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9-17-1981

### September 17, 1981

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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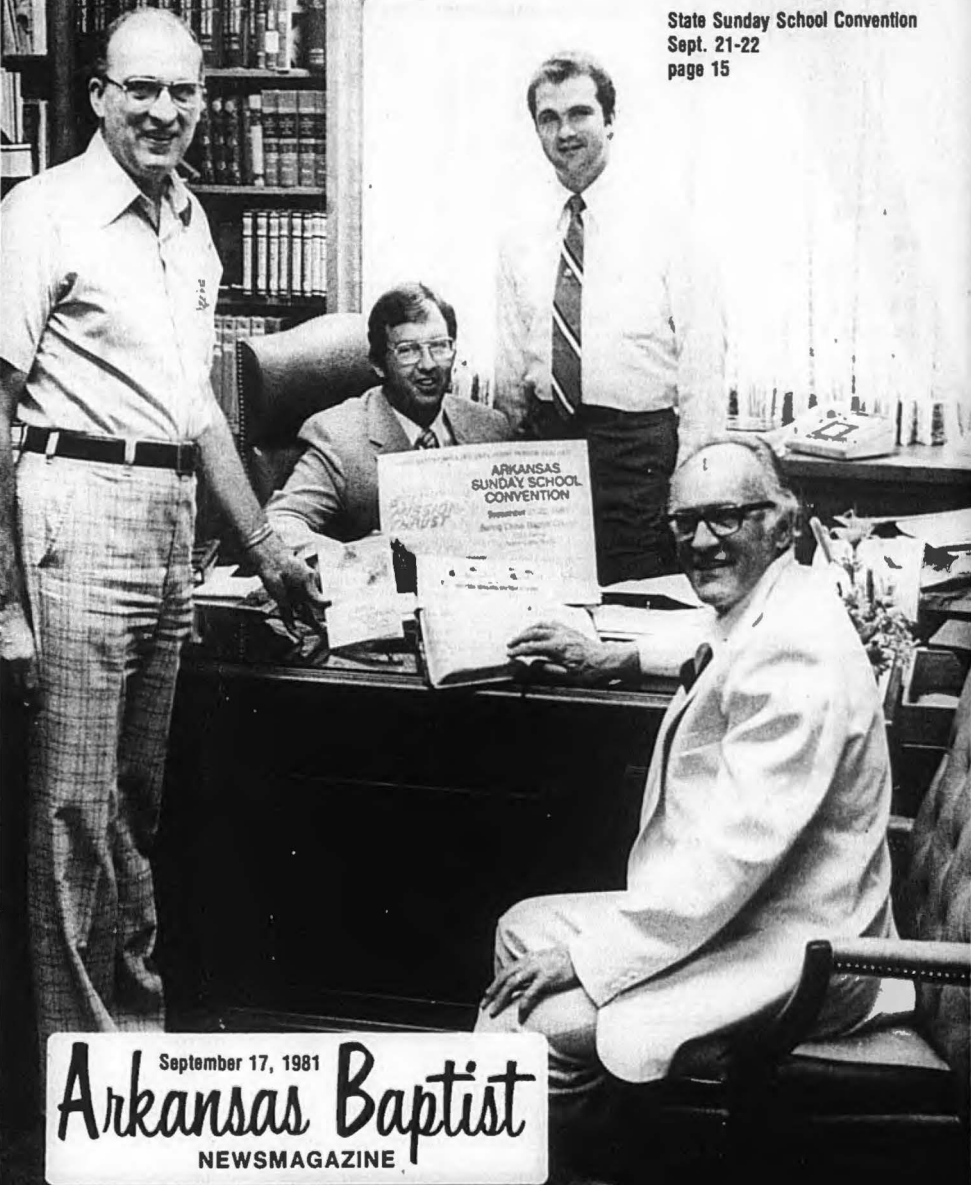
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SEP. 21 1981

State Sunday School Convention  
Sept. 21-22  
page 15



September 17, 1981  
**Arkansas Baptist**  
NEWSMAGAZINE

## Baptists typhoon victim

ALBAY PROVINCE, Philippines — Filipino Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines joined forces recently to provide relief packages for 268 of approximately 700 families washed out during flooding rains of Typhoon Daling. Each of the new churches in Albay Province, in the southeastern portion of Luzon Island, where the typhoon struck, contributed to the effort. The Baptist mission provided additional funds for relief. Packages included durable items such as T-shirts, kettles, bowls and utensils as well as scripture portions and a letter explaining who Baptists are.

## Baptist work in Caprivi explored

WINDHOEK, South West Africa — Southern Baptist Missionary Charles Whitson and South West African pastor Edmund Kandume are examining the possibility of starting Baptist mission work in the Caprivi, a strip extending from the northeast corner of South West Africa and touched by Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. On a recent trip to that area, the two men met on three evenings with 19 to 25 people interested in starting a Baptist church. Whitson and Kandume plan to return in August to seek local authorities' permission to start Baptist work in the area.

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## In this issue

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Messengers to the 1981 Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting in Fayetteville will be competing with a movie-making company for hotel rooms. A map and list of Fayetteville accommodations are included in this issue.

### 16

Southern Baptist attitudes will have to change if they are to reach American cities for Christ in the future, says the director of the convention's Center for Urban Church Studies.

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## Student ministry roles to be expanded in future

by Gail Rothwell

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. — To reach students on changing college campuses in the future will require a new alliance between churches and student directors, a seminary president told campus ministers and student directors attending a workshop here.

William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., told more than 450 student leaders attending the quadrennial Directors National Workshop they would need to initiate the relationship between campuses and churches.

"Southern Baptists are going to have to understand the urgency of shifting our resources from the haves to the have nots. If we really believe the gospel is for everybody, then let's take the gospel to every student everywhere," he said.

Student ministry in the future is going to have to be more than a ministry to students, Pinson said. "In the future student ministry is going to have to include not only the student, but families, faculty, administration and the townspeople."

Pinson said higher education in the future will be affected by demographic, economic, political, social and religious trends. He explained the future will bring a decline of traditional students, single students 18-24 who live in dormitories, will bring an increase in students who are female, older, part-time and commuters.

Pinson believes students are waiting an average of three years after high school before they enter college. As the student population becomes older, their problems change. Student ministers will be working with more students who face divorce, marital problems, raising children and dealing with aging parents.

## John Baker hits ruling on cult

WASHINGTON (BP) — Declaring that the Supreme Court "has dealt a blow to religious liberty," a Baptist constitutional expert has criticized a high court decision restricting the activities of Hare Krishnas at state fairs.

John W. Baker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said the June 22 ruling that authorities may confine all individuals and groups to booths on state fairgrounds indicates a "deterioration in the protection of the free exercise of religion."

In its Hare Krishna decision, the high court held that a regulation by Minnesota State Fair officials limiting solicitation of funds and sale and distribution of literature to rented booths served both a "significant" and "substantial" state interest.

Baker criticized those standards, saying they signal a retreat from positions stated by the court twice in the past decade that

Jerry Michel, professor and chairman, department of sociology and social work at Memphis (Tenn.) State University, said schools are now beginning to lower admission standards and increase attention to retention of students regardless of performance standards.

"In the past campuses restricted their clientele because they could demand a certain kind of student, but their demands are becoming less rigid as institutions are affected more by government regulations," Michel said. He explained that if the economic situation in the future continues to decline students will choose work over school.

