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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

8-20-1981

August 20, 1981

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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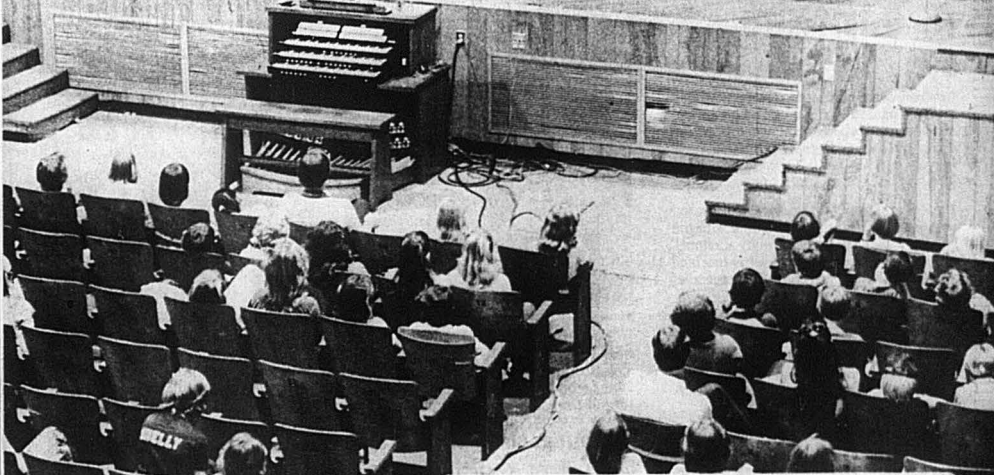


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AUG. 24 1981



REACHING
PRESCHOOLERS AND
CHILDREN—
THROUGH MUSIC
1981-82



August 20, 1981
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

On the cover



Photo by Glenn Ernes

Young Musician's Music Camp provides an ideal way to highlight the choir year for over 600 campers by joining with other young musicians from across Arkansas to perform a new musical for each other, as well as to worship, play and study more about music.

Arkansan brings mission skills home

by Barbara Little

KANSAS CITY, MO. — Little Tommy Tucker may be singing for his supper, but Midwestern Seminary student Geneva Carpenter is talking for hers.

Three times a week, Carpenter, a native of Elkins, Ark., teaches conversational English to four Chinese children in an extra room in the family's Chinese restaurant. In return for her services, they provide her a meal.

Carpenter and Jaxie Short, missionary emeritus to Hong Kong, frequented the restaurant as patrons before Carpenter began taking roll in her class. Miss Short is missionary-in-residence at Midwestern for the 1980-81 academic year.

Miss Short conversed with the owners in their native language and learned of the children's recent arrival in the States from Mainland China. They discovered the children were having difficulty in the public schools due to their inability to speak English.

Carpenter had taught conversational English at the BSU at the University of Arkansas, and volunteered to teach the children, ages, 8, 10, 13 and 15.

"I had just been telling Jaxie that I wished I was doing something besides just going to church. I had always been extremely active at my church, involved in teaching, and found that to be missing since I came to seminary," Geneva ex-

plained.

The lessons began as a weekly event and quickly tripled. And many times the grandmother, uncle and parents will slip into the makeshift classroom.

Recently Carpenter visited with the young person's school teachers. They were unaware of the seriousness of the problem, but after Carpenter's initiative, they began to help.

With the teachers' help, she is narrowing her focus. "I am concentrating on the two older children. They are not getting much individual attention because they are in junior high and high school."

The children's cousin, Roger, 26, is the only member of the family who can speak English.

One day Roger shared with Carpenter his frustrations and feelings of loneliness, "I had the chance to say, 'Sometimes I feel that way, too. But I have a friend named Jesus who helps me. Have you ever heard of him?'"

Roger explained that he had studied all of the great religions; but promised to talk with her further.

Carpenter's teaching complements her overall view of ministry. "I see my call as one of meeting people's needs. I don't see myself as an evangelist, knocking on doors, but as someone behind the scenes, helping people where they hurt."

In this issue

8

Summer means camp time for many Arkansas Baptists, and this year was no exception. A roundup of what went on at camps across the state is featured this week.

11

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled on Southwestern Seminary's battle with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the result could have far-reaching implications for other convention agencies and churches.

12

The dramatic success of President Reagan's tax package in the Congress will have an effect on Southern Baptist churches and individuals.

24

The Southern Baptist Convention has formally entered the satellite communications arena with the signing of a \$2.1 million-per-year lease on Southern Pacific's Spacenet satellite.



Finding room to teach conversational English in a Chinese restaurant could have proved difficult, but Geneva Carpenter (right) converted a storeroom into a classroom for her sessions. Yi and Yung Lee (from right) recently arrived in the States from Mainland China, speaking no English. When the youths are not in school, they assist in the family's restaurant.

Too young, sister works for brother

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP) — Rebecca Adams, too young to be appointed a summer missionary, is working this summer so her older brother can be.

Her brother Dan, a senior at the University of South Carolina, was named summer missionary in Lakeside, Ore. But a car he bought last year required most of the earnings from his part-time job. If he went to

Oregon, he lost the car.

So Rebecca, 15, gets up at 4 a.m. to work in a breakfast biscuit place. She makes the car payments to keep her brother in an Oregon community where the only Protestant pastor is confined to a wheelchair.

"You are truly in this mission project," Dan wrote her recently, "because without you I would not be here."



Recently we had opportunity to visit a Sunday School class in a small church where the teacher did an outstanding job leading his class. He knew his material, he involved the class members, his presentation was interesting and, above all, he spoke to the needs of those who attended.

This, however, is not always the case. Sometimes Bible teaching is done haphazardly. The teacher may be one who doesn't take his task seriously.

The Sunday School teacher should recognize the importance of his task. He holds a place of trust. In an informal situation he may have opportunity that no other person in the church will have. For he has the privilege of imparting the truth of God's Word to those in his class.

In selecting Sunday School teachers the church nominating committee has a great responsibility. A church should never elect people to these important positions just to fill vacancies. It should be remembered that teachers assist greatly in forming Bible beliefs. They also affect greatly the attendance and outreach of a congregation.

It is self-evident that a church-related education differs from all other educational processes in that everyone who attends is a volunteer. Further, its importance is underscored by the fact that the teacher is dealing with eternal matters. The following are some qualifications which should be sought for Sunday School teachers:

- A teacher should be a person who has an experience with Christ. A personal encounter is basic for every teacher. One can not lead others to know or to understand a Master whom he does not know.
- A teacher should be a person who has an alert mind. The very fact that a Sunday School class is small and informal will mean that the teacher must deal with many strategic questions. Often these issues will develop during the course of a class with little time for consideration.
- A teacher should be an individual who knows the Word of God. An individual who has a fragmented or sketchy knowledge of the Bible may be prone to teach error to his class. No individual will ever master the entirety of the truths contained in the Word of God, but a good comprehensive knowledge of the Bible is essential. When one knows and loves the scripture he will have a positive impact on his class.
- A teacher should be a person who lives a clean life. A

teacher may have charisma and rapport with the class, yet conduct himself in such a way that he will cancel all that is said in the classroom.

• A teacher should be a person who has dedicated talents. Dedication means that he will totally commit himself to serve Christ. Sometimes a teacher can injure the life of his church greatly by failing to support his church. The teacher should attend all the regular services of his church and wholeheartedly support the church program with word and action.

• A teacher should be willing to work. He has the responsibility not only for leading his class; but, also, for working to reach the prospects in his class age group. Good Sunday School teachers often have more opportunities to reach people for Christ than any other group in the church.

• A teacher should have native ability. Most people have the innate qualities required for a good Sunday School teacher. This should include an ability to organize and a sense of flow or moving to the conclusion of the lesson.

• A teacher should be trained. Southern Baptists are fortunate to have excellent training materials. Our study course books are designed to provide the basic principles of teaching for the individual who has never taught and to improve the experienced teacher. Our study course books are designed for both group study or individual study.

• A teacher should work with the age group he loves and understands. Properly matching a teacher to an age group is of the greatest importance. Only a very few individuals have the ability to teach every age level. It is of great importance to provide the best teachers possible for the children's classes since they are in their formative years.

• Finally, a teacher must be enthusiastic about his task. Often, attitudes are better caught than taught. When a teacher loves and supports his church, it will provide great dividends for the cause of Christ.

In short, the Sunday School teacher should pattern his work after the Master Teacher, for Christ best demonstrated our objectives. His love, patience, enthusiasm, insight and kindness will never be matched by mortal man. But it will serve as a worthy objective.

If you have been asked to serve in teaching a Sunday School class, you have one of the greatest privileges that ever come to a Christian. It will provide you with great opportunity to serve God.

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 80 NUMBER 32

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

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

Copies by mail 25 cents each.

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

Advertising rates on request.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer.

Member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine (USPS 031-280) is published weekly, except the third week in April, at July 4 and Dec. 25, by the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine Inc., 525 West Capital Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201. Subscription rates are \$4.82 per year (individual), \$3.84 per year (Every Resident Family Plan), \$4.44 per year (Club Plan) and \$12 per year (to foreign address). Second class postage paid at Little Rock, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

Observing the signs of the times

Earlier this summer I had occasion to be driving through Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina on some of our nation's fine interstate highways. I'm not sure whether my idle mind was the devil's workshop but I certainly had a lot of time to observe trivia along the way, and to think trivial thoughts. For example, it occurred to me that it was Grant "rolling" through Georgia, rather than Sherman "marching" through Georgia. I was also reminded that Grant Park in Atlanta was not named for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, nor for me, for that matter. I had a great deal of time to wonder if the kudzu vine will inherit the earth, or at least a considerable part of the earth in Georgia. And the insatiable appetite of the galloping kudzu vines reminded me of the disturbing song about "the eggplant that ate Chicago!"

It was in the exciting context of such

thoughts that I began reading the highway signs, billboards and bumper stickers that all too often are seen but not really read. The first one that awakened me to the tremendous potential of these signs was one just out from Atlanta as we headed toward Augusta. In big bold letters it identified "Snapping Road" and my wife enjoyed pointing out that it was the exit road to the state headquarters of the Georgia Educators Association. On a hot summer afternoon she felt the need to explain it to me. "Teachers and snapping . . . don't you get it?"

