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March 31, 1977

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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March 31, 1977

Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



I must say it

Charles H. Ashcraft / Executive Secretary

Sound doctrine, sound faith

The essence of character, behavior, worth and value is determined by teaching. Whether it be an evangelical "new birth" doctrine or a Lenin anti-God doctrine, the result is obvious. The spiritual and moral level of individuals as well as the nation and the world is substantively effected by the collective teaching within their borders. Unhealthy, unsound, sick and anemic doctrine will produce like kind. Contrary, wise, sound, healthy, firm, dynamic doctrines will have its powerful positive effect upon the whole of life. It follows, therefore, that sound doctrine is basic, mandatory and absolutely indispensable if any hope is cherished for a better quality of life, here or hereafter (Titus 2:1).

The primal point of all approaches to any meaningful truth begins with the real truth about God. Perhaps the next most basic fact will be God's disclosure, revelation and communication with his creatures. From there on it is the continuous, dramatic, exciting and victorious journey, hand in hand with God through all the turns and corners of life, extending out into the boundless expanse of eternity beyond, all undergirded by sound doctrine. There has never been a time when sound doctrine was more needed to sustain hope and promise in our generation. This quickly focuses upon the pulpits of America. Only healthy, positive, daring doctrines will produce healthy, positive, daring faith. The Bible speaks on this. "For this cause, rebuke them sharply that they may be sound in the faith" (Titus 1:13).

Questions which come to me upon hearing a sermon are these, (1) Does it have the ring of Biblical authority? (1 Cor. 14:8); (2) Does it have the prophetic grasp of the burning issues of its day? (3) Does it convey compassion and the warmth of freshness from God's altar? (4) Does it distinguish between the voice of man and the voice of God? (5) Does it speak to the youth whose witness must be adequate for unborn generations? (6) Does the doctrine cause the brethren to love one another more fervently? (7) Does it instill life, strength, ambition and boldness to share Christ with others? (8) Does it offer relief to the "least of his brethren?" (9) Does it address raw sin, calling it by name, denouncing it, yet in love? (10) Do you feel like checking into a hospital when the sermon is over, or do you walk in the strength of it for many days?

Great soundness in the faith will occur in this land when sound doctrines return to the pulpits of America. Sick and dying churches will return to health, the "falling away" of many from the faith will cease, and the song of the Lord will again be heard in the land, when sound doctrines come back in style.

I must say it!

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Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 76

NUMBER 13

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Ministering to senior citizens

The editor's page

J. Everett Sneed



There are currently more than 18 million Americans who are over 65 years of age. This number is increasing every year. Fortunately, the health of the majority of these individuals is better than ever before in history. The increase of both the quality and duration of life is a cause for rejoicing. But with a major segment of our population having reached retirement age, it means that our churches must adjust some priorities in ministering.

The Bible makes it clear that both the relatives and the church have responsibility for older people. Paul instructed, "Rebuke not an elder, but instruct him as a father . . . the elder women as mothers . . ." (I Tim. 5:1-2). This responsibility includes financial support when necessary. The apostle instructed, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home . . ." (I Tim. 5:4).

Such assistance for the elderly is a part of the ethical duty of Christians. First, it is the only way that we can demonstrate our honor and esteem to them for the services which they have rendered to us. Both the family and the church have received much from devout older Christians. We, also, have a love debt which in many instances can never be repaid.

Today the American government provides much of the financial support which in the time of the apostle Paul was the responsibility of the family or the church. But no matter how adequate the retirement income may be, it will not provide certain personal needs. Every person has three basic needs — somewhere to live, something to do and someone to care. Retirement, Social Security and government financial assistance may care for a place to live. But it

will do nothing to meet the other two basic requirements.

At the present, inflation is a serious problem for many retired persons. In a time when food, housing, medicine and other basic necessities of life increase almost monthly, it creates grave difficulty for those with fixed incomes. Although it is generally impossible for our churches to provide financial assistance, church leaders can often provide invaluable counsel. Pastors should also lead members to work responsibly within the framework of our democratic society to attain proper treatment of our older people.

Psychological problems are even more serious than economic ones. Every person regardless of age needs friends. Every person needs to be needed. If a person is friendless and has nothing meaningful to do, life is miserable.

Churches should sponsor activities which enable senior citizens to form continuing friendships. Many congregations have a weekly program for older people. They are brought to the church house, a meal is served and Bible study and simple recreational activities are provided.

The abilities of retired people should be utilized by our churches. These people have a wide diversity of abilities and in many instances considerable time to assist their church.

God expects us to be concerned about the needs of every person. As the number of our older people grow, the church's responsibility becomes greater to this important segment of our population. Thus, each church should make the senior citizen ministry a matter of prayerful concern.

Guest editorial Where to hit

Occasionally someone writes, "What can we do about TV violence and sex?"

Some say the answer is for everyone to turn off their sets. I don't think this will work. Oh, it might if everyone did so. But I'm not so naive as to think Americans in big numbers will ever do so.

I don't intend to stop reading newspapers because some news is bad. And I'm not going to turn off the news and other good features on TV.

Neither do I think it does much good to write or send petitions to the national networks in New York City. I could be wrong, but I doubt if they do much good.

Here, however, are three steps I believe are effective:

1. Be selective in what you and your family watch. If you allow your children to watch TV nonstop, with no concern for what they're seeing, you can't blame someone else.

2. Send protests to companies which sponsor TV

violence. Here's how. First, write the National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting. Their address is 1028 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036. Ask for their free index of TV programs, rated according to violence. With this index as a guide, write the offending companies. Also, stop buying their products. The way to hit television is with your pocketbook.

3. Write letters to your local television station, not the networks. I say this because most stations have some control over what they show. They don't necessarily have to air everything on the network. Also, commend your local station for good programs.

• • • • •

To be blunt, I don't think Baptists' voice counts for much if we don't speak up occasionally for what's good in our communities, including television. Responsible people tend to discount the voice of persons who are always negative. And I don't blame them. — **Editor Bob Hastings in his column 'Letters from home' in the 'Illinois Baptist'**



One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant / President, OBU

The power of one letter to young John McClellan

One of the saddest things I hear these days is that letter writing is a lost art. Historians have become increasingly aware that our generation is writing fewer and fewer letters — at least the kinds of letters that become invaluable to historians. A whole new field of "oral history" is developing as a means of making up for our deficiency in letter writing. Students are encouraged to tape-record interviews with senior citizens to preserve their impressions of life "in the olden days" before they are lost forever.

There may be a more serious loss to society if the trend against letter writing continues. What one of us does not have an old cherished letter from someone greatly admired, that came to mean a great deal to us in shaping the direction of our life and career?

Recently Senator John L. McClellan, on the occasion of his 81st birthday, told of a letter he received as a nine-year-old boy that changed the direction of his life. It was a letter written to him shortly after the turn of the century by Arkansas Congressman John S. Little, who later served as Governor of the State. Young John McClellan had written him the kind of letter that is so often required by a school teacher as a class assignment. He wrote everything he could think of

about himself, including how hard he studied in school and how many chores he did around the home. Congressman Little took the time from his busy schedule to write a personal reply commending him on his studies and his work. He then added the prophecy and challenge that John McClellan never forgot. He predicted that John would some day have an important place in public life, but added that it would only come through hard sacrificial work and unselfish dedication to his job.

A mother or father can say the same words to their son or daughter, but it may make no impression at all. For an admired adult outside the family circle to write these words in a personal letter often packs a much more powerful wallop.

Senator McClellan said some nice things about Ouachita Baptist University on the occasion of his 81st birthday as he told a large dinner audience in Ft. Smith why he decided to give his official papers and memorabilia to Ouachita. It is always good to hear such compliments. However, I have given even more thought to his testimony on what a powerful thing it is to write a letter to a young person or child. Come to think of it, the Apostle Paul set a good example in this regard.

Reader survey

A readership survey is being conducted this month among a sample of subscribers to the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*. The survey, which is being handled completely by the Research Services Department of the Sunday School Board, is seeking to determine the opinions and reading habits of our readership.

Every precaution has been taken to make the survey completely accurate and unbiased.

The survey involves 600 of our subscribers. These were selected at random from our subscriber list. We had no influence whatsoever in choosing those who are to receive the survey.

The survey questionnaire itself was prepared by the Research Services Department, using their experience and expertise. The questionnaires are being mailed by them, and the responses will be returned to them.

This Baptist Sunday School Board department will compile the results and share these with us. We will not even see the forms returned by those participating in the survey.

Those responding to the survey will remain anonymous. They are not asked to sign their names.

The purpose of the readership survey is to help the editorial staff of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* to publish the kind of state paper which will be the most helpful publication possible.

Our only involvement in the process is to urge you who receive the readership survey to fill it out honestly and completely. Its purpose is not necessarily to solicit compliments. You can help us the most by sharing your personal feelings and opinions.



Tragedy points up urgency of witness

Seven-year-old Chris Davis rode a church bus to Sunday School on Feb. 13.

His attendance was not noticed by many at Little Rock's Olivet Church. But the bus workers who had been visiting him as a prospect for months were elated.

When his teacher complimented his "I Love You, Jesus" Valentine made during the activities period, he gave her a shy, boyish grin.

Eight days later, Chris darted in front of a pickup on Baseline Road. The driver swerved, but to no avail.

The tragedy has touched many lives in Olivet.

Bus Director Rudy Davis said, "Chris' death has given a new imperative to our bus ministry. It makes all of us realize how important is the job to which we are giving some of our time."

Mrs. Mike Stecks, director of the First Grade Department, said, "This tragedy shakes us with the urgency of our teaching responsibility. It keeps reminding us that we must do our very best with each opportunity."

The Master taught all must come as little children. And workers in Olivet's Sunday School guided a seven-year-old to respond, "I love you, Jesus."

An exposition of First John Testing the spirits

by Roy B. Hilton
(12th in a series)

In chapter four we are to consider the theme of "Testing the Spirits". In verse one John says we are not to believe every spirit, but we are to test the spirits (plural) to see if they are of God. "Test" is the word used for testing metals in acid or the "acid test". It is to test with the view to approving. If the test is not met, it is to be discarded. "Test all things; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21). This idea of testing springs out of 3:24 where the indwelling spirit is mentioned. The indwelling spirit of God is the enabling power of spiritual discernment. There are five tests to be applied: the test of doctrine, the test of truth, the test of love, the test of indwelling and the test of boldness.

The test of doctrine (4:1-4)

The cause for this test is because many false prophets have gone out into the world (vs. 1). These false prophets were the Gnostics who taught that Christ did not actually have a physical body. The test of doctrine is at this point. "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus

Christ is come in the flesh is not of God" (vs. 2, 3). "The word became flesh and dwelt among men."

"Is come in the flesh" is in the perfect tense denoting present result. That is Christ's identity with the human race through the incarnation is permanent. He now inhabits a glorified human body.

