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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, 1980-1984

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

8-27-1981

August 27, 1981

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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AUG. 27 1981

August 27, 1981
Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

The harvest is great (Luke 10:2)
Area Evangelism Conferences
call for laborers
page 2



On the cover



ABM Photo/Allen Gill

The full heads of grain in the fields remind us that harvest time is approaching. It would be a very slow process for one man to harvest this entire field by hand. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few." Area Evangelism Conferences planned for mid-September will help call out laborers.

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A church in Fort Worth, Texas, is experimenting with the "house church" concept in an effort to reach the blue collar workers in its neighborhood on the southside of the city.

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Jack Bledsoe, chairman of the state convention nominating committee, is encouraging Arkansas Baptists in an open letter to submit names for nomination to the convention's boards, agencies and committees.

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The number of lay messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles rose a few percentage points, compared to conventions of the past few years.

House churches catch on in blue collar area

by Jerilynn Armstrong

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The sanctuary is the living room of a rented house with folding chairs for pews. Members come dressed casually in jeans and slacks. The atmosphere is informal and friendly among the 40 people gathered to worship.

This is not a scene from a pioneer mission area, but is within walking distance of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

About three years ago Gambrell Street Church, one block east of the seminary, launched a mission effort to reach families in their community. This house church ministry tries to reach individuals "turned off" by the traditional church.

"Gambrell Street is seen by the community as a white collar, professional church and we are sitting in the midst of a working class neighborhood which responds better to small, informal gatherings," said Gambrell Street pastor Joel Gregory.

"Our church has been able to share the gospel with many of our neighbors but because of cultural and socio-economic reasons few became regular members. For our congregation, the house church ministry gave us the opportunity to congregationalize these individuals."

Tim Lewis, a student at Southwestern, is liaison on the church staff and coordinates the three house churches. A fourth is to begin soon.

"Our study and research seems to indicate that 50 is the leveling off point in this type of congregation so we hope that within the year several house churches will be

able to split and start new ones," Lewis said. "In this program the aim is not to get big but to remain a small, loving fellowship and hopefully start other congregations."

To begin a new church two or three families form a core group then meet regularly for six weeks of training. Their tithes are used to rent a home in the neighborhood they will serve. Many of the core families have been seminary students.

"Gambrell Street has given the house churches tremendous freedom with only minor supervision," Lewis said. "The house churches are autonomous congregations with a separate budget and monthly contributions to the Cooperative Program and associational missions."

Lewis and the house church pastors agree that at times the work is difficult but very rewarding.

"I believe my congregation of 50 is as much work as a church of 300," said Jim Perkins, pastor of Parkway House Church. "My people rely on me not just to preach but also to help them find housing, move them and at times buy food and clothing."

"I have the unique opportunity of sharing intimately in the lives of my members and hopefully reaching individuals not drawn to the traditional worship service."

Church member George Hogan agrees: "Coming to Parkway House Church is like coming to a family reunion every week. Everyone knows each other and actively participates in the service. If it wasn't for this house church my family and I would be sleeping in on Sunday mornings."

Congressional panels ponder Supreme Court jurisdiction

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Does Congress have the constitutional power to strip the Supreme Court of its authority to hear school prayer, busing and abortion cases?

That is the key question facing House and Senate judiciary panels considering a cluster of bills designed to limit or remove Supreme Court and/or lower federal court jurisdiction from involving these emotionally-charged issues.

While admitting that their dissatisfaction with Supreme Court rulings on school prayer, abortion and busing prompted these proposals, sponsors contend that the approach is constitutional.

Opponents of the bills argue that the constitutionally valid method of checking Supreme Court decisions is through a constitutional amendment. But that process, which requires a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress plus ratification by 38 states, has been tried several times without success by anti-abortion, anti-busing and pro school prayer advocates.

During hearings in both houses this sum-

mer, constitutional specialists clashed over the central question of the constitutionality of the court-curbing bills.

The House Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice, chaired by Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., has concluded its hearings which focused on the broad question of jurisdiction limitation. However, a spokesman for Kastenmeier's panel indicated additional hearings may be scheduled if the Reagan administration decides to take a position on the proposals.

In the Senate, the separation of powers subcommittee, chaired by Sen. John East, R-N.C., has already reported out favorably a human life bill which limits lower federal court jurisdiction in abortion cases. The Subcommittee on the Constitution, chaired by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, held earlier hearings on the general question of congressional power to limit court jurisdiction and has begun hearings on anti-busing proposals. Consideration of the school prayer proposals is expected this fall.

Employees' Appreciation Day

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



Most churches appreciate their employees. Members look forward to a time of worship. They are grateful for the music, the pastor's message, an attractive order of service, clean buildings and all the other things that make worship at the church meaningful. But all too often people fail to express appreciation for all that is done for them. An "Employees' Appreciation Day" can afford an excellent opportunity to properly say "thank you" to everyone who is an employee of the church.

September or October is an excellent time to show appreciation to your employees. At this time of the year things have usually settled down from the summer activities. Churches usually have new members who joined during the summer. An "Employees' Appreciation Day" will provide an excellent opportunity for everyone to get acquainted with the church's employees.

"Employees' Appreciation Day" can be simple or elaborate. Factors determining the kind of program planned will include the number of employees, the size of the church and the taste of the congregation. Usually, time is provided on Sunday morning for public introductions. An appropriate sermon should be planned. Some congregations may wish to have a guest preacher for the occasion. Brief resumes may be placed as an insert in the church bulletin. This will make it easier for church members to grasp facts about the church staff and it will, also, conserve time during the worship hour.

The pastor should lead the "Employees' Appreciation Day." But it should be remembered that the pastor is an employee of the church also. Brief, appropriate remarks can be made by the individuals who directly supervise personnel of the church. Or, two or three members may be chosen to express the congregation's gratitude for all that is done. However, those expressing appreciation should keep their statements brief.

Your church may have only one employee or it may have many. But each is an indispensable ingredient in the life of the church. Be sure to include everyone who is on the church's regular payroll. This will include the pastor, staff members, secretaries, custodians, nursery workers, yard workers and anyone else the church employs regularly. The members will be surprised to know how many employees they have.

"Employees' Appreciation Day" will be helpful to the church. It should assist in instilling a sense of pride in the church family regarding its employees. It provides an excellent opportunity for the congregation to see some of the things that the employees do for the church. It, also, provides opportunity for the congregation to become acquainted with the quality of people who are employed by the church.

"Employees' Appreciation Day" will be helpful to the employee. Just a simple "thank you" is the best morale builder available. Every employee needs to feel that his work is important. Church employees, also, need occasionally to be reminded that the congregation whom they serve appreciate them. Churches need to remember that their employees are human and almost every person will be inspired to do a better job when he is thanked. Other benefits will become evident when a church forms a habit of saying "thank you."

