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Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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SEP 11 1981

ARKANSAS BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Baptist Foundation Month
page 11



September 10, 1981

Arkansas Baptist
NEWSMAGAZINE

Start black churches, Smith says

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP) — "The time has come for Southern Baptists to become aggressive in organizing black churches, and to invite nonaligned black Baptist churches to join our denomination," Sid Smith told the steering committee of the North Central Missions Thrust.

Smith, black consultant in the ethnic liaison unit of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said about 600 predominantly black churches with 220,000 members are now affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

"In addition, about 50,000 blacks belong to predominantly white Southern Baptist churches," Smith added.

SBC keeps up with U.S., falters behind Sun Belt

by Marv Knox

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist membership grew faster than the U.S. population during the 1970s, but the convention's growth fell "alarmingly" behind the rate of increase in Sun Belt states, according to an SBC Home Mission Board report just released.

SBC resident membership increased 17 percent during the decade, while the U.S. population grew 11.4 percent, noted Orrin D. Morris, the board's research director and author of the reports.

Based on 1980 U.S. census data and SBC Uniform Church Letters, the report said the nation's population grew from 203.3 million to 226.5 million, and the SBC expanded from 8.3 million resident members to 9.7 million. The convention claims 13.6 million total members.

But the figures are misleading, because Southern Baptists are "losing in the states where we have the greatest strength — the South," Morris claimed.

"The shocker is that we've shown what appears to be growth, but we've been overrun by the population," he said.

Churches in the South provided 79 percent of the total SBC membership growth and 48 percent of the increase in churches. But while population in those states increased 20 percent, SBC churches there increased by only 15.4 percent.

"If we'd kept up with the rise in population in eight of these states, we would have 427,000 more Southern Baptists right now," Morris said.

He noted states in which Baptists lagged farthest behind total population growth — Texas, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina — were among the biggest gainers in SBC numerical growth.

They ranked first, second, fifth and sixth respectively in total membership growth. But combined, their number of members increased only about half as much as the populations in their states.

"This is alarming," Morris said. "We say we're in favor of Bold Mission Thrust and reaching our world and country for Christ, but we're not making gains. We're losing ground."

In contrast to the South, churches in the Northeast, West and North Central states recorded gains which surpassed population increases in those areas.

In the Northeast, where population climbed only 0.2 percent, Southern Baptist membership recorded a 109.7 percent gain. Western states grew 23.9 percent, but Baptists there increased 35.9 percent. Churches in North Central states grew by 22.4 percent, compared to a 4.0 percent population gain.

"We knew we'd make gains in these areas, because we were smaller there to start with," he said. "From those beginnings, we had nowhere to go but up."

The percentages of those gains also were deceptive, because many of the increases were not numerically large, he said. For example, Southern Baptists in the Northeast more than doubled in the 1970s, but the actual gain was only a "modest" increase of 18,305 members.

Reasons for Southern Baptists falling behind in the fastest-growing states vary, Morris said. Early indicators show the denomination is not keeping pace with the increase in black and ethnic populations.

Another factor may be that Baptists have adopted a "large church" mentality, building more huge churches, but not enough new churches to keep up with shifts in population.

Morris said Home Mission Board researchers plan to continue studying church growth/population change factors in an investigation which may include as many as 10 reports.

"Right now, we know we're losing ground," he said. "We've got a lot of work to do to see just why."

Cothen lauds Smith for stemming crises

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — SBC President Bailey Smith has been lauded for his effort at stemming expected controversies at the Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles.

Following an address by Smith to Sunday School Board trustees, board president Grady Cothen said, "Before the SBC I was among those concerned that there were strong pressures within our denomination

to lead us to become a creedal people."

Cothen said he was one of several who felt the crisis might be overcome "if Bailey Smith would take a strong stand on the traditional Baptist position that the Bible is our sole rule of faith and practice."

"He did and we did and I will forever give thanks to God for Bailey Smith," said Cothen. "We made history in that moment."

Correction

In the Sept. 3 *Arkansas Baptist News-magazine* report of the Executive Board meeting, the percent of increase in the 1982 budget over 1981 was incorrect. There is an increase of 13.5 percent in next year's \$9,118,665 budget over this year's \$8,034,138 amount.

In this issue

9

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention Woman's Conference is getting off the ground as a committee prepares for the April 1982 event.

11

Guidance in financial planning is the work of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. Its varied activities are featured in this issue.

16

Foreign missionaries often don't end their ministries when they return to the United States; many of them are continuing to work in this country through the Home Mission Board.



It would be difficult to overemphasize the importance of January Bible study. Nothing can be more meaningful to the life of a church than a proper understanding of the Word of God. Jeremiah, the 1982 January Bible study, contains truths and an example of commitment which are basic to our faith. This study will provide help for Christians who live under the pressure of today's world.

The author of the 1982 January Bible study course book is Roy L. Honeycutt who is provost and professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Honeycutt's writing reflects the finest of scholarship, yet it is presented in a very readable and understandable fashion.

The book of Jeremiah deals with some of the greatest truths of the Bible. Perhaps the greatest teaching of the book is the necessity of the followers of God remaining true to God's Word. Because of Jeremiah's loyalty to God, he urged his people to surrender to the enemy. This brought charges of treason. Even though Jeremiah reached the depths of despair, he continued to remain true to God.

Another major theme of the book is the freedom of choice. If the people of Judah would choose to live up to God's ethical standards, they would have peace. But the people had come to put so much trust in the temple that they thought that Jerusalem could never be destroyed. Jeremiah challenged this idea and said that the future depended upon living up to God's ethical standards.

The book also emphasizes hope. About 3,000, including King Jehocchichin, were taken into exile in Babylonia about 597 B.C. Some false prophets said that the captivity would soon be over. Jeremiah said that the captivity would be long but not endless, about 70 years. God had not given up on his people. There was hope for the future.

The book contains many lessons for today. The paganism of the people of Judah and their refusal to turn to God had brought destruction and despair. The alternatives of life are stated clearly and forcefully. People, then

and today, created in the image of God, are decision makers who are responsible for their choices.

The time in which a church offers January Bible study will have a major impact on attendance. The study should be scheduled well in advance so that members can place the study on their personal calendars. Many congregations are finding it helpful to begin the study on a Sunday and close on a Wednesday. This utilizes two days in which members are already accustomed to attending church.

Another method that has proven quite workable in many churches is to teach January Bible study on a single Sunday. Various arrangements can be made to get the five hours of study completed in a single day.

January Bible study is generally most effective when the book is covered in a relatively short time. Major themes and ideas should be emphasized so that those in attendance will have a comprehensive overview of the book and the truths it contains.

The pastor should make every effort to encourage attendance for the study of Jeremiah. Interest can be increased by the pastor preaching one or two sermons from Jeremiah prior to the study.

The teacher should be well prepared. Several associations are providing preview studies of Jeremiah to assist teachers in their preparation. Such studies will prove invaluable to everyone who has the responsibility of teaching this great book. Many churches will find that interest is increased by having a guest teacher.

Every church member will want to study Jeremiah. The book is extremely well timed for our day. Jeremiah lived in what many believe to be the most significant period of Old Testament history. His country, Judah, was disintegrated, yet he projected a message of renewal and hope. This, along with his emphasis on the Word of the Lord, should strengthen everyone who studies the book.