More signs of the times followed in quick succession: "Social Circle," that reminded us of Social Hill, Ark.; "Hardlabor Creek State Park"; the ever present "See Rock City"; and that amazing array of bumper stickers: "Have you hugged your children today?"; "God bless America"; "I love my

Bulldogs" (as in Georgia Bulldogs); and "If you drive like hell, you'll get there in a hurry!"

The most impressive of the signs of the times was found in our motel room that night. Neatly printed and posted on the wall of our bathroom was this very personal message of greeting: "Dear Guest: We've made our towels bigger and better . . . just for you. We hope you like them. But please, 'Love 'em and leave 'em.'" We loved 'em and left 'em, but went away depressed by the thought that stealing motel towels has become serious enough in "Christian America" to require such a sign. I felt a little like the distressed parent looking at the delinquent child and saying, "Where have I gone wrong?"

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



Woman's viewpoint

Miss Glenn Kirkland

Sins of omission

Often, when we ask the Lord to forgive us our sins, we mean to forgive us in a lump sum. However, I think we should recognize so-called little sins and ask forgiveness for them individually. One of those is the sin of omission. The Bible tells us, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not to him it is sin" (James 4:11). We are inclined to pass off lightly sins of omission and think them insignificant. But what could be more significant than using every opportunity to find out if a person is a Christian, and then witnessing to him?

Other deeds we too often neglect are lending a helping hand to one in need, telling someone you love them and appreciate them, supporting church roles in the community which better the welfare of people, loving children and letting them know it, doing kindnesses and not expecting something in return, reading the Bible and studying it, praying more often. These are only a few deeds that could become sins of omission sooner than we realize.

A few months ago, a middle-aged lady from another state visited me. In the course of our conversation, she thanked me for

something my mother had done for her many years ago. "When I was graduated from high school, I was an orphan with little money and a lot of discouragement." She said that my mother gave her a graduation gift with a note of appreciation and encouragement. She continued, "Because your mother thought of me when I needed a mother, I was able to cope with life. This was the best and only present I received."

Try repeating often the verse, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, etc." maybe those seemingly insignificant things will grow larger, our consciences will be pricked, and we will respond to the opportunities.

Miss Glenn Kirkland, 86, has been teaching an adult Sunday school class at Plumerville First Church for nearly 55 years. Before she interrupted her teaching career in 1943 to care for her mother, Miss Kirkland had taught speech, drama and music at Fulton High School and Arkansas State Teacher's College (now University of Central Arkansas). She holds degrees from Ouachita Baptist University, ASTC, and Columbia University.

Local ministries director named

H. Dean Preuett has been named director of the Central Arkansas Special Missions Ministries, a project sponsored jointly by the missions department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

He will assume his duties Aug. 15.

Preuett will be a resource and liaison person in Christian social ministries for central Arkansas and will assist local churches and associations in developing community ministries designed both to meet human needs and as outreach.

Preuett has been Director of Christian Social Ministries for the Illinois Baptist State Association, serving in Chicago since January, and in Quad City area before then.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Texas, and the master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.



Preuett



The Southern accent

This I believe: about saving faith

by Earl R. Humble

What is saving faith? There is a true faith and a false faith. The false faith describes the people to whom Jesus spoke in John 2:23-25. These people believed on him, but he did not commit himself to them. This was obviously because these people did not have a genuine saving faith. Simon Magus exercised a spurious faith when he believed the things Philip preached and was baptized. Obviously, he was not saved (Acts 8:20-23). Even devils believe and tremble, but of course they are not saved (James 2:19).



Humble

Saving faith is a matter of the heart and not just the head. It includes commitment and trust, not just mental acknowledgment. John 1:12-13 says that the faith that makes us sons of God is the faith that receives Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says saving faith is

heart faith. "If thou shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness."

Faith is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8). Faith is normal companion is works. Believers are saved to serve (Eph. 2:10). There is a vast difference between working to be saved and working because we are saved. Faith is the key to the victorious life. We can have a little faith of the right kind and be saved, but the more faith we have the greater victory we will have. 1 John 5:4 says, "This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith." Spurgeon said, "Brethren, little faith will bring our souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to our souls." Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

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

Informed Baptists ...

I have had the Newsmagazine in my home since it was the *Baptist Advance* and J. I. Cossey was the editor. I urged all of my pastorates to put it in their budgets and send it to each family. When a church could afford it I used the cover page as our weekly mail-out bulletin. It has been a public relations instrument and an assistant pastor and teacher for me.

The *Newsmagazine* keeps me up-to-date on my denomination's affairs and calendar. It brings me a wealth of expertise in every area of denominational life and growth. It keeps me informed as to what other churches and pastors are doing. Its Sunday School lesson comments inspire me.

Do without it? Not on your life! To me it is worth every dime of increased publication and mailing costs.

Don Hoek,
retired pastor
and former state convention president

... are concerned Baptists

Channel 4 leads lifesaving project

In a major effort to make lifesaving training more accessible to the public, KARK-TV has joined with the Pulaski County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Barton Coliseum and area church groups to present both televised and hands-on training in CPR — Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation — during August, September and October.

The three-phase attack on death due to cardiac arrest includes a series of five half-hour prime-time telecasts, a CPR Day at the Coliseum's Hall of Industry, and a CPR Day at participating churches.

Jones announced that Phase One of the lifesaving project is the telecast of five half-hour programs produced by the Owned Stations Division of NBC-TV. Channel 4 showed three of these on Aug. 1, 8 and 15, and will show the other two at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 22 and 29.

Jones added that although watching these programs will provide the viewer with a basic understanding of CPR, hands-on training with specially-designed mannikins is important.

For that reason, Barton Coliseum has donated the facilities of its Hall of Industry for Phase Two, CPR Day on Saturday, Sept. 26. The training sessions will last about three hours, and will be done in rotating groups. Persons statewide wanting to participate in these sessions should call the Red Cross at 666-0351 to arrange a starting time.

Phase Three is a county-wide CPR Day on Saturday, Oct. 10 at participating Pulaski County churches. Reservations for these sessions may also be made by calling the Red Cross at 666-0351.

HMB develops hunger survey to help churches find needy

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — There are poor and hungry people in almost every community in America, but most Southern Baptists seem unaware of how to find them or how to minister when they do, Nathan Porter says.

Porter, domestic hunger consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has developed a Local Hunger Survey Guide to help churches discover the need and to devise ministries to prevent hunger and malnutrition.

The guide was tested in Arkadelphia, Ark., where Porter lives and works. The test showed, Porter said, at least 30 percent of the people in Arkadelphia and Clark County need assistance in nutrition.

The survey process depends primarily on interviews with officials of already existing community and government programs to determine what currently is being done to meet the needs of hungry people, and to analyze where the voids are and what else needs to be done, Porter said.

The guide suggests interviews with officials involved in the Food Stamp program, elderly nutrition programs, school

lunch and breakfast programs, child care food programs, employment security, and the Special Supplemental Food program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Specific questions to ask these officials are listed in the survey guide, along with tips on conducting the interviews.

The Hunger Survey Guide also offers a plan for action after the data has been compiled. The plan for action calls for getting information to those who qualify for existing food programs, delivery and preparation of meals for the elderly, providing transportation, giving emergency food relief, helping existing programs with volunteers, developing projects a church or mission group needs to start to meet unmet needs, and determining areas where financial assistance is needed and security funds to meet those needs.

Porter said copies of the Local Hunger Survey Guide are available free to those interested in conducting the survey by writing the Christian Social Ministries Department, SBC Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30367.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

David Wesley Brown

was licensed to preach July 26 by the Jacksonville Bayou Meto Church. He is a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the son of Bill Brown, pastor of the Bayou Meto Church.

Bill Poe

has resigned, effective Aug. 24, as minister of music/youth at Arkadelphia First Church to attend North Texas State University in Denton, Texas.

Chris Emert

has joined the staff of West Fork Church, serving as music director.

Archie McMillan

has joined the staff of Sherwood First Church, serving as music director.

Ron Bramos

has joined the staff of Sherwood First Church, serving as youth director.

Greg Jackson

is serving North Little Rock Central Church as associate pastor in education and outreach. He is a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jackson and his wife, Paula, have a daughter, Lindsey.

Robert Rainwater

is serving as pastor of the North Little Rock Sixteenth Street Church. A graduate of Boyce Bible School, he is a bi-vocational pastor and is employed by Little Rock Bale Chevrolet Company. He and his wife, Cassandra, have two children, Kimberly, and Joey.

James Syd French

is serving the North Little Rock Gethsemane Church as youth/music director.

Ron Selby

has resigned as youth director at North Little Rock Pike Avenue Church to accept a similar position at the Sheridan Road Church in Tulsa, Okla.

Bob Brandon

is serving the Walnut Ridge Calvary Church

as pastor, going there from the Ash Flat Mount Lebanon Church.

Terry Walters

has joined the staff of the Melbourne Church, serving as minister of music/youth. He and his wife, Sheryl, and their son, Joshua, moved there from Illinois.

Jim Tiry

has resigned as pastor of the White River Church.



WMU photo by Beth Wicks

El Dorado pastor in Birmingham for consultation

Don Harbuck, pastor of El Dorado First Church, was in Birmingham at the invitation of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, to meet in a consultation with 25 other pastors and 17 pastors' wives. They met in an intensive two-day meeting to discuss the role of WMU as a missions education organization of the church and WMU's relationship to the pastor. Pictured with Harbuck is Dorothy Sample, president of WMU, SBC.



ABN photo by Millie Gill

Ervin Hastey, evangelism and church growth consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, led an orientation session July 30 for the ten Arkansas Baptist pastors who have been invited by the Board to visit Zambia Aug. 31-Sept. 21. The pastors, who were enlisted by the Stewardship/Cooperative Program Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will help Zambian Christians develop an understanding of stewardship in their churches. More than 150 Arkansas churches are involved in the project.

focus on youth

Mississippi County Association

youth camp was July 6-10 with Ty Berry, pastor of Wilson First Church, serving as director. Reggie Lafaye of Jackson, Mo., was camp pastor to the 64 in attendance. Berry reported 10 professions of faith, 39 rededications and two commitments to foreign mission service. Henry West is director of missions.