Perhaps the greatest good that comes from "Employees' Appreciation Day" is for every employee to see that his task is spiritual. The people who work in the nursery, the secretary, and the custodians need to know that as they carry out their assigned tasks they are serving the Lord. Each church employee needs to be told both publicly and privately that he is serving God just as much as the pastor and education director. Every permanent employee is a valuable part of God's work. A clean restroom, a well preached sermon, a well typed letter and beautifully rendered special music should all be intended to glorify God and bring the lost to Christ.

Deacons and other church leaders should take the initiative in suggesting an "Employees' Appreciation Day." The pastor or other church employees may be reluctant to suggest such an event since they will be among those to be honored. Once the day is scheduled, the pastor and staff should be involved in the planning process.

Plan to have an "Employees' Appreciation Day" in your church soon. A few moments of public appreciation may do wonders in sparking pride, self-confidence, maximum efficiency and productivity among your employees. Remember, gratitude is a part of Christian worship. This will help in training everyone to say "thank you."

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 80

NUMBER 33

J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. Editor
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ERWIN L. McDONALD, Litt. D. Editor Emeritus

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

Burmese Baptists and cemetery evangelism

Nothing strengthens my faith in the worldwide relevance and power of the Christian gospel quite like a sharing session at a meeting of international representatives to a Baptist World Alliance. For a brief time recently at the San Juan meeting, I was afraid this was not true. A panel from five continents began talking in a language that was hard to understand, even though all spoke in excellent English. They started out using the scholarly language of seminary professors of "missiology" (the study of missions) on how to make certain the Gospel is able to pierce the protective walls of local cultures, and to be heard without distortion or misunderstanding.

I was about to tune out as they talked about the "contextualization" and "indigenization" of evangelism. Mention of "incarnational evangelism" and "accommodation" of the Gospel in other cultures left me even more confused. I did perk up a little when one speaker quoted Malcolm Muggeridge as saying that Christ would have turned down offers of prime-time television because "the Word became flesh," not "the Word became celluloid."

What brought me back to full attention was a sharp and simple illustration of what the others had been saying, by Burmese Baptist Victor San Lone. He spoke of the differences in response of Burmese to Christian preaching about eternal life. Burmese animists respond favorably, but many Burmese Buddhists don't want eternal life because the Buddhist teaching is that life is suffering and, therefore, eternal life is eternal suffering. San Lone said Burmese Baptists are overcoming this "by living eternal life and by stressing that how we die is important." He said, "We live happily and die happily — we emphasize happy singing at funerals." He called it "cemetery evangelism," proclaiming persuasively to Buddhists that Christian death is a joyous victory. I was impressed again with the worldwide power of the Gospel.

Whether we call it cemetery evangelism or contextual evangelism, we need to "work smart" at the task of sharing the Good News in the most effective ways.

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

Ray Wells joins Louisiana Baptists

Ray Wells, a native of Arkansas who since 1971 has served as pastor of First Church of Smackover, joined the staff of the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board Aug. 23 as Family Ministry Consultant, according to Charles Lowry, director of the Church Programs Division of the LBC.



Wells

Wells will have the responsibility of training associational and church leaders in the area of marriage enrichment, conducting marriage enrichment and parenting conferences and assisting pastors in learning to counsel families. He will also take over the duties as Senior Adult director.

Wells is a graduate of Futrall High School in Marianna, Ark., Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth where he earned a B.D. degree. He was active on the Arkansas Baptist Convention Executive Board as a member of the Finance and Executive Committees and served as chairman of the Finance Committee.

He began his ministry in 1957 and has since served churches in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

He is married to the former Carolyn Jean Carey, a graduate of Ouachita, and they have two children, ages 18 and 11.



Woman's viewpoint

Miss Glenn Kirkland

Ask for forgiveness

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Since I have grown older and have more time to meditate, the above passage frequently comes to mind. I begin to review my life not in a day dreaming way, which is pleasant, but in a critical way. Sometimes I will remember an incident for which I am not very proud: a time when I had lost my temper over some insignificant thing. I repent and ask forgiveness right then.

I may think of something good, which I should have done and could have, but failed to do. I repent and ask for forgiveness. I have had these experiences many times and each time prayed it through. As a result I have been strengthened in the Lord.

The following incident has helped me when I was tempted to gossip. Some years ago I knew of a lady whose little girl was always telling her mother of the many bad things about her classmates. She thought herself to be a perfect little creature and

bragged about the good things she had done. She was so glad she was not like some of the other little pupils in her classroom. One day she was surprised, however, when her mother told her that from then on, every time she heard her say something bad about anyone she wanted her to also find two good things about that person.

As a result she soon discovered her friends had a lot more good qualities than bad ones. She was disappointed in herself for not discovering them sooner.

Let's follow that example and ask forgiveness for every sin. Repeat the scripture from 1 John several times a day.

Miss Glenn Kirkland, 86, has been teaching an adult Sunday School class at Plummerville 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 Teachers College (now University of Central Arkansas).

Francis Dixon to lead studies

Francis W. Dixon, minister of the Lansdowne Baptist Church in Bournemouth, England, for 29 years, will be in the United States in the spring of 1982 for a series of Bible teaching conventions.

Dixon's international evangelistic ministry has included campaigns in Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, Jamaica, Bermuda, South Africa, Rhodesia and the United States.

His visit to this country next year will include stops in Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas.

Churches interested in having Dixon lead services for them should contact Thomas A. Hinson, pastor, West Memphis First Church, 200 Missouri St., West Memphis, Ark. 72301, (501) 735-5241.



Dixon

Open letter to Arkansas Baptists:

The convention nominating committee, composed of Joe Hogan, Dillard Miller, Merle Milligan, Milton Wilson, Russell Miller, R. Wendell Ross, Dennis Dodson, James Evans and myself as chairman will meet for the first time on Sept. 17 to consider recommendations and prepare nominations for boards, agencies and committees of our convention, to be presented for election at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in November at Fayetteville.

Our committee will not knowingly nominate for election to any board, agency or committee persons who do not demonstrate their commitment to our Lord through their local church, association and/or state convention and Cooperative Program support.

In preparation for our meeting we have invited you through the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine to suggest to us those persons whom you feel merit our serious consideration for nomination. To date, I have had forwarded to me the names of only 37 people to be considered. We desperately need your help in this matter and prayerfully urge your response by Sept. 10.

Sincerely,

Jack J. Bledsoe, chairman of convention nominating committee
P.O. Box 578
Des Arc, Ark. 72040



The Southern accent

A salute to those who aid students

by D. Jack Nicholas

As a child, Sir Winston Churchill and his family were visiting a wealthy English family. While swimming on the estate, Winston wandered into deep water and was drowning. A gardener heard other children screaming and plunged into the pool to rescue Winston.

The deeply grateful parents insisted upon rewarding the gardener who finally acquiesced and said, "I wish my son could go to college and become a doctor." Churchill's parents replied, "We will pay his way."

Years later when Sir Winston was prime minister of England, he became seriously ill with pneumonia. One of the finest physicians in England was brought to treat the stricken leader. That physician was Sir Alexander Fleming who developed penicillin, and he was also the son of the gardener who earlier had rescued Winston from drowning.