Those who would deny this truth are not of God because the spirit of Anti-Christ dwells in them. Those who accept this truth are of God because the spirit of God dwells in them. This brings us to consider the second test:

The test of truth (4:5-6)

How is truth to be determined? How can it be distinguished from error? The world is the dividing line. On one side is the spirit of truth, on the other the spirit of error. The spirit of Satan in the world is the father of error, while the spirit of Christ in you is the father of truth.

The spirit of error is already at work in the world which is the spirit of anti-Christ with many anti-Christ's now active. Paul calls it the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience

(Eph. 2:2). They are related to the world and its system of darkness and evil. They speak of the world. Read II Peter chapter two and the book of Jude. Their religion is one of vain speculation. John says they will have a response or following. Verse 5 says, "They are of the world: they speak of the world, and the world heareth them." They who are of the world can only respond to a religion of the world because they cannot discern spiritual matters and the deep things of God.

"But we are of God: He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (vs. 6).



The Southern accent

The youth convention

In this decade there are "sit-in's, concerts, parties and many other names given to large gatherings of the explosive youth of today. They converge on a hillside or a coliseum for the attraction (whatever that may be) and for the "peer power" they receive.

The Church Training Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention is aware of these needs of our young, therefore a gigantic Youth Convention is scheduled each spring. As for "attraction", there will be a dynamic, talent-filled program. There is a basic difference in this attraction. It is designed to add to the moral and spiritual development of the youth.

The "peer power" will be evident as thousands of teenagers will fill the Robinson Auditorium on April 8. This power will give support to the young people as they choose to live for Jesus Christ. Consciously or unconsciously they will look around and see a sea of faces with the Christian radiance and feel each other's strength of living the Christian life.

Southern Baptist College will be represented at this 1977 extravaganza. The Southern Singers will be featured on the program. Miss Vickie Hester, a freshman from Paragould, will be the presiding officer for the younger division of the convention. Scholarships will be awarded to winners of the speakers tournament. The blue and white display booth will be obvious throughout the day.

The Southern Accent this week is on the Youth Convention. All roads lead to Little Rock, and SBC will be involved . . . Don't miss it!



Woman's viewpoint

Jane Purtle

How to be weak

I have two friends who gave me the best gift I've ever received — their love. This love has freed me to be weak. Before I knew them and accepted the selfless love they offered me, I could not understand the Beautitudes or even wish to try that life style. Another friend of mine says that it was the gut-level knowledge that God really loved him that freed him to confess that he was a weakling.

The love of God or the love of a brother, either of these can free you to say, "Yes, God, I am weak. I cannot make it on my own; and in fact, I don't wish to make it on my own. I depend on you and my brothers."

Most of us are enslaved by our cultural ideas about what a strong person is like and by society's pressure to be an instant success. How does God break in on us so that we have eyes to see and ears to hear? He makes many of us cry "uncle" before we want to come

out of our piggins and head toward home. Then we need someone to love us. The vision of the waiting Father was enough for my friend and the Prodigal Son. For me, it was the love of two friends who were themselves becoming strong in their weakness, and, who out of the overflow of God's love, offered me whatever I was needy enough to claim.

What happens after we embrace our weakness, after we acknowledge our dependence on God and on other people? The process of becoming strong begins. My three friends "have it together" better than any people I know. They're ahead of me in "coming to themselves", but they're still very much in process. They have not given up being weak. In fact, acknowledging continued weakness is the key to growth. If we ever say we've arrived, we've stopped moving toward strength. As we become stronger, it is easier and easier to be weak.

Alexander First Church will begin a spring revival on April 24. David Weeks will be evangelist. Aaron Thompson is pastor.

Eddie Simpson of Bellaire Church, Dermott, will be evangelist when **Shannon Hills Church, Little Rock**, holds a revival April 3-6. Jim Cope will be in charge of music. David Medley is pastor.

Rosedale Church, Little Rock, has voted to establish a special missions fund which will be used as directed by the church for special mission endeavors in two pioneer areas, New Decade Church in Chicago and the Northgate Church in Seattle.

Rolling Hills Church, Fayetteville, observed its fifth anniversary on March 19 with a special banquet. Al Cullum, a former pastor who is now associate pastor of Forrest City First Church, was speaker at the church's Sunday morning services on March 20.

Washington-Madison Association held an associational hymn sing at Berry Street Church, Springdale, on March 27. Peter L. Petty is Director of Missions.

Baptist Tabernacle Church, Little Rock, will hold a revival May 15-20 with Don Moore as evangelist. James M. Wilson is pastor.

Conway First Church observed the home missions season of prayer with a special emphasis on March 20. Miss Deanna Harragarra of Norman, Okla., was speaker. Miss Harragarra, a full-blooded Kiowa Indian, is presently doing graduate study work at the University of Oklahoma. She was named "Miss Indian-America 1975-76". William Probasco is pastor.

Cherry Valley Church is in revival March 28-April 3 with James Swafford of Walcott as evangelist.

Lonoke Church held a revival March 13-18 with Neal Raborn, pastor of Bethany Church, Huntsville, Ala., as evangelist. Eugene Wigley is pastor.

The Brotherhood of **Mountain View First Church** is holding a special dinner tonight in fellowship hall of the church. Following the dinner plans will be made for an outreach program for the church. Camp site worship services of the church also will be discussed. James Scott is pastor.

East Side Church, Ft. Smith, held a special after-church fellowship March 27 honoring the Thurman Braughton family on their last Sunday evening before their return to the mission field. The family will be going to the Philippines.

Central Church, Magnolia, held a Christian Enrichment Conference on March 18-19 with Findley B. Edge of Southern Seminary as conference leader. Loyd L. Hunnicutt is pastor.

Marmaduke Church is in revival March 28-April 3 with Glen Riggs as evangelist and Glen Lewis as singer. Doyle Wheat, a member of the church, has been licensed to preach by the church.

Earl Humble of Southern College, Walnut Ridge, was guest speaker at **Piggott First Church** on March 20. "Reconciliation" from Ouachita University will be at the Piggott Church on April 2-3.

Prairie Grove First Church will be in revival March 27-April 3 with W. R. Edwards, pastor of Elmdale Church at Springdale, as evangelist. Jim Walker, minister of music and youth at the Elmdale Church, will be music director. Edward L. Powers is pastor.

Little Rock Second Church will hold a special visitors luncheon on Sunday, April 3. The luncheon will also honor Dale Cowling, pastor, upon his return from a New Zealand Crusade.

Trinity Church, Benton, held a youth-led revival March 25-27. James Goodson, a senior at Ouachita University, brought the messages each evening. Harold Stephens is pastor.

Central Church, Hot Springs, had as guest speaker on March 27 Selvin P. Goldberg, the Rabbi of the Temple House of Israel. Rabbi Goldberg spoke on the topic of Passover.

Temple Church, Crossett, will hold a spring revival April 3-8 with Don Moore as evangelistic singer. The church held a deacon ordination service recently at which time Johnny Dopson and Bill Hardin were ordained as deacons. Herman A. Merritt is pastor.

Calvary Church, North Little Rock, will hold revival services April 3-10 with Bob Ebersold as evangelist. Music directors from North Pulaski Association will be in charge of music. Robert McDaniel is pastor.

Ingram Boulevard Church in West Memphis will hold revival services beginning on April 3. Henry G. West, pastor, will serve as evangelist and Danny Henderson will lead the music.

Stamps First Church held a revival March 20-27. Michael Gott was evangelist and Joe Statton led the music. Clayburn C. Bratton is pastor.

Sylvan Hills First Church in North Little Rock will begin Day Care and Day Camping Ministries on June 1, according to Don Moseley, pastor.

Almyra First Church held a revival recently at which time there were six professions of faith and one coming for dedication to special service. Clarence Shell, state evangelist for Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was evangelist. Music was in the charge of Herbert "Red" Johnson of Mountain Home.

Johnny Pope of Hammond, Ind., was

evangelist when **Open Door Church, Rogers**, held a revival March 7-13. There were 21 professions of faith and one joining by letter.

The spring revival for **Caudle Avenue Church** in Springdale will be held April 17-24. Sam Dunham, pastor of Huntsville First Church, will be evangelist. Rick Kester, music-youth director of the Springdale church, will lead singing. Bob Batchelder is pastor.

A spring Family Life Conference will be held April 20-May 1 at **Blytheville First Church**. Dr. and Mrs. David Edens, teachers at Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., will lead the conference. Alvis B. Carpenter is pastor.

Mandeville Church, Texarkana, held a weekend revival March 11-13 with Garvon Golden, student at Southwestern Seminary, as evangelist. Gary Cope was in charge of music.

Brownsville Church, Heber Springs, will hold a revival on April 3-9 with Shelby Bittle of Wynne as evangelist. Wallace Cresswell is pastor.

A team from Southern College will conduct revival services April 8-10 at **New Bethel Church, Heber Springs**. Dudley Lockard is pastor.

Pines Church, Quitman, will be in revival April 28-30 with David Miller as evangelist. Bill Bailey is pastor.

South Side Church, Heber Springs, will hold a spring revival April 13-17 with Don Crosswhite as evangelist. Wendell Crosswhite is pastor.

Jim Wiley will be evangelist when **Woodrow Church, Prim**, holds revival services April 25-30. John Stoner is pastor.

Southern Baptist College Choir sang in the evening worship service at **West Memphis First Church** on March 27. The church will begin its spring revival on April 17 with James H. Smith, Executive Secretary of Illinois Baptist Convention, as evangelist. Thomas A. Hinson is pastor.

A youth dialogue, a communications happening, was held at **Watson Chapel Church, Pine Bluff**, on March 25. David L. Nix is minister of youth.

Mike Stowell, Steve Mullen and Dennis Jackson were speakers for a youth-led revival held at **Augusta First Church** March 18-20.

"Seven Last Words" by Theodore Dubois will be presented by the choir of **Olivet Church in Little Rock** on April 3. The cantata will be a special presentation during the morning worship hour. John Farris Jr. is minister of music. C. Lamar Lifer is pastor.

Johnny Green will be evangelist for a revival to be held at **Kensett First Church** April 25-May 1. Bob G. Crabb is pastor.

Rev. and Mrs. Norman Ferguson were recently honored by the pastor, staff and church members of Ft. Smith First Church for their 38 years of ministry to the church and citizens of Ft. Smith. Ferguson, in his 38-year ministry, has served as associate pastor, minister of music and education and interim pastor. For the occasion the pastor, William L. Bennett, preached a message entitled "Norman Ferguson: God's Great Encourager". Following the morning service, a city-wide reception, attended by 400 citizens, was held in the Norman Ferguson Chapel, a new chapel named in Ferguson's honor.

