. We cannot disregard the plights of human depravity without becoming the agents of depravity."

Pointing to the biblical image of the Suffering Servant, Jonsson called for "flesh and blood theology" in which the role of missions is to eliminate the crises and frustrations which result in violence.

Mexican Baptists act quickly to help quake victims

MEXICO CITY (BP)—A Baptist church appropriately located on the Avenida de Heroes has set aside preaching and Bible study temporarily to help Mexico City dig out of the rubble from two recent earthquakes.

"We are doing our preaching first by actions," said Juan Hernandez Ortiz, one of a team of pastors at First Church, Mexico City. "I feel that's the best preaching."

First Church, near the center of the earthquakes' worst damage, has been turned into a major shelter where homeless earthquake victims receive food and sleep on church pews. A medical care station has been set up in former Sunday school rooms where doctors volunteer to dress wounds and take care of other problems.

Also the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary, jointly sponsored by the National

Baptist Convention of Mexico and Southern Baptists, canceled classes so students could help victims of the earthquake. "The students petitioned us to suspend classes so that they could help," said seminary President Richard Garrett, a Southern Baptist representative.

"Everybody wants to help. They showed up carrying shovels and ropes," Garrett said.

One of the seminary's professors, Mike McAleer, is supervising volunteer activities at the First Church shelter. "We fed 1,700 people yesterday," said McAleer, who is a member of First Church. "Besides serving food at the church, we are going to the Revolution Monument to feed people and have been providing food for workers who have been at the hotel region (which was demolished)."

ACTS refinancing plan, loan okayed by SBC Executive Committee

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A plan to refinance American Christian Television System (ACTS) has been approved by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

During its September meeting, the committee approved a proposal which would allow the SBC Radio and Television Commission—parent organization of ACTS—to borrow up to \$10 million with a 10-year payback and to conduct a five-year \$10 million fund raising campaign.

The loan would allow the RTVC to pay off an estimated \$8.5 million debt, giving them relief from large payments required if the debt is retired in the maximum three-year limitation of the SBC Business and Financial Plan, thus improving the cash flow situation.

"We believe this restructuring of the debt is essential at this point to the continuing operation (of ACTS and the RTVC)," said Harmon Born, an Atlanta auto dealer and chairman of the Executive Committee's special committee appointed in February to study the financial situation of the Fort Worth, Texas-based agency. He added it "gives them financial relief they need for continuing operations and programming."

According to background material provided to Executive Committee members, RTVC "has been confronted with large expen-

ditures" to start the network, which was launched in June of 1984. It added "it is recognized that the ACTS undertaking will require long term, ongoing expenses beyond those which can be supported by the Cooperative Program allocation."

Born said conditions of the approval are "very stringent... designed to help them develop a definite plan to retire their indebtedness without having to add additional indebtedness." He said "significant restrictions" are built into the plan, including a limitation to total debt, requiring RTVC trustees to take a more aggressive role in management and specific requirements for reporting to the Executive Committee.

Born told Baptist Press the "idea is that whether it is an individual, a corporation or an organization, you need to take in more money than you pay out."

Fred Roach, a Dallas RTVC trustee, said the plan means "ACTS will be slowed down to the right level; we will do as we have the money to do." He added the decision also means "RTVC trustees have taken a much more significant role in working with the management of the commission in meeting financial obligations."

The plan approved by the Executive Committee was hammered out in six months,

which Roach characterized as a "very hard six months." RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen said: "The whole process was painful but was a good learning process."

Born said the Executive Committee delayed action in February "because we had a strong feeling we did not want to go ahead with any recommendation based on a partial set of facts."

Roach said the deficit will be an estimated \$1.5 million during the next six months, after which the loan should have been negotiated, relieving some of the financial pressures. "We will go from a \$3 million (shortfall) last year to a \$1.5 million this year to zero next year (with the restructuring)," he said.

The action says "the commission will operate... within its income and the Business and Financial Plan," and specifies "no liberalization of the perimeters in the (10-year) interim." It adds the RTVC "shall comply with the letter and the spirit..."