Finally, Jeremiah's consistent witness under pressure provides an invaluable example for the people of today's world.

Arkansas Baptist

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One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

The extended family and the overextended grandparents

Being a grandfather was supposed to be a cakewalk. In many ways that's what it has been. Nothing could be finer than to have the brightest, most attractive, most winsome, and most loving four-year-old granddaughter and grandson in the whole world, without having the day-to-day burdens and frustrations of rearing them. It's like enjoying all the fresh vegetables and fruits from the garden and orchard without having to plant, water, fertilize, weed, de-bug, and harvest. As much as I enjoy it, I still have a nagging sense of guilt when I keep grandchildren Allison and Tad during the time of joy and laughter, but turn them over to the parents when tears and temper move in.

In spite of the joys of grandparenthood, there is the potential danger of allowing personal pride to get the grandparents in trouble. A case in point is the recent family reunion of the descendants of James R. and Grace S. Grant at our home in Arkadelphia.

I had forgotten how competitive a breed the Grants are, until the challenges began coming in fast and furiously for golf, tennis, bowling, swimming, ping pong, and any number of other activities that had to be crowded into a 48-hour period. Similarly, my wife Betty Jo may have forgotten how much food an extended family of 35 or 40 can eat, when she volunteered to have two of the meals at our home. I am sure I forgot how hot the summer sun can be on a hard-surface tennis court at the peak of the day when young and strong arms and legs are across the net from me. And then there was bowling. I would have thought that a veteran of my age, maturity, and wisdom could have handled quite easily the rolling of a ball down a hardwood lane toward a few blocks of wood, without my muscles, tendons, and joints going on a sit-down strike.

It was, of course, very important that the

grandchildren not know that the grandparents were teetering on the brink of physical collapse during the hyper-activity of the family reunion. So when they wanted us to add ping pong, hide-and-seek, and leap frog to the already heavy agenda, the answer had to be "Paw-Paw and Mee-Maw are ready when you are!"

The family reunion was great, but honesty requires a confession that our family relaxation was also great, after the last reunioner had left. I was reminded of the question often asked by my former pastor, W. F. Powell, after extolling the joys of having grandchildren, "Why doesn't God let us have the grandchildren first?" I have decided that children and grandchildren do come in the right order and that God, after all, does know best.

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



Woman's viewpoint

Miss Glenn Kirkland

A tribute to my mother

If I live to be 100 years old I will praise my Lord for my mother. The Bible says to train up a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6). My father died in 1900, leaving my mother with two children to rear. When my mother was left with this responsibility, my brother was nine and a half years old, and I was six.

Beginning at a very early age, mother instilled into our young hearts Christian principles of behavior. When we disobeyed, we were punished. I still remember the switch kept behind the clock on the mantle.

She never failed each night to put the kerosene lamp on a table beside her chair. While my brother sat close beside her and I sat at her knee, she would read Bible stories. I remember that the story of the crucifixion interested me most. It was two years later, at the age of eight, when I could read for myself, that I was converted.

Our home was very modest and, according to modern standards, would be classed below the poverty level. But we never knew it, for our mother always looked on the bright side of life and instilled the principle

in us that things could be worse, and to be thankful for what we had, and to look around us and we would see others who were not as well off as we.

My mother was a hard worker. As my brother and I grew older, we were always helping with the chores. We had a good garden every year, kept a cow, raised pigs and chickens, and had a few fruit trees. My mother spent the days in our little variety store. We did our own washing and I did the ironing with irons heated at an open fireplace. I am sure there are many of you reading this article who have had the same experiences. The point is my mother always made us feel we were somebody. She always kept before us that only the best effort and determination to reach goals was good enough. She would tell us don't be content with 80 percent — make it 100 percent — and with encouragement we nearly always did.

She taught us from early childhood to memorize scripture; this I have practiced to this day. She always took us to prayer meeting, Bible study and revival services which

sometimes lasted three weeks.

There are many more things which I could say about her trying to fulfill the command, "Train up a child in the way he should go." My mother lived to 104 years, and until the last she was a woman of prayer. I remember her saying in one of her prayers, "Lord, be merciful to those who are nearest death, and especially those who are without Christ." I remember, too, the prayers she prayed just a few days before her death. She said, "Lord, forgive our sins and help us to do better tomorrow than we have done today."

This is only a small portion of what I could say about my mother and her influence in our home. She was a virtuous woman, and "her children rise up and call her blessed..." (Prov. 31:10-31).

Miss Glenn Kirkland, 86, has led an adult Sunday School class at Plumerville First Church for nearly 55 years. She has taught speech, drama and music at Fulton High School and Arkansas State Teachers College (now the University of Central Arkansas).

World Hunger Day 1981

When confronted with the gigantic problem of world hunger and famine, even Christians are prone to respond with, "What's the use?" Unfortunately, that same spirit too often prevails when considering the world's spiritually lost.

It's hard to do, but try to imagine your family as part of the approximately 800 million undernourished people of our world. As a mother or father watching your children slowly starve, wouldn't you appreciate any effort made to help provide nourishment?

It's by God's grace that your family and mine are not among the starving masses rather than in America where it's estimated 20 percent of the food grown is wasted.

These starving people of our world couldn't care less about the label you wear as a "conservative," "liberal" or "middle of the road" Christian. The problem of biblical inerrancy is most likely insignificant to most of them as they scrounge for food. As followers of Jesus Christ we would, however, more importantly be "in error" if we fail to follow the spirit of his teaching: "I was hungry and you gave me to eat."

You and your church are urged to help Arkansas Baptists again double the amount given the year before to domestic and world hunger. — **Bob Parker, director, Christian Life Council, Arkansas Baptist State Convention**

Bob Parker, director
Christian Life Council
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



The Southern accent

The harvest of permissiveness

by D. Jack Nicholas

Those of us who have found the extreme permissiveness of the past two or three decades offensive and sometimes outrageous can add to our number a social liberal who has become disillusioned by that movement and has recorded the process of his disillusion in a leading national magazine.

The author, a professing liberal and a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, traces the transformation of Santa Cruz in 13 years from a veritable Eden to "an open-air lunatic asylum with a growing population of the criminally insane."

Stegner's article, titled "The Limits of Tolerance," vividly sets forth the consequences of permissiveness. After describing the natural beauty of the Santa Cruz area and the "mellow, no-hassle" political climate which drew him and thousands of others there, he proceeds to portray a typical street scene in Santa Cruz today. The scene described consists of a pathetic array of individuals involved in vulgar, sordid, or absurd activity including the "usual



Nicholas

panopoly of drunks, junkies, lawyers, and overage teenyboppers outdoing one another in a spandex display of mammae and mamilla," and a "couple of young lovers" entwined and "swapping a prodigious quantity of saliva."

Stegner also notes the incredibly high rate of violent crimes which now prevails in Santa Cruz, citing rampant muggings, purse snatchings and rape, and observes that Santa Cruz is referred to as the "murder capital of the world."

In closing the article, the author laments the horrible changes which he has observed and shares his fear that Santa Cruz is an endangered community.

Stegner is uncertain as to whether the tragic transformation which has occurred at Santa Cruz is a paradigm or a peculiarity. I think I know. I fear that it is a pattern of deterioration which will occur in every community which throws off social and civil restraints and permits (in the name of freedom of self-expression) any form of behavior, regardless of how base, vulgar, or barbaric.