Dr. and Mrs. Loyd L. Hunnicutt will be honored on April 3 with an Appreciation Day by Central Church, Magnolia. Dr. Hunnicutt, who has served as pastor of Central Church for the past 33 years, will mark his retirement in special services on that day. Charles Ashcraft, Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will be guest speaker. S. A. Whitlow, former Executive Secretary, will also speak. A reception is planned for the Hunnicutts from 2-4 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. Evening services will include a slide presentation of Dr. Hunnicutt's years as pastor. Former staff members of Hunnicutt's will also be on the program.

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Williams, Southern Baptist missionary associates assigned to Brazil, will arrive in Ft. Smith in August where they will be missionaries in residence for the Ft. Smith First Church. Williams, a native of Ft. Smith, is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, and Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Williams is a graduate of Oklahoma State University. They are parents of three daughters. While in Ft. Smith the Williams will be assisting with the mission program at First Church, as well as sharing their mission experiences with numerous Southern Baptist groups.

Johnny Jackson, pastor of Forest Highlands Church in Little Rock, recently was in Dallas where he preached a revival at Royal Haven Church. He has also completed a revival at Parkway Church, Houston, Tex., and on April 11-17 he will be in Wichita, Kans., to conduct revival services.

Doyle Lumpkin, chaplain of the Girls Training School at Alexander, was guest speaker recently at Woodlawn Church, Little Rock. He spoke on the importance of home missions.

Phil Largent, who has been associated with the Veterans Hospital at Fayetteville, has joined the staff of Springdale First Church as minister of evangelism.

Pat Robinson, minister of music of Trinity Church, Ft. Smith, was recently in Shawnee, Okla., where he worked in a revival at Temple Church.



Rev. and Mrs. Norman E. Ferguson



Dr. and Mrs. Loyd L. Hunnicutt

Amos Greer has been called to serve as pastor of Brown's Chapel in Greene County. Greer, who formerly served as an associational missionary, will assume the pastorate April 1.

Miss Cindy Cullum, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Al Cullum of Forrest City, has been appointed as summer missionary to Kenya, Africa. She is a student at Central State University in Conway.

Nathan Porter, pastor of Arkadelphia First Church, conducted a revival at Oakwood Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., March 20-25.

Paul W. Dodd, pastor of West Helena Church, has been appointed to the Southern Baptist Committee on Committees, which will meet during the SBC Convention in Kansas City in June. His appointment to this committee was made by James L. Sullivan, president of the SBC Convention.

Paul Pearson has been called to serve as pastor of the Humnoke Church near Lonoke. He and his wife, Dorothy, are parents of two children, Kelly Wayne and Paula, who are both enrolled in Ouachita University.

Gene Dixon is serving as pastor of Greenfield Church near Harrisburg.

Marlon White was ordained as a deacon of Morrilton First Church on March 13. Ordination services were held during the evening worship services. W. Coy Sample is pastor.

Kathie White and **Ravonna Threadgill** presented a musical concert on Sunday evening, March 13, to begin youth week activities at Central Church, Hot Springs. Miss White, a native of Louisiana, is a graduate of Ouachita University and has attended Southwestern Seminary. Miss Threadgill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Threadgill of Hot Springs, attended Ouachita University and is now attending the university of Arkansas at Little Rock. The two have been singing together for three years and have traveled throughout the United States, including Alaska, and in Canada. They have also toured in Scotland, England, Holland, Germany, France and Belgium. Much of the music they perform is written and arranged by Miss Threadgill.

Chris Copeland, the new chaplain at the Children's Colony in Booneville, was guest speaker at Booneville First Church on Sunday morning, March 13. Guy R. Wade is pastor.

Bobby Renfro, pastor of Calvary Church, Texarkana, led a Bible Seminar in Breckenridge, Colo., March 13-19. Jerry Sitton and Leo Hughes, Director of Missions for Southwest Association, spoke at the Texarkana Church in his absence.

Paul R. Sanders, pastor of Geyer Springs Church, Little Rock, has returned from Bogata, Tex., where he preached a revival at First Church there.

Gerald Knighton has resigned as pastor of Earle Church after a four-year ministry there. He has accepted a call to Villa Park Church in Mesa, Ariz., beginning his work there on March 6.

Jim Box has been called to serve as pastor of Westside Church in Manila.

Gary Fulton has been called to serve as pastor of Maple Grove Church near Trumann. Fulton, a native of Lepanto, is on the teaching staff of Lake City Schools.

New subscribers:

Church	Pastor	Association
Free trial: Alexander, Paragould	Gary Gregory	Greene Co.
New budget: Harmony, Perryville	Eugene Ryan	Conway-Perry

Arkansan retires after nine successful years with SBC agency

by Erwin L. McDonald
ABN Editor Emeritus

BLYTHEVILLE — Kendall Berry, recently retired as executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, Tenn., was snowed in at his home, but his optimism for the country's economic prospects was not chilled by the zero weather and more than a foot of snow that blanketed the countryside.

"I'm bullish on America's future," said the Baptist businessman, when asked for his opinion about the business outlook, in a telephone interview.

"I can understand the frustrations of people who are currently without jobs," he said, "but I think inflation rather than unemployment is our big concern for the days ahead. The problem of jobs will take care of itself as our economy expands."

Berry, who is president and majority owner of Merchants and Planters Bank at nearby Hornersville, Mo., and a stockholder in several other commercial interests, is expecting 1977 to be "a good year" economically for the country as a whole. But he is especially optimistic as to the long view.

"We haven't seen anything yet," he said. "We are headed for the greatest prosperity in the next 10 to 15 years that we've ever had."

And what of Social Security — is it headed, as some seem to think, for bankruptcy? he was asked.

"Definitely not!" said Berry. "Social Security may continue to hit the taxpayers' pocketbooks, but it's not going broke."

While Berry feels that the commingling of Social Security funds with other government funds, as has been the practice in recent years, has been ill advised, he does not see the agency as being in any real difficulty. The government will keep it afloat, he feels.

A native of Prentiss, Miss., where he was born nearly 70 years ago, Berry attended Ole Miss for two years before transferring to the University of Missouri to take a bachelor of journalism degree. He and Mrs. Berry, the former Miss Thelma Isaacs of Manila, Mississippi County, have had a varied and very successful business career.

Besides banking, they have been involved in newspaper editing and publishing, in merchandizing, and in investments.

At one time Berry was editor-publisher of three newspapers — *The Manila Sentinel*, the *Leachville Star*, and the *Steele (Mo.) Enterprise*.

Berry operations also have included two ladies' ready-to-wear outlets in

Blytheville.

Upon retiring from the newspaper field, the Berrys opened the Franklin Printing Co. in Blytheville, where they printed three different newspapers.

At a time in his life when many others would have been thinking of retiring, Berry went to Nashville in August of 1967 to become the executive officer of the Southern Baptist Foundation, an agency responsible for the custody, investment and administration of permanent funds entrusted to it by the Convention or any of the Convention's agencies or causes.

At that time the trust fund assets of the Foundation were approximately \$9 million. Under Berry's leadership these were to increase to some \$17 million. And as he approached retirement last Dec. 31, Berry envisioned assets going beyond \$100 million in coming years.

During the fiscal year of 1976, for the second year in a row, Foundation earnings topped the \$1 million mark. Withdrawals for the past year amounted to

more than \$2 million, heaviest in the 29-year history of the Foundation. Berry attributed this to building projects undertaken by several Southern Baptist Convention agencies that required the use of capital funds previously placed with the Foundation.

In retirement Berry plans to divide his time between his business interests and church and community affairs. He has already accepted active status as a deacon at First Baptist Church, where he formerly served as chairman of deacons.

It is anticipated that Berry's influence will extend into the state at large. Harry D. Trulove, president of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, indicated that an invitation had already been extended to Berry to attend the yearly planning retreat held by the Foundation.

He has long been active in denominational affairs. He has served as a member of the boards of Ouachita University at Arkadelphia; of Southern Baptist College at Walnut Ridge; and of the Southwestern Seminary of Ft. Worth, Tex. He formerly served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, including two years as chairman. At the time he moved to Nashville to take the Foundation assignment, he was first vice president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Arkansas all over _____ buildings Huntsville builds sanctuary, education space

An auditorium and additional education space were dedicated by Huntsville First Church in services held March 13.

The facility, built by Mark-K of North Little Rock, is valued at approximately \$145,000. The newly-erected auditorium will seat 400. The educational building consists of 17 classrooms, kitchen, fellowship hall and pastor's study.

Sam Dunham, who became pastor of the church in October of 1973, has led the congregation in an outreach

program that has enabled the church to grow both in members and in budget. He said, "Our community still continues to increase in population, therefore, the church should continue its growth."

James Hickman of Northside Church in Monticello, a former pastor of the Huntsville Church, preached the dedication message. He spoke on "Undergirding the Church", using Acts 27 as scripture reference.

Peter Petty, Director of Missions of Washington-Madison Association, led the dedicatory prayer.



Huntsville Church's new auditorium and education building are valued at \$145,000.

Your state convention at work

Sunday School

Special interest conferences planned

The Arkansas edition of the Bible Teaching/Learning Workshop is on schedule and will be produced in living color April 4 and 5 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock.



Cooper

In addition to the age-group conferences, on Tuesday afternoon there will be eight special interest conferences. Subjects for these conferences include:

- "How to Conduct Age-Group Workers' Meetings"
- "How to Improve the School's Learning Environment"
- "How to Use Activities to Teach Bible Content to Children"
- "Teaching and Learning In the Extended Session"
- "Using Bible Verses With Children"

"Working with the Deaf in Sunday School"

"Teaching and Learning in the Small Sunday School"

"The Relationship Between Teaching and Reaching"

Each conference will be one hour and 15 minutes and will be repeated. This will make it possible for conference participants to attend two special interest conferences.

The Baptist Book Store will have a large display of all new products that support the Bible Teaching/Learning theme.

Why not appoint yourself to be enlistment chairman for your Sunday School workers? Enlist workers personally, one at a time. Plan transportation and motel accommodations.

Don't forget, April 4-5, 1977!

There's no "April Fool" about this! — Don Cooper, Sunday School Department

Brotherhood

RAs will 'go' for state congress

On your mark! Get set! Go!

These are familiar words this time of year as boys engage in track events. However, these words also call attention to a familiar meeting for a special group of boys — Royal Ambassadors.

The meeting, of course, is the Annual State Royal Ambassador Congress. The Congress will be May 6-7. It will convene in the facilities of the Lakeshore Drive Church in Little Rock. The church is located adjacent to the Broadmoor Shopping Center on South University Avenue at 32nd Street. There will be three sessions of the Congress — Friday afternoon, Friday evening and Saturday morning.

The Congress will feature a speaker's contest, missionary speakers, music, hopefully, some craft and advancement displays and mission displays.

Visual information regarding camp and other activities will be presented. Of course, there is always fellowship when boys from across the state meet.

One of the mission speakers will be Miss Ann Wollerman from Pine Bluff.