Michel noted there is already an increasing trend toward a vocational education, rather than the traditional arts and sciences degree.

Another trend that presents a challenge to student workers is that students are becoming more impulsive and less willing to postpone personal gratification. Michel said this trend is evidenced by the fact students now cohabit at a higher rate than ever before.

"We are developing a group of people who live only by their senses," he stated. "The nation is not as moral as it used to be."

Michel told student leaders the Lord blesses the mission and evangelism efforts of Southern Baptists and challenged leaders to concentrate on these areas.

Michel and Pinson were the featured speakers at the directors workshop which was sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

the public interest must be "compelling and paramount."

But in its ruling in the Hare Krishna case, Baker argued, the court "accepted a lower standard in permitting Minnesota to limit the free exercise rights" of the controversial sect.

"There is a great deal of difference between requiring a state to demonstrate a 'compelling' or a 'paramount' interest in limiting the free exercise of religion and requiring it to demonstrate only a 'significant' or 'substantial' interest," he concluded.

Baker likened the court's "retreat" in the free exercise field to a similar retrenchment in the criminal justice field, where a high court majority in recent years has chipped away at the famed Miranda ruling which announced certain protections due criminal defendants under the constitution.

## Effective church visitation

Church visitation is of great importance. But an effective church visitation program calls for proper organization.

Visitation was the method that Jesus used to spread his message of eternal life. Jesus often visited in the homes of people. It was in a home that Jesus performed his first miracle, the turning of water into wine. He healed Peter's mother-in-law while visiting in the home of Simon Peter. Home visitation was a major ingredient of Christ's earthly ministry.

Jesus visited all types of places. He visited homes of families such as Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He visited where large crowds of people were gathered. He often joined the crowds of people who were gathered along the Sea of Galilee. On one occasion he visited the tax collector's office. It was here that Matthew became one of the followers of Jesus.

The early church practiced visitation. Peter, John and Paul were all faithful visitors. But lay people were also intensely involved in visitation. The 120 who prayed until they were "endued with power from on high" went everywhere telling what had happened.

This visitation produced results for the early church. The growth of the early church was so rapid and so widespread that in less than 100 years as many as a half-million Christians were scattered through Asia Minor and western Europe. By the time the imperial persecutions were ended in 313 A.D., approximately one-half of the entire population of the Roman Empire was Christian.

In spite of both the example and the direct command of Christ and the writers of the New Testament for every Christian to "go," visitation is the most frequently ignored or bungled task of a church. First, if visitation is to succeed, it must be a matter of church policy. This means

## The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



that a church should adopt certain standards for visitation in a regular business meeting.

A church policy on visitation should emphasize a regular systematic program. There should be a director to coordinate the entire visitation program. Regular assignments and reports should be set up.

If a visitation program is to succeed, the pastor must be involved in it. In most small churches the pastor will direct the church's visitation program. Even in a large multi-staffed church, where a staff person is responsible for the visitation program, it is essential for the pastor to have personal involvement in the visitation.

Perhaps the most difficult thing is preparing for visitation. Every visit is different. Sometimes a church visitor will be welcome. On another occasion he may receive a rebuff.

It is important to prepare for a visit. Such preparation should be both factual and spiritual. It is important to know as much about the person(s) who are to be visited as possible. Most of us are not as likely to give time to a stranger as to someone who knows something about us. Spiritual preparation can assist us greatly in making the proper response. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would call all things to our remembrance he had said (John 14:26).

It is vital that those who are visiting for a church keep their visit positive. This means avoid being overly argumentative. A church visitor should never unload his likes or dislikes. If a church visitor has a critical attitude, he will make a bad impression for the church.

Church visitation is extremely rewarding. It is fulfilling for those who visit for their church. It is essential if a church is to grow. Visitation was a vital part of our Lord's ministry. It is impossible to improve on his method.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

VOLUME 80

NUMBER 36

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

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

Boards 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.

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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### Thoughts on printing 1,245 pages on a postage stamp

Advertising gimmicks come across my desk in a large daily pile, and I must confess that 99 percent find their way very quickly to the nearest wastebasket. One of them escaped the trash heap and has become one of my favorite "conversation pieces." In fact, it has caused me to do a lot of thinking about the great untapped potential of modern technology for changing some of our old-cart methods for taking the

Christian gospel to four billion people around the world.

"The smallest Bible in the world" was brought to me by Mrs. Juanita Barnett, the Ouachita Baptist University librarian. It was printed on a single piece of clear plastic about the size of a postage stamp. I held it up to the light and could see a mass of tiny gray spots, and each one was a photograph of two pages from an open Bible. In

this way all 1,245 pages of the Bible appeared within the space of a postage stamp. The company which sent this little slide was using it to advertise their microscopic process of storing bulky library materials in a very small space.

I was told that if all of the millions of books stored on the 270 miles of shelves in the U.S. Library of Congress were reproduced on such slides, they could be stored easily in six standard file cabinets! To borrow an expression from the younger generation, that's a thought that will blow your mind.

Duly amazed and impressed by this remarkable achievement, I began to consider the significance of postage-stamp Bibles. Unfortunately, not many people carry around 100X power microscopes in their pocket or purse. But in this day of remarkable progress in miniaturization of computers, radios, and television sets, the mini-microscopes just might be next.

The bigger question is whether Christian people concerned with sharing the good news about Christ are really applying the best available brains to the task. When I think of the powerful impact of the mass media, especially television, on the attitudes and thought processes of countless millions of people, young and old, I shudder at the thought of wasted opportunities. I am afraid we are just scratching the surface of utilizing modern science and technology for Christian witness and ministry.

To add to an old cliché, if we can put a man on the moon and the entire Bible on a postage stamp, surely we can transmit and demonstrate the love of Christ to four billion earth creatures.

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



## Food and fellowship

Virginia Kirk and Jane Purtle

### New members honored

Calvary Baptist Church in Batesville honors new members each year with a very special dinner. Other churches might like to copy this lovely occasion that 20 deacons and their wives hosted last year. Invitations and programs were designed by an artist deacon. All new church members during the last year were invited. Approximately 100 people attended.

Many people participated in coordinating the affair besides the deacon committee. Tables were covered with unhemmed brown material provided by a local manufacturer. Fall leaves, straw, ceramic pumpkins filled with garden flowers, and candles centered the tables. Everything was graciously donated by church members.

Several of the deacons set up the tables and chairs, and another group provided transportation for guests who needed it. Best of all for the wives, the men did the after-dinner clean up. Each deacon's wife brought a dessert, and others worked in the kitchen preparing the meal, which was financed out of the church budget.

The youth of the church served the meal. They wore white starched jackets and white aprons. Food was served in a formal fashion, and this was a good learning experience for some of them. As guests arrived, they were served hot cider from an elegant table. After dinner there was an inspirational speaker. The deacons displayed special talents and provided a barbershop quartet for the music.

This type of event helps everyone connected with it. There is good food and fellowship for the guests. Just as important, however, are the friendships that are enriched by those who organize, prepare food, decorate, share belongings, serve, give the program — the list is long and varied.

The recipe we are sharing is an excellent one for the main dish for such an occasion. It can be prepared ahead and is unusually good. We often prepare this for Sunday dinner at home. Serve it with a green vegetable and a salad.