Permissiveness has a price tag. Santa Cruz is paying on the installment plan, and the pay-off period is likely to be long and painful.

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

Ernie Perkins accepts Oklahoma position

Ernie Perkins has resigned as director of missions for Concord Association, effective Sept. 15 to become executive director-treasurer of Capitol Association in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Perkins, has directed the work of Concord Association, composed of 52 churches and three missions, for six years. He has also held state convention leadership positions, currently serving as chairman of the Operating Committee and as president of the Pastor's Conference.

In Oklahoma, he will coordinate work for more than 125 churches and missions, as well as a rescue mission, woman's shelter, community center, and chaplaincy program.

He received his education from Union University, Jackson, Tenn., Arkansas State University, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary.

Perkins is married to the former Wanda Grable. They have two sons, Timothy Stephen and Micah Paul.



Perkins



Johnson



Miss Long

Three from Ouachita to study in Japan

Three students from Ouachita Baptist University left Aug. 30 for a year's study in Fukuoka, Japan, as part of the school's exchange program with Seinan Gakuin University.

The students will take courses in the Japanese language at Seinan Gakuin, a Southern Baptist-sponsored college, as well as electives in Japanese history and culture.

The three are Jonathan Besancon of Elgin, Ill., a senior music major; Randy Johnson of Little Rock, a senior religion major; and Wendy Long of Vacaville, Calif., a junior speech pathology major. Johnson is the son of Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Johnson. His father is director of missions for Pulaski Association.

All three will return to Ouachita in the fall of 1982 to complete their degrees.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

Rick Erwin

has accepted the pastorate of Dumas First Church, coming there from the First Church of Olney, Texas. He is a graduate of Louisiana Baptist College, Pineville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Erwin is married to the former Lynn McGee of Woodville, Texas. They have two children, Stephanie, age eight, and Betsy, age five.

Rev. and Mrs. Garland Anderson

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 29 with a reception at the North Little Rock Gethsemane Church. Anderson, a retired Southern Baptist minister, has served churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and California. Mrs. Anderson is the former Helen Mae Dougherty of North Little Rock. They are now members of the Gethsemane Church. They have one daughter, Sue Anderson, also of North Little Rock.

Lamar E. McGriff

has been called as pastor of the Humnoke Church. A native of Alabama, he attended Samford University, Birmingham, and Huntsville Institute, Huntsville, Ala. Ordained to the ministry in October, 1976, he has pastored churches in Tennessee and Alabama, as well as serving in associational leadership positions. He and his wife, Joenea, have two children, Leah, age 12, and Glen Allan, age 10. He is the son of Glen D. and Helen Perry McGriff of Little Rock. Dr. McGriff is director of crisis support for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Rev. and Mrs. Anderson



Erwin



McGriff

Tommie Hinson

observed Aug. 23 his 20th anniversary as pastor of West Memphis First Church. Dr. and Mrs. Hinson were presented with a silver service and Book of Memories at the morning worship service. An all-church reception was given following the evening service.

Bobby Womack

has been called as youth director of the Wooster First Church. He has served in other Arkansas churches as music/youth director. He and his wife, Janet, have two children, Robbie and Audra.

David McKinney

has joined the staff of Jonesboro Nettleton Church, serving as youth director.

Phillip Wright

has resigned as minister to the deaf at Little Rock First Church to continue his theological education. He is enrolled in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Noel McDonnough

recently began serving as music/youth director for the Judsonia First Church. A native of Illinois, he is a recent graduate of Ouachita Baptist University.

E. C. Cloud

is serving as pastor of the Star City Hickory Grove Church. He has been serving the church as interim pastor. Cloud, who has served two Arkansas associations as director of missions, has served churches in the northwest area of the United States.

Don McCormick

has accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Goodwin Church, going there from a two-year pastorate at the Wabash Immanuel Church.



Clyde Spurgeon, pastor of Green Forest First Church and a ventriloquist, prepares for a photo session for a media presentation with his friend Archie. Clyde and Archie will present a Disciplelife interpretation at Baptist Youth Day at Magic Springs Amusement Park in Hot Springs Sept. 12. The event is sponsored by the Church Training Department.



Photo by Dennis James

Association commissions missionaries

Dr. and Mrs. James D. Bryant (right) were presented with a money tree Aug. 23 by Harrison Immanuel Church representatives at a commissioning service, sponsored by North Arkansas Association and held in the Burlington Church. Other associational churches also presented the couple with gifts. The Bryants and their daughters, now in orientation at Pine Mountain, Ga., have been appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as missionaries to Bangladesh. James A. Walker, director of Stewardship/Cooperative Program for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was speaker. Others on the commissioning program were Jack Ramsey, Leonard Herring, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bandy, Director of Missions John Finn, and Silby Estes.

Jacksonville Military Road Church was in revival Aug. 17-23. Bobby Worthington, associate pastor and minister of evangelism at Glendale Church of Duncanville, Texas, was evangelist.

West Fork First Church ordained Wayne Holiday as a deacon Sept. 6.

Alma First Church will celebrate its 108th anniversary with special events Aug. 26-30.

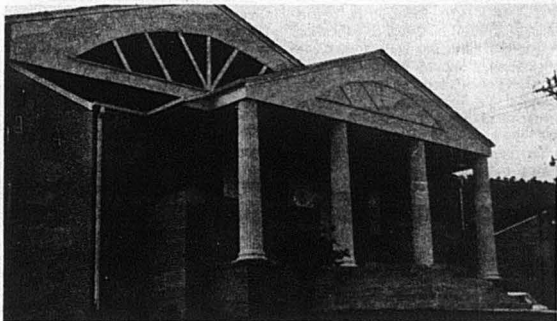
Fayetteville First Church will have a Sunday School emphasis Sept. 13 with John Sisemore, a professional religious education consultant, who will speak during the 10:50 a.m. service. Sisemore is director of Church Consultants Inc.

Benton Calvary Church youth and adult sponsors were in Andover, Kan., leading in a week of mission activity. The Benton group of 27 youth and 11 adults went to establish a church by leading in a Vacation Bible School and tent revival, since there was no Southern Baptist work in that area. Associational property provided a tent site.



Church constituted

Hot Springs Barcelona Road Church members, in a time of fellowship, rejoiced in their progress and growth when the church was constituted Aug. 30. Constitutional services were held in the Coronado Center of Hot Springs Village and featured Huber Drumwright, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, as speaker. Other program personalities included Pastor Tim L. Reddin; Carl Overton, director of missions for Central Association; Elmer Burrall, president of the Hot Springs Village Ministerial Association; and former pastors, Hugh Owen and Charles Holcomb. The church, formerly a mission of both Hot Springs Central and Hot Springs Second churches, was constituted with 101 resident and 13 non-resident members.



Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs is worshipping in a new 650-seat auditorium which the congregation dedicated Aug. 23.

Hot Springs Grand Avenue dedicates building

Grand Avenue Church in Hot Springs dedicated a \$325,000 sanctuary Aug. 23. Pastor Clytee Harness led the service in the new 650-seat auditorium. Wayne Davis, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Van Buren, preached the dedication sermon.

Former pastors and staff members of Grand Avenue recalled during the service their work at the church, which began as a mission of Second Church in Hot Springs.