Miss Wollerman served for 26 years in the State of Motto Grosso, Brazil.

"Miss Ann", as she is affectionately known by so many, is one of our finest missionaries and speakers. She appeals to boys, in a singular way, by her interesting and informative presentation of missions and life on the mission field.

She will delight all with her accounts of travel by mule power, later by a pickup truck, and a carryall. Even more exciting are the things accomplished in the villages and towns in reaching people for Christ.

Information regarding the Congress, including reservation forms, speakers contest information, etc., has been mailed to all counselors, leaders, pastors and other staff members.

On your mark! Get set! Go! on May 6-7.

We welcome new Royal Ambassador programs in the following churches: Mt. View, First; Vanndale; Luxora, First; and Crossett, First. Crossett, First, also has a new Baptist Men's organization. — C. H. Seaton, Director

Stewardship

The roots

Alex Haley searched for his past. He found his African roots. Millions of Americans watched and identified with the author who discovered the systems that shaped his life.

People and institutions are like plants; they must have roots to grow. The upper "breathing" parts of the plant, the leaves, cannot supply oxygen, so the roots must get air through soil and water. The work of the roots is to hold the plant in place and to supply it with nourishment.

"The grass roots" is a popular term with Baptists. It refers to the people in the churches. When Baptists look for their support system, they turn to the people in the pews.

Who are the people that support missions, evangelism and education? Our life system comes from retired couples living on fixed incomes. It comes from singles, who, because of choice, death, or divorce, live on inflated budgets. All we do is supported by busy people in their middle years who pay taxes and face staggering family demands.

Our work is undergirded by committed young couples who are learning the principles of money management. Young people, with part-time jobs and children with weekly allowances, give their offerings.

These are the people who inject vital life into all we do. Thousands give through their churches to support associational missions, education, benevolence and an outreach that girds this globe with compassionate good news.

Our work is supported by the people, "the grass roots". The roots that give life demand a faithful stewardship. The churches and institutions supported by the people reciprocate with breath and light to the roots. — James A. Walker, Secretary of Stewardship



Pastors

Enrich Your Preaching

by studying with

Seminary Extension Home Study Institute

Southern Baptist Convention Building

460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37219



Siloam Springs Children will have their own assembly

The Children's Assembly at Siloam Springs is a very special place. It is planned for girls and boys who will be in grades four-six this fall. The program is so designed in order for these children to have good learning experiences.

Everything done in Children's Park will be on their level. The pastors for the weeks will employ diverse methods in telling the Bible truths. The pastor will be in charge of the morning watch services and the evening worship services. He will be available to counsel and to be a friend to the campers.

The Bible study, which all the children will take part in each day, is written and planned so that the boys and girls will be involved in individual as well as group learning activities.

During the morning session the children will have their choice of a music activity or an arts and crafts project. Both of these programs will be under the leadership of fine and talented people. All the workers in the Children's Assembly have been selected because they have a love for children and want them to know more about Jesus, our Saviour.

Pastors and counselors of these children should know that there is a 25-cent charge for the Bible study material, and if the camper chooses arts and crafts there is a \$1 fee charged to cover the project material.

The workers in children's park will work with pastors, counselors and the children to see that all have a good time at camp. — Harold Vernon, children's consultant

News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Crockett, missionaries to Argentina, are the parents of a son, Robert Andrew, born Feb. 23. Currently in the States on furlough, they may be addressed at 103 Lombardy Lane, Wynne, Ark. 72396. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., and grew up in Cross County, Ark. She is the former Annette Perkins of Cross County. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972, he was pastor of La Junta Church, Azle, Tex.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy D. Hawkins, missionaries to Venezuela, are the parents of a son, Carl E., born Feb. 2. They may be addressed at Apartado 48, Anaco Anzoategui, Venezuela. He was born in Parks, Ark., and lived in several towns in Arkansas and Oklahoma. The former Judy Palmer of Oklahoma, she was born

Renewal Evangelism: 'It's happening among Baptists'

A pastor's testimony:
"The most exciting thing that has happened in my four years of ministry at First Southern Church, Sheridan, was a Lay Renewal Weekend. I believe it was more successful than any revival we have conducted. Lay Renewal Weekends are creating a spiritual climate which involves lay people in ministry. The Lay Renewal Weekend awakens people to new life in Christ and helps them discover their ministry.

"It must be added, however, there is much more to renewal than the Lay Renewal Weekend. There is much more help beyond the initial weekend. The total renewal program should be considered before scheduling a Lay Renewal Weekend.

"Our church found the Lay Renewal

Weekend to be a low keyed program but one which led to a deeper commitment. Contrary to the fears of many pastors, I saw no sign of charismatic developments which lead to divisiveness and church splits. We are growing a better fellowship.

"Immediately following the weekend, people began to say, 'When can we have another one?' Our second Lay Renewal Weekend has been scheduled for the last of April. This one promises to be more exciting since we now know what to expect." — Eugene Triplett, pastor, First Southern Church, Sheridan

Renewal Evangelism is promoted in Arkansas by the Evangelism Department of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. — Neal Guthrie, Associate Director, Pre-college/Renewal Evangelism

Child Care

Thanks to special need sponsors

For almost two years groups of Christian friends in Baptist churches across our state have moved to meet the special needs of our children and youth at Arkansas Baptist Home for Children. It is such a joy to be able to give those "extras" that would be impossible without our special needs fund.

At this time we are providing guitar and piano lessons and also gymnastics. We have provided driver's education courses and bought choir dresses, pep squad uniforms, baseball gloves and cleats. We outfitted all of our youth with new basketball uniforms. We have bought football jackets, musical instruments and uniforms for band and many

other things too numerous to mention. We have used special need money for much needed dental work and glasses. These gifts have made it possible for us to provide many good things that build pleasure and self-esteem for all of the youth in our care.

We believe when God's people know the need they respond to meet it and special need, clothing and allowance sponsors and special friends have made our sponsorship program a wonderful blessing for our youth. May the Lord bless you, Christian friends, as we share together in this Christian Child Care Ministry. — Mrs. Eula Armstrong, Child Care Worker, Arkansas Baptist Home for Children

in Tulsa and also lived in Sand Springs. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973, he was associate pastor at First Church, Archer City, Tex.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Goodman, missionary associates to Nigeria, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 804 Cedar Springs Ter., Arlington, Tex. 76010). He is a native of Cotter, Ark. She is the former Georgia Pendley of Dallas, Tex. Before they were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973, they lived in Arlington, Tex. Dr. Goodman, a dentist and retired army colonel, was working as a clinical supervisor for the Ft. Worth, Tex., public health center.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Kidd, missionary

associates to Brazil, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Lonoke Baptist Church, Lonoke, Ark. 72086). Prior to their marriage in 1967, Mrs. Kidd, the former Wilma Gemmell, was a missionary associate in Brazil. He was an independent Baptist missionary in Volta Redonda, state of Rio. He is a native of Urbana, Ark.; she of Winside, Nebr. Before they were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969, he was pastor of Marrable Hill Church, El Dorado, Ark.

Irene Branum, missionary to Korea, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 76, Pusan 600, Korea). She is a native of Leslie, Ark. Before she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1946, she was a nurse in Missouri and Arkansas.

Evangelism

Participation during the revival

(Tenth in a series)

The preparation has been made. The prayers have been prayed. The publicity has been displayed. The hour has arrived; revival time is here. It is time for spectators to come down on the playing field and become participants. We are on God's team. We are laborers together with God.



Shell

Special nights during the revival are very successful when pastor and people get involved in them. Monday night is revival dedication service. This is the best night to have pack the pew. This assures a good beginning crowd. Tuesday night is soul winning commitment for God's concerned people. Wednesday is Sunday School night. The teachers will prayerfully and faithfully seek to have every pupil and prospect present to sit with them. The pastor or Sunday School Director will recognize the teachers and pupils. Thursday night is family night. This is a happy time for all family members when grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren sit together in worship. Friday is good neighbor night. Every church member should bring a neighbor to church and introduce him. These should include the lost, unaffiliated Baptists, inactive church members or members of other denominations. Saturday is youth night. The young people should be encouraged to demonstrate for Christ in large numbers. The message will be directed to them in calling them to complete commitment to Christ and his church.

Sharing Christ during the revival is a number one priority. Jesus said, "Ye are my witnesses," and, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." The pastor and evangelist will be busy doing personal work. The revival music director will witness with the church music director or a layman. Their groups may alternate visiting partners during the week. Every lay person in the church will be called upon and challenged to share Christ with each lost person they meet and then bring them to the revival. The revival personnel visiting will be scheduled so there will be time to rest during the afternoon. It is very important to have a sharp instrument both physically and spiritually for the evening service.

The Sunday School plays a major part in the revival. I was taught many years ago the purpose of the Sunday School was to reach the lost, teach them of Christ, win them to Christ and develop them in Christ. This statement of purpose has never been improved upon. Some pastors desire a Sunday School evangelistic service on the closing Sunday. After the record period, all pupils

of young age and up should be brought into the sanctuary. The evangelist will preach a short message and give an invitation. This catches those who leave after Sunday School. If you have regular Sunday School the evangelist will be glad to speak to a youth group in the opening assembly. Every church should seek to have high attendance on the closing Sunday. A worthy goal should be set by the pastor and Sunday School Council. This should be promoted in a worthy way. The principle, "When we go, they will come," still works. — Clarence Shell Jr., Associate/State Evangelist

Youth choir festivals April 16

Sponsored by Church Music Department
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Duncan Couch

Southwest Baptist College
Bolivar, Mo.

Senior high and combined youth choirs

Immanuel Church, Little Rock
1000 Bishop Street

Schedule:

- 9:00 Registration and room assignment
- 9:30 Adjudication
- 11:00 Dismiss for lunch
- 1:00 Mass rehearsal
- 2:15 Worship program
- 2:45 Dismiss

Junior high and beginning youth choirs

Second Church, Little Rock
222 East 8th Street

Schedule:

- 9:00 Registration and room assignment
- 9:30 Mass rehearsal
- 11:00 Dismiss for lunch
- 1:00 Adjudication
- 2:15 Worship program
- 2:45 Dismiss



Mark Blankenship

BSSB
Nashville, Tenn.

Please note: longer festival schedule

Please send registration to Church Music Department,
P.O. Box 552, Little Rock 72203
Registration deadline: April 4

Baptist women hear of mission needs

Baptist Women of Arkansas became aware of the urgency of mission needs when they held their 88th annual meeting at Jonesboro First Church March 15-16.

Mrs. James Sawyer, president of Arkansas Woman's Missionary Union, convened the meeting, using the theme "To everything these is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . ." (Eccles. 3-1).

Foreign mission needs were revealed by Mrs. Max Alexander, Mrs. Marion G. Fray and Mrs. Norman Coad. Arkansas

mission needs were presented by Hilton Lane.