The plan calls for the RTVC to report to the Executive Committee on "all aspects of its financial operations" in detail and on a schedule and in a format specified by Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett.

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

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Crowder grievance denied by SBC Executive Committee

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A legal complaint by a Birmingham, Ala., layman and his wife that their rights were violated during the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention has been denied by the SBC's Executive Committee.

During its September meeting, the committee voted in executive session to "affirm" the actions of the 1985 annual meeting, thus denying the claim of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder, members of Southside Baptist Church in Birmingham, and messengers to the annual meeting.

Following the action, the Crowders said they and "other Southern Baptists with whom they are acting" will "have nothing to say until we see what they (the Executive Committee) have said. Until we talk with the lawyer and others, we will have nothing to say about our future course of action."

Crowder told Baptist Press: "I am heartbroken that the Executive Committee failed to face up to their duty and responsibility. It was their duty and their responsibility to cope with this matter. I am heartbroken with the way they coped with it."

Crowder claims the current Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees of the SBC was illegally elected. Crowder asked the Executive Committee to "take prompt and effective action... to remedy the violations... and to assure

similar violations of the bylaws are not repeated in the future."

Their specific complaint revolves around a ruling by SBC President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta, who ruled out-of-order an effort to amend the report of the 1985 Committee on Committees which nominated the Committee on Boards.

During the Executive Committee meeting, the Crowders' attorney, Emmet J. Bondurant, made a 10-minute presentation concerning the grievance. After the presentation, the Executive Committee met for an hour and a half in a closed door meeting with SBC attorney, James P. Guenther of Nashville. It was the first time in more than 30 years the Executive Committee has conducted an executive session.

The following afternoon, Chairman David Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., read without amplification a four paragraph statement concerning the results of the closed meeting. The statement said that "whatever mistakes might have occurred in Dallas in reference to interpretation of bylaws is history. To seek to re-do or un-do an action of the Southern Baptist Convention will accomplish no positive good."

The short statement added: "The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention instructs its legal counsel... that the Executive Committee affirms these ac-

tions" of the 1985 SBC.

After the report, Dotson Nelson, a retired pastor from Birmingham, Ala., stood to comment he wanted the minutes to reflect the "action was not unanimous" to adopt the "affirmation."

Several persons told Baptist Press "about 15 or 20" members voted against the adoption.

In his presentation, Bondurant recounted the events of the disputed election, and said the bylaws of the SBC "specifically provide" that the Committee on Committees "has the power to nominate but not to dictate the membership of the Committee on Boards..." He added the bylaws "provide clearly that the messengers to the convention have the power to amend the body, the conclusions or the text of any report and that was the power which the messengers were attempting to exercise in Dallas and were thwarted in their effort to do so."

In addition to "affirming" the actions of the SBC, Maddox said the Executive Committee was "taking under advisement" Bondurant's comments "particularly regarding the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention and the interpretation of same," and referring the matter to the Bylaws Workgroup for further consideration."

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press.

Executive Committee declines constitutional changes

by Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Seventeen proposed changes to the Constitution and bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention were turned down by members of the SBC Executive Committee during their September meeting.

The changes, which ranged from the age of messengers to the SBC annual meeting, to the basis for representation to procedural changes in nominating trustees to denominational agencies, were referred to the committee during the 1985 annual meeting.

In presenting the recommendation to take no action, Francis Wilson of Alamogordo, N.M., vice-chairman of the bylaws workgroup, explained the six member workgroup was concerned with implications of the changes in the volatilized SBC atmosphere.

"We felt we should not make any change," he said. "We want to let the Peace Committee do its work and perhaps there will be a more appropriate time in a better (political) climate in which to consider these changes."

"We were sensitive to the need for change, but we also were concerned that we have come to a very sensitive time in SBC life. We considered the impact (of any change) and decided it is in the best interests of the convention at this time not to address changes," he added.

Wilson commented the action does not

permanently end any proposed changes. "The time now is not good but the climate will change and will be better at a later date."