Crossett First Church

youth choir presented "The New Covenant" in their church Aug. 2. The 41-member group, directed by Gary McKean, then left on a tour to churches in Mississippi and Florida.

Berryville Freeman Heights Church

youth returned Aug. 15 from a choir tour to churches in Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. Mike Denbow is minister of music/youth. Leslie Elam is pastor.

Austin Station Church

licensed Mike Rogers Aug. 9 to the gospel ministry. The church also presented him with a scholarship to be used in his studies as a freshman at Southern Baptist College.

Lonoke Church

will begin construction this month on a new education and administration building according to Pastor Eddie Simpson.

Fouke First Church

softball team captured the district church league tournament played July 24-25 at Hope. J. D. Larey was team coach. Dale A. Wooten is pastor.

Alexander Vimy Ridge Immanuel Church

will observe homecoming Aug. 30. Activities will begin at 9:45 a.m. with a noon meal to be served. There will also be an afternoon program.

Dardanelle-Russellville Association

held its annual summer camp June 22-26 at Baptist Vista. Director of Missions Thomas E. Lindley reported a record enrollment of 321 persons, 50 professions of faith, 10 rededications and one commitment for special service. Anton Uth, pastor of Danville Immanuel Church, served as camp pastor. Robert Parker, director of the Christian Life Council of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was also a featured speaker.

Conway-Perry Association

recently sponsored its third annual Girls in Action Day Camp. The event was held at the Perryville farm of Stanley and Virginia Wallace with 50 GA's, leaders and visitors in attendance. Mrs. Wallace, associational GA director, was assisted by Jamie Myers. Speaker was Mary Bennett. Debbie Moore,

director of GA's for Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, led special activities. She was assisted by her nephew, Jeff Whitlow. Erin Strawn and Beth Branscum entertained with gymnastic stunts. Mrs. Bernice Lindley, associational WMU director, led in prayer. Others assisting throughout the day were Billie Jo Branscum, Barbara Stone, Jan Jordan and Elizabeth Johnson.

Little Rock Geyer Springs First Church gave special recognition Aug. 2 to Jim Williams, minister of education, and Linda Halbrook, Kindergarten-Day Care director, for their four years of service to the church.

Hardy Church

ordained Jeff Bradley Aug. 16 to the gospel ministry with Pastor Bernard Beasley in charge. Ordained men of Rocky Bayou Association participated.

Gentry First Church

observed homecoming Aug. 16 with Sunday School High Attendance Day, followed by the morning worship service and a noon meal. The Layman Singers, directed by Anna Mary Layman, presented afternoon music. Jack Jones was speaker and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Layman directed the music program.

Clarendon First Church

will Aug. 23 hold a "Salute to the Schools Service." School district personnel will be guests according to Pastor Michael Anders.

North Little Rock Crystal Valley Church

celebrated Aug. 9 its 36th homecoming. The church, organized Aug. 10, 1945, as a mission with 26 charter members, has a membership of 1,014. Lex Eaker, pastor of North Little Rock Pike Avenue Church, was

homecoming speaker.

Little Rock Pulaski Heights Church

will recognize single adults of the church Sept. 13. This will be a special emphasis day to show appreciation for the contributions made to the life of the church by single adult members.



photo by Conway Sawyers

Five churches in the Harrison area held a joint tent revival Aug. 1-9 in the Ridgeway community. The revival, which included Burlington, Harrison Trinity, Harrison Northvale, Bear Creek Springs and Omaha First Churches, was led by J. A. Hogan (left), pastor of Harrison Woodland Heights Church, and John Finn, director of missions for North Arkansas Association. There were four professions of faith, one addition by letter, one commitment to the gospel ministry and several rededications.

Education workshop meets at Geyer Springs

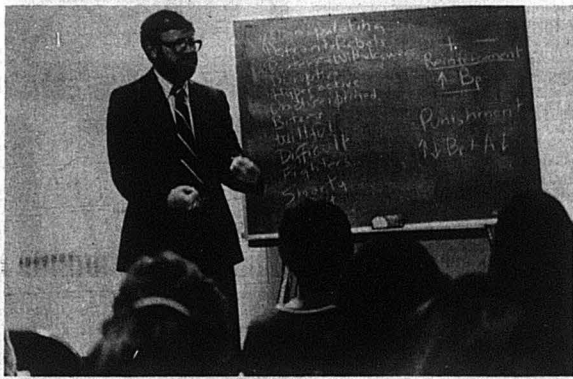


photo by Pete Petty

Geyer Springs First Church in Little Rock hosted the annual Weekday Early Education Workshop July 30-31. There were 135 people from 38 churches registered for the event which is sponsored by the Sunday School and Missions Departments of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Conference leaders included Mrs. Jerri Carey, instructor in child development at McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas; Dr. Otho Hesterly (pictured, standing), associate professor of psychiatry, University of Arkansas College of Medicine; and Shirley Freeman, Donna Richardson and Carol Snelson from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Pat Ratton, Sunday School Department, and Pete Petty, Missions Department, were responsible for the Workshop.

Nature study, with the help of a Forest Service ranger, was part of the week's activities for Royal Ambassadors at Camp Paron.



Photo by Neal Guthrie



Arkansas camps: more than 'a good time'

When Arkansas Baptist youth and adults go camp they do it on a grand scale. This summer 7,798 of them attended encampments sponsored by Baptists at Siloam Springs Baptist Assembly, Camp Paron and Ouachita Baptist University.

Although they hiked, played softball, downed soft drinks and snack food, practiced campcraft and nature study, and made new friends, camp offered more than "a good time."

The weeks (or weekends) at camps were structured for spiritual growth as well. They offered Bible study and worship, with specialized study for special interest camps.

While music campers studied theory and hymnology and practiced instrumental and choral music on the Ouachita campus, Royal Ambassador campers immersed themselves in the study of a foreign mission country, right down to playing native games at recreation time.

Girls in Action got first-hand knowledge from missionaries and a new media missions center, while National Baptist youth heard from successful black professionals as role models.

Royal Ambassadors also held two "week-end" camps at Paron for younger boys and their dads, and Girls in Action offered simi-

lar overnight programs for mothers and daughters.

The state assembly at Siloam Springs had more families with small children attending than before and had cooler dormitories and worship area than before, thanks to new equipment and insulating material.

Camping's attraction for Baptist people sometimes drives them to unusual lengths to enjoy the retreat. One camper at Siloam Springs was honored at week's end and awarded a free session at the assembly after it was learned he traveled nearly 24 hours on a commercial bus to get there from Jonesboro. Assembly Director Lawson Hatfield called the trip an unusual feat, considering that Elmer Gordon, a member of Nettleton Church, is in his seventies. Gordon got a faster trip home with another Jonesboro Church group.

Camp staffers plan the experiences as recreation and learning, but also are committed to promoting personal growth in the campers. Quiet times in a pastoral setting often are teamed with conferences on personal spiritual life, offering growth opportunity. Some growth does not show up in decision statistics, but some does. This year the record does affirm growth from camping: 325 professions of faith and 66 commitments to church-related vocations. — Betty J. Kennedy



ABN (circled) Betty J. Kennedy

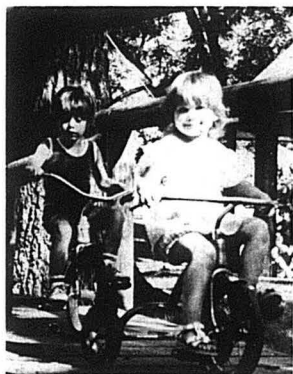
A special interest camp attracting more and more participants is GA camp for mothers and daughters, held one day and one night at Paron. GAs and moms (right column from top to bottom) had time for snacks, sharing learning time and worship, collecting autographs from missionary speakers, and buying t-shirts to show their GA colors.

Camping almost always includes softball (below) and it's a major attraction at Siloam Springs. Worship at Siloam (top right) includes a choir to provide music. Other Siloam enjoyment: (left, middle

and bottom): younger campers play as usual and older campers form special friendships.



Photos by Freddie Pike



Music campers, using the facilities at Ouachita, practice, practice, practice, and then perform for other campers (below). The string ensemble was a new activity this year.



Music photos by Glenn Ernes

Church at Rison discovers "Renewal-Reachout" brings growth

For the members of the Rison Church, south of Pine Bluff, "Renewal-Reachout" is a significant term.

Since the beginning of this lay-led revival campaign, the church has experienced an increase in Sunday School and Church Training enrollment and attendance, in baptisms and in the amount of weekly giving.

J. T. Harvill, pastor at Rison, claims the program is the most effective tool he has seen for growth.

For many church members, it was the beginning of an exciting period of personal recommitment.

Peggy Winston, a member at Rison, describes "Renewal-Reachout" as first a journey inward, where participants discover the gifts God gave them for ministry, followed by a journey outward, when these gifts are used in ministry for others.

The first phase of this project at Rison began the weekend of Feb. 20-22. On Friday evening, 11 revival leaders from Louisiana, led by Warren Meredith, arrived for the weekend, staying with church members.

Through a series of services and small group sessions, the team led the church to a recommitment to Christ that prepared them for the week of outreach to come.

When the Louisianians returned home Sunday night, they left behind a group of very impressed church members.

"None would accept a love gift or offering to pay their expenses," said Mrs. Wilson.

The following Monday, the church worked for three days with Roy Chatham, minister of education at Conway Church, to

establish a reachout program. After developing a master list of prospects, drawn from Sunday School rolls and suggestions from members, a growth spiral was made to show statistics from Sunday School, Church Training and the worship service. The figures will be used to project growth quarterly through the year.