Harness has been pastor at Grand Avenue for three years.

Baptists will continue ministry to migrants

Although the Migrant Farm Labor Center at Hope may be closed as of Sept. 15, Baptists' ministry across the highway will not close immediately, according to Pete Petty, Director of Special Mission Ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Petty wants churches to continue to send items collected for distribution to migrants.

The Baptist center, in operation since 1971, distributes Bibles and Christian tracts, as well as clothing, toys and health kits to migrants who stop at the government center on their way from the Rio Grande Valley to work in harvests in northern states. Baptists' Migrant Mission Center also

holds worship services and provides counseling. In 1980 the center recorded 111 professions of faith.

The announced closing of the 21-year-old government center is reported to be due to cuts in the budget of the Federal Labor Department.

Petty said that persons who want to see the government center kept open should contact Albert Angrisani, assistant secretary for employment and training administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20210.

Japanese, Indonesians join for missions

SEMARANG, Indonesia (BP) — In a significant move toward cooperative missions in eastern Asia, Japanese and Indonesian Baptists have agreed to explore an exchange of missionaries, preaching teams and student workers.

Representatives of the Japan Baptist Convention and the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches have signed a pact committing both groups to aid each other in missions and to launch an "International Witness" campaign geared toward "winning Asia to Christ."

The Japanese initiative is not unprecedented in East Asia. The Chinese Baptist Convention of Taiwan has sent missionaries to Korea and Malaysia, and the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong has supported missionaries in Malaysia, South Vietnam and Brunei, a tiny nation off the north coast of Borneo. Korean Baptists recently sent a missionary couple to American Samoa to evangelize Korean fishermen working there.

The Japan convention itself has supported a missionary couple in Brazil since 1965.

Diploma program meets church need for trained teachers

In Southern Baptist Sunday Schools around the nation, teacher training is possibly the issue most discussed by department directors and ministers of education. To meet this particular church need, the Baptist Sunday School Board has developed a training method that has been widely adopted: the Sunday School Leadership Diploma program.

The diploma program is designed to help teachers become more effective in Bible teaching, outreach and evangelism. Diplomas may be earned in several areas of specialization, including general officer, adult, youth, children, preschool, and special ministries/mentally retarded.

To receive credit, workers read six books specified by the Board; these include the basic "Working in Sunday School;" "An Introduction to the Bible;" books which examine the problems of working with, understanding and teaching a specific age group; and an elective in the area of Baptist doctrine, such as the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

The Sunday School Board mails diplomas to those who have finished the requirements.

Eastside Church in Fort Smith and Caudle Avenue Church in Springdale are two of the many churches in Arkansas who have completed the program.

Eastside had 14 teachers who completed 22 diplomas. Mary Tiefel, minister of education at the church, developed in 1980 a three-month program of weekend studies for her teachers. Fridays and Saturdays in August were spent on the "working with" books, in September on the "understanding" books, and in October on the "teaching" books.

At church training on Sunday evenings during the period, the teachers studied "An Introduction to the Bible" and discussed outreach strategies. The elective books were completed on the teachers' own time.

"We thought the three-month period was better than dragging it out for a year," said Mrs. Tiefel.

In addition, the church's video recorder was used to tape all the lecturers for the diploma series, making it easier for those who had missed a session to catch up.

"I think it's one of the best things we've ever done," said Mrs. Tiefel, in assessing the impact the program had on her teacher's effectiveness. "I could have given them all kinds of suggestions, but the books car-

ried so much more authority."

Seven members of Caudle Avenue Church received diplomas for their work in the program.

To emphasize the importance of completing the series, Caudle Avenue set aside

one Sunday morning worship service recognizing the seven teachers. Lawson Hatfield, state Sunday School director, spoke during the service, stressing the need for this type of intensive training and commending the church for its efforts.



The seven teachers at Caudle Avenue Church in Springdale who received diplomas for their work on the Sunday School Leadership Diploma program were recognized during a worship service led by (back row, left to right) Sunday School Director Roy Lee, Pastor Emile A. Rousseau, and State Sunday School Director Lawson Hatfield.



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Conference for women promises wide appeal

A first-of-its-kind conference, keyed to the interests of a broad spectrum of Arkansas Baptist women, will be held April 29-May 1 of next year at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention Conference for Women is the result of action taken at last year's annual meeting of the state convention. The body voted to sponsor and support financially such a gathering to inspire and inform Baptist women in the state.

Convention President John Finn appointed a five-woman committee to plan the conference with three ex-officio members. Betty Atchison of Pine Bluff serves as chairman, working with Minette Drumwright of Little Rock, Doris Bennett of Fort Smith, Maxine Murphy of Hamburg, and Carolyn Powell of Forrest City.

Aiding the committee in the planning are Executive Secretary Huber Drumwright, State WMU Executive Director Julia Ketner and Finn.

The committee is now in the process of finding speakers and conference leaders. Among those who already have accepted an invitation are Jeanette Cliff George, who portrayed Corrie Ten Boom in the movie "The Hiding Place;" Dorothy Sample, a counselor with two earned doctorates who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention WMU; and Mary Cosby of Washington, D.C., frequently used speaker among Southern Baptists.

Other confirmed speakers are Joyce Rogers of Memphis, who is the wife of the immediate past president of the SBC; Glen D. McGriff, Director of the Ministry of Crisis Support for the ABSC; Barbara Taylor, author and wife of Jack Taylor who is an author and lecturer and Len Sehested, Fort Worth based speaker and conference leader.

Other speakers and leaders for conferences will be announced later.

Conferences will be geared to interest areas such as parenting, communication

skills, inner beauty, coping with loss, sharing faith, discovering spiritual gifts, techniques of counseling, living as a single woman, midlife crisis, time management and women and stress.

ASBC President Finn told the convention's Executive Board Aug. 25 that he thinks the conference will offer something for most Arkansas Baptist women. "I feel 95 percent of Arkansas Baptists will be pleased with it," he explained.

Women are being encouraged by the planning committee to register for the conference as soon as registration forms are distributed by area representatives. A fee, required to register, pays for all workshops and conference kit. Seminars will be selected by registrants at a later date. Registration fee is not refundable after March 15.

More information about the conference and program people will appear in future issues of the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine.

News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Darrel E. Garner, missionaries to Malawi, may be addressed at P.O. Box 224, Balaka, Malawi. Born in Seminole, Okla., he lived in Wheat Ridge and Arvada, Colo., and Huntsville, Ark., while growing up. The former Judy Brown of Arkansas, she was born in Independence County and lived in Walnut Ridge and Fayetteville while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. William Holloway, missionaries to Japan, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 27-3 chome, Otana-cho, Chigusa-Ku, Nagoya 464, Japan). Holloway, whose parents were Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan, Souders Arkadelphia, Ark., his hometown. The former Linda Louton was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and grew up in Arkadelphia, Ark. They were appointed by the For-

eign Mission Board in 1972, resigned in 1976 and reappointed in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Orr, missionaries to Colombia, were presented 30-year service pins at a recent meeting of the Colombia mission. They may be addressed at Apartado Aereo 6613, Cali, Colombia. He is a native of Hot Springs, Ark. The former Violet Rogers, she was born in Helena, Okla., and lived in Hunter, Okla., and Midland and Odessa, Texas, while growing up. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1951.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord on Youth Choir Day at Ouachita Baptist University Oct. 3.