Several of the actions drew discussion, including a proposal to change the requirement for representation, which says churches shall be entitled to additional messengers—up to a total of 10—by contribution of \$250 "to the work of the convention" during the preceding calendar year.

James Baucom of Martinsville, Va., noting he "feels strongly" about the need for change, pointed out the \$250 "was set back in 1888 and \$250 won't go as far now as it did then."

He added he hopes the matter "will be addressed at a more propitious time."

Another proposal which drew comment was a recommendation home and foreign missionaries be allowed to vote by mail. The proposal, Wilson noted, probably will not be considered later.

He commented many of the foreign missionaries are "members of national churches who are not qualified to send messengers. If we allowed this action, we would give the missionaries a privilege we do not even grant messengers of the convention."

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, said he opposes the proposal "for a much more practical reason. The motion assumes that

we will know beforehand what the issues are and who the candidates will be. Ideally, messengers should not know beforehand who they will vote for president. "A person must be present to hear the deliberations and make the decisions," he said.

In addition to consideration of voting and representation, referrals related to the number of trustees any church could have on any board of any SBC agency; election of officers, inclusion of Cooperative Program giving percentages along with the names of those appointed or nominated to convention committees; changing the nature of the Committee on Committees or the way in which it is appointed, and discontinuation of resolutions at the annual meetings.

In another action on a referral from the convention, the Executive Committee noted "it is not practical" to mail a copy of the annual Book of Reports to each church a month before the annual meeting, but did establish a new procedure for distribution of the material.

It noted copies of the Book of Reports may be ordered through the Business and Finance Office in advance of the annual meeting, and the person placing the order will receive a receipt which can be exchanged for a copy of the book at the registration desk at the convention site.

Committee reports 'findings' in Crowder bylaws grievance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A list of 15 "findings" concerning the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention was adopted 38-15 by the SBC Executive Committee during its September meeting.

The "findings and recommendations" were presented by the Bylaws Workgroup, chaired by John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., after "the matter of bylaw interpretation" was referred to the workgroup during a closed session.

The action came during a discussion of grievances concerning alleged bylaw violations presented by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., and their attorney, Emmet J. Bondurant of Atlanta.

Sullivan said the 15 "findings of fact" were presented because "in the event of litigation," the group wanted to give convention attorney James P. Guenther "support." He added they were presented as an "initial response" to the referral.

The "findings" were adopted 38-15 after several members, including Dotson Nelson of Birmingham, Ala., and Alvin O. West of Washington, objected to several parts of the list.

Nelson objected to a "finding" which says: "It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that if the nominees offered from the floor had been voted upon by the convention, the Committee on Committees' nominees would have been elected to constitute the Committee on Boards. . . This opinion is based upon a review of the events and actions of the 1985 convention and the personal observations of the members of the Executive Committee."

"I can't vote for that," Nelson said. "That is not based on my personal observation."

West said he has "great reservations" about several of the "findings" and said the action taken to affirm the convention action "was a mistake."

Other members expressed reservations about the findings, particularly one which notes the "polity of the . . . convention allows the Executive Committee to affirm the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees. The decision by the Executive Committee to affirm that the election which occurred in the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention makes all procedural defects moot, if any occurred, in that election."

Several expressed the opinion the Executive Committee does not have the authority to "affirm or disaffirm" any action taken by messengers in annual session.

Others questioned a "finding" which says: "While the Convention significantly relies on the trustees of its institutions in the conduct of the ministries of these institutions, the Convention itself ultimately controls the destiny of those institutions."

The findings adopted by the committee:

ONE: Messengers clearly must control the Southern Baptist Convention within the Convention's own procedures.

TWO: The messengers at the 1985 Convention elected the nominees offered by the Committee on Committees to the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

THREE: It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that if the nominees offered from the floor had been voted upon by the Convention, the Committee on Committees' nominees would have been elected to constitute the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

This opinion is based upon a review of the events and actions of the 1985 Convention and the personal observations of the members of the Executive Committee.

FOUR: The messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986 may choose to accept or reject the nominations of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. These nominations to be reported to the Convention represent the total work of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees.