The results of the continuing reachout program have been noteworthy. Sunday School enrollment jumped from 142 in October 1980 to 222 this summer; average attendance has been 143 the last four months, up from 84 last fall. In addition, Church Training attendance is averaging 74 this summer, compared to 38 in October, and every week members give an average of \$1,347, compared to \$896 last fall.

As a means of continuing the spirit of growth, the church has established several small share groups that welcome anyone in the community who might want to participate. The seven groups include a women's Bible study, two businessmen's prayer groups and a youth group.

Mrs. Wilson pointed out the effectiveness of one of the groups.

"A state trooper and a deputy sheriff, both members of other churches, but also members of one of the businessmen's prayer groups, accompanied by our pastor, recently visited the county jail and witnessed to a young man imprisoned there," she said. "As a result of their witnessing and prayer, the young man accepted Jesus as his Savior."

"The effectiveness of this idea can't be beat," said Harvill. "I hope that other churches will recognize what can be done."

News about missionaries

Rhonda Austin, missionary journeyman to Guatemala, has completed her term of service and returned to the States (address: Rt. 2, Box 111, Gravette, Ark. 72736). She was born in Siloam Springs, Ark. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1979, she was graduated from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Dr. and Mrs. Jack E. Tolar Jr., missionaries to Nigeria, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Baptist Hospital, Box 15, Ogbomoso, Nigeria). He is a native of San Antonio, Texas. She is the former Barbara Corrington of Hot Springs, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1962.

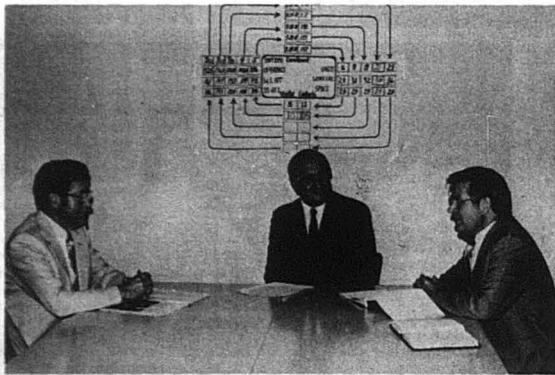
Mr. and Mrs. J. Mark Terry, missionaries to the Philippines, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 99, Davao City, Philippines 9501). Born in Siloam Springs, Ark., he also lived in Decatur, Ark., and Fairfield and Lockhart, Texas, while growing up. She is the former Barbara Whittle of Dallas, Texas. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1975.

Deborah Atchison, missionary journeyman to Brazil, has completed her two-year term of service in Recife, Brazil, and returned to the States (address: 1548 El Campo, Dallas, Texas 75218). She was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and also lived in Sweetwater, McAllen, Waco, and Dallas, Texas; Glendale, Ariz.; and Pine Bluff, Ark., while growing up. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1979, she was a teacher in Dallas.

Martha Hairston, missionary, was awarded a service pin for 30 years of missionary service in Brazil at a recent meeting celebrating the centennial of Southern Baptist mission work in Brazil. She is a native of Warren, Ark. Her address is: Caixa Postal 1940, 50000 Recife, PE, Brazil.

Shirley Jackson, missionary, was awarded a service pin for 25 years of missionary service in Brazil at a recent meeting celebrating the centennial of Southern Baptist mission work in Brazil. Born in Bentonville, Ark., she grew up near Natchez, Miss. She may be addressed at Caixa 950, 20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Stewart Pickle, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o University Baptist Church, 315 West Maple, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701). Born in Memphis, Tenn., he grew up in Siloam Springs, Ark. The former "C. L." Smith, she was born in Coxsackie, N.Y., and also lived in Bentonville, Ark., and Union Springs and Camillus, N.Y. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1974.



Discussing outreach plans for Rison Church are (left to right) church members Ray Martin and Edwin McKinney and pastor J. T. Harvill. A growth spiral chart is on the wall behind the men.

Seminary asks rehearing

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary will appeal a federal appeals court ruling which orders it to comply with requests from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans last week overturned portions of a decision favorable to the seminary in its continuing legal battle with the EEOC over whether the federal agency has jurisdiction over the employment practices of the seminary.

In January of 1980, U.S. District Judge Eldon Mahon in Fort Worth ruled in favor of the seminary, saying EEOC does not have jurisdiction over the school and may not seek employment records or enforce federal laws on discrimination.

EEOC filed an appeal to the decision, and last week the federal appeals court ruled, at least partially, in their favor, saying the seminary must comply with the request, in regard to non-faculty and non-academic employees.

"The decision was kind of down the middle," said seminary attorney Jenkins Garrett of Fort Worth. "They held that the seminary is a wholly religious institution and thereby is entitled to the status of a church."

"Then, they held that those who are connected with teaching within the seminary, or who had supervision of teaching, are considered ministers and accordingly are beyond the jurisdiction of the EEOC."

"Then they went on to hold that those administrators and support people who are not quote ministers unquote, are subject to EEOC jurisdiction."

Garrett told Baptist Press: "I have been instructed to file a motion for a rehearing before the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court. Because of what we consider the importance of the question, our motion is that the rehearing

be held 'en banc' or before the entire court (12 justices)."

Garrett will file the motion for rehearing Aug. 14.

He said the seminary has "two procedures open to us. We can ask for a rehearing or we can appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. If we are turned down on our request for a rehearing, we can still ask the Supreme Court to review the case."

The case has been underway since May 1977, when the EEOC attorneys filed suit against the seminary, which had refused to divulge records on the grounds it would violate First Amendment rights for separation of church and state.

Garrett said the seminary is acting on behalf of all six seminaries affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. "EEOC sent a demand for questionnaires (EEOC-6 forms) to all six seminaries and was going to bring suit in all six jurisdictions. We worked out an agreement with EEOC that five of them would file the forms under protest and that Southwestern would not file. The matter would be resolved on both sides on the outcome of the Southwestern case," he said.

The attorney said the implications of the appeals court decision are enormous. "This is the first decision, to my knowledge, that any court has made sanctioning a federal agency invading the operation and administration of a church."

"The implications are that whether it be Catholic, Methodist or Baptist, that EEOC can come in and second guess a pastor as to who he has as his secretary, finance officer, or janitor. It says in effect that a church cannot use commitment of support people as a prime standard of employment."

Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. said the impact extends beyond the seminary. "Up to this point, the implications

have been pretty well limited to the seminaries, but the current decision has implications for the entire convention. Other agencies, boards, as well as local congregations might be invaded by federal agencies."

Dilday said he was "surprised at the inconsistency of the decision," adding that he was "very pleased the court decided in our favor that we are a wholly religious institution ... but disappointed the court would decide that the federal government has the right to intervene in the employment of people who serve in this function of training ministers."

"Our people, all our people, no matter what their job, are participating in the function of equipping those whom God has called into the ministry," he added.

In a recent Supreme Court action, a Baptist-owned and operated college, Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., was ordered to turn over employment records to the EEOC.

Garrett said the action was not a "decision, but a denial of a writ. They (the Supreme Court justices) did not pass on the merits, but sent it back to the Fifth Circuit, which had ruled the college must comply with EEOC requests."

The seminary, he said, is "distinguished from colleges like Mississippi College or Baylor University because the sole purpose of the seminary is the training of God-called people to go into service in the churches or the mission fields. It does not serve the public; it serves only the church."

"The case," Garrett said, "has enormous ramifications in the church-state field. I do not think it relates to religious education in general, but this is the first case which has given a federal government agency the right to come into a church and dictate what its hiring policies will be. It is disturbing."

Rebuke of critics hailed by Baptists

WASHINGTON (BP) — Chief Justice Warren E. Burger's rebuke from the bench of those who accuse the U.S. Supreme Court of making, rather than interpreting, the law drew praise from a pair of Baptist leaders.

The chief justice's comments, made July 2 as the high court sat for the final time in its just-concluded term, appeared to be a thinly veiled reprimand of President Reagan; some of his top advisers and certain media commentators who have said that too often the court has seen itself as a legislature.

While paying tribute to retiring Associate Justice Potter Stewart on his last day on the high court bench, Burger declared: "Justice Stewart's 23 years on this court embrace a

stirring period of major political, economic and social changes in our country ... most of the problems of the changes in our society have a way of finding their way into this court. This is not — as some observers erroneously suggest — that the courts reach out for these problems. On the contrary, the problems are thrust upon the courts."

Two executives of the Washington, D.C., based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs praised Burger's comments as timely and needed.

John W. Baker, the Baptist agency's legal counsel, said that while individuals may agree or disagree with the high court's decisions, "Simple fairness requires us to accept the chief justice's declaration that the court does not seek out controversies."

"The court does not answer unasked

questions," Baker said. "Neither does it go seeking questions to answer."

Baker, who has written several legal briefs submitted to the high court, went on to say that under the nation's system of checks and balances, the Supreme Court "must play the role of final interpreter of the laws and Constitution whether it wants to or not." He noted that because every legal dispute before the court has a winner and loser, the latter labels the court "activistic" while a winner sees the court as "interpreters."

Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn also hailed Burger's comments: "I applaud his strong attack on the muddle-headed thinking that continues to insist that the high court legislates."

Tax changes affect churches, religious group

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Three sections of the large tax cut package Congress recently sent to President Reagan for his signature contain tax changes of special interest to U.S. religious groups.

The comprehensive tax measure, which will reduce individual and business taxes approximately \$750 billion over the next five years, cleared the Senate on a 67-8 vote and passed the House, 282-95.

The final version of the tax cut liberalizes both the amount and scope of the Foreign Earned Income Tax Exclusion — a move urged during Senate hearings earlier this year by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. It also reduces the so-called "marriage penalty tax" and allows a tax deduction for charitable contributions made by persons who elect not to itemize deductions when filing federal income tax forms.

For Americans who are "bona fide" residents of foreign countries, Congress agreed to exclude the first \$75,000 income in 1982 and to boost that to \$5,000 annually over the next four years to \$95,000. It

also provides for the exclusion of excess housing costs.

The new law will replace a variety of deductions and exclusions for Americans working abroad. In the case of the Foreign Mission Board, some overseas personnel are currently covered by a \$20,000 tax exclusion for charitable workers in certain developing nations which was reinstated in the closing days of the 96th Congress.