Rarely is such philanthropy so dramatically and directly rewarded, but many, many people find great personal satisfaction in financially assisting needy and worthy students in their struggle to obtain an education and pursue a dream.

I was reminded just this week of this when an alumnus of SBC called to express his intention of continuing this year, and at



Nicholas

an even more generous level, his practice of providing scholarship assistance for students at Southern. (His rather unusual restriction on the use of his scholarship gifts is that the assistance favor academically average rather than academically superior students. Although he is highly successful in a very specialized and somewhat dangerous career, he claims that he was barely an average student. I haven't checked his records. I'm just happy to have his friendship and grateful for his consistent generosity.)

The earlier anecdote and the recent phone call prompted me to reflect upon all of those gracious, loving and generous people who give so that fine young men and women can become more skilled, more responsible and more productive citizens.

Southern has a long-standing tradition of helping students who need help and who cannot find it anywhere else. That tradition has been built upon the generosity of that widely living on social security who gave regularly when she didn't really have it to give, that Arkansas corporation which gives a large annual scholarship grant to several Christian colleges in Arkansas, those countless individuals who give again and again because they want to help a young person's dream come true.

Most of the students attending SBC could not make it without that help. This week this column gratefully salutes those who so generously provide such help.

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

Ouachita announces new faculty, staff

ARKADELPHIA — Twelve new faculty members, eight new staff members and seven new graduate assistants have joined Ouachita Baptist University for the 1981-82 academic year, according to Carl Goodson, vice president for academic affairs.

Faculty additions are Paul Hendershot as Chairman of the Business and Economics Division; Roy Buckelew as Assistant Professor of Speech; James Rothwell as instructor in accounting; Clyde Smith as Chairman of the Physics Department; Cline Stephens as Professor of Business and Economics; George Biggs as Associate Professor of Music; Richard Martin as assistant football coach and instructor in physical education; Wes Lites as Instructor in Philosophy; Major A. D. Carnes as Assistant Professor of Military Science; Captain James Foster as Assistant Professor of Military Science; Jim and Camille Simmons as missionaries-in-residence; and Russell Burbank as part-time instructor in psychology.

Arkansans included in WMU meeting

Six Arkansans participated in the Woman's Missionary Union leadership conference Aug. 8-14 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Robertson, who are appointed to Bignona, Senegal, led conferences on contemporary missions issues. Robertson is originally from Pine Bluff, and his wife is a native of Clark County.

Nathan Porter of Arkadelphia led conferences on domestic hunger and disaster relief. Porter is a consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in these two areas.

Leading methods conferences for church leaders of GAs were Roma Zeltner of Fort Smith and Julia Ketter of Little Rock, Executive Director of Arkansas WMU.

Malvie Lee Giles of Magnolia served as music director for the week.

The theme of the conference was "Women in Missions."

Child abuse sessions set

SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect) Volunteer Service Inc. will sponsor training sessions Sept. 9 and 10 for persons interested in volunteering their time to work with families who have a child abuse problem.

The training will provide information on the dynamics of child abuse, child management and development and observations on human behavior.

The sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Woodlawn and Monroe Streets, Little Rock. For more information, contact the SCAN office at 371-2773.

Arkansas all over

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Mike Martin

has joined the staff of Jonesboro Central Church, serving as minister to adults with primary responsibilities in the Bible teaching program as it relates to the over 900 adults of the church. He will also correlate work for adult Church Training and adult mission organizations. A native of Little Rock, he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a master of religious education degree. He is also a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Martin is married to the former Margaret Ann Glover of Little Rock. They have a son, Bryan, age 10.



Martin

John R. Steele

was licensed to the gospel ministry recently by the Marion Immanuel Church. Pastor Clyde C. Cook led the service for Steele, a student at Southern Baptist College.

Clyde C. Cook

recently observed his first anniversary as pastor of the Marion Immanuel Church.

Ron Rogers

is serving the Yarbro Church as pastor, coming there from York, S.C. He is a graduate of Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and will continue his studies at Mid-America Seminary.

Thomas D. Thorne

graduated Aug. 8 from the Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Ind., receiving the doctor of theology degree. He was one of three graduates receiving the faculty accommodation for academic achievement. Thorne is also a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pastor of the Van Buren Concord Church.

Herbert Dry

has been called as pastor of the Judsonia Midway Church. He and his wife, Linda, reside in the Morrow community of Kensett. They have three children, Angela, Amy, and Jerry. Dry has served other Arkansas churches.

Larry Blackmon

has resigned as pastor of the Enon Church to become pastor of a Texas church.

Forrest Bynum

has resigned as pastor of the Warren Immanuel Church to become pastor of the Norfolk First Church.

John Wright

observed his 30th anniversary in the ministry Aug. 16. Wright, now pastor of the Little Rock First Church, has also served six Missouri churches.

Wesley Hodges

has resigned as pastor of the Harrison Union Church to enroll in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has also accepted a Texas pastorate.

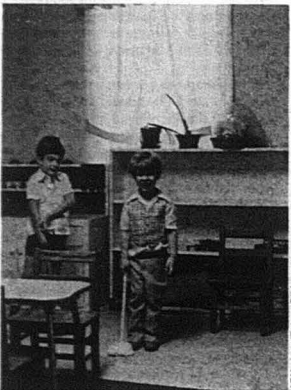
Mrs. Sam C. Andrews

is doing volunteer work, preparing devotionals and assisting with entertainment activities for the Helping Hands Sheltered Workshop in Hope. She is a member of Hope First Church where she serves as mission action director for Baptist Women.

focus on youth

Springdale First Church

youth returned Aug. 15 from a choir tour in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. John Sorrell is minister of music.



ABN photo/Rosen Dushy

Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock dedicated additional adult educational classrooms and a remodeled preschool area Aug. 16 in the Sunday morning worship service. Total cost of the work was \$22,400, involving approximately 2,000 square feet of space. Jerry Wilcox is pastor.

Bay First Church

held its summer revival Aug. 2-7 according to Pastor J. R. Hull. Evangelist C. A. Johnson, director of missions for Pulaski County Association, and music director Greg Hardin of Jonesboro led the revival that resulted in five additions to the church membership and nine rededications.

Searcy Trinity Church

recently sent a representation of 40 to participate in activities at the Gloriaeta Baptist Conference Center. Norman Cole was trip coordinator. Cecil Fuller is pastor.

Sparkman New Hope Church

celebrated homecoming Aug. 14-16 with activities, including a two-day revival, potluck dinner and a service to dedicate the church's new fellowship hall. Guest musicians were Billy Freeman and the Sunliners, the Harvey Family and Peggy Abbott. Roy Parker, a former pastor, was evangelist.

Osceola Friendship Church

held deacon ordination services July 26 for J. R. Cunningham and Bob Henderson. Henry West, director of missions for Mississippi County Association, was speaker. Chris Tompkins led in the ordination prayer. Neal Stevens is pastor.