#### Chicken Supreme

Wrap boned chicken breasts with a strip of bacon like a filet. Place in a greased baking dish. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and a little chopped onion. Pour a mixture of half mushroom soup and half sour cream over the chicken. Cover tightly and bake at 300 degrees for two to three hours. This can be kept in the oven for an extended time until ready to serve. Serve each portion on a bed of rice with the sauce that it forms.

Virginia, professor emerita at Arkansas College, is a member of Batesville First Church. Jane is on the staff of Christian Counseling and Teaching Center in Syria, Va. They have enjoyed cooking together for several years.

### 199 Korean soldiers baptized in July

TAJEON, Korea — One hundred ninety-nine Korean soldiers were baptized in July as part of the Korea Baptist Mission's military evangelism ministry. On July 8 five Baptist pastors of the Taejon City Baptist Association baptized 123 men in the Republic of Korea Air Force. Then on July 25 three Baptist pastors of the Chung Buk Baptist Association baptized 76 noncommissioned officers of the Republic of Korea Army at the NCO School in Nonsan, Korea.



## The Southern accent

### This I believe: about relationship and fellowship

by Earl R. Humble

**Relationship** — When God saves a soul he enters into a covenant with the believer which has far-reaching consequences. The New Covenant was sealed by the blood of Christ. All Christ is and all he promises belong to the believer. The covenant is made between God and his believing children, called sons. The believer becomes a son of two senses. He is born into the family of God (John 1:12). He is adopted into God's family (Eph. 1:5-6). By the new birth we experience the regeneration of our spiritual nature which was dead (2 Cor. 5:17). By adoption we come into immediate heirship to all the promises of God (Rom. 8:17).

Relationship never changes, for it is written into the covenant of the blood of



Humble

Christ. There is no way an elect can become a non-elect, the adopted can become un-adopted, or the born again can become unborn.

**Fellowship** — Sonship relates to standing with God, but fellowship relates to the privileges of that relationship. Fellowship is a consciousness of the presence of God. Whereas our relationship never changes, our fellowship may change often.

Obedience, prayer, witnessing, forgiveness, Bible study, and a host of other spiritual exercises are given to encourage and strengthen fellowship. When sin enters the believer's life and is unconfessed and unforsaken, fellowship is broken. Relationship does not change though a believer has a broken fellowship (Heb. 12:5f).

God will chastise his sinning child, but he will no more disown him than you or I would cast out one of our disobedient children (1 John 1:7-9).

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

## Letter to the editor

### Tax credits could help

Please publish this letter to give some balance to the editorial dated Aug. 13, 1981.

If Southern Baptist are not fundamentalists, what is our classification?

Tuition tax credits will be a tremendous savings, not a cost to the government. Arkansas spent \$1,628 last year on each child in public education. There were 21,821 children in private schools last year. Simple multiplication shows this saved the state over \$35 million.

The constitutionality of tuition tax credits puts Southern Baptist in a precarious situation. It is constitutional for me to put my child in a Baptist daycare center and receive tax credits in the form of baby sitting charges. It is constitutional for me to accept state and federal grants and send my child to Ouachita. But, if I receive government funds while my child is in grades 1-12 it is unconstitutional and violates separation of church and state. Somewhere between daycare and college our logic becomes illogical. How much federal money did Ouachita receive last year in the form of BEOC?

If tax credits are "welfare to the rich," why did God not set up tithing on a graduated income scale with the rich giving more than the poor?

If tax credits are "unfair," please explain the fairness of Baptist daycare centers competing with private facilities when Baptist do not pay personal property or real estate taxes on their facilities used for daycare.

If tuition tax credits "would be inflationary," does this mean Southern Baptists will stop building educational buildings, sanctuaries and family life centers with borrowed money because credit is the chief element in inflation?

If Christians leaving public education would cause a moral "low," does this mean the staff of the *Arkansas Baptist News-Messenger* will be leaving to join secular publications to prevent the news media from sinking to a new moral low?

The purpose of this letter is not to support tuition tax credits but to show how skillful and subtle Satan is in getting us to believe his lies. II Corinthians 6:11-18 should settle this issue for Christians.

Thank you for allowing me to express some balancing views on this issue. — Gerald Griffin, Mabelvale

### World Hunger Day 1981

Few Americans have known hunger as other people in the world have. Perhaps no one who reads these words of mine will have known the body destroying hunger for a prolonged time that has been the common experience of throngs in India, refugees in Somaliland, homeless wanderers in Southeast Asia and drought afflicted tribes in North Africa.

I shall always remember the sight of starving people in China when I went there as part of the occupation forces at the end of World War II. If we could only see the mothers unable to feed their babies, the little children with hunger-bloated bodies and the adults who look twice their age because of malnutrition, our hearts would be moved.

Our Lord looked on a multitude who had been hungry for a day, and he fed them. Can we who belong to the Lord look at starving multitudes and do less than share our abundance with them?

Huber Drumwright  
Executive Secretary, ABSC

### Boyce begins term

Boyce Bible School has begun classes at its two Arkansas locations with 64 people enrolled.

The main center in Little Rock began Aug. 28 with 39 people attending Friday night and Saturday classes. Courses being taught are New Testament survey, Old Testament survey, English grammar, history of the Southern Baptist Convention, introduction to theology and church recreation.

At Boyce's new branch in Blytheville,

classes began Aug. 24 with 25 enrolled. Biblical backgrounds and New Testament survey are being taught on Monday nights.

Those interested in attending Boyce Bible School at Blytheville or Little Rock should contact Ralph Davis, 2121 North Van Buren, Little Rock, Ark. 72207, and request application forms. These forms must be filled out before a student can enroll. The next term at Little Rock will begin on Oct. 23 and at Blytheville on Oct. 19.

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by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer

**Bruce Morgan** has resigned as pastor of the Pines Church to return to Great Britain.

**J. M. Lunsford** is serving as interim pastor of the Pines Church.

**Orville Castleberry** is serving as pastor of the Gravel Hill Church. A bi-vocational pastor, he is also working at the Arkansas State Hospital.

**Rudy F. McClanahan** died Aug. 20 at the age of 49. Funeral services were held at the Bryant Indian Springs Church. McClanahan had pastored churches in Little Rock, Benton and McCrory.

**Raymond Palmer** is serving the Bakers Creek Church as pas-

tor.

**Edward L. Sudbery** began serving Sept. 6 as pastor of the Lake Ouachita Church. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Rev. and Mrs. Sudbery are parents of three sons.

**Ron Whitlock** has resigned as minister of music/youth at the Berryville First Church. He has enrolled in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Jesse Matlock** has resigned as pastor of the Bear Creek Springs Church.

**Richard Lisk** has resigned as pastor of the England First Church to become pastor of the First Church

of Vidalia, La.

**Bob Wright** has resigned as pastor of the Little Rock Markham Street Church to become pastor of the Pleasantview Church near Wichita, Kan.

**Jim Russell** is serving the Blytheville Memorial Church as pastor.

**Dale Rainwater** is serving as youth director of the Fort Smith East Side Church. He is a student at Ouachita University.