The liberalized tax policy which takes effect Jan. 1, 1982, applies to all Americans who meet residency requirements in any foreign country.

Congress also changed the current law under which a married couple with two incomes is taxed at a higher rate than two single persons with identical incomes. To correct this "marriage penalty," the new law allows a couple filing a joint return to deduct five percent of the first \$30,000 in earnings of the spouse with the lower income in 1982. The deduction increases to 10 percent of the first \$30,000 in 1983 and the following years, meaning a maximum deduction of \$3,000.

A 1980 Southern Baptist Convention resolution called on the president and Congress to correct the "inequity" of the marriage penalty tax.

In another section, Congress agreed to allow taxpayers who use the "short form" standard deduction in filing federal tax returns to deduct charitable contributions. The change will have limited impact in 1982 and 1983, permitting a 25 percent deduction on the first \$100 in allowable charitable contributions. The allowable deduction climbs to 25 percent of the first \$300 in 1984; 50 percent with no limit on contributions in 1985; and 100 percent with no limit in 1986.

The provision expires in 1987 unless extended by Congress.

Noticeably absent from the tax cut package was any provision for tuition tax credits. President Reagan, who expressed support for the controversial proposal during the 1980 campaign, opted not to include tuition tax credits in his first tax cut proposal to Congress.

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assistants
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WMU directors/BW presidents
WMU enlistment/enlargement
directors
WMU mission action directors
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Inexperienced BW/BYW presidents
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BW/BYW mission action chairmen
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Petit Jean State Park
South of Morrilton
Program Feature — Neal Guthrie
Disaster Relief

For additional information contact:
Pete Patty
Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 376-4791
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

Foreign Mission Board enters 95th country

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted in July to transfer missionaries to Brunei and approved a record 84 new missionaries and four special project medical workers to boost its missionary force to 3,093.

It also elected Isam E. Ballenger to succeed J. D. Hughey, who retires Dec. 31 as director of work in Europe and the Middle East. Missionary Jerry Rankin of Indonesia was announced as associate to the director for South and Southeast Asia.

Southern Baptist work in Brunei, the 95th country or territory where missionaries are assigned, will begin officially Aug. 15 as missionaries Bob and Dorothy Evans transfer to that country from Singapore. Located on the northern part of the island of Borneo, Brunei is surrounded on three sides by East Malaysia.

Christian work began in the country in the 1950s, and in May 1977 Evans began spending 10 days a month there, assisting two established churches. The Georgia missionary couple will be devoting full time to church and Theological Education by Extension (TEE) on Brunei.

Appointment of the record group of missionaries in July brought the month's total to 170, also a new high for one month, and the year's total to date to 229. Eighty-two missionary journeymen, commissioned earlier in July at Ridgecrest, N.C., for two years' service overseas, are included.

In other action, Billy Peacock, missionary director of the major cities evangelism program in Korea, will join the Richmond staff to head up Southern Baptist partnership evangelism efforts worldwide.

W. H. (Dub) Jackson Jr., president of World Evangelism Foundation, and his wife, Doris, were reappointed missionaries. Jackson will be field coordinator for partnership evangelism, which links Southern Baptist churches to churches overseas through an exchange of pastor-led teams of laypersons for evangelistic campaigns. Jackson will assist the regional consultant for evangelism and church growth on partnership evangelism projects next year in Europe, then will work in following years with regional consultants in other parts of the world.

The board also approved new guidelines to better define the missionary associate role and allow them to become career missionaries after they complete 10 years' service if they meet certain requirements. Associates are employed for four-year terms, but a number have served until retirement.

The changes also added one year to the age range of persons eligible for the associ-

ate program, now open to those 35 to 60. Formerly, 59 was the maximum age at which a person could enter the program.

Parks presented a plaque of appreciation to Phil Strickland, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, for his work last year in helping to obtain passage of legislation restoring the \$20,000 federal income tax exclusion for missionaries and other charitable workers in less developed countries.

He noted that until passage of the measure, the board had been forced to earmark \$1 million a year for 1979, 1980 and 1981 to help missionaries pay this tax. Now, a majority of the money has been made available for work overseas except for that portion still required for missionaries serving in developed nations.

At a concluding luncheon the new national president of Woman's Missionary Union, Dorothy Sample of Michigan, pledged her efforts to continue giving Baptist women and others in the churches the "bold vision" of missions involvement. She stressed plans to help start local women's organizations in the one-third of Southern Baptist churches that do not yet have them.

Former Arkansas pastor now in evangelism

Retired Pastor W. G. Dove continues to serve in the field of evangelism. He may be contacted by writing Route 11, Box 97, Texarkana, Tex. 75501, or phone (214) 838-4858.



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Arkansas Baptist Youth Day Saturday, Sept. 12, 1981

For information contact:
Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, phone 376-4791

SBC datelines

Ridgecrest medical emergency cited

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A medical emergency at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center — which resulted in 310 persons being treated for vomiting and diarrhea — has been traced to contaminated ham.

According to Ken McAnear, conference center manager, the source of the contamination is believed to be a food services contractor's employee who had suffered a burn on his arm, who reportedly transmitted germs from the wound to the hams.

A countywide disaster was declared July 25, several hours after the opening meal of Sunday School Leadership Conference. Varying degrees of illness were reported among conference participants beginning about 8:30 p.m., and every available Buncombe County ambulance and emergency medical technician was called in.

The N.C. Highway Patrol blocked off portions of Interstate 40 between Ridgecrest and Asheville at times to enable convoys of ambulances, vans, buses and hearses to transport patients.

In all, 25 area emergency services, including law enforcement agencies, fire departments, funeral homes and rescue squads aided in transporting the ill to five area health care facilities.

Of the 310 stricken, 64 required hospitalization, and all have since been released.

According to McAnear, the Buncombe County Emergency Medical Service, the McDowell County Emergency Medical Service, American Enka Co. Infirmary, and a number of emergency rescue squads and funeral homes donated their services.

All costs were covered, and no expenses were incurred by those who became ill.

In the aftermath of the emergency, many of those stricken praised the Ridgecrest staff for its work.

One, Inez Norris of First Church of Center Point in Birmingham, Ala., said: "I was impressed by so many who care. I was so sick, I couldn't have cared less what happened to me, but others cared for me."

William C. Larmore of Piedmont Church of Marietta, Ga., said: "Frankly, I must thank the Lord for the opportunity. There were four men in the hospital room to which I was assigned, and I had a chance to witness to them."

He later sent a Bible and a Sunday School quarterly to one of the men who did not own a Bible.

Three of the 22 persons Lamar Moore brought from Olive Church in Pensacola, Fla., were hospitalized. "Those three were able to witness and have a positive influ-

ence on the ones ministering to them at the hospital," he said.

Betty Robinson of West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo, Miss., praised the Ridgecrest staff, the hospitals and the police. Calling Ridgecrest "about as close to heaven as you can get," she added that the experience "won't stop me from coming back."

1982 SBC block room assignments are made

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Block room reservations priorities for the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans have been assigned by random drawing.

Tim A. Hedquist, convention manager for the SBC Executive Committee, said the system of drawing to establish priorities for assigning blocks of rooms was established

The 1981 Annual Paul Jackson BIBLE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 10-12



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- Rick Stanley
- Paul Jackson
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- Ken Medema
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- Choir, Ringgold, Georgia

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Invitation to Arkansas Tech University Students to consider First Baptist Church Second and Denver, Russellville at your university church home "A Southern Baptist church in the heart of Russellville with Russellville and ATU at heart"

9:30 a.m. University Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Christian Training
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship

7:45 p.m. A Happening for University Students

Jack T. Riley, pastor
David Miller, minister of education-administration
David Branton, minister of youth and music

last year.

"Under the policies, people may request blocks of rooms in writing before July 15, and a drawing will be held immediately to determine the priority of assigning the rooms," he said.

Hedquist explained the policy was necessary because there are more requests for blocks of rooms than there are rooms available.

The system was started because the previous system favored established groups

such as travel agents and discriminated against individuals or associations, he said.

"For instance, we worked on a first-come, first-served basis, and some groups were making requests four and five years in advance. This eliminated a pastor or association who decided nearer to the convention to seek a block of rooms for a group," he said.

The convention arrangements procedures, Hedquist said, allow 40 percent of the rooms to be reserved in blocks, and 60

percent to be reserved on an individual basis.

The block room arrangements allow such groups as state conventions, travel agencies, associations and others to request a group of rooms even if they do not know specifically who will occupy them.

When individual room requests begin Oct. 1, they must be assigned for specific individuals and cannot be transferred, Hedquist added.

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Arkansas Baptist
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Simpson new editor for Indiana Baptist

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP) — David Simpson, pastor of First Southern Church in New Whiteland, Ind., will become the new editor of the *Indiana Baptist* newspaper Sept. 1.

Simpson, 31, is chairman of the state convention executive board, was chairman of the editor search committee and was twice vice president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

He is a second generation Indiana Baptist. His father, Walker, was a pastor in the state and Simpson has been preaching since high school.

He graduated from Oakland City College, near Evansville, and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary and received the doctor of ministries from Luther Rice Seminary in May. He plans to enroll in journalism courses this fall at the Indianapolis branch of Indiana University.

The *Indiana Baptist*, a 9,600 circulation weekly, has been without an editor since Feb. 2 with Gene Medaris resigned suddenly following censure by the state convention executive committee.

Simpson has been pastor of churches in Princeton, New Harmony and Palestine, Ind., and Fairview, Texas.



Simpson

Kerr receives honor for book

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — A Southern Baptist expert on aging recently was honored by the National Association of Mature People for his contributions to senior adults.

Horace Kerr, supervisor of the senior adult section of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department, was awarded the second annual Evergreen award in the category of writing for his book, "How to Minister to Senior Adults in Your Church." Kerr's book, published by Broadman Press, is designed to help organize senior adult ministries in Southern Baptist churches.