FIVE: Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986 will have the opportunity to make nominations from the floor for all positions on which the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committee makes nominations; thus, the ultimate selection of the members of the boards, institutions, commissions, standing committees and the Executive Committee rests with the messengers.

SIX: The polity of the Southern Baptist Convention allows the Executive Committee to affirm the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. The decision by the Executive Committee to affirm that election which occurred in the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention

makes all procedural defects moot, if any occurred, in that election.

SEVEN: The action by the Executive Committee on the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees reflects the Executive Committee's ad interim judgement that, in so doing, the Executive Committee has acted in the total best interest of the Convention.

EIGHT: In the governance of the boards, commissions, institutions, and standing committees, the Convention's procedures provide for a gradual transition in the composition of trustees. This minimizes the impact of any year's Convention's selection of trustee replacements work and wait. West Virginia will apparently see its first members seated on committees and boards next June when the 51st one Convention.

NINE: While the Convention significantly relies on the trustees of its institutions in the conduct of the ministries of those institutions, the Convention itself ultimately controls the destiny of those institutions.

TEN: The Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention are being reviewed by the Executive Committee for clarity and consistency with the democratic process which is uniquely Southern Baptist.

ELEVEN: The role of the parliamentarian will be reviewed by the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee.

TWELVE: The polity and ecclesiology of the Southern Baptist Convention is the outgrowth of unique Southern Baptist understanding of theology.

THIRTEEN: Judicial interference in the internal governance of the religious ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention if unacceptable and would constitute an intolerable entanglement between church and state.

FOURTEEN: The Southern Baptist Convention is in the midst of complex and sincere efforts to rediscover its basis for consensus. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that its action affirming the election of the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees in the 1985 Convention is consistent with the Convention's efforts.

FIFTEEN: The Executive Committee hopes Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder will confine the advancement of their position solely within the confines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Peace Committee schedule set; spirit of members praised

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Peace Committee made its first regularly scheduled report Sept. 18 when chairman Charles Fuller addressed the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fuller announced the dates of the next four committee meetings. The committee is seeking solutions to the problems which have plagued the 14.4 million member denomination for several years and listed

several specific "reasons for optimism."

Admitting the optimism "prevails in varying degrees," Fuller cited the spirit of committee members as a source of encouragement since the first meeting. "Despite the sharp differences between us, there is a conviction God will bless the honest attempts to face the facts of our controversy," he said.

At the next meeting, Oct. 8-9 in Nashville, each of the 22 committee members is to

have submitted a 350 word statement, identifying the theological issues which beset the denomination. "This is not to ignore the structural, political and parliamentary matters which have been brought to our attention," Fuller added.

The committee has scheduled meetings in Atlanta Dec. 10-11; Dallas Jan. 21-22, and back in Nashville Feb. 25-26. Additional meetings will be announced later.

Your state convention at work

Church Administration Secretaries' conference

Stress has become one of the most serious occupational health hazards of our time. In fact, your job could be slowly killing you,



Sheffield

according to a recent study reported in the *Los Angeles Times*. According to the study, one of the country's most nerve-racking occupations is that of a secretary. Church secretaries will discover ways to deal with stress and improve their skills at the Church Secretaries' Conference on Tuesday, Oct. 22. Jimmie Sheffield, administrator at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, will lead this conference. This will be one of eight conferences to be held at the State Church Training Convention at Immanuel Church at Little Rock. The conference also will deal with such topics as developing teamwork and building and maintaining relationships with the staff and the church membership.

The convention sessions begin at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. A luncheon will be served by the host church by reservation only. Reservations should be sent to the Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203. — **Robert Holley, director**

Stewardship/Annuity

The budget: commitment

The bottom line of the church budget is the member's commitment to ministries. No fine tuning can substitute for the member's dedication. The church's first stewardship responsibility is to call her members to commitment.

That commitment finds various expressions in Baptist life. Some churches successfully use commitment cards. A few churches ask their members to verbalize their commitment in a congregational commitment service.

One feature of Planned Growth in Giving is the individual witnessing a commitment to grow in giving. Members are also given an opportunity to sign commitment cards.