Des Arc First Church

held a revival recently that resulted in 13 professions of faith, five additions by letter and one by statement. Billy Walker was

evangelist, and J. B. Betts directed music. Jack J. Bledsoe is pastor.

Mississippi County Association

Woman's Missionary Union recently sponsored a "clean-up fix-up day" at Southern Baptist College according to Mrs. Alice McHann, associational WMU director. Pastors and laymen of the association and Henry West, associational missions director, assisted with work that included improvements to the library, cafeteria and some campus lawns.

Luxora First Church

was in a revival Aug. 2-9 led by Delton Dees of St. Louis. Pastor Keith Mathis reported 46 professions of faith.

West Memphis Calvary Church

mission team of five adults and 10 youth returned Aug. 16 from Evansville, Ind., where they worked with the Faith Church, assisting with outreach ministries.

West Memphis First Church

has participated in mission and outreach projects throughout the summer, including 43 Backyard Bible Clubs that resulted in an enrollment of 1,434. Pastor Thomas A. Hinson reported the involvement of 300 members to lead these clubs.

Parthenon Church

held deacon ordination services July 12 for Billy Wayne Brasel, Jimmy Harrison and Norman Phillips. Paul Taylor is pastor.

briefly

Arkansans receive seminary degrees

Two Arkansans have received degrees from Southern Baptist seminaries this summer.

Jim Guffie, pastor of Osceola Calvary Church, received the doctor of ministry degree June 5 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.



Mrs. Perry

Valerie Alexander Perry of Little Rock received the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary after completing requirements during the summer. Mrs. Perry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Alexander of Little Rock.

Southern and New Orleans Seminaries are two of six such institutions owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Friendship sets orientation session

Friendship International will hold an orientation session Thursday, Sept. 3, for women in Little Rock area Baptist churches who plan to participate in the program during the coming school year.

Friendship, which meets at Little Rock's Pulaski Heights Church on Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m., offers American and international women a chance for cultural exchange and friendship. The ministry is sponsored by 10 Baptist churches in the metropolitan area. Besides Bible study and English classes, Friendship offers crafts and has a children's program.

Lib Williams of Nashville, Tenn., who has been a missionary to Thailand and a worker in friendship ministries in her town, will lead the orientation, beginning at 8:45 a.m. at Pulaski Heights Church.

A workshop in teaching English, taught by Lib Williams, will follow lunch.

Reservations for lunch and nursery care can be made by calling Janet Williams, Friendship director, at 224-4843, or Lavelle Rollins, associate director, at 455-2819.

Remote Togo village sets baptism record

ATAKAME, Togo — The Baptist congregation in the Togolese village of Kpe Kpleme recorded the largest single baptismal service in Togo Baptist history when it baptized 108 new believers in late May.

Reynolds chairs study committee

DALLAS (BP) — Herbert H. Reynolds, president of Baylor University, has been named to lead a committee to study and recommend a new church pension plan for churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Annuity Board trustee chairman Charles L. Holland Jr., Longview, Texas, appointed the committee for the project which has received the endorsement of state executive secretaries, five of which are on the 20-member committee.

They are: George E. Bagley, Alabama; Ernest E. Mosley, Illinois; Chester O'Brien, New Mexico; Joe L. Ingram, Oklahoma, and Tom J. Madden, Tennessee.

Other members are, five at-large from the Southern Baptist Convention: J. Howard Cobble, currently pastor of First Church, Avondale Estates, Ga., who will become pastor of Severns Valley Church of Elizabethtown, Ky., in September; C. R. Daley, editor of the *Western Recorder*, Middletown, Ky.; Christine Gregory, vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Danville, Va.; H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Church, Nashville, Tenn., and Dan Rivera, president of Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, Texas; also five Annuity Board trustees, T. L. Cashwell Jr. of North Carolina, J. Cecil Hamiter of Alabama, David A. Nelson of Kentucky, Milton L. Wood of Michigan, and Reynolds.

Five members from the Annuity Board staff are: Gary S. Nash, legal services, who will chair the board staff group; Harold S. Bailey, development-church retirement and insurance; Bernelle Harrison, actuarial services and research; Pat McDaniel, executive vice president, and I. D. Maricle, member services.

Ex-officio members include: Vern Powers, annuity secretary from Tennessee; Harvey J. Wright, annuity secretary from Missouri; Holland, and Morgan.

"This committee will consider the design, marketing, financing and documenta-

tion of the new Church Plan," stated Morgan. "We expect the study to take about 18 months; however, the committee will make a preliminary report at the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans."

The new plan could affect 35,000 Southern Baptist churches, if all choose to participate in the Annuity Board program.

Action seen as 'morale booster'

by Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A new policy enabling long-term missionary associates to transfer to career missionary status will prove a "significant morale booster" to associates on foreign fields, according to Bill Marshall, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for human resources.

Adopted during the board's July meeting, the new policy will allow associates who successfully complete two terms of service, meet educational requirements and gain board approval to transfer to career status.

The new policy also affects academically qualified missionary candidates past the 39-year-old beginning age limit for career service. Such candidates may be eligible for career status after two successful terms of associate service.

Other new guidelines allow persons as old as 60 to begin associate service, set minimum educational requirements at 60 hours of college-level course work, provide for separate orientations and briefings for associates, and authorize increased language study for certain assignments.

Launched in 1961, the missionary associate program employs Southern Baptists past the eligibility age for career mission appointment, and sometimes lacking full educational qualifications, to meet urgent specialized needs on mission fields, usually for single, four-year terms.

July big month for CP gifts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Increases from three states of more than 70 percent boosted July's national Cooperative Program contributions to \$7,389,033, up 29.86 percent over July 1980.

Led by Tennessee's 77 percent increase, healthy increases among most states pushed contributions for the first 10 months to \$68,263,290, or 14.75 percent ahead of the same period last year.

Designated contributions, primarily for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, were up 55.44 percent over last July, to \$2,790,391.

Other states with major July increases were, South Carolina, up 71 percent; Mississippi, up 71.3 percent; North Carolina, up 49 percent; and Florida, up 47 percent.

Contributions to date, both designated and undesignated, total \$137,669,255, an increase of 14.32 percent over the same period last year.

Your state convention at work

Family and Child Care

Four down and eight to go

Beefs, that is! Remember the article about potatoes and beef in the July 30 issue? I asked individuals or groups to give us 12 beefs for our children to eat. I am pleased to report that we have four beefs committed thus far.

Eagle Heights Church, Harrison, has voted to provide two beefs. They are raising the money to purchase them for us. Jack Ramsey is pastor.

The youth of Concord Church, Little Red River Association, have accepted the challenge to provide a beef. They have already purchased a calf to feed out.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hunt of Greers Ferry have given us a beef.

We are grateful for this generous response. I believe we will get eight more before next June. As I stated in the earlier article, we use about one beef a month.

Thanks to those who have already responded. If others wish to respond, please contact Charlie Belknap, P.O. Box 180, Monticello, Ark. 71655, phone 367-5358, or me at P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, phone 376-4791.