For more information on Youth Choir Day, write Dr. Paul Hammond,

P.O. Box 710, OBU, Arkadelphia, AR, 71923

Deaf revival set

A deaf revival will be held at Mountain Home First Church Sept. 11-13, with Bob Parrish, former language missions director for Arkansas as the evangelist. Barbara Northrup of Little Rock Immanuel Church will lead the music.

Staff position available

First Baptist Church of Conway, Ark., is receiving resumes from interested candidates for the position of Minister of Children and Youth. Preferably married, with training and background in children and youth ministries, including counseling. Address resume and/or correspondence to Dr. Jack Logan, Chairman, Children/Youth Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 1725 Robinson Avenue, Conway, Ark. 72032. Dr. Logan may be reached by phone at (501) 329-5526.

The Christian Civic Foundation is vital to Arkansas

What is the Christian Civic Foundation?

The Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation was organized in the spring of 1959 for the purpose of providing a means through which individuals, church organizations and social agencies could unitedly cooperate in solving social and moral problems involved in and rising from alcoholic beverages and other drugs, gambling, obscenity and other related matters affecting the morality of our society. It is a non-profit organization which seeks to promote civic righteousness.

What is the biblical basis for an organization such as the Christian Civic Foundation?

Several cardinal truths from the Word of God give encouragement to the establishment and functioning of such an organization. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12). "But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Ps. 127:1). "Better is little with righteousness than great revenues without right" (Prov. 16:8). "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). "Woe to those who enact evil statutes, and to those who constantly render unjust decisions, so as to deprive the needy of justice, and rob the poor of my people of their rights, in order that widows may be their spoil, and that they may plunder the orphans" (Is. 10:1-2).

What is the Christian Civic Foundation doing to promote civic righteousness?

1. The Alcohol-Narcotics Education Program of the Christian Civic Foundation is one of the main thrusts of the program, reaching into the public schools of Arkansas, under the leadership of a full-time educational assistant. The emphasis is upon the prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse. With respect to alcohol, abstinence is recommended as the best solution in dealing with the nation's number one "drug problem." With respect to other drugs, their use is recommended only under proper supervision and prescription by a physician. The program, consisting of audio-visuals, printed materials, discussion groups, seminars, assemblies and classroom sessions, reaches an average of 110 schools and touches approximately 50,000 students annually. While in these communities, the educational assistant speaks, upon invitation, in churches, civic clubs, PTA's, and other interested groups. The doors of the public schools are open to their approach, which emphasizes the moral and scientific facts that have to do with the abuse of alcohol and other drugs. As a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political organization, this approach does not violate the constitutional separation of church and state. Excellent cooperation is received at all times from the State Department of Education and from state agencies related to alcohol and drug abuse, although none of these agencies sponsor the program.

2. The Legislative Information Service is a year-round activity of the Executive Director of the Christian Civic Foundation. At any regular or "special" session of the General Assembly, the Executive Director is required by law to register as an official "lobbyist" and to list the legislative items or areas in which he and the organization he represents are interested. As the official legislative representative of the Foundation, he serves as a channel of information to convey to legislators the convictions and attitudes of the Foundation and

the churches supporting the Foundation concerning any and all proposed legislation that relates to the four areas of alcohol, narcotics, gambling and pornography. This requires attendance upon every session, requiring 60 to 90 days of attendance in a normal session. The Executive Director can be found in the balcony of the Senate or the House of Representatives on any given day, depending upon where vital legislation is being considered. In a normal session he will spend 40 to 60 hours in legislative committees in both houses, listening to and speaking to or with committee members, especially where public hearings are scheduled.

3. Local option elections in Arkansas are one of the important concerns of the Christian Civic Foundation. In Arkansas, local option elections on the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors can be held only at the time of the General Elections. The assistance of the Christian Civic Foundation is usually asked for by "dry" forces calling for these elections.

4. It assists churches and communities in opposition to permit applications before the Alcoholic Control Board.

What does the future hold for the Christian Civic Foundation?

No one would contest the fact that those dedicated to the promotion of the sale of all type alcoholic beverages, gambling and obscenity are growing in number and effectiveness. The growing jail and prison populations attest to that along with a continuing devastating crime wave. More and more problems strike at individuals and society in general. The need for the Christian Civic Foundation is greater than ever. The effectiveness and future of the Christian Civic Foundation depends upon the willingness of individuals and church organizations to support its efforts through financial and prayer support.

What can you do to assist the Christian Civic Foundation?

Several suggestions are in order:

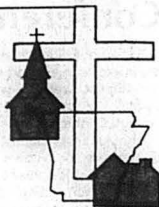
1. First and foremost, pray for the organization. Ask God to give its staff the wisdom, patience and encouragement needed to effectively work at oftentimes difficult and even unpleasant tasks.

2. Support the Christian Civic Foundation financially. Give as an individual and encourage your local church family to join with you in contributing financially. Any amount, large or small, will be wisely utilized.

3. Promote this proven, worthy organization by sharing information about it with other individuals, church groups and concerned organizations.

The Christian Civic Foundation would be better supported if more knew of its important work in Arkansas. Help widen the basis of support in every way.

For further information contact Ed Harris, Executive Director, Christian Civic Foundation, 1007 Donaghey Building, Little Rock, Ark. 72201. Contributions should be mailed to this address.



Witness to the world today and tomorrow

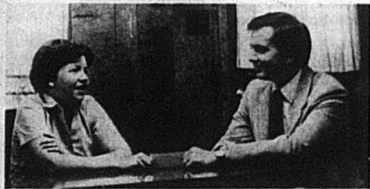
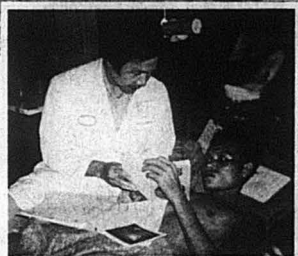


Harry D. Trulove, Arkansas Baptist Foundation President, points out to Tara Walker the many opportunities that boys and girls her age will have tomorrow because her grandparents and other Christian stewards used the services of the Foundation to provide financial support " 'til Jesus comes". As a result . . .

- . . . Students will have an opportunity to study in a Christian atmosphere (photo left).
- . . . Boys and girls from broken homes will discover the true meaning of love (photo bottom right).
- . . . College students will discover the excitement of sharing their faith (photo left, inset).
- . . . Local churches will be strengthened through the ministry of the Association's Missions Committee (middle).
- . . . Pastors' families facing a crisis will know someone cares (middle right).
- . . . New frontiers will be opened by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards (middle, inset).
- . . . Another thread of support will be woven into the Cooperative Program, our life line of mission outreach.

Through its staff, your Baptist Foundation offers guidance in the area of Christian Estate Planning and the management of individual trust accounts, institutional endowments or reserve funds. Income is distributed in strict compliance with the governing instruments.

Your Foundation is the channel that enables a Christian to witness to the world . . . today and tomorrow



On the cover

Below, Harry D. Trulove, President of Arkansas Baptist Foundation explains to Tara Walker how the actions of Christian Stewards today will help her witness to tomorrow.



These are only a few of the ministries that can be supported through your Foundation. For information about the many ways open for Arkansas Baptist to help the causes they loved during life, contact Arkansas Baptist Foundation, Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203 or call 376-0732.