Dr. and Mrs. Huber Drumwright of Ft. Worth, Tex., led Bible study dialogues at each of the four sessions. Dr. Drumwright is Dean of Theology at Southwestern Seminary. Mrs. Drumwright, who has written for Southern Baptist publications, is currently writing on the "Woman's Role in the Church".

Dr. Drumwright said, "The WMU of the Southern Baptist Convention is the mightiest force for world evangelism

that I know — not just in mission giving, but in prayer support to missions, mission education and mission personnel. You are not a part of an insignificant little organization concerned with trivia. You are part of the mightiest force in all the earth today doing that which matters most in the sight of God."

Bible dialogues were adapted from *Saints Alive*, a book written by Dr. Drumwright. In the first session the couple discussed Aquila and Priscilla with Acts 18:1 as scripture reference. They said that Aquila and Priscilla became



ABOVE: Hilton Lane, Fairfield Bay pastor, makes plans for more speaking engagements after telling the convention about his work in home missions.

RIGHT: Sharing experiences from the foreign field were (from left) Mrs. Max Alexander, who serves in Thailand; Mrs. Marion G. Fray, whose post is South Africa; and Mrs. Norman Coad, who serves in Upper Volta.



at annual meeting in Jonesboro

**Text and photos by Millie Gill
ABN staff reporter**

partners in the work of the Lord by providing a home for Paul and then for Apollos (a preacher) who came to town preaching not Jesus, but things about Jesus. The Drumwrights concluded by asking, "What do our homes today mean to others? Are they available for the way God wants them to be used for him?"

In this opening session, Mrs. Fray, a missionary on furlough from Southern Africa, spoke on "A Time to Know Missions in Southern Africa". She said, "Where can one find more indecision,

more uncertainty and more change than in Southern Africa? Yet as a Child of God who is the same yesterday, today and forever, I am extremely excited and thrilled as well as thankful that he is allowing me to invest my life in the great developing continent of Africa where Communism is a real threat. However, God is on the Throne; he has his eye on the nations, and members of Arkansas WMU can support missions in Africa by praying daily for the work there." Mrs. Fray and her husband, who spent 18 years in Rhodesia, have served the past

two years in Johannesburg.

Emil Williams, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, and Mrs. Paul Hanshaw, WMU Director of the host church, welcomed the group in the opening session. In other activities of the morning, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, president of the Southern Baptist Convention WMU, was welcomed to the meeting by Mrs. Sawyer, who presented Mrs. Gregory with an Arkansas Traveler Certificate.

Miss Karen Russey was recognized as a new staff member of the WMU. She serves as Mission Friends and Girls in



ABOVE: Dr. and Mrs. Huber Drumwright presented Bible dialogues examining scriptures dealing with women prominent in the work of the early church. Earlier (right photo), Mrs. Drumwright met Arkansas women at a reception honoring program persons.

LEFT: A theme interpretation skit by WMU staff members Karen Russey and Willene Pierce told how to grow "knowbodies".

Action Director.

"A Time to Grow" was theme for the second session, which featured a symposium on mission experiences by Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Coad and Mrs. Fray. They shared experiences on the foreign mission field that have helped them grow spiritually.

Mrs. Alexander, missionary to Thailand, said, "Missionaries are not angels; they are just people, and my greatest desire is to share Christ with the

people of Thailand." Mrs. Alexander continued, "The Lord had to teach me patience and more patience, plus teaching me to shift my life style into low gear so I would be in pace with that of the people of Thailand and could lead them to Christ."

Energizer and engineer were the words used by Mrs. Fray who said, "The Lord revealed to me everything I was doing was in my own strength. Through this I learned to move and wait in faith,

Malvie Giles expresses in song her joy at meeting again a young man she helped win to Christ in Africa. Richard Wilson is a student at Southern Baptist College.



to be available when God revealed a special need in my work."

Mrs. Coad said, "I felt that I was completely submissive to God's will. However, when he picked me up and plopped me in Upper Volta and said, 'I will see,' I soon found that I was not." She continued tearfully, "It took several adverse happenings before I really saw the real me and submitted to his total will." Mrs. Coad, a music missionary, concluded by singing "Through It All".

The Bible dialogue for this session was on Cyria. Dr. Drumwright said, "I believe that Second John is the only writing in the New Testament to be addressed to a lady, Cyria, a Christian mother." Through this scripture the Drumwrights revealed the importance of a Christian mother in a home as they said, "There is no safeguard for the gospel like the home and no one in the home like the mother." They asked, "Mothers, do you live day by day with the principles and teachings of the gospel?"

Mrs. Wilbur Herring of Central Church, Jonesboro, was in charge of the missionary prayer calendar for this session.

The theme for the third session of the convention was "A Time to Be Involved in Missions". Herman Merritt, pastor of Temple Church, Crossett, shared facts on two African crusades in which he participated in 1975 and 1976. He said, "Matthew 9:37-38 has become a part of me since my visits to East Africa. When I am alone with the Lord and hear him say these verses to me, I answer: 'Lord, I am but one, but I am one, I cannot do everything, but I can do some things. Help me to do that which I can do.' Anything less, in my humble opinion, is sin." He said of his visit to Tanzania, "Some of our SBC missionaries are literally planting their lives for Christ and for Southern Baptists." He summarized missionary needs as the hazards missionaries face, heartaches they endure and harvests they enjoy.

Mrs. Gregory spoke at both the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning sessions. She said, "The WMU has a great heritage, which should encourage us to be flexible, diligent in prayer, provide for our youth and meet mission needs. We have a great organization and we must always be led by the Holy Spirit. When we do this then our work will be alive." She also reminded those present to remember that they might be the only link for a person who needs Christ.

The Tuesday evening Bible dialogue was on Phebe. The Drumwrights used Romans 16:1-2 as scripture reference as they said, "Phebe was a single woman, remarkably gifted and dedicated, who before her conversion was a pagan. In

Southern Baptist Convention WMU President Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory (right) was introduced by Mrs. Paul Hanshaw, president of the organization in the host church.



Officers re-elected by the Arkansas WMU were (from left) Mrs. Boyd Margason, Mountain Home, vice president; Mrs. James Sawyer, Benton, president; Mrs. Roy Snider, Camden, recording secretary; and Miss Julia Ketner, executive secretary-treasurer.

Greek, Phebe was translated as the bright one or the radiant one." They continued as they said, "Paul had to make a great change to call her a sister and as he described her as a servant, the word translated in most English Bibles in the Greek means deaconess." In conclusion the Drumwrights said, "Paul said of Phebe she was a helper of many and of myself."

"A Time to Do" was closing theme for the convention on Wednesday morning. Dr. and Mrs. Drumwright presented a dialogue on Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4:2). They said that the two women pulled together in service for Christ. The Drumwrights urged their listeners to apply Christian relationships with others.

Mrs. Alexander urged Arkansas WMU members to pray at all times for mission work in Thailand. As she spoke she said

that many changes were occurring in Southeast Asia where three countries have fallen into Communism. Mrs. Alexander, who has worked for the past four years in a Student Center, wept for students in Thailand who are reaching out for Christ. She made a special prayer request for an evangelistic effort in Thailand in May.

Hilton Lane, pastor of Fairfield Bay Mission in Arkansas, dramatically challenged the women that "now" is the time to support missions on the foreign, home and state mission fields. As Lane spoke from Exodus 4:1-5 he said, "We should heed God's call and proclaim his word now." Lane said that Fairfield Bay Mission was a result of mission giving.

He described the mission as "full-circle mission giving and teaching." Lane said that the mission began on 100

percent mission gifts and now leads Van Buren Association in mission giving. He said, "A young lady who began her Bible study at the mission accepted Christ while active in college BSU work. She is now back at Fairfield Bay Mission teaching the youth Bible Study. This is full-circle mission giving and Bible teaching."

A record state missions goal of \$175,000 for 1977 was adopted by the approximately 800 attending the 88th annual WMU convention. A magazine love offering of \$874.67 was taken to be used to send magazines to SBC missionaries.

Miss Julia Ketner, State WMU Executive Secretary, gave the annual executive board report. Miss Ketner led the closing meditation period. She urged those in attendance to accept the challenges presented in the convention.



LEFT: Mrs. Wilbur Herring of Jonesboro reminded the audience of missionaries who had birthdays by reading the prayer calendar.

RIGHT: Barbara Schleiff, missionary to Rhodesia (seated) presented to Julia Ketner dolls made in Rhodesia. The dolls will be displayed at WMU state offices. Mrs. Marion G. Fray (center) admires the handmade dolls.

News about missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Hampton, recently employed missionary associates to Ethiopia, have begun a 14-week orientation program at Callaway Gardens (address: P.O. Box 535, Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822). Both are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Fordyce. She is the former Evelyn Harden of Helena. Before they were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976, he was pastor of First Church, Capitola, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Purtle, missionaries to the Dominican Republic, are the parents of a son, Bradley F., born Dec. 31, 1976. They may be addressed at Calle 5 Casa 9, La Salvia, Bonao, Dominican Republic. He is a native of

Prescott, Ark., and she is the former Jane Altom of Abilene, Tex. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1973, he was graduated from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Robertson, missionary appointees to Senegal, have begun a 14-week orientation program at Callaway Gardens (address: P.O. Box 535, Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822). Both are natives of Arkansas. He was born in Pine Bluff and lived in Wilmot, Pickens and Tillar. The former Margaret Howard, she is a native of Clark County. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976, he was pastor of Eastside Church, DeWitt, Ark.

On the cover



Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock will be the site of the annual Arkansas Baptist State Youth Convention April 8 for Baptist young people (ABN photo)

State BYW meeting: a 'first' for Arkansas

Communication — both personal and professional — will be discussed by Mary Ann Ward when she speaks to Baptist Young Women in Arkansas. Miss Ward is the editor of *Contempo*, the missions magazine designed for young women ages 18-29.



Miss Ward

She will be guest speaker at the first state BYW meeting in Arkansas, to be held April 16 at First Church, North Little Rock.

Nathan Porter, pastor of First Church, Arkadelphia, will challenge the young women to develop "missions life styles". The impact of his personal life style, as well as missions experience and pastoral role, well qualify him to speak on this subject.

A missions panel will consist of: Mrs. Norman Coad, music missionary to Upper Volta; Mrs. Bob Parrish, missionary to the deaf; Mrs. Richard Lisk, pastor's wife with a variety of missions experiences; and Karen Russey, state WMU office, former journeyman. They will share how they became actively involved in the cause of missions, and some personal insights regarding their experiences.

Several young women from the Little Rock area will present a short musical drama as a closing challenge for commitment.

The session will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Luncheon reservations, \$2 per person, should be mailed to the state WMU office by April 6. Nursery for children birth through three will be provided, if requested in advance.