We are expecting eight more calls. — **Horner W. Shirley Jr., Director of Development, Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services**

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NLR Park Hill, Magnolia Central lead in Third Century gifts

Park Hill of North Little Rock and Central Church of Magnolia have given more money to the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign than any other churches in Arkansas.

Between 400 and 500 Arkansas churches are contributing to the campaign to enlarge the ministry of Baptist Student Union on 27 Arkansas campuses.

Name of church	Amount
Park Hill, North Little Rock	\$17,083.35
Central, Magnolia	13,888.00
First, Fayetteville	13,601.35
Geyer Springs First, Little Rock	12,340.00
Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	11,379.96
First, Jonesboro	11,274.98
First, Mountain Home	11,131.02
Second, Hot Springs	10,500.00
Immanuel, Little Rock	9,900.00
Baring Cross, North Little Rock	9,830.47
First, Stuttgart	8,248.00
East Side, Fort Smith	8,052.77
Grand Avenue, Fort Smith	8,000.00
First, Benton	7,700.00
First, Arkadelphia	7,511.92
First, El Dorado	7,500.00
First, Hope	7,483.46
First, Jacksonville	7,126.48
First, West Memphis	7,000.00
First, Blytheville	6,655.00

A former foster parent speaks:

"About twenty years ago, two young sisters, one 13 and one 16, suddenly became homeless in the small town where we lived. Mrs. Hacker and I sought help for these girls and were able to become foster parents to them. We were aided in this undertaking by the Bottoms Baptist Orphanage, now the Baptist Children's Home operated by the Arkansas Baptist Convention's Family and Child Care Services.

"We look back on the time the girls were in our home with fond memories. Twenty years ago I found the Home to have compassion and Christian concern. Today, I find that same compassion and Christian concern to be the pulse of the Family and Child Care Services as caring people support and nurture young lives.

I support unequivocally the fine work of the Family and Child Care Services." — **S. D. Hacker, Director of Missions, Independence Baptist Association.**

Give to the Thanksgiving Offering to continue these services

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Boxley at Ponca, Heber Springs Mt. Olive lead in per capita giving

Boxley Church at Ponca and Mount Olive Church of Heber Springs lead all other churches in per capita giving to the BSU Third Century Endowment Campaign.

Five churches rank in the top 20 churches in both categories: First Church of Mountain Home, Pulaski Heights Church of Little Rock, First Church of Stuttgart, First Church of Fayetteville, and East Side Church of Fort Smith.

Name of church	Amount
Boxley at Ponca	\$31.95
Mount Olive, Heber Springs	30.00
Pines, Quitman	15.70
First, Mountain Home	14.86
Dermott	14.35
First, Calion	13.62
Haw Creek, Waldron	12.82
Reydel	12.75
Liberty, Dutch Mills	12.45
Pulaski Heights, Little Rock	12.33
Bella Vista	11.93
First, Stuttgart	11.80
Jerome, Dermott	11.78
Rolling Hills, Fayetteville	11.37
First, Batesville	11.27
First, Carlisle	11.25
First, Fayetteville	11.14
East Side, Fort Smith	11.14
First, Strong	10.89
Southside, Fort Smith	10.80

Church	August 16, 1981 Sunday School	Church Trng.	Church addns.
Alexander			
First	126	57	
Viny Ridge Immanuel	72	35	
Alpena, First	83	38	
Atkins, First	115	55	
Batesville			
First	280	122	6
West	177	63	4
Nursing Home	35		
Bentonville, First	409		1
Berryville			
First	204	100	2
Freeman Heights	243	76	1
Booneville			
First	271		1
South Side	149	114	1
Bryant			
First	303	74	1
First Southern	125	54	
Indian Springs			
Cabot	391	103	
First	425	199	
Mt. Carmel	370	120	3
Camden, Cullendale First	120	107	
Caraway, First	100	34	
Cherokee Village, First			
Conway	116	91	
Oak Bowery	492	220	
Secord			
Crossett	400	86	
First	115	78	1
Meridian	331	94	4
Mount Olive	153	40	
Danville, First	26	97	
Nursing Home	241	90	
Des Arc, First	91	70	2
Desha, First			
El Dorado	137	66	1
Parkview	14		
Nursing Home	439	429	
West Side	586	101	
Forrest City, First			
Fort Smith	1,976		7
First	26		
Grand Avenue	97		5
Mission			
Westside	97	51	1
Caswell	112	32	
Geisty, First	188		
Grandview	61	43	
Hampton, First	165	85	5
Hartly, First	120	52	
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	227	101	3
Woodland Heights	92	45	
Hot Springs			
Emmanuel	88	49	
Grand Avenue	372	91	1
Harvey's Chapel	160	86	5
Leonard Street	178	58	3
Memorial	102	57	
Millcreek	46	34	
Park Place	272	98	
Rector Heights	81	46	1
Vista Heights	27	17	
Hughes, First	105	86	1
Jesseville			
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	151	124	
Nettler	253	91	
Little Rock, Crystal Hill	125	61	2
Magnolia, Central	616	196	5
Maynard, Witts Chapel	109	58	
Mountain Pine			
Cedar Glades	43	24	
First	87		
Mulberry, First	187	90	1
North Little Rock, Stanfill	73	69	6
Paragould			
Calvary	185	136	
East Side	396	207	1
First	437	101	
Pee Ridge, First	241	81	2
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	109	61	
Central	105	31	
First	579	55	2
Lee Memorial	175	60	1
Sulphur Springs	171	66	
Watson Chapel	398	116	2
Waise Grove, First	146	66	1
Russellville, First	511		4
Rogers			
First	506	122	3
Immanuel	801		9
Sandhooky, Okla., Faith	33	18	
Springdale			
Berry Street	75	47	
Elmdale	272	121	
First	1,675		14
Tesarkana			
Highland Hills	105	67	5
Shiloh Memorial	146	76	
Trinity	324	186	13
Valley Springs	90	55	1
Van Buren, First	376	66	2
Vandervoort, First	45	32	
West Helena, Second	245	82	
Wootter, First	115	66	

Area Evangelism Conferences



Clifford Palmer
preacher



Huber Drumwright
Bible teacher

7:30 p.m.

- Sept. 14 — Rogers First Church
- Sept. 15 — Russellville Second Church
- Sept. 17 — Newport First Church
- Sept. 18 — Monticello Second Church,

Stewardship conference at 4:30 p.m.

Your state convention at work

Church administration Deacon ministry conference set

Henry Webb, deacon ministry consultant in the church administration department in Nashville, will be the keynote speaker and a principal conference leader at the State Deacon Ministry Conference on Oct. 2-3. The conference will meet at the Olivet Church in Little Rock beginning at 7 on Friday night. The conference will adjourn at noon on Saturday. Webb is author of the book, *Deacons: Servant Models in the Church*. This will also be the theme of the conference.