Most of our churches depend upon the unwritten and unspoken commitment of their members. Members are encouraged to commit their resources to the Lord's service and that commitment is recorded weekly through tithes and offerings.

Written commitments aren't new. The people of Israel made "a solemn written agreement, and our leaders, our Levites, and our priests put their seals to it" (Neh. 9:38, GNB). Nehemiah 10 describes the

agreement, and offerings were included. The people agreed they would not neglect God's house.

Churches that use commitment cards, or services, discover, over a period of years, a better stewardship response.

Whatever a church does, the members must be challenged. Budget promotion programs offered by the Stewardship Commission emphasize commitment. Request sample materials from the Stewardship Department. — **James A. Walker, director**

Christian Life Council Out of control

Never before has there been so many fatalities in a single crash. For a half hour, the Japanese airliner was out of control



Parker

before plunging into a mountainside. Both passengers and crew were horribly helpless. Only two miraculously survived.

"Out of control" problems are killing and crippling thousands each year. Investigators of some of the most serious ones give false assurances that legal means would control them. A case in point is alcoholic beverage interests. More than half of all accidents are related to consumption of their products. Ethyl alcohol is our number one drug problem.

Under the guise of the First Amendment, multi-billion dollar pornography "industries" are thriving. Individuals, families and even churches are being destroyed and weakened. Children and women are especially vulnerable to pornography's consequences. Pornography is probably gaining more addicts in America than any other social problem at the present time.

Sadly, gambling and cocaine use also seem to be "out of control." These and other real enemies outside church fellowship need greater opposition. Complaining is not enough. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4b).

Abraham used trained servants to rescue Lot. Good soldiers of Jesus Christ, trained in spiritual offensive and defensive weaponry, are desperately needed in facing destructive problems. — **Bob Parker, director**

Woman's Missionary Union GA Missions Spectacular

All girls in grades one through six and adult leaders are invited to hear missionary speakers, do crafts, learn about state missions and have fun at the GA Missions Spectacular, Saturday, Oct. 19, 1985, at Camp Paron. If your church has no GA

organization, this could be a way to spark an interest in missions.

Registration information has been mailed to GA leaders. Registrations are now being accepted on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for registrations being received in the State WMU Office is Oct. 10. To register, send names and registration fee for each one attending to State WMU Office, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

On Oct. 19, the GA Missions Spectacular will begin with registration at 9 a.m. in the dining hall. The program begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. There will be activities for those who arrive early. Participants should bring a sack lunch and a mat or a cushion on which to sit.

For additional information, contact the State WMU Office. — **Pat Glascock, GA/Mission Friends director**

Family and Child Care Ministry readiness

Immediate action is often an essential in helping people. An experience of trauma or crisis seldom shows us the courtesy of "getting ready" to deal with it. Simply stated, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services has to keep its ministries poised to deal with needs as they occur.

In order to maintain this state of readiness, several factors must be in place:

(1) Supportive constituency. Baptists from throughout our state support us prayerfully and financially. Both are essential for us to be truly ready to respond appropriately to the complex needs of broken children and families.

(2) Skillful staff. We have professionally trained, dedicated Christian men and women who minister. Arkansas Baptist Home for Children ministered to 100 children last year. Area offices at Little Rock, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Harrison and Hope helped heal individual, marital, and family brokenness through counseling, and arrange for direct care for children in need. Our four emergency receiving homes served over 200 children last year. Our Jonesboro group home provided care and direction for six boys. Another 21 children received care by living in one of our foster homes.

(3) Informed community. Sometimes we need to repeat what we hear—information shared, clarification made, goals defined and needs known—in order that we may, with fuller knowledge and sensitivity, support one another in ministry.

In the next issue of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, we will provide more detailed information on where we are, what we do and how to get in touch with our various ministries. — **Johnny G. Biggs, executive director**

Evangelism

GNA preparation

The success of any great movement is determined by grass roots participation. Immediately after the Executive Board decision in 1982, we began to inform Arkansas Baptists concerning the Good News Revivals.