Married or single, BYW members or not . . . all young women are invited to participate. — Willene Pierce, BW/BYW Director

Cooperative

 Program

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 For free estimate contact
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Media Center Area church library conferences

April 11-14, 1977

Two conferences at each location

*Developing the church media center (church library)

Leader: James Rose, Consultant
 Church Library Department
 Baptist Sunday School Board

*Classification and cataloging

Leader: Jewell Watson, BSSB approved worker
 Library Staff Member, Immanuel Church, Little Rock
 Conference leader at Glorieta and Ridgecrest

2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Monday, April 11
 Tuesday, April 12
 Thursday, April 14

First Church
 First Church
 Central Church

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ARKANSAS' MOST EXCITING COLLEGE WEEKEND?

Author of 'Roots' expounds basic Biblical concepts

by W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP) — Black people in the United States are among the last ethnic groups to be assimilated into American culture, but this process is now rapidly becoming a reality, according to Alex Haley, author of the book "Roots".

In spite of the progress of blacks in recent years, Haley charged that racial problems in many segments of American society are worse than before the Civil Rights Movement. Especially is this true in prison and jail populations and in employment opportunities, he said.

The Civil Rights Movement in America is entering a new phase for black people, he said. This is a period of pride in their African heritage, similar to the pride of other ethnics in their European roots, he indicated.

At a sell-out luncheon in the ballroom of the prestigious National Press Club in the nation's capital, Haley entranced his audience by an account of his father, who rose from a Tennessee sharecropper to become a college professor. In telling the story, he illustrated basic biblical concepts of providence, responsibility and the value of human life.

Haley, whose book and record-smashing 12-hour television series based on it are having a dramatic impact on America, is rapidly becoming a living symbol of the hopes, ambitions and potentials of black people.

The television show, "Roots", based on Haley's book which traced his mother's family back to pre-slavery days in Africa, topped all previous television records including "Gone With the Wind". The show captured over 130 million viewers.

The author was asked how much control or direction he provided for such an achievement. He replied that such an

effect of a book or of a television program could not be planned.

"I feel that it was meant to be," he said.

"No individual nor any collection of people could sit down with whatever expertise and predictably create something that would cause that galvanic a response of a whole nation in the space of eight nights," he speculated.

He then explained that his belief was based on what he had heard his grandmother say in earlier years — "The Lord may not come when you expect him, but he will always be on time."

Haley's father grew up on a Tennessee sharecropper farm in the first decade of the Twentieth Century, when the value of a black child was based on field work rather than on education. Nevertheless, he was the only one of a family of eight children who was encouraged to finish the eighth grade, go away from home and get his high school and college education.

Enduring almost impossible hardships, but with the help of a scholarship provided by a wealthy person, the poor sharecropper achieved the impossible for a black man in his day. From the help that was provided to his father and from his dogged determination, Haley drew two morals:

1. "Those of us who have need of help, if we get the help, have a mandate to do the very utmost that we can do to achieve the very fullest potential of which we are capable," and

2. "Those of us who have been blessed with the position to give help have a mandate to give it to other people, knowing that we are investing in the most powerful source there is for reaping benefit and that is in another human being."

Haley illustrated the value of every person regardless of status or ethnic

background by recounting the baby-naming ceremony in the African tribe from which he was descended. The naming of a child was an eight-day ritual at the end of which the father, in the presence of the villagers, lifted up the infant and whispered in his ear his new name before announcing it to the people.

"Thus it was the first time the name had ever been spoken as the child's name, for the people felt that each human being should be the first to know who he was," he said.

Then that night the father would take the baby out under the moon and stars and hold him up to face the heavens. He said softly to the newborn infant, "Behold the only thing greater than yourself."

"This," Haley said, "is a symbol of the potential of all of us in this country."

Uganda missionaries will stay in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Six Southern Baptist missionaries to Uganda plan to remain in Kenya for an indefinite period, field representative John R. Cheyne said here March 7.

Cheyne said he met with the three couples Sunday night, March 6, while they made the decision. They will meet later in March with Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, who is on tour of the countries with which he works. He will be in Kenya March 12-25.

The couples were out of Uganda when President Idi Amin first ordered Americans to report to him for a meeting. The meeting was later postponed to a second date, then postponed indefinitely, but the Southern Baptist missionaries decided to remain in Kenya pending further developments.

Two of the couples, Mr. and Mrs. G. Webster Carroll of West Virginia and Florida and Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Garvin of Texas, left Uganda to spend a school holiday with their children who attend Rift Valley Academy near Nairobi. The third couple, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Rice of Virginia, came to Kenya for a meeting.

Cheyne said that the latest reports he has received indicate that none of the Christians affiliated with the Southern Baptist work in Uganda has been harmed. News media have carried reports of killing of Christian members of some Ugandan tribes and charges that Amin murdered Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum.



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People follow dollars, churches follow people

by Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP) — Population migration in the United States in the near future will probably follow the federal dollar, according to a demographic expert from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Speaking to a class in "The City and Urbanization" at the Center for Urban Studies of Southeastern Seminary located in the nation's capital, Larry H. Long of the population division of the Bureau of the Census briefed seminarians and pastors on current trends in population shifts.

Long told the seminarians, "Since 1950 the population has tended to move in the direction of federal spending. Historically, the South and the West have received more than they have sent to Washington, while the North has sent more than it has received.

"Military installations, power plants, dams — all have been built in the South and West where the population is now growing," he said. "Power encourages industry, recreation facilities encourage population migration. Overall, the effect of federal spending on population is going to be even more significant in the future," Long asserted.

Long also noted a decline in urban populations which the census bureau has been following since it was first recorded in August of 1973. "There are decreased inducements to move to cities," Long told his audience. "People are staying put, closer to where they were born. Whites are also moving out of cities in most places. The overall decline is very small but it is present and it probably will continue."

Thomas Bland, professor of ethics and sociology at Southeastern Seminary,

who commutes weekly from Wake Forest, N.C., to Washington for classes at the urban center, explained his reasoning in inviting Long to speak to his class.

"We are trying to understand the urban context in which Christian ministry and missions happen today," he said. "We want to pull together the fruits of the labors of lots of folk — demographers, urban sociologists, planners of city and regional planning — under the scrutiny of the theologically sensitive and culturally acute persons. We will sift all data to determine what this says to the church and the Christian mission in our kind of world."

Bland conceded that the sociological data his classes receive "probably won't help in next Sunday's sermon but it will help the church be one of the shapers of life in our time rather than to react to social forces after they have already set the pattern.

"Our Baptist folk are interested in people, all kinds of people — inner city, suburban, exurban, rural. We want our ministers to follow up by learning all we can about who people are, where people live, and where they are migrating to and from so we know where we need to minister," Bland continued.

"All of our students at the Center for Urban Studies have a sense of personal involvement in coming to terms with the complexity of urban life. Washington is a laboratory where sociological theory, census data, and the social and psychological dimensions of life in a modern city can be studied against the backdrop of the Christian gospel and the Christian ethic of vital concern for all people," Bland emphasized.

SBC president to give pre-Easter sermons

FT. WORTH — The Easter story will be retold in three pre-Easter sermons, preached by Jaroy Weber on "The Baptist Hour" for March and April.

In a series of addresses leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection, Weber describes the trials of Jesus, his time on the cross, and the resurrection experience from the viewpoint of the disciples, the other believers, and today's believers.

"The Baptist Hour" is a half-hour modified worship program produced and syndicated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. It is heard on 364 radio programs in this country.

"The problem with the people in Jesus' day is that they wanted God to send a deliverer according to their design, rather than God's," Weber said. "We are like those people. We want God to meet our needs, but we often want to tell him how and when to do it.

"And we must remember," he continued, "the same question that Pilate asked, 'What shall I do with Jesus?' confronts each of us personally."

The April 3 Baptist Hour sermon, "Seven Last Words", details Jesus' agony on the cross. Weber describes it as a "picture of God's love reaching up to the Father, and down to sinful man and bringing them together in spiritual transformation."

In the Easter sermon, April 10, Weber tells of "A Living Lord for a Dying World".

"To try to prove the resurrection of Jesus to the liberal mind would be like tearing apart a piano looking for the notes," Weber said. The sermon recounts how Jesus, the Living Lord, triumphs over the sorrow of death, and the fear of death and the doubts of the resurrection.

Foreign mission briefs

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — The Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary here reports a record enrollment of 108 students this year. Approximately 20 students will be graduated in April. This is the largest single graduating class in the history of the seminary, according to David P. Daniell, Southern Baptist representative.

The Baptist mobile medical team in Mexico headed by Dr. Lee Baggett, Southern Baptist representative, treated 7,583 patients in 1976. Some 263 professions of faith were registered. The team carries medical and dental aid to villages that do not have government medical services.

NASSAU, Bahamas — Decisions to accept Christ as savior totaled 269 during

the annual crusade of the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention at Bethel Baptist Church here recently. Bill Penley, preacher, and Lowell Leistner, musician, are Southern Baptist evangelists who conducted the crusades.

Mrs. Natalie Hutcheson and Maxwell Stubbs were named Baptist Woman and Man of the year for 1976 here. Mrs. Hutcheson was organist for Bethel Baptist Church here for many years. She is president of the Woman's Missionary Society and of the Excelsior Club of that church. Stubbs is a deacon and the youth leader in the Transfiguration Baptist Church here. He is also the recording secretary and photographer for the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention.

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An update

What's not shaking in Guatemala a year later?

by Teresa Shields

RICHMOND (BP) — It took less than a minute for the Guatemala earthquake to kill 23,000 people, injure 80,000 and leave 1.6 million homeless. Among Baptists, 45 were killed, sixteen Baptist churches and 400 Baptist homes were destroyed in the killer quake last year.

"The only thing that didn't shake in the Feb. 4, 1976, earthquake was the Guatemalan Christians' faith in Jesus Christ," said Southern Baptist missionary William W. Stennett. "A year later, that faith is still not shaken," he noted.

The people could have easily turned bitter, but instead they remained "open to the gospel," explained Jacquelyn Madon, Southern Baptist missionary journeyman in Coban, Guatemala. As Southern Baptist missionary Jean (Mrs. Harry E.) Byrd explained, "When the ground you live on moves, you look for security in something."

Baptists from the United States who went to Guatemala said they saw the same openness and responsiveness to the gospel.

"Almost all of these people lost their homes and families, but the trauma of the disaster was not able to shake their faith in God. They were able to rejoice in him, praise him and give thanks for life and the love they have," said Bill Berry, a Virginia Commonwealth University student, who went with a crew of Virginia Baptists to do reconstruction work.

Statistics on how many people accepted the Lord during the past year in Guatemala, were generally difficult to find. However Southern Baptist missionary Ted E. Yarbrough reported 1,500 professions of faith and more than 300 baptisms in his church during five months following the disaster.

"Because we could not handle the situation alone," Yarbrough commented, "we asked for help." Thirty-five Spanish-speaking evangelists from the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas were brought in to aid in personal evangelism and nightly evangelistic services.