Webb

Pastors, deacons and their wives will be able to select from several conferences dealing with topics of interest and concern to churches. Webb will lead conferences on "Deacon Chairmen Planning their Work," "How to Train Deacons for Effective Ministry" and "Planning Effective Deacon Meetings." Ed F. McDonald III, Director of Pastoral Care at Baptist Medical Center, will lead a conference on "How to Visit the Hospital." Jerre Hassell, pastor of Stuttgart

First Church, will lead conferences on "How to Minister to the Bereaved" and "Deacons Dealing with Conflict." Conferences on "Developing an Effective Deacon Family Ministry Plan" will be led by Clyde Glazener, pastor of Calvary Church, Little Rock.

Wives of pastors and deacons will be led in a special conference by Mrs. Huber Drumwright, wife of our Executive Secretary. This conference will meet both Friday night and Saturday morning.

The conference will close with a message by Webb on the subject "The Church Needs Servant Models." — Robert Holley

Christian Life Council Leech philosophy

His philosophy, at least partially, is "I'm in it for the green and nothing else. I'm a leech who likes money and I'll make it any

way I can."

A modern day bounty hunter, Tiny Boyles of Orange County, Calif., is six foot, two, and weighs 350 pounds. He was described in a recent news article as having the disposition of a wet wildcat. Tiny is perfectly fitted to the task for which bail bondsmen hire him — retrieving bail skippers.

Most are not as honest as he is regarding a basic, popular philosophy held by many of making money any way possible. Such a philosophy is 180 degrees away from the Christian ethic which emphasizes the Golden Rule. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matt. 7:12). Following such teaching of the Master prevents us from pursuing certain vocations or professions. One might even be in Tiny's profession, but "making money any way I can" is strictly out for the serious disciples of Jesus

MK Prayer Calendar

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

September

- 2 Jonathan Thomas Rice (Venezuela) Box 144, OBU, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923
- 3 Sheri Lynn Gober (Brazil) Box 1405, OBU, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923
- 11 Timothy M. Reynolds (Botswana) Box 13, SBC, Walnut Ridge, Ark. 72476

The 1981 Annual
Paul Jackson
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SEPTEMBER 10-12



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Christ.

Christian youth considering livelihood possibilities would do well to establish his principles as a correct frame of reference for future job potentials.

It isn't unreasonable or too early for young and old alike to consider the importance of finally receiving from Jesus a "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21). Such commendation and reward won't come after a life spent carelessly disregarding the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of others.

Two of the happiest, most contended Christians it's been my privilege to know were a father and son menially employed as gardeners. They both had resigned more financially lucrative jobs in a local whiskey distillery. Such dedication of purpose isn't always the most financially rewarding, but a good night's rest without pills is generally a side benefit. — Bob Parker

Sunday School Fastest growing recognition plan

An all expense paid trip to Clorieta or Ridgecrest could be in your future. The trip will be awarded to four individuals in the nation representing four areas of recognition.

The areas of recognition are the Sunday Schools having (1) the largest numerical increase in enrollment; (2) the largest percentage increase in enrollment; (3) the largest numerical increase in average attendance, and (4) the largest percentage increase in average attendance. Information should correspond with the annual church letter, to the association.

The selection depends on and begins with the local Baptist association. State and Southern Baptist Convention awards are limited to churches that receive awards from the association.

Each association will select churches to receive the awards listed above. The names and statistical data of these four churches will be forwarded to the state Sunday School office by Oct. 15. The state Sunday School office will select churches from this information for state recognition. Awards will be granted at the annual state convention in Fayetteville in November. Names of these churches and their data will be for-



Hatfield

warded to the Nashville Sunday School Department (SBC) by Nov. 15. The Nashville Department will select the four churches to receive national recognition.

These churches will be introduced at either Ridgecrest or Clorieta. The pastor or Sunday School director will receive an all expense-paid week at one of the Sunday School Conferences at the conference center nearest to his church.

Leaflets giving more details of the plan will be available from the associational offices or the state office. — Lawson Hatfield, state Sunday School director

Evangelism

Why simultaneous revivals?

We are going to ask C. E. Matthews, the great evangelistic leader of the past, to appear again in the decade of the 80s and speak to us. As Director of Evangelism for the Home Mission Board, Matthews made a strong case for simultaneous revival campaigns. He gave the following reasons for this type effort as early as 1949:

(1) It is a concerted effort, with all the churches in a given territory, association or state doing the same thing at the same time. Baptists have found there is tremendous strength in a cooperative effort. We do things better when we do them together.

(2) It is church-centered. The revival is conducted in the local church. The New Testament teaches that the local church was called, challenged and commissioned to do evangelism. This is the only institution that God has given this responsibility. It employs all the programmed agencies of the church. It also strengthens every phase of local church work and makes possible



Shell

conservation of results.

(3) If properly directed, it will command the attention of saint and sinner. The saint will be reclaimed and revived, and the sinner will be redeemed in the glorious experience of salvation.

(4) It fixes responsibility with individuals and churches. The association-wide simultaneous crusade enlists every church and employs an army of people. All of us agree God can do just as he pleases. The truth of the matter is, it pleases God to choose and to use men, women, boys and girls.

(5) The simultaneous method leaves the prospects without excuse. There is a church in every community involved in reaching the lost. We must begin with the great mission program in our own Jerusalem. This is missions at its best, to begin in our local area and reach out to the ends of the earth.

(6) It gives every church, large or small, the same assistance, direction and leadership. It places every church on an equality before God. Every church shares in the praying, the power and the publicity.

(7) It enables any state, regardless of size, to have at least one revival in every church each year. No other method known to Southern Baptists can do this.

(8) The association-wide revival crusade, properly conducted, is the answer to the problems of churches making an annual report of no baptisms. Our consistent goal is that every church in our state will win and baptize at least one. Most churches in our state should win and baptize at least 10. Many churches in our state should win and baptize at least 100.

The proof of these statements that have been made is found in the fact that the highest year of baptisms in Arkansas was a simultaneous revival year. We join our hearts with Arkansas pastors as we cry out together the words of Habakkuk, "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known in wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2). — Clarence Shell Jr.

Cooperative Program Report for July

1980	1981
\$ 591,258.08	\$ 669,511.50
633,532.15	653,687.53
\$ 42,274.07	(15,823.97)
\$4,266,088.96	\$4,765,145.88
4,138,806.58	4,686,580.50
\$ 127,282.38	\$ 78,565.38

During July, Arkansas Baptist Churches gave \$20,155.38, 3.18 percent more than they gave last July. Total gifts are \$499,056.92 or 11.70 percent above a year ago. Faithful sharing keeps mission causes ahead of the inflation rate. — James A. Walker

SBC datelines

Executive Committee chairman to resign

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP) — J. Howard Cobble, 46, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will resign that post in early September when he moves from Georgia to Kentucky.

Cobble, who has been pastor of First Church of Avondale Estates, a suburb of Atlanta, has accepted a call to become pastor of Severns Valley Church of Elizabethtown, Ky.

The Georgia pastor was elected to a second one-year term as chairman at the 1981 SBC in Los Angeles. He also is in the final year of a second four-year term on the Executive Committee.