Shell

The first letters went out to the directors of missions and directors of evangelism for the local associations. For any effort to succeed, there must be association leadership support. It was our deep desire that the D.O.M.'s and directors of evangelism be well informed.

Arkansas chose the early dates of March 16-April 6 for their revivals. This was done with the delta churches in mind. Most delta churches desire an early revival because of the planting season for the crops. There also was a carryover into April for the churches in the west side who desired a later date. Each association was asked to select the best week of the three for their revivals. By selecting a week in this time span, all of the churches would benefit from the statewide media publicity.

Due to the fact of the autonomy of the local Baptist church, each church must make its own decision related to their involvement in a revival effort. Therefore, we fully informed our pastors concerning the Good News revivals. They were asked to lead their churches in voting to participate in the week selected by their local association. — Clarence Shell, director

Former members of First Baptist Church, Heber Springs are urged to contact the church prior to the 100th anniversary celebration to be held October 6, 1985,

for a special invitation to the event.

First Baptist Church
201 North Fourth Street
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Dr. Jerry A. Kirkpatrick, pastor



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West Virginia getting on board(s); 10 conventions waiting

ASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists has become the 27th state convention to qualify for representation on the boards and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

And the 10 conventions not allocated spots on the boards are pushing for new guidelines which would make them eligible for positions on the decision-making bodies of Southern Baptist agencies.

The matter is being studied, for the fourth time, by a workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee. A seven-member committee will report in February 1986.

Under present guidelines a convention affiliated with the SBC must have 25,000 members before applying for representation.

That rule, which West Virginia met by having 25,665 members by mid-1984, has been a long-time irritant to the smaller conventions which contribute to the national unified budget, the Cooperative Program, and send messengers to vote on business matters at the

annual meeting of the SBC but are not allowed to sit as agency trustees or even serve as tellers or on the Resolutions Committee during the SBC meetings.

Older conventions are wary of changes which could weaken the national representation of the hundreds of thousands (in some cases millions) of members in their states.

The study committee includes two executive directors from the "unrepresented" conventions (James H. Currin of New England and Ernest B. Myers of Nevada); two executives from older conventions (Rheubin L. South of Missouri and Dan C. Stringer of Florida); two Executive Committee members (John Sullivan, pastor from Shreveport, La., and Darrell Robinson, pastor from Mobile, Ala.) and the president of the Executive Committee, Harold C. Bennett.

But while 10 conventions work and wait,

West Virginia will apparently see its first members seated on committees and boards next June when the SBC meets in Atlanta. Convention messengers will be asked to officially recognize West Virginia. Later in the same meeting, the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees will present nominations including West Virginians, if the state has been recognized.

Each state has a church related and a non-church related representative on the Committee on Boards. Three pastors were nominated for the first slot and two laymen for the second. Elected were Ron Dillon, pastor of Grace Church in Parkersburg, W. Va., and four-time president of the West Virginia convention, and Fred Morgan, a lab technician at a chemical plant and a member of Fairlawn Church in Parkersburg (which he started in his home).



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International

A divided church

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

Basic passage: 1 Corinthians 1:10 to 4:21
Focal passage: 1 Corinthians 1:15-15; 3:5-15

Central truth: A united church is built firmly on Christ, with its members seeing themselves as fellow workers in God's service.

The church at Corinth was anything but a harmonious unity. It was divided, and the divisions focused on different personalities. Apparently, competition raged between the different groups.

That situation produced at least two very negative results. For one thing, the different groups wasted their precious resources of time and energy on outdoing each other when those resources should have been used to work against evil and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Secondly, their competitive divisions blurred their focus. Human leaders, rather than Jesus Christ, became the primary point of attention.

Thus, their impact was greatly reduced. They diluted their own energies by their competition, and their human focus meant that they were relying on human energy to accomplish their tasks rather than the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's power flows only where Jesus is treated as sole "commander in chief." When you add to this decrease in efficiency the poor impression that such a cliquish community would make on unsaved observers, you can see why Paul forcefully called them to unity in Jesus.