Arkansas Sunday School Convention

Sept. 21-22, 1981
Baring Cross Baptist
Church
1223 Parker
North Little Rock



Featured speakers

Program schedule

Monday, Sept. 21

2:00 General session
3:00 Age group conferences

...

7:00 General session — John Wright, speaker
7:45 Age group conferences

Tuesday, Sept. 22

9:30 General session
10:20 Age group conferences

...

1:30 General session
2:00 Age group conferences

...

7:00 General session — Cary Heard, speaker
7:45 Age group conferences

Age group conference leaders

General officers . . . Lawson Hatfield, Director, Sunday School Department, ABSC;
Daryl Heath, Consultant, Program Promotion, Sunday School Department,
BSSB

Adults: Senior adults . . . Don Cooper, Adult Consultant, Sunday School Department,
ABSC; Young and median adults . . . Dennis Conniff, Consultant, Adult Pro-
gram, Sunday School Department, BSSB; Single adults . . . Mrs. Bobbie Usery,
Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Youth . . . Martin Babb, Youth Consultant, Sunday School Department, ABSC; Mrs.
Barbara Kent, Fort Worth, Texas; Cliff Springer, Geyer Springs First Church,
Little Rock; Luke Flesher, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Children: Bible Learners . . . Eddie Reed, Third Church, Malvern; Bible Discoverers
. . . Mrs. Elvis Edwards, Children's Consultant, Sunday School Department,
ABSC; Bible Searchers . . . Mrs. James Zeltner, Immanuel Church, Fort Smith;
New workers . . . Mrs. Neal Guthrie, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock

Preschool: Older . . . Pat Ratton, Preschool Consultant, Sunday School Department,
ABSC; Middle and younger . . . Mrs. Kathryn Kizer, Ruhama Church, Birming-
ham, Alabama; Cradle roll . . . Delores Lynn, Park Hill Church, North Little Rock



Lawson Hatfield
Director, Sunday
School Department,
Arkansas Baptist
State Convention



Cary Heard
Pastor, Park Hill
Baptist Church,
North Little Rock



John Wright
Pastor, First
Baptist Church,
Little Rock

Arkansas Baptist State Convention CONTRIBUTIONS

Total cash contributions received in office of Executive Secretary of
Executive Board during the months of January through July, 1981.

Notify Huber L. Drumwright, 525 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas, if any errors are found in this report.

CHURCHES	COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	DESIGNATED GIFTS	CHURCHES	COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	DESIGNATED GIFTS	CHURCHES	COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	DESIGNATED GIFTS
STATE AT LARGE			BUCKNER			BUCKNER		
INDIVIDUAL RECEIPTS	410.00	40,120.69	SELMA	52.47		BUCKNER ASSN		41.50
ARK BAPTIST PHON	5,495.70	24,017.21	UNION HILL	217.00	8,962.96	ABBOTT	284.10	110.20
S & WHITLOW MEM.		175.00	WARREN 1ST	19,310.31	86.59	BATES	572.61	
HALFMOON	35.00		WEST SIDE, WARREN	718.13	1,236.83	CALVERTY, BOONEVILLE		
MALVERN 1ST	10,556.07	9,306.75	WILMAR	1,100.66		CALAUTHON		
RUSSELLVILLE 1ST	25,806.59	11,966.55	SOUTHIDE	594.22		CEDAR CREEK		
MT PLEASANT	89.00	50.00	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	62,263.11	23,387.05	CLARKS CHAPEL		
JERICHO, INACTIVE						DAYTON		
VANDERBILT AVE, INAC	2,023.29	155.95	BENTON COUNTY			DENTON		
BETHANY, MANILA			BENTON ASSN			EVENING SHADE		
TEMPLE, Mc MEMPHIS			BELLA VISTA	12,282.08	7,952.98	FELLOWSHIP		
NEW LIFE	10,162.13	150.00	BENTONVILLE 1ST	12,509.64	4,764.36	FRIENDSHIP		
PIKE BLUFF CHAP-DS	591.20	377.00	CENTRAL 1ST	2,691.00	984.71	HARTFORD 1ST		
FAITH COMMUNITY BAP	100.00		CENTRAL AVE., BENTON	886.17	350.55	HAWK CREEK		
KIMBERLING HILLS			DECATUR 1ST	4,472.72	1,734.00	HON		
ASSOCIATION TOTALS	55,328.98	87,119.15	GARFIELD 1ST	1,400.00	2,279.23	HUNTINGTON 1ST		
ARKANSAS VALLEY			GENTRY 1ST	10,666.42	3,725.68	IGONE		
ARKANSAS VALLEY ASSN			GRAVETTE 1ST	2,204.49	2,156.84	JAMES FORK		
BARTON	1,355.85	92.50	GUM SPRINGS	5,943.28	1,312.49	LONG RIDGE		
BRICKETS	659.99	293.85	HARVARD AVE., SILDAN	2,178.91	2,597.36	MANSFIELD 1ST		
ORINGLEY 1ST	23,298.99	18,736.54	IMMANUEL, ROGERS	17,955.88	9,980.39	MIDLAND 1ST		
CHAFFIELD, DISBANED			LAREVIEU	688.54	1,469.39	NEW PROVIDENCE		
CLARENDON 1ST	6,496.40	1,259.41	LONGFELL	2,450.23	489.00	PARKS		
ELAIN	1,443.75	381.88	NASON VALLEY	1,868.10	580.15	PLEASANT GROVE #2		
FRIENDSHIP	661.17	158.75	MONTE NE	1,980.44	457.55	PLEASANT GROVE #3		
HELENA 1ST	12,381.05	6,316.53	OPEN DOOR	4,925.09	442.05	ROCK CREEK		
HOGUES 1ST	4,725.00	6,880.52	PARK STREET, BENTON	472.77	98.47	SHILON		
LAMBDAK 1ST	1,380.62	56.98	PEA RIDGE 1ST	11,532.98	1,750.46	TEMPLE, WALDRON		
LEA	2,741.97	2,555.25	PLEASANT HILL	663.38	362.36	UNION HOPE		
MANIAXIA 1ST	6,359.68	8,263.70	ROGERS 1ST	30,477.78	8,993.02	WALDRON 1ST		
MARVEL 1ST	5,400.00	403.95	SILDAN SPRINGS 1ST	17,504.89	11,200.49	WEST HARTFORD		
MONROE	370.35		SUNNY CREEK	3,874.95	362.36	WIMFELL		
MORO	1,171.31	546.00	SULPHUR SPRINGS 1ST	399.66	335.50	SOUTHIDE, WALDRON		
NORTH SIDE, HELENA			SUNAR GLE	1,073.65	294.45	BOLES MISSION		
PETTYS CHAPEL			TRINITY, ROGERS	199.06	198.48	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	38,721.07	10,227.30
SNOW LAKE	316.31	250.00	WELFARE, CONERS	540.02		BUCKVILLE		
TURNER	859.47	164.00	AD-LYNN HILLS	301.77	93.23	BUCKVILLE ASSN		
WEST HELENA	14,636.34	7,009.04	FAITH	255.00	1,392.90	CONCORD		
WEST HELENA 2ND	5,398.46	2,000.00	LAKESIDE	1,426.00	1,332.00	MT. TABOR		
BAGADROOR	1,950.39	627.00	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	100,176.95	65,747.72	ROCK SPRINGS		
HAMBURG, ELAINE	555.00	997.48				ASSOCIATION TOTALS		
HOLLY GROVE 1ST SOU	722.24	50.00	BIG CREEK			CAADO RIVER		
ASSOCIATION TOTALS	109,078.99	54,581.38	BIG CREEK ASSN			CAADO RIVER ASSN		
ASHLEY COUNTY			CONY LINE			AMITY 1ST		
ASHLEY CO. ASSN			ELIZABETH	30.00		BLACK SPRINGS		
CALVARY, CROSSSETT			ENTERPRISE	70.00		BLACK GAP		
CORINTH	1,559.49	96.50	FLORA	60.00	15.00	GLENNWOOD 1ST		
CROSSETT 1ST	70,095.56	13,465.14	GUM SPRINGS	25.00		HILL SIDE		
EDEN	480.45		HAKNOTH SPRING	871.23		LAKE OUACHITA		
FELLOWSHIP	966.77	95.00	MT. ZION	103.00	200.00	LIBERTY		
FOUNTAIN HILL 1ST	1,336.51	456.12	SPRING RIVER	741.88	586.36	LITTLE HOPE		
GARDNER	1,482.05	239.59	VIOLA	210.00	371.00	MT GILEAD		
HAMBURG 1ST	8,233.30	3,905.81	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	1,912.91	1,172.36	MT IDA 1ST		
JARVIS CHAPEL	537.91		BLACK RIVER			MURPHY		
MAGNOLIA	11,445.06	2,676.37	BLACK RIVER ASSN			NORMAN 1ST		
MONTINVILLE	438.66		ALICIA	1,212.35	211.00	ODEN 1ST		
NERLAND	3,265.00	529.64	ANAGON	175.00		PENCIL BLUFF		
NT OLIVE	17,587.91	2,522.64	BANKS	37.41		REFUGE		
PT PLEASANT	1,315.00	367.50	BLACK ROCK 1ST	212.48	165.55	SULPHUR SPRINGS		
NORTH CROSSSETT 1ST	3,537.27	2,328.58	CAMPBELL STATION	300.00	301.00	PIKE RIDGE		
SARDIS			CLEAR SPRINGS			BIG FORK MSSN		
SHILOH	243.89	109.18	COLLEGE CITY	853.84	755.74	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	17,127.20	6,497.34
TEMPLE	10,772.72	2,370.12	DIAZ	978.60	332.10	CALVARY		
PLEASANT LANE	748.14	238.58	GRUBBS 1ST	978.70	421.47	CALVARY ASSN		
ASSOCIATION TOTALS	134,576.67	32,876.35	HORSESHOE	38.75		ANTIOCH		
BARTHOLDENEW			MOJIE 1ST	1,213.31	437.70	AUGUSTA 1ST		
BARTHOLDENEW ASSN			INDOGEE 1ST	3,550.63	2,038.96	BEENE 1ST		
ANTIOCH			IMMANUEL, NEWPORT	2,421.00	1,370.50	BETHANY		
CONITO			JACKSONPORT	2,706.00		CENTRAL, BALD KNOB		
CORNETH	478.56	187.24	MURPHY'S CORNER	60.00		COTTON PLANT 1ST		
EAGLE LAKE	151.40		NEW HOPE #1, SMITHV	187.00	25.00	CROSSBY		
EBENEZER	1,151.05	500.00	NEW HOPE #2, HARDY	222.28	100.00	EL PASO		
ELAIN	1,491.31	78.25	NEWPORT 1ST	18,230.92	5,855.64	GOOD HOPE		
FLORENCE	80.50	86.25	OLD WALNUT RIDGE	767.92	234.92	GRACE		
HERMITAGE	2,409.01	266.00	PITTS	97.96	25.00	GREGORY		
INGWEL, WARREN	13,126.84	4,963.88	RAYDENHUR 1ST	312.86	50.00	GRIFFINVILLE 1ST		
LADELLS	137.83	113.83	SEVENOCK 1ST	5,260.10	331.75	HENDERSON 1ST		
MALEDONIA	190.00		SPRINGWILLE	1,734.22	498.70	KENSETT 1ST		
MACDONIA			SPRING LAKE	1,271.45	995.85	LIBERTY		
MONTICELLO 1ST	15,394.39	4,990.76	SWIFTON	1,178.04	384.00	MCNEARY 1ST		
MONTICELLO 2ND	3,241.98	847.70	TICKERMAN 1ST	885.00	759.60	MCCRAE 1ST		
MT SIDDE, MONTICELLO	956.20	355.00	WALNUT RIDGE 1ST	14,488.92	8,705.64	MIDWAY		
OLD UNION	315.53		WHITE DAK	250.00	301.91	MORROW, DISBANED		
PLEASANT GROVE	50.00		CALVARY, WAL RIDGE	248.71	248.71	MORTON		
PRAIRIE GROVE	70.00		SOUTHIDE	440.00	380.00			
SALINE	533.39		PURTIA 1ST SOU MSSN	59.58	159.26			
			ASSOCIATION TOTALS	55,437.09	24,666.57			