According to Executive Committee bylaws, vice chairman John Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin, Ky., will "perform the duties" as chairman until a chairman is elected.

Record BSSB budget approved by trustees

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — A record 1981-82 budget of \$126.5 million was adopted by trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday

School Board during their semi-annual meeting at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The budget represents an increase of \$16.6 million over the projected 1980-81 income of \$109.9 million.

Bill clears Congress; postal subsidy kept

WASHINGTON (BP) — In completing action on the package of budget cuts which will reduce federal spending by \$130 billion over the next three fiscal years, Congress preserved the phasing subsidy for second-class, nonprofit publications such as Baptist state newspapers.

The conference report on the budget rec-

onciliation bill cleared the Senate 80-14, and was agreed to by a voice vote in the House July 31. The \$696 million it authorizes to subsidize preferential rates given to second, third and fourth-class mailers in fiscal 1982 is less than the Postal Service needs to avoid rate increases for nonprofit categories, but the conferees specified that the shortfall be applied to third-class bulk nonprofit mail.

The action preserves for second-class, nonprofit publications the phasing subsidy Congress set up in 1970 to permit nonprofit mailers to move gradually toward paying full costs of their mailings instead of forcing them to do so at once. The phasing subsidy reached Step 10 of a 16-year process last June.



September is the season for Eureka Springs.

With fall right around the corner, cooler weather and special rates, September is the ideal time to visit scenic Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Come and enjoy the timeless beauty of the Ozark Mountains. See the inspiring Great Passion Play and the seven-story Christ of the Ozarks Statue. Take advantage of the special group bus rates for churches, senior citizens and others. Visit Victorian homes, arts and crafts shops, fine restaurants and dozens of fun attractions.

September is not only the season for Eureka Springs, it's the best bargain for families and groups.

For information on accommodations, activities or tour packages, write or call: Chamber of Commerce, Room 206, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. (501) 253-8737.

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6:30 p.m. Evening Worship
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Jack T. Riley, pastor

David Miller, minister of education-administration

David Branton, minister of youth and music

Area WMU Leadership Conferences

for leaders and members

Sept. 14 a.m., p.m.	First, Brinkley
Sept. 15 p.m., Sept. 16 a.m.	First, Crossett
Sept. 17 a.m., p.m.	First, Hope
Sept. 24 a.m., p.m.	Central, Jonesboro
Sept. 28 a.m., p.m.	Grand Ave., Ft. Smith
Sept. 29 p.m., Sept. 30 a.m.	First, Fayetteville
Oct. 1 a.m., p.m.	First, Harrison

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Bob Wilhite
Senior Pastor
Trinity Temple

Tuesday

Merle Allison Johnson
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Wednesday

Jamie Jones
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We ask your interest and prayer support for this massive outreach to the University of Arkansas campus. Pray with us that many students will give their lives to Christ as Savior and Lord!

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Taylor

International

Aug. 30, 1981

Deut. 32:1-9

by Ira Taylor
Atkins First Church

God is faithful

Moses had faithfully reminded Israel of God's covenant with them. He had urged them to obey it, to repent of sin and be restored. He had clearly shared God's truth with them and told them how they must decide what their response would be.

Yet God knew what their response would be (Deut. 31:16-21). But no matter what they did, God would act in accordance with his nature that can do no wrong. God is faithful. He can always be depended upon to do what is right, even when men fail him. God told Moses to write a song as a reminder of his truth to future generations of Israelites.

The preface (v. 1-2)

Earlier God had given Moses a song of praise and thanksgiving. But this song was to be a song of doctrine or instruction. All our doctrine must come from God. Just as the rain showers fall from heaven to make the earth fruitful, so this doctrine should be received into the hearts of men to produce in the lives of men, good works and fruitfulness toward God.

As the rain and the dew is sent from heaven to soften the earth, this doctrine or instruction is sent to soften the hearts of men that they may be turned toward God.

In defense of God (v. 3-4)

Even though Israel would turn away from God, the fault is not God's. Heaven and earth (perhaps angels and men) testify for God against Israel. God had done all that could be done to keep Israel from the sin of turning away from him. God could not be held accountable for their sin. God is great; he is the Rock — always faithful; perfect; truth without iniquity; just and right.

In contrast to the character and nature of God is the nature and character of man. "They have corrupted themselves," Moses declares in verse five. Israel could not blame God for their sin; they were to blame. Today we must not blame God for our sin either. It is the nature of man to try and shift responsibility for sin elsewhere, as Adam and Eve did, but the root of sin is not with God, but with us.

God is faithful to Israel

Moses then reminded these Israelites that God is their Father. Though earthly fathers fail sometimes to do what is best for their children, our Heavenly Father will not. He is faithful. Though we sin and turn from him, his promise is, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." Even as God is faithful to forgive, we let us then be faithful to confess.

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Watching what you say

Words are man's basic symbols for communication. Therefore, words can be one of man's greatest blessings. When man misuses that which has great potential for blessing, it also has great potential for cursing. Because he is the highest possible expression of God's communication to man, Jesus Christ is called the Word. Rightly respond to that Word and all heaven breaks loose! Reject the Word and you are hopelessly lost! With your words you can proclaim the Living Word, or by your words you can defame.



Glazener

Words tell the story (Pro. 12:13-14)

The Spirit reveals through the wisdom writer that a man cannot conceal his character, for it will be revealed by his words. Conversation eventually betrays evil in one's heart. He assures us that men will live with the harvest of the words they utter. This harvest may be in character or relationships — good or bad. The sowing and the reaping is the metaphor here.

Couplets of contrast (Pro. 12:15-19; 15:1)

These six verses are couplets stating either a positive or negative use of words with its result and then stating the opposite kind of speech with its result. Three of the couplets deal with the sharp or biting usage of words: (v. 16) a fool makes hasty and angry retorts when angered, but the wise ignore insults; (v. 18) sharp and biting words bring hurt, but the wise encourages reconciliation; (v. 19) a soft answer puts out the fires of wrath, but grievous words kindle them. These three sayings point out the role of words in bringing reconciliation or hostility.

Two of the couplets emphasize the importance of truthfulness. Honesty is the foundation of continuing relationships: (v. 17) truth speakers have a mark of righteousness about them, while false witnesses promote deceit in the world; (v. 19) lips that only speak truth have a permanence about them, but liars have no permanence. The other couplets deal with the wisdom of being able to listen to counsel (v. 15), and the respective products of wise and foolish tongues — knowledge and folly (v. 2).

Curse and blessing

(Pro. 15:3-4; 18:20-21; 26:22-23)

These six verses warn that the speech of

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Life and Work

Aug. 30, 1981

Proverbs 12:13-19; 15:1-4; 18:20-21;
26:22-23

by Clyde Glazener
Little Rock Calvary Church

any man can be good or evil. Great harm can come from words that "twist" things or people (perverse tongue), but the tongue bent on healing sustains folk like a "tree of life" (v. 4). Note the emphasis that the Lord is omniscient and knows all that is said whether good or bad (v. 3). A man must live with what he says.