In 1 Corinthians 3:11, the point is clearly made that there is only one foundation for the church: Jesus Christ. It may resemble church. It may even grow in numbers by the investment of lots of human energy and ingenuity. But its growth in depth will give away its counterfeit nature. Spiritual growth comes only as a result of the authentic presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the church into being, and his Spirit has and always will sustain it.

Not a great deal has changed since the first century. Unfortunately, we see divisions at every level of church life, and those divisions are still wasteful in God's economy. If we would dare to really focus on Jesus, and only on Jesus, then our competitive spirit would be replaced by the Holy Spirit and we would come together and be energized and inspired and be able to go forth as the victorious, powerful "Bride of Christ" God intends us to be. Let it be!

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Life and Work

Recognizing God's reliability

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

Basic passage: Genesis 8:1 to 9:19
Focal passage: Genesis 8:20-22; 9:11-16

Central truth: Believers can trust God's reliability even during disaster and change.

This week, we begin a six-month study of what the Bible has to say about "God's people in a changing world." How appropriate this is for our day, when the world is changing more rapidly than at any other time in its history!

Background for this week's study is the world's greatest disaster—the flood—which God used to purge the human race after it had become too contaminated by sin to serve his redemptive purpose and to give the human race a new beginning through the family of Noah.

1. Gratitude to God (Gen. 8:20-22)
The first thing Noah did, upon leaving the ark and again standing on dry ground, was to show his appreciation by worshipping God. He built an altar and offered up a burnt offering to God.

The natural response of Christians who have been conscious of God's gracious deliverance through tragic and difficult times is to turn to him in gratitude and rededication. And the greatest of all deliverances, is from sin and death to our new life in Christ (Eph. 2:1-10).

2. The promise of God (Gen. 9:11)
A covenant is a sort of contract between two persons of equal rank, or between a superior and one of lesser rank. This covenant is between God and all people and comes with no strings attached. Just as rain falls "on the just and the unjust" (Matt. 5:45), God's promise that he will never destroy the earth again by flood is to the just and the unjust. This reminds us that God loved all of us so much that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!"

3. The sign of the covenant (Gen. 9:12-16)
The rainbow had doubtless existed from the earliest times God had sent rain upon the earth, but it took on great and new meaning with his designating it as a continuing reminder of his covenant.

Our heavenly Father, an omniscient (all-knowing) spiritual being, does not need the rainbow as a safeguard against forgetting—he never forgets. He allowed himself to be presented here in the image of man to help us with our finite minds to understand better his loving and eternal providence.

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Bible Book

Ezekiel's call

by Carroll Evans, First Church, Hughes

Basic passage: Ezekiel 1:1 to 5:17
Focal passage: Ezekiel 2:2-6; 3:17-19; 4:1-3

Central truth: God's call to Ezekiel emphasizes that God's people are to be faithful in sharing his message, regardless of response.

When King Jehoiachin surrendered Jerusalem to the Babylonian army in 597 B.C., he was taken into exile along with 10,000 leading citizens. Among them was a younger contemporary of Jeremiah, a priest in training named Ezekiel. He had looked forward to serving in the Temple like his father before him. Now he was an exile in the plains of Babylon, his hope of priesthood destroyed.

Five years dragged by. Ezekiel was 30, the age a priest usually began his duties in the Temple. It was a sad day for him. God seemed far away, back in Jerusalem. But in the depths of his loneliness and despair, God came to him and called him to be a prophet. The call was accompanied by a theophany, a vision of God which undergirded his entire ministry. He saw God in all of his awesome majesty, above and beyond the world of men and yet present where they are to meet their deepest needs.

It was a vision of fire and glory that stood in stark contrast to the awful blackness of his people's sin. He also saw the inevitability of judgment. This combination of God's glory, man's sin and the certainty of judgment became his message for the next six years. A great burden of responsibility rested on Ezekiel. He saw himself as a watchman who must give warning of the approach of danger or else be held personally accountable.