CHURCHES	COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	DESIGNATED GIFTS	CHURCHES	COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	DESIGNATED GIFTS	CHURCHES	COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	DESIGNATED GIFTS
JAYHILL 1ST	60,703.65	12,752.05	NEW HOPE	1,979.37	84.00	VANDEVORST 1ST	1,588.67	164.60
KENNELLY CHAPEL	136.31		NORTHVALE	7,772.67	3,442.75	WEEKS 1ST	1,251.56	588.20
ORWEN CHAPEL	507.46		ORONA	651.76	285.86	YOKANA	387.02	5.00
CALVARY-BETHLEVILLE	2,321.14		ORANGE FLAT	2,817.68	315.00			
CALVARY - OCEOLA	1,441.61	672.13	OSAGE	655.60	167.00	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	51,580.04	20,911.17
CENTRAL DRESS	1,348.00	564.99	PARTHENON	462.94	40.33			
CLEAR LAKE	3,272.94	2,034.08	ROCK SPRINGS	623.10	11.15			
CROSSROADS	1,420.18	593.25	ST. JOE 1ST	518.24	141.00	PULASKI COUNTY		
DAVE	266.81	63.75	SOUTH SIDE, HARRISON	503.85	90.00			
EAST SIDE - OCEOLA	1,902.46	439.75	TRINITY	309.47	71.72	BYRANT 1ST SOUTHERN	17,973.55	2,900.31
EMMANUEL-BETHLEVILLE	559.98	127.27	UNION	2,162.37	1,151.15	INLAJAN SPRINGS	3,643.00	1,170.60
ETOWAH	307.25		WALLEY SPRINGS	2,152.07	2,106.74	PULASKI CO ASSN		
GUNNELL	6,000.50	1,185.04	WOODLAND HEIGHTS	339.24	61.15	ARKVILLE 1ST	7,202.42	4,604.47
JENNIFER	1,401.03	411.79	MARBLE FALLS	274.78	177.00	PARKWAY PLACE	4,730.39	2,033.36
KEISER 1ST	1,888.04	113.50	NEWBORN GROVE CHAP	196.56	26.76	GARNET TOWER	2,987.48	801.00
LEACHVILLE 1ST	4,951.00	2,193.75	STERNWALK	162.22		MARKHAM ROAD	1,707.81	390.00
LEACHVILLE 2ND	1,161.28	733.27	WINDY HILLS	1,128.38	300.00	ROCKWOOD 1ST	1,707.81	390.00
LURDON 1ST	1,087.81	754.43	DEAVER LAKE	286.20	28.80	CALVARY-LITTLE ROCK	41,733.92	12,899.61
MANILA 1ST	16,081.72	3,173.50	ASSOCIATION TOTALS	114,261.82	46,207.11	CALVARY-MABELLV	1,883.92	1,076.95
MARYS CHAPEL	559.98	194.41				CROSSROADS	1,501.02	342.93
MEMORIAL	414.70					CRYSTAL HILL	4,780.00	1,372.25
NEW HARMONY	265.00		NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION			DOUGLASSVILLE 1ST	218.96	
NEW LIBERTY	2,361.06	688.65				EAST END - HENSLEY	4,400.84	1,725.07
NEW PROVIDENCE	1,813.06	678.25	CLINTON 1ST	4,751.27	2,429.00	FOREST HIGHLANDS	14,933.26	19,197.10
NOBENA	405.91	103.12	ANDORA			FOREST TOWER	582.85	1,047.80
NUMBER NINE	613.60	144.00	IMMANUEL, CLINTON	470.00	81.55	GARDEN HOMES	578.80	499.00
OSAGE 1ST	2,679.36	3,975.36	LESLIE 1ST	7,416.15	1,123.52	GLYER SPRINGS 1ST	62,472.07	24,183.07
WILKINSON 2ND	996.00	88.20	NEW HOPE HILL	96.17	30.00	GREEN MEMORIAL	5,801.88	3,179.05
			NORTH CENTRAL ASSN			HENSLY	9,700.81	1,593.62
			DEE BRANCH	468.40	587.03	HULLY SPRINGS	2,121.28	
			GUTENBERG	70.00		IMMANUEL LAKE	125,568.44	81,550.50
			KEWITT			LAKEVIEW 1ST	2,429.11	1,108.03
			FORNOSA	1,420.83	1,290.00	LAKESHORE DRIVE	4,779.31	2,684.33
			FRENDSHIP	1,871.74	1,803.66	LIFE LINE	24,260.98	7,063.27
			LESLIE	927.64		LITTLE ROCK 1ST	2,413.33	38,635.43
			LEE	476.33	231.03	MARKHAM STREET, LR	7,315.54	6,070.69
			PLANT			MARFINDALE	7,312.13	2,616.45
			SCITLAND	104.50	344.96	MARSHALLVILLE	2,652.02	1,046.34
			SHILOH GROVE	580.61		NATURAL STEPS	2,697.53	3,558.84
			SHERLEY	708.49	342.47	NORTH POINT	2,452.52	140.00
			STANDLEY MEM. INAC	50.00	350.03	OLIVER	17,967.21	8,336.14
			FAIRFIELD WAY	4,021.47	2,047.55	PINE GROVE	2,956.77	1,127.04
						PLAINVIEW	1,615.97	286.00
						PLEASANT GROVE	1,266.94	250.17
						PULASKI HEIGHTS	5,203.69	2,180.17
						REYNOLDS MEMORIAL	791.42	127.09
						ROSSVILLE	1,266.94	250.17
						SHADY GROVE	735.00	155.80
						SHANNON HILLS 1ST	1,343.76	546.38
						SOUTH HILLS 1ST	4,242.17	1,824.11
						SUNSET LAKE	5,714.67	4,323.94
						TRINITY STREET, LR	7,438.02	4,083.57
						VIEW RIDGE IMMANUEL	2,175.36	1,401.37
						WAKEFIELD 1ST	2,324.49	460.00
						WEST SIDE LAKE	866.91	1,601.90
						WINDY HILLS	5,490.33	2,172.27
						WINDSON	6,006.92	3,172.81
						SPANISH MISSION	7,438.02	4,083.57
						WINDY HILLS ROAD	2,175.36	1,401.37
						TRINITY	2,446.12	322.00
						NEW HAVEN		
						ASSOCIATION TOTALS	546,678.58	283,777.49
						RED RIVER		
						RED RIVER ASSN	667.34	200.00
						ANTOINE	600.77	1,622.66
						ARCADEPHIA 1ST	19,997.88	14,752.40
						ARCADEPHIA 2ND	6,800.63	3,488.18
						BEECH STREET/GROUNDS	11,648.03	5,187.85
						BEIRNE 1ST	818.06	372.76
						BETHLEHEM	666.93	3,620.00
						BETHLEHEM	262.64	33.00
						BOUGHTON	1,966.85	60.00
						CADDO VALLEY	1,000.29	378.85
						CEDAR GROVE	1,000.29	262.00
						CENTER POINT	140.00	262.00
						CURTIS	1,637.08	500.00
						DECEAY	1,212.00	866.44
						EAST WHELEN		
						EMMET 1ST	160.00	
						FAIRVIEW		
						HARMONY HILL	280.00	226.35
						HOLLYWOOD	136.27	70.40
						LAKEVIEW	512.17	
						MARSHWOOD	312.17	
						MT. BELIEVE	30.00	
						MT. OLIVE	499.00	
						MT. ZION	479.26	391.39
						OKLAOMA	70.00	
						PARK HILL	6,109.00	4,001.72
						PRESCOTT 1ST	4,242.17	3,164.00
						READER 1ST	27.57	
						RICHMONDS	5,389.28	792.98
						SHADY GROVE	1,800.00	50.00
						SHELTON	663.47	632.25
						SOUTH FORK	702.05	
						SYCAMORE GROVE	1,344.70	558.31
						TRINITY-ST. ARCADEPHIA	533.28	1,089.00
						WHELEN SPRINGS	153.35	
						ASSOCIATION TOTALS	70,196.23	40,525.23
						ROCKY BAYOU		
						FAITH - BATESVILLE		1,266.97

Sunday School lessons



Taylor

International

Aug. 23, 1981

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

by Ira Taylor

Atkins First Church

Choice and consequences

When an individual or a nation is confronted with the truth, a decision must be made about that truth. It must be either accepted or rejected. It may be accepted as truth and not applied, but still there must be some decision or choice made about that truth. Our lesson today illustrates this point. Israel had been confronted with truth and now must decide what their response will be. Knowing something about the consequences of our decision should help us decide, and in fact be, the basis for our decision.