**Max Hook** has been called as pastor of the Fayetteville Southside Church.

## briefly

**Coitway First Church** had included in its fall schedule of activities a Nov. 9 preaching conference. The conference, to be led by Stephen F. Olford, will cover the pastor's study life, sermon preparation, sermon delivery, with a view to gaining new insights into expository preaching.

**Smackover Maple Avenue Church** held a service Aug. 30 to commemorate J. T. Stocks' 20 years of service as music director. The service included the presentation of a plaque to Stocks and of flowers to both him and Mrs. Stocks. A reception followed. Mrs. G. A. Dodson and Mrs. A. C. In-

gram were co-chairmen in charge of arrangements.

**Little Rock Cross Road Church** has added to its ministries a program of outreach. Bill Fleming has been named staff evangelist with responsibilities in the area of outreach.

**Wynne Union Avenue Church** ordained Gary Akers Sept. 6 to the gospel ministry. Akers serves the church as associate pastor and youth director.

**Crossett Magnolia Church** observed its 70th birthday Sept. 13 with services that included talks by former pastors, testimonies and music. Jody Gannaway is pastor.

**Crossett Mount Olive Church** ordained Travis and Steve Roberts to the gospel ministry Sept. 6.

**Osage Church** recently ordained Pastor Mitchell Rains to the gospel ministry.

## News about missionaries

**Martha Hairston**, missionary to Brazil, may be addressed at Rua Siqueira Campos, 293, 55150 Delo Jardim, PE, Brazil. A native of Warren, Ark., she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1951.

**Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Hall**, missionaries to Kenya, may be addressed at Box 48, Namanga, Kenya. They are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Heber Springs and also lived near Monette and Manila and in Paragould while growing up. She is the former Gerry Wright of McCrory. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1970.

**Dr. and Mrs. Harold E. Mitchell**, missionaries to Tanzania, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 2422, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania). They are natives of Pine Bluff, Ark. She is the former Rene Boschetti. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

# 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





## Woman's viewpoint

Miss Glenn Kirkland

### If the old bell could speak

Do you remember the ringing of church bells each Sunday morning? Did you wonder what they might say? This is what our church bell might say:

I took up residence in the belfry of First Baptist Church, Plumerville, in September, 1892. I looked out the first morning and saw a friendly community, dwellings all about me, vegetable gardens, flower gardens (the old fashioned kind), fruit trees, beautiful yards with picket fences. I could hardly wait for the first Sunday to come.

During the week I watched school children going up my street, and over the hill to school, skipping, running, playing tag, rosy cheeked girls with their pigtails, and the little boys in their knee britches. Every day trains went by just south of my home, long freights and many passenger trains, that gave forth long blasts of their whistles which in later years interrupted the church services.

But finally Sunday morning came. Now I

could ring out my invitation, "Come to Sunday School, come to church." On that Sunday morning I could hear roosters crowing in the distance and being answered by others nearby, cows calling for their owners who were sleeping late on Sunday. Birds of many descriptions gave forth their songs, mixed with my pealing, calling the people to "come to Sunday School, come to church." I waited and finally I could see buggies, and wagons coming up to my church, filled with whole families. People walking, children running, all happy to come to the house of the Lord.

I witnessed many events during my stay in this home. There were happy ones like Children's Day. I could hear the children's voices coming up to me saying, "He is risen, he is risen," to the accompaniment of a little pump organ. I could hear the superintendent say, "Let us sing with the spirit and the understanding."

I remember the Christmas season when I called to the people. I remember the large Christmas tree carried into the church, the sounds of merriment from the children as they came out. I remember the joyful noise at the protracted meetings, as they were called in those days, lasting two and three weeks in duration, and I rang forth for both morning and evening services.

I could hear prayers of the penitent. Those prayers went beyond the belfry. I remember hearing one lady cry out for forgiveness after a service and when she had found the Lord, I heard her shout, not only in the church but down the street until she reached home.

There were funerals too and my sound was different. I always feared this and I would not look as the departed was carried from the church, but there was always a long line of people in their buggies to make up the procession.

Yes, I witnessed many scenes and heard many sounds while I lived in that home. Then one night in 1922 I heard crackling sounds nearby and smelled smoke; the church door opened, and a man had me sound for the last time. This time it was not joy, but a sound of panic. My house was on fire. I heard nothing but crackling around me and I grew hotter and hotter. I could not breathe, and when I could no longer stand the heat, I could no longer hold on and fell with a sickening thud to the ground. My body was broken, but my heart remained intact.

A few days later it was retrieved from the

wreckage and ashes and still lives. If you look closely at my heart you will notice it sounded so many times during those years that it is worn and scarred, but if it could ring again it would say in 1981 that you do not need a bell to call you. Let the Holy Spirit say to you, "Come to Sunday School, come to preaching, come to Training Union, come to prayer meeting, come to choir rehearsal, come to Woman's Missionary Union, come to Bible Study, come to Brotherhood, come to Vacation Bible School, come to revivals, come, come, come, and then respond with 'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord (Psalms 122:1)'"

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



Gen. 9:13

'I have placed my rainbow as a sign of my promise to you.'

### Baptist Women Retreats

Camp Paron

Oct. 22-23, 1981

or

Oct. 23-24, 1981

Theme: 'Claiming God's Promises'

Personnel: Helen Jean Parks, Richmond, Va.; Marjorie Kelly, Jackson, Miss.; Beverly Coad, Upper Volta; Arylis Milligan, Gaza

Sponsored by:  
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### Informed Baptists . . .

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine tells Arkansas Baptists more about foreign missions than any other single source. For that reason alone, I would encourage all Baptist churches to see that their members are receiving this



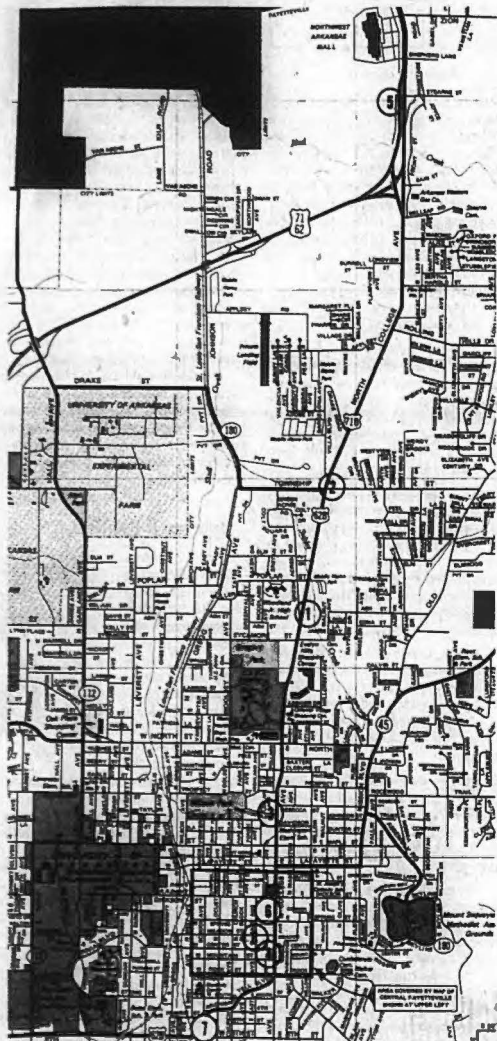
Parks

paper. Of course, there are many other added benefits related to the total scope of Baptist work. From the perspective of the Foreign Mission Board, as well as from my own personal viewpoint, we are fully convinced that this state Baptist paper has a unifying effect on the Baptists of Arkansas. It not only informs, inspires and challenges, but serves as a rallying call in support of both the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Additionally, happenings about missions, prayer requests relative to the work of the missionaries will be challenging and stimulating. I whole heartedly endorse the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

R. Keith Parks  
President,  
Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board  
... are concerned Baptists



## Convention rooms need to be reserved



When Arkansas Baptists go to Fayetteville Nov. 16-19 for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting and related conferences, they will be competing for hotel rooms with vacationers and a movie production company. Messengers to the annual meeting should make reservations as soon as possible directly with the hotel or motel of their choice. Locations of the hotels are shown to give messengers an idea of the distance from First Church, the meeting site (indicated by a ☆).