But not all the witnessing for Christ was done by outsiders. A. Clark Scanlon, Southern Baptist field representative for Middle America recalled, for example, "In the town of Parramos, which was 90 percent destroyed, one family had part of its possessions stacked under a lean-to made of the tin from a roof. On an altar made of adobe bricks, they had positioned an open Bible and the banner of their church. In the midst of disaster they witnessed of Christ."

To aid the Guatemalan Baptists in

reconstructing churches, pastors' homes and other homes destroyed in the quake, Southern Baptists sent money and reconstruction personnel. Nineteen teams from various Baptist state conventions and several churches aided mainly in the rebuilding of Baptists' churches. So far, 10 Baptist churches have been rebuilt. The six others are in the process of being reconstructed, according to Mrs. Byrd.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission

came. In more than one town the first building to go back up was the Baptist church. When people drew near to find out what was going on, they found a welcome and often received medical attention.

"In the town of San Martin, a member of another denomination asked, "How is it that Baptists who are so few have rebuilt their building and we who are so many have done nothing?"

Richard R. Greenwood, Southern



SHELTERED WITH BAPTIST FUNDS — This woman and her three children live in this house in Xujuy, Guatemala. The house was built with Baptist relief funds, administered by W. Eugene Grubbs (left), Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board disaster response consultant, and Southern Baptist missionaries and nationals in Guatemala. On Feb. 4, 1976, when the massive earthquake hit Guatemala, Southern Baptists helped with immediate and long-range relief efforts. Among the efforts were the reconstruction of 16 Baptist churches and 400 Baptist homes destroyed in the quake. In some villages, Southern Baptist missionaries reported that the Baptist church was the first building to be reconstructed. (BP) photo

Board has appropriated more than \$670,000 for relief in Guatemala. This has included funds for food, medication, tents, a jeep, tools and reconstruction efforts.

"In the town of San Raymundo others were saying to the Baptists, 'How great what you do . . . You came with men and money to reconstruct,'" said Southern Baptist missionary Herbert D. Billings.

Scanlon added, "Guatemalans were impressed by the volunteer workers that

Baptist missionary to Coban, talked of the witness of the Baptist churches and congregations. "In addition to the normal help of medicines, shelters and food," he said, "we provided a lantern and some sheet iron to each Baptist congregation. They made a shelter and had services nightly. The lantern attracted people when there was no light anywhere else.

"They were surprised to find people singing when sorrow was rampant everywhere," Greenwood said.

SBC rooms going at a fast rate

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Hotel rooms set aside for persons attending the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here in June are going at a rapid rate, according to an SBC Executive Committee spokesman.

Some 5,150 of 6,268 rooms available were assigned as of March 1, reports Billy D. Malesovas, assistant to the treasurer of the Executive Committee and manager of the annual convention.

"We're working now to try to get more rooms for messengers to the convention," Malesovas said. "But persons who want reservations should make them quickly."

Application forms are available from state Baptist executive secretaries or the SBC Housing Bureau, 1221 Baltimore, Kansas City, Mo. 64105. The housing bureau must receive an application in the mail before reserving accommodations, Malesovas said. Because of logistics problems, no reservations may be made by phone.

Uganda violence appalls BWA leader

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Baptist World Alliance (BWA) leader said here that he is appalled by reports of savage violence in the African country of Uganda.

"We as a Baptist World Alliance are deeply committed to the right of all people to life and liberty," said Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the BWA, which represents some 33 million Baptist Christians in more than 100 countries.

"The reports coming from Uganda are a severe disappointment to all of us who seek worldwide recognition of human rights and the sanctity of all people before God," he declared.

Denny said that latest reports show a total of 106 Baptist churches with 6,366 members in Uganda, "a very small minority of the country's 12-million population." Uganda's overall population is believed to be about 50 percent Christian, 35 percent animist, and 15 percent Muslim.

He cited strongly-worded resolution against torture adopted by the BWA Executive Committee last November in Valley Forge, Pa., as one of three statements dealing with concerns of the Baptist people for human rights.

Funds for quake victims, Hong Kong evangelism voted

RICHMOND (BP) — Looking to both physical and spiritual needs, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted here to send \$25,000 to aid Baptist earthquake victims in Romania and also allocated \$25,000 for a major city evangelism effort now beginning in Hong Kong.

Since Romanian officials have indicated they have sufficient supplies of food and clothing at the present time, the board will make money available to the Romanian Baptist leaders instead of trying to send supplies, said J. D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

The money will be offered to the Baptist Union of Romania through John David Hopper of Austria, Southern Baptist fraternal representative to the Baptists of Eastern Europe. More funds may be made available if needed.

Reports indicate that at least two Baptist churches in Bucharest and Ploesti were demolished by the March 4 quake, Hughey said. Two students attending the Baptist seminary in Bucharest were reported killed as they were shopping in a supermarket which collapsed.

Southern Baptists have had no missionaries working in Romania since the start of World War II, but the denomina-

tion made major contributions to Romanian Baptist work in the pre-war years by starting the Bucharest Seminary and a girls' training school. World War II and the establishment afterward of a Communist government ended Southern Baptist participation in the work, and Romanian Baptists became one of the most isolated Baptist groups in Europe.

In recent years, Romanian Baptists have made good use of their limited freedom, reports indicate, and almost every Baptist congregation in the country has at least doubled its membership since World War II.

The \$25,000 voted for major city evangelization in Hong Kong is the initial appropriation for a 1977-78 penetration and saturation evangelism project. Planners of the campaign are hoping to start 2,000 home Bible study groups in all areas of the city of more than four million people.

The project is sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board's department of evangelism and church development and the Hong Kong Baptist Convention. Baptists in Hong Kong plan to raise \$100,000 for the two-year evangelism emphasis, with much of the money going for copies of scripture portions and mass media efforts.

SBC Pastors' Conference features Bible teaching

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here June 12-13 will emphasize speakers especially equipped in the area of Bible teaching, according to conference president, Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala.

The Pastors' Conference will meet in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium Arena prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), June 14-16, in Roe Bartle Convention Center.

A number of speakers will be heard during the two-day annual Pastors' Conference, beginning at 7 p.m., Sunday, June 12. Monday sessions are scheduled at 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Vines emphasizes that conference participants should bring their Bibles to be able to take part fully in the program.

Warren Wiersbe, pastor of the Moody Church, Chicago, will conduct Bible studies at the first three sessions, and Stephen Olford, well known Bible expositor of Encounter Ministries, Holmes Beach, Fla., will speak Sunday night and

Monday night.

Other speakers are Clyde Narramore, well known Christian psychologist of the Narramore Christian Foundation, Rosemead, Calif.; John Tippett Jr., pastor, Calvary Temple, Savannah, Ga.; Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor, First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Carliss Odom, lay speaker, North Little Rock, Ark.; Sam Cathey, evangelist, Owasso, Okla.; and two former SBC presidents, R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus, Bellevue Church, Memphis, Tenn., and W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Church, Dallas.

Conference music will be directed by R. O. Stone, minister of music at Dauphin Way Baptist Church. Performers are the Murk Family, Wheaton, Ill.; the Stone Family, Mobile, Ala.; Steve Boalt, evangelistic singer, Boca Raton, Fla.; Jerry Wayne Bernard, evangelistic singer, Houston, Tex.; Pam Moore and Janet Vines, singers, Dauphin Way Church; accompanists, Mrs. R. O. Stone, pianist, Dauphin Way Church, and John Bos, organist, of the E. J. Daniels evangelistic team, Orlando, Fla.

Jesus offers himself

Mark 11:7-10; 14:32-36; 15:33-39

The last few miles are the hardest for the marathon runner. The last few yards are agonizing for the miler. The last few feet are crucial for the sprinter. Only one's best is acceptable if the tape is to be broken first and the race won.

Jesus prepared 30 years before he entered the track of his public ministry. He filled himself with the word of God before he undertook the work of God. He practiced personal faith in the Father before he proclaimed perfect faith to his followers. His one passion was to do the Father's will and his only position was with the people he loved. Remember that when you visualize Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Think of that when you examine Jesus' personal prayer in the Garden. Consider that when you grasp the reality of Jesus' death on the cross.

"Please stand by for a special announcement"

Looking back upon the temptation experiences in the wilderness, it would seem that Satan had an advance copy of the script for Jesus' life and mission. He must have known Jesus would reveal himself as Messiah. Thus it was that he sought to influence Jesus as to the method of that revelation. If he would but cast himself down from the Temple, people would instantly recognize his great power and follow him.

But such was not God's method, and Jesus rejected it immediately for he was committed to the Father's will. Jesus only occasionally disclosed his knowledge of who he really was in terms of Messiahship. Once he confessed his Messiahship to the woman at the well in Samaria. Another time he approved Peter's confession of it at Caesarea-Philippi. Then at last he declared it to Martha before raising Lazarus from the dead.

Now it was time to inform the public in an official way that he was indeed the long awaited Messiah. Several times the people had tried to force upon him their ideas of a Messiah but he had rejected their offers. Likewise he avoided the many traps laid for him by his enemies to confess his Messiahship. But now he would freely and openly offer himself as their Messiah and Saviour. His method would tell them the kind of Messiah he came to be — a Messiah of peace and a Messiah of love as proclaimed long ago to God's people through faithful prophets.

Those who understood God's word would for the moment be deliriously

happy. Those who claimed God's word as their peculiar possession would be enraged over Jesus' interpretation of the Messiah's purpose. Study carefully the way people viewed Jesus' public disclosure of who he was and you will see how little men understand God's ways.

Jesus' public offering of himself as Messiah brought about such a clash of hope and hate that the bright sunshine of festivity was threatened by gathering clouds. Yet only few seemed to notice. Now the people participated in the occasion of his announcement but soon they would be swept up in the vicious circumstances surrounding his atonement. Only Jesus foresaw and forecast the gathering storm (Luke 19:41-44).

"This program has been brought to you by . . ."

Jesus' offer of himself as Messiah created a disturbance in Jerusalem so great as to engulf all mankind. His swirling words and actions in the Temple upset traditional patterns of thought and sent them flying in all directions. The more he kept talking about death and deliverance and destruction the more they realized he was not the kind of Messiah they wanted. They had organized and categorized the Scriptures into beautiful structures of practice and piety and they resented Jesus' intrusion. Truly the swirling dust of hate blinded their eyes to what Jesus was trying to do for them.

Jesus knew his rejection was imminent. Not one disciple or follower understood. They too were sedated by the fast moving events of Jesus' ministry. They were intimidated by the threats made against Jesus and must have feared for their own safety. Mostly though, they were unable to grasp the personal pressure Jesus felt in his final hour of commitment. Death lurked in the darkness and only his spiritual eyes discerned the black clouds of humiliation just hours away.