The truth is clear

Moses first tells the people that the truth is clearly revealed (v. 11). It is not hidden; neither is it something to be brought from afar. The truth came down from heaven, first in the law that God gave to Moses, and finally in Jesus Christ. There is no need to go to great lengths to seek the truth when he is so near to us. Much of God's truth has been given to man, even in his unregenerate state. There is no excuse then for man to disregard it or fail to obey it.

The choice is ours

Verse 15 explains that the way has been made clear. The consequences are also made clear. If the Israelites would choose to keep God's covenant, his commands and statutes, then God would bless them. But, if they chose to reject God, to refuse to hear, to worship their idols and serve them, then they would surely perish. Likewise, the choice is before us. We must either choose life and good, or death and evil.

The gospel in the Old Testament

What Moses declares here to the people of Israel is nothing less than the gospel in the Old Testament. It is the same as the gospel in the New Testament. Moses declared, "Choose God and you choose life and the good; choose otherwise and you choose death and evil and the misery it brings in this life."

In the New Testament, Mark 16:16, it is stated in this way: "He that believes shall be saved; he that believes not shall be damned." Man could not perfectly keep the old covenant that God made with men; therefore, God sent his only begotten Son, that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Conclusion

Just as Moses urged the Israelites to choose God and live, and recognized that God is indeed the giver of life, so must we urge those around us to choose God's Son, Jesus, and live eternally.

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Following wise guidance

"What's it all about?" The answer to that question solves life's riddles. When the Hebrews spoke of getting wisdom, they meant more than acquiring an understanding of philosophical truths and the relationships of concepts. They were concerned about



Glazener

"doing life" effectively. They saw the pragmatic and philosophical as intertwined. Thus when a person in the Hebrew culture could be referred to as "having wisdom", the implication was that he knew what life was all about and how to live at peace with all! He "had his head together!"

Background. The focal passages from Proverbs have two related thrusts. The first (2:1-12) poses a conditional promise. The structure of the passage is "If... then... for...!" The second is basically command and promise.

Obtaining wisdom begins with right desire

(Pro. 2:1-4)

The stance of the teacher through whom the spirit speaks is that of a father instructing his child. He is urging the hearer to arrange his priorities properly. The conditions for obtaining wisdom (note the "ifs" of v. 1-4) are spelled out: "If you... receive my words, ... hide my commandments, ... incline thine ear unto wisdom, ... apply thine

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Life and Work

Aug. 23, 1981

Proverbs 2:1-11; 3:5-8

by Clyde Glazener

Little Rock Baptist Church

heart to understanding... criest after knowledge, liftest," etc., comprises the condition. The requirements for wisdom involve welcoming and treasuring the instructions of the teacher and seeking wisdom with the whole being.

Earnest quest brings fulfillment (Pro. 2:6-8)

In verse five the word "then" points to the results when the conditions are met. The results are expressed in terms of understanding "the fear of the Lord" and finding "the knowledge of God". To know God in experience is the chief goal of man. To come to know him will result in reverential awe (fear, wonder) before God. The more one walks in reverential awe before God the better one gets to know him.

The "for" in verse six indicates that what follows explains why the results in verse five are as they are stated. Because God gives wisdom and is the source of knowledge and understanding, anyone can depend on finding wisdom who turns to God in his quest. When wisdom comes the delight of understanding about the things that really count comes with it (v. 9-11).

The quest for wisdom leads to faith

(Pro. 3:5-8)

The commands given here are summed up in the first one, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart..." The verbs of command are (1) trust, (2) lean not, (3) acknowledge, (4) be not wise, (5) fear, (6) depart. The basic thrust of the passage would express that one who "gets his head together" (like the prodigal son when he "came to himself") sets his face toward God. He does not trust his own strength or philosophical best, but he seeks to know God's will and walks in wonder before God. His next question for any occasion is always "What is the word from the Lord?"



West

Bible Book

Aug. 23, 1981

Hebrews 12:1-13:25

by Henry G. West

Mississippi County Association

A call to act in faith and love

We are told that God expects us to be faithful and we ask, why? We can think of all sorts of reasons why we should go our own way and live as we please or as the crowd lives. But why should we be faithful to God? This is the question we face in this study.

Encouragement to faithfulness (12:1-4)

The author had just written about faith. He described faith and cited examples of faith. Now he says that the examples of these people ("so great a cloud of witnesses") should encourage these Hebrew Christians to go forward in faith and not lapse back into the Jewish traditions of good works.

These martyrs were not mere spectators but witnesses testifying to the value of faith — they had been participants in the race. They had lived in complete dependence upon God. What is the meaning of belief? "To lean heavily upon" and this they did valiantly.

Chastened as sons (12:5-11)

Chastening means, child training or rearing (Proverbs 3:11-12). God does not cause the hardships but uses them to our profit to prepare us for service to him and our fellowman.

Helpful as brothers (12:12-17)

Faithfulness is a very practical thing. Sometimes we view faithfulness only as it relates to God; we are hesitant in recognizing how faith helps others. Holiness or devout consecration is the grounds for being faithful to God, ourselves and our neighbors.

Our modern highways make it difficult to picture what the author meant. At best the roads were rough and difficult and for a lame person it was particularly difficult. Faithfulness required that the path be smoothed and straightened for those less fortunate. Our faithfulness to God requires that our actions be governed by the principle of concern for others (Matt. 5, 6 and 7).

Responsible as children (12:17-13:25)

The concluding part of Hebrew is filled with amazingly accurate common sense for all of us. Advice for home, church, government and finances abound in the Word of God. We especially need them in our modern pagan society.

He closes this book of encouragement to holy living and bold missions and steadfast loyalty with a beautiful prayer of "equipping us with everything good in order that we may accomplish God's will and purpose."

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RTVC signs satellite contract for ACTS television network

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — Southern Baptists formally entered the satellite communications arena Monday when Radio and Television Commission officials signed a \$2.1 million-per-year lease on Southern Pacific's Spacenet satellite.

The satellite will be used to carry programming for the American Christian Television System (ACTS), the proposed national Baptist television network, which would be the first ever for a mainline denomination.

The contract provides full 24-hour-per-day use of the satellite beginning in the spring of 1984 when Spacenet is placed in

one month's rent on the satellite was made to Southern Pacific. The RTVC has been raising money for the satellite since plans were announced in January. To date \$2.6 million has been raised from private donors.

The proposed network calls for 12 hours of daily programming by 1984. This would be repeated during the remaining 12 hours of satellite transmission to accommodate differences between time zones.

It is likely some ACTS programming will be ready for airing before Spacenet is in orbit in 1984. So RTVC officials are shopping for a short-term satellite contract for the interim. They project as many as eight hours of daily programming may be ready by the fall of 1982 or early in 1983.

An interim contract would be for only the needed hours to carry that programming. Several satellite brokerage firms have offered time, but no deal has been finalized.

ACTS has applied to the Federal Communications Commission for 105 low-power television stations to be linked to the satellite, completing the ACTS delivery system. The applications are pending FCC action, but a recent move by Congress could speed up the approval process.

The Congress has just okayed a plan authorizing the FCC to examine these applications on the basis of public interest and then use random selection (to decide between competing applications), Allen explained.

"Our lawyers have counseled us that as long as public interest is examined first, random selection is the most expeditious way and we will fare well by this method," he said.

All of the ACTS applications are for non-

commercial stations, which usually are viewed as better serving the public interest.

The RTVC will be one of 24 customers on Spacenet. The satellite has 24 transponders (receiver-retransmitter units) which can operate simultaneously. Each customer has full use of its transponder.

Like most satellite customers, the RTVC has protected service on the satellite. That means if the transponder fails for any reason, a backup unit on the satellite can be used to prevent interruption of service.

Since the Spacenet contract is for "fully-leased service," the RTVC has several options for its use. In addition to the ACTS television signal, other communication can be carried on the transponder. There is room for two radio channels, as well as information services. All this can be transmitted simultaneously.

If 12 hours of daily programming are not available by 1984, the RTVC has the option of subleasing the remaining time, as well as the transponder's other communication abilities, to recoup some of the expense.

Allen said that while this is likely in the early stages of network development, ACTS' primary purpose is to fill the satellite time with quality Christian programming to share the gospel.

"We are in the beginning of a new era," Allen explained. "The telecommunications thrust of Bold Mission will allow local churches to share the gospel in ways never before available in the history of Christianity."

"I know radio and television cannot produce spiritual awakening in America. But through this telecommunications witness, Southern Baptists are better equipped to reflect that awakening and affect that awakening."

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orbit. Southern Pacific guarantees use of the satellite for seven years, but the contract is in force as long as Spacenet is in orbit, estimated at seven to nine years. The contract also carries the understanding of continuing service on future Spacenet satellites.

"We are talking about a permanent home for the ACTS network," RTVC president Jimmy R. Allen said.

The contract was signed in special ceremonies at RTVC headquarters here. RTVC trustee officers, officials of Southern Pacific Communications Company, and officers of ACTS Inc. participated in the signing.

In addition, Baptist state newspaper editors and Baptist agency heads were on hand for the occasion. Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke to the group.

A down payment of \$175,000, equal to



Viewing the satellite contract signed by the RTVC Monday are (from left) John E. Hughes, vice chairman of the RTVC board of trustees; Jimmy R. Allen, president of the RTVC; and Rex Hollis, vice president of sales, Southern Pacific Communications Company, which owns the satellite.

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