- 1 **Chief Motel**  
1830 N. College, 442-7326  
31 units, restaurant, rates: \$16-\$30
- 2 **Holiday Inn**  
2402 N. College, 443-4323  
165 units, restaurant, rates: \$24-\$46
- 3 **Motor Lodge Motel**  
18 Tranton, 442-9670  
8 units, kitchenettes, rates: \$10-\$14  
also weekly & monthly rates
- 4 **Mountain Inn**  
21 S. College, 521-5600  
62 units, restaurant, rates: \$24-\$30
- 5 **Ramada Inn**  
3901 N. College, 443-3431  
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- 6 **Town-House Sands Motel**  
215-229 N. College, 442-5315  
54 units, restaurant, rates: \$12-\$17
- 7 **A & A Recreational Vehicle Park**  
Hwy 71 South in Greenland, 521-7439  
37 units, all hook-ups, t.v. cable,  
rates: \$6 per night
- 8 **Hilton**  
70 N. East St., 442-5555  
244 units, restaurant, rates: \$34-\$62

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## Rison church continues lay program

Rison Church held a Ministry Evangelism Weekend on Aug. 7-9. This is the continuation of a number of programs that have been carried on by the church designed to involve the membership in renewal, caring and serving.

The program was begun in late February with a Lay Renewal weekend. Each of these programs, Lay Renewal and Ministry Evangelism, used lay people. Lay Renewal is designed to produce introspection and sharing of one another's burdens. Ministry Evangelism encourages individuals to discover their gift and to use these in ministering and witnessing to others.

Ministry Evangelism uses two techniques, Bible study in large groups and Bible study, sharing and prayer in small group discussions. There were 27 visitors that assisted Rison Church in this endeavor. There were 20 of these from various churches in Louisiana while seven were from Arkansas. The key outside leadership was Calvin Cantrell, assistant director of evangelism for the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, and Johnny Armstrong, Volunteer Missions and Renewal Evangelism. Armstrong, who served as the visiting coordinator, is a Missions Service Corps worker and a retired school teacher. The Bible study was brought by Cantrell.

The program has had a dramatic impact on the Rison Church. A year ago there were 82 in Sunday School, on Aug. 9 there were 193. Pastor J. T. Harvill points out that last year the church was averaging in the 80's. The church is now averaging more than 140.

Harvill recommends our Southern Baptist programs on Lay Renewal and Ministry Evangelism. He said, "These programs have the most positive effect of any type of program that I have witnessed in all of my ministry."



Small groups at the Rison Church participated in Bible study, prayer and sharing, and discussed how they can more effectively minister to others.



Both visitors and members of Rison Church were leaders in the Ministry Evangelism weekend. These included (standing, left to right) Freddie Pike, Lizzie McKinney, Ray Martin, Peggy Winston, Betty Garner, Louise Bennett, Geraldine McKinney, Vernon Dollar, J. T. Harvill, (kneeling, left) Calvin Cantrell, (kneeling, right) Johnny Armstrong. Edwin McKinney (not pictured) also participated.

## Togo Baptists grow 15 percent

ATAKPAME, Togo — In three months, 248 baptisms increased the total Baptist church membership in Togo by 15 percent, says Southern Baptist missionary Raymond Home, evangelism director for the association of Baptist churches in Togo. Four new churches also were under construction during April, May and June. Home attributes the unusual growth to a moving of the Holy Spirit. Every week missionaries there are asked to preach in new villages. Because there is no church in her village, one woman has walked to the church in Abobo every Sunday for the past two years. But unless more general evangelists come to Togo as missionaries, her village and many like it will go unreached, says Marsha Key, missionary press representative for Togo.



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# Foreign missions datelines

## Pressure brings growth in Ethiopia

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — The Christian church in Ethiopia is struggling but growing stronger, Southern Baptist missionary Jerry Bedsole told an audience of 2,000 at the annual foreign mission conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"I can say without reservation," said Bedsole, "that the church of the living Christ in Ethiopia is stronger on this day than it's ever been before in its history."

But this has happened, he said, during a period when the church has been under "intense pressure" and thousands of churches have been unable to remain open.

In a time of difficulty he has seen a growing unity among believers of all denominations in Ethiopia, he said. "God has burnt away the differences," he said. "He has literally burned the stubble and hay away, and the purity of faith and love that exists between believers has really surfaced over there. It is a privilege to be there to see it."

He explained that he is working with a

wide range of Christian groups, including Pentecostals, Lutherans, Catholics and members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's historic church which still claims 15 million members.

Prayer has become such a power among Ethiopian Christians, he said, that he almost needs basketball kneepads for marathon prayer sessions that last up to three hours on concrete and tile floors.

But perhaps the greatest evidence of what God is doing, Bedsole said, is a real hunger for learning more about Jesus that exists among Ethiopian Christians. "They're willing to pay any price simply to know more of Jesus Christ," he said. So many people want discipleship training that he has had to establish waiting lists.

With the country's move to a Soviet-oriented socialist government, other changes have come, said Bedsole. "There are lots of controls upon everything, on travel, food — even to buy nails or anything else, you have to have permission."

Bedsole, a veterinarian, and his wife, Rosie, and two other Southern Baptist cou-

ples have been allowed to remain in the country's capital because they practice community development ministries. They have not yet gained permission to return to work with the people of the remote mountainous region where they and other missionaries once developed an extensive community development ministry.

"I am convinced that it is the perfect will of God that we are where we are today in the city," said Bedsole. "Addis Ababa is not just another city, but is the hub about which everything focuses and functions in the nation."

Bedsole is from Alabama; his wife is from Missouri. The other couples serving in Ethiopia are Lynn and Suzanne Groce, from Missouri and Florida, and Raymond and Lauralee Lindholm, from California.

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# Reaching people must be priority: Cothen

by Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE—The issue of survival for the Southern Baptist Convention is not who controls the denomination but whether churches are concerned about reaching lost people, Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen said here.



Cothen

Speaking to participants in a Sunday School growth seminar, Cothen said, "I came to the Sunday School Board convinced that if the Southern Baptist Convention survived it meant that its churches needed to be busy about the Great Commission as Christ gave it to the church.

"That's where it's at. It may not be good grammar, but it's good religion," he emphasized.

Urging the pastors, ministers of education and Sunday school directors to plan their programs with a priority toward

growth, Cothen said, "God set the agenda 2000 years ago when he told us, 'Be my witnesses.' He has not changed his mind about what he wants the churches to do."