Your state convention at work

Evangelism

Conferences planned

The theme of the Area Evangelism Conferences this fall will be "Fishing for Men." Jesus began his earthly ministry by calling men to go out and fish for men. We believe the hope of reaching our nation for Christ is found in men, women, boys and girls who will hear and accept the call of our Lord to be lifestyle witnesses.



Shell

Huber Drumwright, Executive Secretary for Arkansas Baptists, will speak in each conference on "Philip, the Good News Teller." Dr. Drumwright is a dynamic Bible teacher. He is a strong believer in the Word of God. He preaches many revival meetings and witnesses to lost people.

Pastors, I would challenge you to make a strong effort to bring each of your deacons and families to this conference. They will see the preaching and witnessing deacon, Philip, at his very best. God will use this Bible study to call and challenge them to be effective witnesses for Christ.

Clifford Palmer will be our evangelistic preacher. Brother Palmer is pastor of Springdale First Church. Brother Palmer's churches have consistently been one of the leaders in baptisms in Arkansas. He has been very successful in getting his lay people involved in sharing Christ. Your lay people will receive information, interpretation and inspiration to become fishers of men.

The Evangelism Conferences will be on Monday, Sept. 14, at Rogers First Church, Ben Rowell, pastor; Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Russellville Second Church, William Ladd, pastor; Thursday, Sept. 17, at Newport First Church, Leslie Riherd, pastor, and Friday, Sept. 18, Monticello Second Church, John Robbins, pastor.

These pastors and churches have extended a warm welcome for you to come and share with them. We believe that you will leave saying that you are glad that you came to the house of God.

Please take special note that the Stewardship Conference precedes the Evangelism Conference at 4:30 p.m. Please make a reservation with James Walker for the Stewardship Conference.

Until we meet you personally at the Evangelism Conference, may God's richest blessings be upon you. — Clarence Shell, Evangelism director

Brotherhood

Area conferences set

The Brotherhood Area Conferences have been scheduled for September and October. The meetings will be held jointly with the WMU, beginning at 7 p.m.

The Baptist Men conference will be led by Neal Guthrie, and the Royal Ambassador conference leader will be Ozzie Berryhill, Royal Ambassador leader for North Pulaski Association. He has attended the Brotherhood Regional Training Institute in Oklahoma and is a very capable leader in the Royal Ambassador area.

Dates and places for the meetings are: Sept. 14, Brinkley First; Sept. 15, Crossett First; Sept. 17, Hope First; Sept. 25, Jonesboro Central; Sept. 28, Fort Smith Grand Avenue; Sept. 29, Fayetteville First, and Oct. 1, Harrison First.

The Disaster Relief Mobile Unit will be on display. Don't miss the meeting in your area. The emphasis at the meetings will include the total Brotherhood program and materials, Wyoming mission project report, and mission action opportunities.

See your pastor or Brotherhood Director for more information. — Neal Guthrie

Stewardship Department

A good investment

A faithful Christian sends a top religious TV personality \$20 a month. The listener thinks it is a good investment in the Lord's work.

Another believer, on limited income, gives \$20 a month to the church. Is the member making a good investment through the church's ministries? Consider this investment.

One thousand dollars was the initial investment in Lincoln Avenue Church. The Home Mission Board, through the Cooperative Program, gave \$1000 to help start the Lincoln Avenue Church in Endicott, N.Y.

In 15 years the church gave \$40,000 through the Cooperative Program and another \$30,000 through foreign, home, and state mission offerings.

Southern Baptists made a good investment through the Cooperative Program. More important than the dollar return are those lives the church has touched for salvation and ministry.

The investment continues to yield good returns. Lincoln Avenue established two missions, and they give through the Cooper-

A pastor speaks about Child Care support

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PHONE 501-534-4741

August 6, 1981

Arkansas Baptist Family & Child Care
Baptist Building
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Arkansas Baptist Friends:

I am happy to be given an opportunity to voice the commitment of our church for the total ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. Across the years we have had members of our church to serve on the Board of Trustees for this agency of our denomination. We have also had many people express support for the ministry to children by means of financial gifts and by means of personal care and concern.

Our church is also custodian of an estate which was established by a dear Christian couple in our congregation some years ago. A significant portion from the income of this estate is given through our church to support the ongoing and expanding ministry of the Arkansas Baptist Family and Child Care Services. Remembering how Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me," we are pleased to be a part of this total child care ministry. Best Christian wishes.

Sincerely,

John H. McClanahan

JHM/kp

Remember the
Thanksgiving Offering

ative Program.

Returns are hard to measure, but the church member has more evidence of a good return than the person who sent a check to a TV personality. — James A. Walker, director

Sunday School

A tale of two churches

When West Memphis First Church conducts Backyard Bible Clubs, the whole church is involved. Just completed are 43 different Backyard Bible Clubs in which 302 church members ministered to approximately 1,150 children.

The clubs were held for five evenings, from 6:30 to 8. The later hour permitted more participation by adults — 75 percent to 80 percent — including a large number of men.

This is the third year for Backyard Bible Clubs at the church. The number of clubs has grown each year: 33 in 1979, 38 in 1980 and 43 in 1981. Children in the area schedule visits with grandparents to coincide with Backyard Bible Club time. That's a

pretty good testimonial!

Marvin Fitts, minister of education, says that registration of each child is a serious business. The names are added to the church's prospect list. A four-day follow-up revival was held with an emphasis on reaching the club members and their families. According to Pastor Thomas Hinson, Backyard Bible Clubs are a great mission effort — the most effective evangelistic outreach of the church since he became pastor. Brother Hinson celebrated his 20th anniversary with First Church Aug. 27, 1981.

Ingram Boulevard Church, also in West Memphis, also had a busy summer. In addition to regular VBS, the youth of the church also conducted six Backyard Bible Clubs with a total of 93 registered children.

Evidently this whetted their appetites because they then held a Mission VBS for one of the black churches in town. This would be just another report about VBS if it were not for the fact the black church has only 35 members, all over 60 years of age (the pastor is 80). But they wanted VBS in their area. So the Ingram Boulevard folks had VBS for them, registering 59 children.

By the way, if you decide to hold a Backyard Bible Club in the city park, Pastor Billy Adams of Ingram Boulevard recommends that you check not only with the park commissioner, but you'd better tell the police also. This saves a lot of embarrassment!