Ezekiel accepted this responsibility, even though he knew that he faced a hostile reception. He was responsible to God, not for the reception, but for his faithful witness to the word of God. Whether the people obeyed or rebelled was not his concern, but doing the will of God for his life was. So even though the message was a bitter one, it was sweet in his heart as he obeyed God.

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August CP gifts almost \$11 million

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The worldwide mission and educational programs of the Southern Baptist Convention received \$10,911,903 during the month of August through the national Cooperative Program, the SBC's voluntary, unified budget.

"The record response to the record needs of our world is what Bold Mission Thrust is all about," Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee said, referring to the Southern Baptist effort to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000. "Southern Baptists—individually and as a denomination—are responding to the fact God wants to use us—our time, our talents and our resources—to tell the Good News."

It was the largest single month for the national Cooperative Program since it began in 1925. The previous high (\$10,812,419) was set last January.

The undesignated gifts, which represented an increase of \$2.2 million (25.2 percent) over income during August 1984, pushed the yearly total to \$107,799,155 with one month remaining in the fiscal year.

The 1984-85 basic operating budget from the Cooperative Program for the 19 boards, agencies, commissions and committees which share the money is \$118 million which means September receipts will need to exceed \$10.2 million to meet budget goals.

In the first 11 months of the fiscal year voluntary contributions from the 37 state conventions affiliated with the SBC averaged almost \$9.8 million. Monthly income has exceeded \$10 million four times (January,

March, May and July).

"When you frame the increased contributions with the lingering, low inflation rate the figures are even more encouraging," Tim Hendquist, vice-president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee, said. "The inflation rate through July of 3.6 percent is the lowest since 1967 and national Cooperative Program giving is up 8.52 percent for the year. The increase in real dollars is significant which means the dollars available to our missionaries and our seminaries and our agencies, though still too few to do everything we need to do, are going further than in times of high inflation."

It is also significant that, in addition to the Cooperative Program gifts, national agencies have received more than \$102 million in designated gifts—mostly to the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board and for hunger relief."

Thirty-four of the 37 state conventions affiliated with the SBC have given more to the national Cooperative Program than at the same stage last year.

Wyoming has more than doubled its gifts from \$22,300 to \$46,682 (109.34 percent). Three states have given more than \$1 million over the same time a year ago and another three states are more than \$500,000 ahead.

Georgia is the dollar increase leader (\$1,463,217, up 17.72 percent); followed by Texas, \$1,345,704 (7.66 percent); Florida, \$1,005,355 (12.97 percent); Alabama, \$570,957 (8.57 percent); Tennessee, \$567,691 (9.69 percent) and North Carolina, \$540,588 (7.84 percent).

Church staffers guaranteed life, medical coverage

DALLAS (BP)—From Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, any Southern Baptist church staff member and their dependents who apply for life and medical coverage through the Annuity Board will be guaranteed coverage.

The coverage becomes effective Jan. 1, 1986. Normal underwriting procedures of all applicants will resume Dec. 1, 1985.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the special emphasis is designed to allow all eligible church staff members, especially those persons who have been declined life and medical coverage, the opportunity to obtain this protection.

A highlight of the open enrollment period includes guaranteeing both healthy and unhealthy applicants identical coverage under the current medical and life plans.

Applicants who enter the program with medical problems will not be covered for their pre-existing conditions for 24 months but if they do not receive treatment for these conditions during the first 12 months, coverage will begin at that point. However, all ailments occurring after admission into

the medical plan will be covered.

Persons currently participating in the program who have restricted coverage will have all of these restrictions lifted so as to provide full coverage.

Morgan noted that everyone who participates in the program from Jan. 1, 1986 through Nov. 30, 1986 will receive free coverage for December 1986.

Life rates will be reduced up to 30 percent for some age groups and dependent life coverage will be increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for the spouse and the dependent children's benefit will be \$2,000. The deductible for accident coverage will be eliminated.

Persons employed 20 hours per week by a Southern Baptist church and their dependents are eligible to participate.

Morgan said most church staff members will receive information about the special enrollment period by mail in early October. He said this information can also be obtained by calling the Annuity Board toll free number, 1-800-262-0511, or the state annuity representative.

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