Cothen noted that the Sunday School department's emphasis on increasing the denomination's Sunday school enrollment to 8.5 million by 1985 is one of the ways the board is "attempting to help the churches come to grips with the Great Commission for their time in their location."

He said Southern Baptists should be committed to growth, "not for numbers to brag about but because there are millions of lost people in this world."

From his experiences as a pastor in Oklahoma and Alabama, Cothen said he believes the best way to reach lost people is to get them in Bible study, teach them, witness to them, pray for them and let them know they are cared about and loved.

"It's not the only way to do evangelism, it's just the best way I know," he said.

## Attendance report

Sept. 6, 1981

Church	School	Chrch Trng.	Chrch addn.
Alexander			
First	107	50	
Viny Ridge Immanuel	53	28	
Alpema, First	89	44	
Bataville			
First	267	101	2
West	195	63	1
Nursing Home	35		
Bentonville, First	423		5
Berryville			
First	209	90	3
Freeman Heights	238	68	1
Blue Eye, Mo., First	121	52	
Booneville, South Side	121	84	1
Bryant			
First	283	69	5
Indian Springs	119	63	1
Crook			
First	347	74	
Mt. Carmel	400	150	2
Cherokee Village, First	130	35	
Conway			
Harlan Park	95	89	
Oak Bowery	84	53	
Pickley Gap	166	65	
Secora	451	149	2
Crossett			
First	409	69	5
Meridian	94	72	
Mount Olive	280	122	
Temple	161	61	
Des Arc, First	191	66	
Deha, First	70	64	
El Dorado, Parkview	135	43	1
Nursing Home	13		
Forrest City, First	496	98	
Fort Smith, Westside	73	33	2
Grady, First	27	20	
Hardy, First	120	61	
Harrison, Eagle Heights	223	82	1
Hot Springs			
Immanuel	70	39	
Fairdale	74		2
Grand Avenue	364	78	4
Harvey's Chapel	139	72	
Leonard Street	186	52	
Memorial	85	47	
Park Place	272	80	3
Rector Heights	85	42	
Vista Heights	33	21	
Jacksonville, First	319	42	1
Jesseville	98	57	
Jonesboro			
Herbston	198	71	1
Phillips	117	70	
Little Rock, Crystal Hill	92	36	
Maynard, Wjts Chapel	67	51	2
Mountain Pine			
Cedar Glades	41		
First	74	25	
Mountain Valley	55	17	
North Little Rock, Stanfil	115	53	
Paragould			
Calvary	204	150	
First	391	86	1
Pea Ridge, First	240	70	1
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	94	50	
Lee Memorial	175	90	
South Side	305	91	4
Watson Chapel	409	134	3
Rogers			
First	520	130	10
Immanuel	783		1
Russellville, First	529		
Springdale			
Berry Street	66	42	1
First	1,275		13
Tanoka			
Highland Hills	103	69	1
Shiloh	119	47	
Valley Springs	76	45	2
Van Buren, First	416	48	1
Ward, First	124	57	
Woodlee, First	90	47	
Yulville, First	168	34	1

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Chatham

## International

Sept. 20, 1981

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

by Roy Chatham

Conway First Church

## Our place in God's world

Ecclesiastes displays the dark philosophy of one who sought to find peace apart from God, but in the end realized that only futility is to be found there. The only possible solution to life's puzzle, concludes the book: "Fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty of man" (12:13). Leading up to that positive statement is a series of pictures, each one portraying the futility of life without God. Wealth, wisdom, popularity, and pleasure are all put down as so much vanity. Only when a man turns from this world to God will he find true happiness.

There is a negative lesson to be learned from this book. It is a series of things not to do. It shows the emptiness of trying to live for oneself and to please oneself alone without considering the needs of others or considering God our Maker.

The day will give place to the night and the night again to the day. Is it summer? It will be winter. Is it winter? Stay a while, and it will be summer. The clearest sky will be clouded — joy succeeds sorrow, and the most clouded sky will clear up. Those things which to us seem most casual and contingent are, in the counsel and foreknowledge of God, punctually determined, and the very hour of them is fixed.

Some of these changes are purely the act of God; others depend more upon the will of man, but all are determined by the divine counsel. Everything under heaven is thus changeable, but in heaven there is an unchangeable state, and an unchangeable counsel concerning these things.

In verses one through 11, as well as in chapters one, two, and four, Solomon sets himself to answer the question, "What is the solution to life in such a world where everything passes away, and fails to satisfy?" Even wisdom, which he sought so diligently, and prized so highly, was disappointing.

There is a great deal of toil and trouble to be seen among the children of men. Labor and sorrow fill the world, but God never intended this world for our rest, and therefore never appointed us to take our ease in it. God gives it to men, as the physician gives medicine to his patient, to do him good. This travail is given to us to make us weary of the world and desirous of the remaining rest.

In verses 12 through 15, Solomon shows the hand of God in all those changes; it is he that has made every creature, and therefore we must have our eye always upon him.

While the picture is in drawing, and the house in building, we see not the beauty of either, but when the artist has put his last hand to them, and given them their finishing strokes, then all appears very good. We see but the middle of God's works, not from the beginning of them nor to the end of them, but we must wait and not pass judgment on them. We have the world so much in our hearts, and are so taken up with thoughts and cares of worldly things that we fail to see God's hand at work. We are mistaken if we think we were born for ourselves.

As the Word of God, so the works of God are every one of them perfect in its kind, and it is presumption for us either to add to them or to diminish from them. It is therefore as much our interest as our duty to bring our wills to the will of God.

God is in the business of convincing all mankind that there is a God above them that has a sovereign dominion over them, at whose disposal they are and all their ways, and in whose hands their times are and all events concerning them, and that therefore they ought to have their eyes ever towards him, to worship and adore him, to acknowledge him in all their ways, to be careful in everything to please him, and afraid of offending him in anything.

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## Proverbs for parents

The parenting challenge is at once a most joyful and demanding role. The potential for both great fulfillment and terrible trauma resides in the outworking of the dynamics between parent and child. The child and/or parent can greatly enhance the identity of the other, yet some of the greatest experiences of woundedness come from this relationship. Whatever instruction God gives through his Word to help parents to relate properly to this task (mission, opportunity) should be welcomed!



Glazener

### Teaching (Prov. 4:1-6)

Part of the parenting responsibility involves instructions for living. The challenge here is to the sons to give attention to the teachings of their father. His experience gives him the authority to teach, and he claims they will profit greatly by welcoming his teachings.

God has determined that the family setting is ideally the best situation for the molding of the child. A responsible parent will acknowledge his heavy role in shaping the values and world view of the child. No parent can guarantee the child will respond to the priorities the parent holds. However, every parent is responsible to share with his child vital precepts.

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## Life and Work

Sept. 20, 1981

Proverbs 4:1-6; 13:24; 17:6;  
20:7; 22:6; 29:15, 17

by Clyde Glazener

Little Rock Calvary Church

In light of these verses, note the absurdity of the stance of a parent against trying to influence a child's decision about God, church, etc. The Bible's admonition is that parents are to exercise all the influence possible to direct the youngsters toward God.