Backyard Bible Clubs are designed to help children who do not usually attend church to learn about Christ. Whether your church conducts one, 43, or 100 Backyard Bible Clubs, the objective is the same: a continuing witness and ministry to the children and their families. It is not too early to begin your calendar planning and include Backyard Bible Clubs for summer 1982. — Jackie Edwards, Children's Consultant

August 30, 1981

Church	Sunday School	Church	Church
		Trng.	addr.
Alexander			
First	132	96	
Vimy Ridge Immanuel	93		
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	210	75	1
Alpena, First	76	27	
Adms, First	117	86	5
Batesville			
First	307	144	4
West	238	80	1
Nursing Home	76		
Bella Vista	151		
Bentonville, First	504		9
Berryville			
First	231	95	3
Freeman Heights	218	78	3
Blue Eye, Mo., First	124	58	
Booneville			
722			
South Side	201		
Bryant			
First Southern	338	67	
Indian Springs	141	63	
Cabot, Mt. Carmel	455	183	2
Candlen, Cullendale First	404	130	2
Cherokee Village, First	106	34	2
Conway			
Harlan Park	118	114	
Oak Bowery	138	92	1
Pickett Gap	214	76	
Second	540	206	2
Crossett			
First	483	102	1
Merdian	120	91	
Mount Olive	341	137	
Temple	218	81	5
Danville, First	143	27	
Nursing Home	24		
Des Arc, First	207	76	
Desha	88	54	
El Dorado			
Parkview	178	89	
Nursing Home	119		
West Side	484	472	5
Forest City, First	602	105	
Fort Smith			
First	2,813		15
Grand Avenue	1,250	409	6
Mission	29		
Westside	81	46	
Cassville	107	28	
Gentry, First	134	42	2
Grady, First	34	18	
Grandview	48	34	
Green Forest, First	148	40	
Hampton, First	173	84	
Hardy, First	110	56	4
Harrison			
Eagle Heights	295	168	4
Northside	158	66	1
Woodland Heights	82	44	
Hot Springs			
Grand Avenue	411	102	2
Harvey's Chapel	158	89	
Leonard Street	196	74	3
Memorial	87		
Park Place	255	81	
Vista Heights	25	16	
Hughes, First	137	74	2
Jessieville	96	61	
Jonesboro			
Friendly Hope	150	119	1
Nestleton	288	92	
Kingston, First Southern	84	54	
Lavaca, First	458	189	3
Little Rock, Crystal Hill	109	43	3
Magnolia, Central	745	212	3
Maynard, Witts Chapel	101	64	4
Monticello, Second	265	80	4
Mountain Pine	84		
Mulberry, First	238	94	1
North Little Rock, Stanfill	85	53	
Paragould			
Calvary	212	130	
East Side	483		5
First	457	111	3
Paris, First	363	46	4
Southside Mission	56		
Pee Ridge, First	267	74	2
Pine Bluff			
Central	87	58	
Central	107	34	
Central	568	59	
Lee Memorial	222	44	4
South Side	579	114	5
181	71		
Sulphur Springs	181	71	
Prairie Grove, First	154	87	5
Rogers			
First	607	130	2
Immanuel	862		9
Russellville, First	563		
Sandusky, Okla., Faith	38	27	1
Springdale			
Berry	65	46	1
Cassville Avenue	81		
Elmdale	294	135	4
First	2,060		
Traskana			
Highland Hills	116	76	2
Shoah Memorial	139	57	
Trinity	309	200	6
Van Buren, First	492	110	1
Vandover, First	48	27	
Ward, First	123	72	
West Helena, Second	280	107	3
Wooner, First	114	46	
Yellville, First	180	70	3


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*'The problem of non-givers
 in Baptist churches'*
*'How we motivate our
 people to give'*



**Area
 Stewardship
 Conferences**

Sept. 14, 4:30 p.m., Rogers First
Sept. 15, 4:30 p.m., Russellville
Second
**Sept. 16, 7:30 a.m., Baptist Medical
 Center, Little Rock**
Sept. 17, 4:30 p.m., Newport First
Sept. 18, 4:30 p.m., Monticello
Second
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Sunday School lessons



Chatham

International
Sept. 13, 1981
Psalm 23
by Roy Chatham
Conway First Church

God cares

Psychologists tell us that one of the basic needs with which men are born is the need to feel safe and secure. Most men go to great lengths to satisfy this need. The need for security is actually the motive behind the buying of insurance policies, the installing of burglar alarms, the maintaining of police and fire departments, having vaults in banks — and on and on we could go.

What is true of individual men is equally true of nations. Millions of dollars are spent to maintain armies, navies, and air forces. But somehow, in spite of all that individuals and nations seek to do to make people safe and secure, there is still a large question mark in the minds of most persons as to whether we are really secure.

(1) In someone — The Lord. The security of the sheep was in the shepherd (v. 1). Not in the fold, the green pasture, the still waters, or even in the rod and staff, but in the shepherd, the Lord. (2) In a relationship experience. There are 16 personal pronouns (I, me, my, etc.) in the 23rd Psalm. This personal relationship is what gives the Psalm significance and strength. Try reading the first verse of the Psalm like this: "The Lord is a shepherd," or "The Lord is the shepherd." A personal relationship is the basis for this satisfying experience of security. It was only as David completely trusted himself under the care of the Lord — his shepherd — that he could dismiss his uncertainties and fears.

True security is a spiritual matter. Notice the things that David said he did not have and the things about which he did not need to be concerned: (1) No want (v. 1a). I shall be supplied with whatever I need, and if I do not now have everything I desire, I may conclude that it is not best for me, or I will get it in due time. (2) No worry (v. 2a). Again and again Jesus reminded his followers of this truth (see Matt. 11:28-30 and 6:25-33). (3) No uncertainty (v. 2b and 3b). The Oriental shepherd always walked before the sheep in the treacherous places. Even though the path may be one of danger and even suffering we know that he goes before and leads us through these experiences. (4) No failure (v. 3a). Though God permits his people to fall into sin, he will not let them stay in it. David was restored after an awful fall. (5) No fear (v. 4a). Many men are the victims of their own fears. The answer to man's fear is in the shepherd's comforting, supporting presence. His constant presence rules out fear. (6) No calamity (v. 4c). No calamity could come to the sheep unless it had first overcome the shepherd, because the shepherd guarded the sheep with his very own life.

We must face the fact that there can be no national security apart from individual security. Nations are made up of individuals. If the citizens exercise faith in the Lord to take care of them, the nation will largely reflect this attitude of trust.

When danger appears, it is God's rod and God's staff that deliver the Christian. The rod was an emblem of authority, guidance, and discipline. The staff was also an emblem of divine strength and support.

The fear of the future haunts the thoughts of many persons. David did not share these fears, because he declared that God's present provision was but a foretaste of his continuing provision for him. "Surely," he says, "God's presence will continually be with me through life here and hereafter."

Only a faith in God can make us feel secure when things around us seem to be falling to pieces. Faith is appropriating God's provision for my need. I need safety and security; therefore, God is my refuge. By faith I commit my insecurity to him, and he makes me secure in him. It is not my faith but the object of my faith that gives me security.

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Making marriage work

Marriage is the highest of all covenant relationships between humans. For this reason, the New Testament consistently uses marriage as analogous to the relationship between Jesus and his church (bride). It is a relationship built upon love and trust. The wisdom writer emphasizes in this text that partners are to be faithful in marriage (Prov. 5:18-19), and that a good marriage partner is a gracious gift from God (Prov. 19:14). Then he describes the attributes of a virtuous (worthy) woman (Prov. 31:10-31).



Glazener

Fidelity in marriage (Prov. 5:18-19)

Since marriage is the highest of covenant relationships, marriage partners enter into the fullest commitment to each other of all human relationships. Therefore, violation of the covenant of marriage brings the greatest woundedness emotionally. The commitment deteriorates in a society in which this kind of covenant is taken lightly. As a defense against such great emotional hurt, the partners will find themselves refusing to trust and to love without reserve. Infidelity begins a vicious cycle that moves to rend the very fabric from which society is crafted. Fidelity to the covenant vows of marriage is essential to a stable society.