The last two verses (Pro. 26:22-23) broaden both the gossip and the listener. The words of the gossip are like poisonous and sugar-coated "junk food"! They go down well and then do their harm. Maybe the best response to the beginning of a piece of gossip is, "Do you think he/she has been told how to receive eternal life?"



Garner

Bible Book

Aug. 30, 1981

James 1:1-27

Jimmie Garner

Trinity Baptist Association

Facing temptations and living the Word

In his book James not only tells us that the Christian faces temptations, but he also tells us how we can grow in God's Word. James says, as the early Christians were whipped, ridiculed, cursed by mobs and dragged into prisons and counted it all joy, so will you meet various trials.

Be steadfast in temptations (James 1:1-27)

James uses the Old Testament character, Job, and the farmer to illustrate true steadfastness. He also shares with us the happiness of enduring trials. He said, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (v. 12).

Steadfastness produces quality of work

Living the Word of God means that through the power of his word a person will be able to stand the temptation of the devil. This is pure religion. The religion which is pure and stainless in the sight of our God and Father is to care for, look after the fatherless and widows in their distress and to keep themselves free from the smut of the world (v. 27).

The Christian who has gone through the stress of being tempted and knows the power of God is the person who has compassion for the weak people of the world. He is the one who lives the Word from day to day. He is the person, who like the good Samaritan, has compassion and puts his faith into action. He not only looks for, but spends time and his money to search out the people who need help. It is possible for a Christian to be so taken up with serving the Lord in the church that he forgets the people outside of the church. He gives his money and attends services regularly, but leaves the wounded world by the road side. All through history men have tried to make ritual a substitute for sacrifice and service.

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Look who's joined you

New subscribers to the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* are:

Church	Pastor	Association
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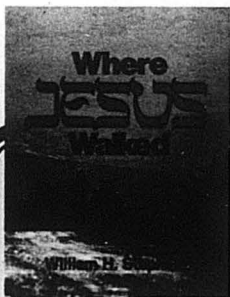
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BROADMAN

Annie Armstrong gifts pass \$17.25 million

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists exceeded the \$17.25 million goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions in July, the second earliest the goal has been reached in the past decade.

Total contributions through offerings in Southern Baptist churches received by the SBC Home Mission Board reached \$17,274,088 on July 27.

If giving through the offering continues for the rest of the year at the same rate as during the past five years, total offerings by the end of 1981 may exceed \$18.5 million, predicted Leonard Irwin, Home Mission

Lay participation up in Los Angeles SBC

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Lay participation increased slightly in the 1981 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles, according to the annual messenger survey.

The survey, conducted by Martin Bradley of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board research department, is based on 11,376 responses from the 13,549 registered messengers at the convention.

Bradley said the survey showed there was "no great change" in the characteristics of 1981 messengers, as compared to previous meetings of the 13.6 million member denomination.

"There is an amazing stability over the years," he commented. "The 1981 meeting reflects a slight rise in lay participation, and by women messengers, but other than that, there is no great change."

Of those who participated in the survey, 59 percent were male, 39.1 percent were female and 1.9 percent did not indicate sex. This compares with the St. Louis SBC when 60.2 percent were male, 38.1 percent female and 1.7 percent not indicated.

Of the male messengers, 65.2 percent serve on church staffs, compared to 72 percent in St. Louis. An additional 14.6 percent indicated they were denominational employees, working in home, foreign or associational missions, state conventions, agencies, institutions or other denominational service.

This compared with slightly less than 10 percent denominational employees attending the St. Louis meeting.

For female messengers, only 6.6 percent indicated they are on church staffs, 6.8 are in other denominational service. The predominant occupation is homemaking, with 57.2 percent of the female messengers indicating that as their vocational area.

For the total messenger participation, 41.4 percent indicated work on church staffs, compared with 46 percent in St. Louis. Denominational workers accounted for 11.5 percent of the registration and laypersons accounted for 40.9 percent.

The messengers also came predominantly from churches with more than 500 members. The survey indicated 37.6 percent came from churches with more than 1,000 members, compared with 28.7 in 1980; 26.4 came from churches with 500 to 999 mem-

bers, compared with 25.8 in St. Louis, and 16.1 percent came from churches with 300 to 499 members, compared with 21.5 percent last year. The remainder came from churches with 300 or less members.

In contrast to the St. Louis meeting, when 75.7 percent of the messengers traveled by car, the overwhelming choice of mode of travel to Los Angeles was by air. The survey showed 58.7 percent arrived by airplane, while 42.3 percent came by car.

The meeting also was more costly: 70.1 percent indicated expenditures in excess of \$150, compared with 55.1 percent of the St. Louis messengers. Also, in Los Angeles, only four percent indicated they spent less than \$25 to attend.

Of messengers, 67.2 percent of the men attended the pre-convention Pastor's Conference, compared to 73 percent in St. Louis. They were joined by 52.7 percent of the women. The Woman's Missionary Union annual conference was attended by 26.5 percent of the women and only 8.7 percent of the men. Last year, 23 percent of the women and 9.1 percent of the men attended the WMU meeting.

Of those who attended the Los Angeles meeting, many indicated they had attended the previous six conventions.

Of the male messengers, 41.6 percent had attended the St. Louis meeting; 44.1 in Houston; 45.1 in Atlanta; 38.2 in Kansas City; 35.5 in Norfolk, and 35.2 in Miami Beach.

Of female participants, 31.4 percent were in St. Louis; 35.2 in Houston; 35.7 in Atlanta; 28.9 in Kansas City; 28.3 in Norfolk; and 28.9 in Miami Beach.

Texas provided the most messengers, with 13.7 percent of the total. California contributed 12.7. North Carolina was third with 9.0 percent; Georgia, 6.6; Tennessee, 6.3; South Carolina, 5.2; Alabama, 5.1; and Virginia, 5.0.

In 1980, Missouri provided 11.4 percent of the messengers, Texas 9.6, Tennessee 7.5 and Kentucky 7.2.

The survey also showed there were no registered participants from Maine, Rhode Island or Vermont. Five other states showed less than 0.1 percent participation: Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Puerto Rico.

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Board vice president for planning. HMB President William G. Tanner observed that in the light of today's economy and inflation, the record gifts are an indication that Baptist churches are continuing to take seriously Jesus Christ's great commission "to preach the gospel to every living creature."

The offering is promoted in local churches by the Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood, mission education organizations of the church. It is named for Annie Armstrong, corresponding secretary of WMU in the early 1900s.

Last year, Southern Baptists gave almost \$16.5 million through the Annie Armstrong offering, exceeding the \$15.5 million goal.

Irwin warned, however, against resting on past laurels. Next year's goal will be \$22 million, an increase of 27.5 percent over this year's goal.

205 accept Christ in Singapore churches

SINGAPORE — Sixty Texans recently led a week of special services in three Baptist churches in Singapore. Approximately 5,000 people attended and 205 made first-

time decisions for Christ. Also, there were 133 dedications and 21 decisions to go into full-time Christian service.