### Disciplining (Prov. 13:24; 22:6; 29:15, 17)

The sage shares in these sayings both the need for parents to discipline and the results of discipline as opposed to the totally permissive approach. Discipline expresses love (care involves correction) "Train" (Prov. 22:6) includes teaching, disciplining and giving example. The results in the life of the child whose caring parents give correction and reproof are to be seen in the parents' freedom from anguish. The child who is not corrected at home does not develop respect for those in authority, appreciation for the rights of others, or gratitude for the gift of life and all life's attendant gifts. He will likely bring heartache to his parents (Prov. 28:15, 17).

### Effecting (Prov. 20:7; 17:6)

Life style (words and walk) of the parent should effect growth in moral character and wisdom on the part of the child. The man who is righteous (just) does not just talk about right living. He walks in uprightness (with integrity). He models righteousness for the child. When this is the case, then grandchildren become the delight of the elderly and children can be proud of their parents.



Garner

## Bible Book

Sept. 20, 1981

James 4:1-17

by Jimmie Garner  
Trinity Association

## Dealing with wrong attitudes

The great tragedy of the world today is worldly mindedness. Christians must always struggle with the problem of what will be their relationship with the world. For the Christian, the field is the world. We can neither move out of that world, nor can we disregard its needs. What should be our attitude toward the world?

### The world and its problems

James came to grips with this problem. He identifies this problem as fellowship with the world. Verses one through four identify a pattern of conflict. He said runaway desires often lead to strife between persons, even within the church. Out of the unchecked lusts arose conflicts and wars. He reminds us that we pervert prayer by praying selfishly. Genuine religion and worship point men toward God and others. We are wide of the mark if we increase love of self. Christians must have a single-minded devotion to God, for anything else would follow a pattern of infidelity. The Christian's life must be a total commitment to God, just as husband and wife are to be fully devoted to each other.

### Life above the world

In verses five through 10 James gives us the recipe for life above the world. He did not ask Christians to withdraw from the world into some isolated community. He did urge a changed attitude toward the world, a new stance that grew out of a humble submission to God. Friendship with God involves repentance, humility, and submission to him. James pointed out that the humble-minded man recognized his deep need of cleansing and opened his life trustingly toward God. When he draws near to God, God through Jesus Christ meets him in mercy. This is the relationship James assured his redeemed that they would be able to resist the devil, selfish desires, and the double-minded who try to serve God and the world at the same time.

### Self-control in the world

It is not possible for man to go through life ignoring God. Men must recognize God's will as the determining factor in their lives (v. 15). They must inquire earnestly about the nature and purpose of life itself. "What is life?" is the sobering question that men must face today. Life on this earth is brief, like the duration of a mist. But it has significance when it is set within the context of God's providential will and purpose.

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# Your state convention at work

## Evangelism

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The WOW (Win Our World) training teaches the basics of sharing our faith. Students learn how to give a clear, effective testimony of their own conversion experience and how to give an eight-minute gospel presentation using the booklet titled "The Real Life". The Evangelism Department will train church leaders and staff to lead WOW schools in their own church. A WOW Preparation Manual is available upon request.

For further information write or call the Evangelism Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, telephone 376-4791. — Wes Kent, Pre-college Associate

## Family and Child Care

### Children need help to develop potential

"Children are our most valuable resource." — Herbert Hoover. "The potential possibilities of any child are the most intriguing and stimulating in all of creation." — Ray Wilbur. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. He placed his hand on them and left" (Matt. 19:14-15).

Potential is a dynamic word. It refers "to that which is possible." It refers to something we cannot see or touch, but rather it is something that we feel.

Society calls many of the children with whom we work emotionally disturbed. Emotions are feelings. Our children have feeling needs. Due to their experiences in their developmental years they are upset,

and hurt a lot — inside. So often these hurt feelings express themselves in striking out, delinquent behavior, and lack of trust in others and themselves. Whatever you call it, until they can be guided to feel better about themselves, receive consistent love and acceptance, and face things as they actually are, they are disturbed. They are less of a boy or a girl than they can be. Faced with these needs, we must recognize the potential possibilities of every young life.

We work at helping them feel that they are worthy as persons so that they can get over their feeling disturbances. We work hard at meeting the "feeling needs" of children. Knowing how essential the quality of trust is to happiness and personal well-being, our staff is constantly working to help our young people reestablish their faith in people and in themselves. Everyone needs to trust someone, and to believe in his own worth as an individual. To make this trust complete and abundant, one needs to place their trust in God.

With God, all things are possible. He understands our feelings and is the author of our potential possibilities — Johnny G. Biggs, Executive Director

## Family ministry

### Marriage enrichment retreat to be at DeGray

Richard Waggener, marriage enrichment consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead a Marriage Enrichment Retreat for Arkansas Baptists at DeGray State Park Lodge on Oct. 29-31, 1981.

Waggener, designer of Southern Baptists' Marriage Enrichment Retreat System, is a competent Christian educator and counselor and has led several marriage enrichment events in Arkansas. He will lead couples to apply biblical principles in marital interaction in the basic level marriage enrichment retreat.

The retreat is for couples who have a good marriage and want to make it better. Any couple who wants all God intends for their marriage and are willing to invest time, money and a commitment to learn together will experience personal growth and enrichment in their marriage at the retreat. It will provide a Christian experience for improving communication, conflict resolution and attitude adjustment, among others.

Information about costs and registration has been sent to pastors, church staff persons and directors of missions. Couples in-

terested in attending the retreat may request information from these people or write to: Church Training Department, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Persons who want to improve their skills in leading marriage enrichment activities and who attend the basic marriage enrichment retreat will be invited to attend a leadership training workshop in December. — Gerald Jackson

## Student Department

### BSU state convention to meet in Little Rock

The annual Baptist Student Union State Convention will meet at Second Church in Little Rock on Oct. 2-4. Five hundred students representing 27 campuses are expected to attend. Leaders, who will be speaking on the theme "Living God's Truth," are Stan Nelson, from the Foreign Mission Board, Milt Hughes, a consultant from the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Rodger Murchison, Director of Placement for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Seminars and training sessions will occupy much of the weekend, with the main business consideration being a Summer Missions budget which should approach \$30,000. — George E. Sims



Kent



Hughes



Waggener



Murchison



Nelson

## Christian Life Council

### Books reveal Christians in politics

A serious student of church-state relations will want to read two recent books. Brooks Hays, a former representative from Arkansas to the U.S. House of Representatives and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has written an autobiography entitled "Politics Is My Parish." Hays' style of writing is similar to his speaking style. Those who have been humorously

# Your state convention at work

and seriously blessed by his homespun way of conveying a message will especially enjoy this book.

"Crossroads" is a considerably shorter autobiography. It is by Leon Jaworski, best known for his service as chief prosecutor during Watergate. Jaworski, a dedicated Presbyterian layman, is the son of a German Evangelical pastor who came to this country as a young minister. His father served as pastor to other German immigrants in Texas. The third son, Leon, graduated from Baylor. The splendid Christ-like way that Jaworski faced the tragic accidental deaths of two grandsons provides memorable reading moments.

You'll not always agree with these two writers but you will finish reading their books wishing that there were more Christians involved in public service.

From all evidence both Hays and Jaworski diligently and prayerfully sought to put their Christian faith into practice. Lessons can also be gained for practical, everyday living by reading the story of their lives. Why not check the public library where you live to see if these valuable books are available? Better yet, either or both can be purchased through the Baptist Book Store. — Bob Parker

## Stewardship Basic church budgeting

Every church needs a budget and good budgets require faithful planning. No church is too small for a planned budget. Only a small percentage of the churches in Arkansas have less than \$10,000 in annual gifts.