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Life and Work

Sept. 13, 1981

Proverbs 5:18-19; 19:14; 31:10-12, 16, 20, 25-30

by Clyde Glazener

Little Rock Calvary Church

God's hand in marriage (Prov. 19:14)

Marriage as an institution and relationship is a grace gift from God. Since it is the highest of human relationships, the individual receives more enhancing of identity from the marriage partner than from relationships with any other human. Choosing of the proper marriage partner and having that person share desire for marriage especially involves God's providence. "Only God can direct you to the good marriage partner!" This seems to be the basic thrust of the text, and the writer implies that the good marriage partner is a greater gift than a "house of wealth."

Portrait of a good wife

(Prov. 31:10-12, 16, 20, 25-30)

The wisdom writer gives a sketch of some of the attributes of a worthy woman. He points out her scarcity, industriousness, charity, wisdom and reverence for God. No proper estimate can be placed upon the value of such a lady. The central thrust of these verses seem to be that a worthy marriage partner is to be valued above all other possible acquisitions. No amount of wealth or fame can measure the joy to be derived from such a relationship. God truly blessed man when he provided a marriage partner. Apart from his salvation in Christ, the greatest gift a man can receive is a faithful and worthy wife.

Employee resigns

Don Cooper, adult and associational consultant in the state Sunday School Department for the past 13 years, resigned effective Aug. 26.

Cooper is now employed by the Heritage Publishing Co. of North Little Rock.



Garner

Bible Book

Sept. 13, 1981

James 3:1-18

by Jimmie Garner
Trinity Association

Controlling the tongue and gaining wisdom

In order to understand the full meaning of James 3 we must go back to James 1:26, "If anyone thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain" (RSV).

Power of the tongue

The tongue is a small member of the body. However, it is powerful, and it exercises great influence in proportion to its size. James described the nature of the tongue's power through the use of three metaphors: (1) the horse and the bridle; (2) the ship and the rudder; (3) the forest and the fire. James said that the tongue could be as destructive as a fire. He said it could be the instrument of evil and a symbol of sinful human nature itself. Man's speech may serve the purposes of hell, that order of reality that is the very opposite of God. The tongue must therefore be redeemed by the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit.

Difficult to control

Man has asserted his mastery over the most ferocious beasts and has tamed them for his own good. But the tongue man is unable to tame. Like the double-minded man the double-tongued man is unstable and hypocritical in his ways. James asked, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can a fig tree bear olive berries? Either a vine figs? Can salt water and fresh come from the same fountain?" There is a connection between the heart of man and the speech of a man (Matt. 7; Luke 6:43-44). James' argument was that an evil tongue owes its bitterness to a bad heart.

True wisdom

James warned that earthly wisdom would allow bitter jealousy, cut down rivals, and employ any means for the promotion of personal prestige. The ugly fruits of such wisdom would be easily observed by listening to the uncontrolled tongue. True wisdom from above possesses certain highly desirable characteristics: pure, unmixed with evil; peaceable, working for peace wherever possible; gentle, willing to forego rights or to respect the fair claims of others. This wisdom, from above, was "open to reason" and easily persuaded to follow sensible directions.

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Clyde Francisco dies in Georgia

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Clyde T. Francisco, Southern Baptist theologian and Bible teacher, died Aug. 21 of an apparent heart attack while delivering a revival sermon in Helena, Ga.

Francisco, who was 65, has been the John R. Sampey professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., since 1944. He is the author of the current Adult Bible Teacher quarterly for the Life and Work Sunday School series.

Funeral services were Aug. 25 on the seminary campus.

Foreign missionaries help meet home mission needs

by Pat Guile

ATLANTA (BP) — The final trip stateside doesn't necessarily mean work is finished for Southern Baptist foreign missionaries.

Some return home to meet mission needs in the United States, bringing a wealth of experience in ethnic, language and pioneer work.

"Nothing can replace the background of experience that foreign missionaries have; they are veterans of mission work," explains Irvin Dawson, missionary personnel director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board where some former foreign missionaries now work.

The Home Mission Board keeps no statistics on the number of people it appoints who had previous foreign missions experience, but Dawson says it is not uncommon and happens "with some regularity."

When missionaries return home due to unworkable circumstances — family illness, lack of educational facilities or personal family problems — their involvement in home missions becomes valuable, he says.

For instance, foreign missionaries relate well to different cultures and backgrounds, Dawson says. And with the rising visibility of ethnic groups, knowledge of language and culture opens doors for the missionaries.

Urban and Loretta Green walked through one such door in Tulsa, Okla. They were missionaries to Ghana for 17 years until she contracted a blood disease that brought them back to the United States. Now he directs a Baptist education center and helps develop black churches in the area.

"At first, it took me a while to adjust to not being overseas in mission work," Green admits. "But now I realize this work is God's continuous plan for my life. I'm just as happy here as in Africa."

Because of his work overseas, he was "more quickly accepted" by U.S. black churches who doubt newcomers, Green relates.

Experienced in "working from ground zero," Wade Akins, a former journeyman to South Vietnam, remembers hauling beer cartons to the jungle for people to build their homes. One morning he witnessed about 100 Vietnamese baptized in a two-foot U.S. Air Force life raft.

"On the mission field you learn the principle of flexibility," Akins says. "Nothing goes right. The generator breaks down, the power goes out and the wrong movie is sent. But this principle has given me the ability to adapt to any situation."

As director of missions for Prince Georges Baptist Association, near the District of Columbia, Akins sees the heavily international area as "a real mission field in every sense of the word," and relishes the opportunity to start new missions with blacks and language groups.

And in Tucson, Ariz., where 35 percent of the population is Spanish speaking, starting language missions also is a high priority for director of missions Jim Richards. A former missionary to the Dominican Republic, he has started five new missions in the past 18 months.

Richards claims people "trust you a little more when you know their language and understand their culture. Even non-Hispanics, such as Koreans and Chinese, are impressed that I've taken the time to learn another language and culture."

Richards speaks for his colleagues, noting the experience in foreign missions "has prepared me to work in home missions. It has broadened my ministry tremendously."

Guile is a Home Mission Board intern.

Judy Rice named editor in Alaska

SOLDOTNA, Alaska (BP) — Judy Rice was named editor of the *Alaska Baptist Messenger* during the 36th annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention, Aug. 11-13.

Rice, who has been interim editor since May 1980, is the second woman named to edit one of the 34 state Baptist newspapers. The first was Sue Saito Nishikawa, named in 1979, and retired in 1981.

Rice, who will continue to be director of the Woman's Missionary Union, was interim editor on one other occasion, from April to August of 1971.

She is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and a graduate of Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Trustees authorize transponder leasing

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have approved leasing a transponder on a satellite to be launched early in 1984, moving the board one step closer to establishing a denominational telecommunications network to churches.

The transponder, part of Space Net One Satellite to be launched by the Southern Pacific Communications Company, will lease at a cost of \$2.1 million annually.

To recover part of the cost, trustees authorized the board to sublease unneeded time to other groups. Subleases are expected to recover at least \$1.3 million each

year.

Calling the proposed telecommunications network "one of the great breakthroughs in communications for the Sunday School Board," board president Grady Cothen said the system will enable the board to beam telecasts to churches, seminars, state conventions and other Baptist groups.

Southern Baptist programming for a nationwide network is being developed by the Radio and Television Commission and a subsidiary corporation, the American Christian Television System (ACTS), which will use another transponder on the same satellite.

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194