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to those who administer the church's money.

Christian giving is not a once-a-year event. Stewardship like other Christian activities, needs a perennial emphasis. Those who follow Basic Church Budgeting will glean ideas for year-round stewardship education.

The Stewardship Department has Basic Church Budgeting Packets available at no cost. Request a packet along with other stewardship/Cooperative Program materials for your fall stewardship programs. — James A. Walker, director

## Church Training Convention set for October

Huber Drumwright, our state Executive Secretary, will be the keynote speaker at the opening session of the annual Church Training Convention meeting at Immanuel Church in Little Rock on Oct. 27. "Equipping for Church Growth" will be the theme of the convention as special emphasis is given to the 1981-82 Church Growth curriculum.

The 1982-85 Bold Growth in Discipleship emphasis will also be introduced at the convention. This is the Church Training strategy to enroll 3.5 million members in discipleship training by 1985. The role of the Church Training program will play in our state's Bold Mission Thrust emphasis will also be introduced.

Sessions will begin at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Age-group leadership conferences will be conducted for all Church Training leaders, pastors, staff members and associational leaders. In addition, conferences will be conducted for Media-Library workers and for church secretaries.

A Church Training Fair will be open for an hour before each of the sessions with interesting exhibits and activities related to all areas of Church Training. — Robert Holley



Drumwright



## On the cover

Staff members at North Little Rock Baring Cross Church gathered recently with State Sunday School Director Lawson Hatfield (left) to discuss plans for the state Sunday School convention scheduled at their church Sept. 21-22. From left to right are Jim Graddy, Sunday School director; Jerry Hogan, pastor; and Roy Cook Jr., minister of youth and activities.

## Sunday School State convention set

The cover of this Newsmagazine reminds us of the upcoming state Sunday School convention. Churches have received posters and leaflets about the meeting at Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock. The five session convention will start at 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 21 and close Tuesday evening.

The two platform personalities include Pastor John Wright of Little Rock First Church on Monday night, and Pastor Cary Heard of North Little Rock Park Hill Church on Tuesday night.

In addition to the already published conference leadership information, some additional information is shared here. The conference leader for younger and middle preschool leaders will be Mrs. Carole Hallum of Montgomery, Ala.; Bob Pruett, minister of adult education at Park Hill Church will lead the conference for senior adults. An additional conference has been planned for general officers of larger churches with staff members; Jim Williams of Geyer Springs First Church, will lead this conference.

8.5 by '85 will be launched through special promotion and information furnished at the convention.

Do you know what 8.5 by '85 means? — Lawson Hatfield, director



Hatfield

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## Wyoming Baptists vote to seek convention status

CASPER MOUNTAIN, Wyo (BP) — Eighty-three messengers to the annual meeting of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Area Fellowship unanimously have adopted a proposal to seek state convention status by Jan. 1, 1984.

Since 1967, Wyoming has been part of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention which also includes Montana and North and South Dakota. Wyoming Baptists have experienced "phenomenal growth in the past few years in the heart of the nation's energy corridor," said Roy Owen, conven-

## Rural attitudes won't win cities, expert says

NASHVILLE, Tenn (BP) — The rural-oriented mindset which has so typified the heritage of Southern Baptists will not be adequate to win the cities of the world, according to Larry Rose, director of the Center for Urban Church Studies.

The Center for Urban Church Studies was established this year by six Southern Baptist agencies to provide demographic and other statistical analyses to the Southern Baptist Convention for use in evangelizing cities. The center implements no ministries, but makes recommendations to agencies based on trends discovered through research.

"Southern Baptists soon will have a generation of people raised in urban settings," Rose said. "The rural preaching and ministry style will have to be changed in many instances to be effective."

One of the major problems Southern Baptists encounter in trying to minister in major cities is that they do not understand the culture or know the people, he said.

"The dramatic implication for Southern Baptists is that the denomination is still 95 percent middle and upper class, and white," Rose said. "The problem is that no city is white and upper-middle class."

Cities frighten Southern Baptists, Rose said, because they are big, unmanageable, and can't be controlled. Even cities in the South are losing in the ratio of Southern Baptists to population.

"That is not the way we have always done it" is one of the biggest roadblocks to Baptist effectiveness in ministry to cities, Rose says.

"The days of selecting a location and building a church are just about over,"

Rose explains. "People can meet together to worship in a lodge, movie theater or other building which is unused on Sunday for little or no capital cost. The traditional way is no longer a possibility, so we've got to look at other ways."

Cultural differences and socio-economic structures in cities raise serious questions about the ability of Southern Baptists to minister effectively there, he noted.

"We need daring kinds of efforts in our major cities to establish ethnic, cultural and blue-collar churches to reach different types of people," Rose said.

The need for Southern Baptists to begin work in cities is supported by the fact there are 250 cities in the world today with populations of one million or more. In 1956, only one city had five million people, today there are 30 cities with populations of five million or more.

Rose said radical changes and innovations are needed in the Southern Baptist Convention to prevent an erosion of effectiveness of the witness of the denomination. New tactics must be devised through planning for each city where Southern Baptists want to make a Bold Mission Thrust impact.

Approximately 50 cities with population one million or more in the United States will be under consideration by the Center for Urban Church Studies Sponsorship for the center comes from the Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six seminaries.

## Students urged to study, believe and apply the Bible

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Disciplined efforts to understand and apply biblical truths will make a dramatic difference in their lives, more than 900 college students were told.

Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Peter Rhea Jones, pastor of First Church of Decatur, Ga., affirmed the inspiration of Scriptures and the need for Bible study in addresses to launch the 1981-82 nationwide campus Bible study emphasis sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries.

"If we believe in the inspiration of the Bible, we need to believe and read all of it," said Jones. "If we believe in the inspiration of Scripture, let's preach all of it, even the part that doesn't go down too well."

He said Christians should read the Bible as authoritative and allow it to speak to them. "You give power to the laity when you give them the Bible and they read it," said Jones. "The Bible gives us coping

power to speak to our lives and make a difference."

McCall said everyone has his own personal understanding of the meaning of the Scriptures, an understanding limited in scope and which can never be equated with all of God's truth available in the Bible.

He urged the students to undertake continual efforts to expand their understanding of biblical truth.

Referring to controversies about the Bible among Southern Baptists, McCall said groups are divided by their understandings about the Bible, not by the Bible itself.

"I wish I had the original manuscripts," said McCall. "But even if you had them in your hand and had to understand them with what you have in your skull, error would creep in."

"It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that the word of God will become truth," said McCall.

Noted Jones: "The Christian has no reason to fear the truth. Go for it and learn."

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tion executive director. "It's been moving toward this for a long time."

The denomination currently has 34 state conventions, some of which encompass several states, to cover work in all 50 states. It requires new state conventions to have a minimum of 70 constituted churches and 10,000 members, 60 constituted churches and 11,250 members, or 50 constituted churches and 12,500 members.

Herbert Whitten, the fellowship's interim operating committee chairman and pastor of Mountain View Church in Casper, Wyo., said, "We've had 12 new churches constituted and we're projecting 60 churches and 13,722 members by 1984."

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