A stillness settled over his closest friends as they succumbed to physical weariness. Jesus fell to the ground alone and poured out his heart to the Father. He sought relief but knew none could come if he remained faithful to the Father's will. He closed the door once and for all to Satan's influence. He was

ready to suffer the pains of Hell for all mankind. The Father would have his way over Satan!

"To be continued"

Something special happened on the cross that day with Jesus that those who watched could not see because of the darkness God spread upon his dying Son. Like a great tornado funnel cloud, God gathered up all the sins of mankind and cast them upon Jesus. We were all nailed to the tree that day and our number was so great that blackness covered the Saviour who suffered there. Finally the load became so heavy that Jesus cried out in utter desolation for his Father's hand of mercy. The eternal fate of all mankind hung in the balance during that agonizing moment. Praise God Jesus paid the full price for our sin! Praise God Jesus became our substitute on the cross so we could share the crown of glory with him in eternity!

Why would any man cling to his sin when Jesus is willing to forgive?

How could any man do for himself what Jesus has already done?

Jesus offered himself for our sin and for our life. He removes our sinful life out of the way and lives his life in and through us.

According to the beloved John, it really is a very simple matter. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (I John 5:12).

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The penitent thief

Luke 23:32-46

What was God's intent in bringing these three men together before the whole world in this, their dying hour? Why did God design that these three men should hang together on this fateful day? Was it not to show that Jesus can face a



Wilhelm

man on his ground, anywhere, anytime, and meet his greatest need? Here is a perfect picture of God's grace. This thief hanging on a cross beside our Savior had absolutely nothing to offer in the way of time and future to give for service, just a soul that desperately needed saving.

All Scripture is inspired of God and thus is of priority for our study and application in everyday living. Luke is careful in giving details about Jesus concerning the certainty of his Messiahship, the actuality of his death and the reality of his resurrection. He does this by personal conversations like today's passage or in the account of the two on the road to Emmaus who were so joyful after they realized that Jesus was alive. Luke writes to corroborate for Theophilus the earthly life of Jesus Christ.

Notice in Jesus' life how many individuals appear in snapshot fashion. Each is forever pictured in his plight of sin's grip and effect. No name is given and very little is known about the person except that his need at the moment of encounter is to the breaking point. This dying thief whose hope and help now seem impossible, will be helped by Jesus. This passage will proclaim forever what Jesus did for this robber.

This lesson shows that all individuals are free agents. The picture gives the sad fact that while one may find peace for eternity, it can also be freely rejected as the other man did on the last day of his life.

The remarkable thing about Jesus' ministry is that Jesus daily came into contact with people who had great need, and by God's wonderful grace, he always met that need when the person was receptive. The events narrated in this passage focus on Jesus' suffering, sympathy, compassion, and add to our understanding of the driving force of

this God-man who came to seek and to save.

First, in examining this passage, notice the setting (32, 33). Here are three men under a death sentence by society. Two are guilty of crimes; one is the innocent sacrifice of God for all the sin of the world. That very day, two would go into death prepared, and one would be eternally lost.

There must have been deliberate humiliation intended in crucifying Jesus flanked by two robbers. It was the devil's attempt to one last time discredit and defame Jesus. What must be frustrating to Satan is that every deed he pulls off, thinking he has really done something, only falls into the hands of Almighty God who always brings good from bad, and turns it to his own glory. In this instance, Satan only succeeded in fulfilling Isaiah 53:12, "... he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Second, in moving on through the passage, we see in verse 34 that Jesus' nature of compassion has not changed. We are aware also that Jesus was cognizant of what was happening to him as is indicated in his prayer for his tormentors. Jesus is still master of every situation, even this one. From human thought alone, the circumstances seem unforgivable. Here is real proof that this person Jesus was God as well as man. Jesus had taught that we are to respond like this; now he is given a time to put principle into practice.

Third, this section of the passage (35-39) tells us about those involved. Can't you just see the ever present sight-seeing public with its curiosity, its opinion, its warped judgment of the situation. Our hearts beat with deep emotion as we visualize this terrible thing.

We are shocked at the callousness of the soldiers methodically doing their job, with a bit extra: mocking him and taking his goods.

Who can fail to see the irony of Pilate's sign, whatever motivated it! Jesus was the King, their King, whether they accepted him or not.

With mixed feelings we find that the responsible rulers are now willing to let Jesus live if he can only make it down on his own, verifying that it is just as they

had said, "He's really not the Christ, this proves it."

For the rest of the passage, Luke records the conversations of the three men on the cross. Matthew and Mark state that both robbers mocked him, but only Luke tells us that one came to know Jesus as Lord.

Luke records one last gleam of hope in a bleak, utterly hopeless situation. Death by this repentant man had now been mentally faced and accepted. The weight of his deeds was upon him. He was able to admit his guilt, his sinfulness, his human lostness, and saw himself in contrast to Jesus. He knew Jesus did not deserve to die. He could discern that the nature of Jesus was very different from his own, that Jesus was not the kind of person at all that should be on a cross dying.

We can only speculate about his knowledge concerning Jesus' ministry, for we are not informed. But what is important is that he was serious about Jesus' ability to help him, even after seeing and hearing Jesus' accusers. The thief has realized that eternity follows death.

Luke has worked up our suspense, but we are not really surprised when the robber addresses Jesus as "Lord". And then he makes his request of Jesus to remember him when he is King. Much more than flesh and blood thinking is going on here, for God certainly is at work. Jesus may be dying, but he has not forgotten for what reason he is dying.

Jesus' response never fails to thrill one who has experienced the same joy of giving all to Jesus. Our wonderful Lord did not spend time chiding this sinner about his past, or the late hour of his decision, or what had motivated this request, be it fear or sincerity. He simply took the sinner at his word and saved him then and there.

Three men died that day — one in the agony of his sins with an eternal hell facing him. One who deserved the same instead set foot in the glorious kingdom of God. And one who accomplished in death what no one else could, redemption for the world. Nature itself could not cope with Jesus' dying, as darkness prevailed for three hours from noon to midafternoon, the Temple veil ripped apart, the earth shook, and the blood of God's Lamb was split for all sin on the mercy seat of God at Calvary. Jesus had gone all the way for the world he loved, and with one last statement of his faith in his father, he died.

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A smile or two

An old Indian was standing on top of a hill with his son, looking down over a beautiful valley below. Said the old Indian: "Someday, my son, all this land will belong to the Indians again. Paleface all go to the moon."

□

A farmer was sentenced to jail for 60 days at the beginning of the planting season. Yet his entire income depended on his potato crop. His wife sent a note to the prison saying, "Do you think I am going to dig up the field and plant the potatoes myself?"

The farmer sent an immediate reply: "Whatever you do, don't dig up the field. That's where the money is hidden."

A week later his wife wrote back, "Somebody must be reading your mail."

Some men came by and dug up the field. What do I do now?"

"Plant the potatoes," he replied.

□

An office boy noticed two women at lunch with the boss. Later in the day he asked: "Who were those women I saw you with?"

The boss replied that one was his wife and the other was Elizabeth Taylor.

"Which one was Elizabeth Taylor?" asked the boy.

The boss took out a \$5 bill and handed it to the lad.

"What's this for?" asked the boy.

"Nothing," replied the boss. "I just want you to remember, when you get to be President, that I once loaned you money."

Baptist leaders discuss Canadian Baptist relations

NASHVILLE (BP) — More than 50 Southern Baptist leaders and agency representatives met here to share their views on the best ways to encourage some 35 congregations in western Canada who identify themselves as Southern Baptists.

The fact-finding meeting was called by a special Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board committee which is seeking to prepare a recommendation for presentation to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in June.

Representatives of the Northwest Baptist Convention, with which the Canadian churches in question are affiliated, suggested at the meeting that the committee could recommend ways to free SBC agencies to provide further assistance to the Canadian Baptists. Expressions from others at the meeting favored that suggestion.

The Northwest Convention did not request that the SBC constitution be changed to allow seating of Canadian Baptist messengers at SBC annual sessions, but expressed a concern that further avenues of assistance be open to them.

At last year's SBC annual meeting, Hazen Simpson of California moved that the convention "immediately extend encouragement to Southern Baptists dwelling and working in Canada by

financial assistance plus any and all other means of support that we make available to ministry outside of the United States and its territory."

After discussion and an attempt to refer the matter to SBC members of the North American Baptist Fellowship, convention messengers voted to refer the motion to the SBC Foreign Mission Board for study.

The consultation here was planned immediately following the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee to obtain counsel from a broad spectrum of SBC leadership, including leaders of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions. Also attending were representatives of the Canadian churches and the Northwest Baptist Convention (formerly known as the Oregon-Washington Convention), which since 1962 has been helping the young churches of Canada's western provinces.

Allen Schmidt, pastor of a Canadian Baptist church, is president of the Northwest Convention, one of 33 state conventions covering Southern Baptist work in 50 states.

Others taking part included Simpson, the maker of the original motion; Wayne Dehoney, Louisville, Ky., pastor and former SBC president, who spoke to the motion at the convention; and SBC President James L. Sullivan of Nashville.

Attendance report

March 20, 1977

Church	Sunday School	Church Training	Church adns.
Alexander, First	113	53	
Ash Flat, First	58		1
Batesville, First	225	95	2
Benton, Trinity	115	48	
Bentonville, Central Avenue	96	30	
Berryville			
First	180	65	
Freeman Heights	181	67	
Rock Springs	71	50	
Booneville, First	270		
Bryant, First Southern	211	91	1
Cabot			
First	460	102	2
Mt. Carmel	245	76	
Camden, Cullendale First	538	145	
Charleston, First	196	52	
Conway, Second	416	145	1
Crossett, Mt. Olive	359	165	2
Danville, First	238	60	
Dell	134	77	1
El Dorado, West Side	500	492	1
Elkins, First	108		3
Forrest City, First	609	50	2
Ft. Smith			
First	1339	319	6
Grand Avenue	1165	200	2
Mission	17		
Haven Heights	211	110	
Temple	150	60	
Trinity	157	45	
Fouke, First	82	49	
Gentry, First	182	48	
Gillett, First	68	18	
Gillham	87	35	
Grandview	81	57	
Green Forest, First	229	66	
Greenwood, First	341	168	4
Hampton, First	167	71	
Hardy, First	132	55	
Harrison, Woodland Heights	163	82	
Hope			
Calvary	173	93	
First	378	98	
Hot Springs			
Park Place	286	65	1
Hughes, First	180	65	
Jacksonville			
First	439	106	2
Marshall Road	160	73	
Jonesboro, Friendly Hope	141	95	
Lavaca, First	330	116	
Little Rock			
Chicot Road	109	54	7
Cross Road	106	115	16
Life Line	508	123	6
620	620	177	2
Magnolia, Central	286	82	1
Monticello, Second	176	53	
Murfreesboro, First	85	51	
Norfolk, First			
North Little Rock			
Calvary	427	113	2
Harmony	60	28	
Levy	413	86	
Park Hill	895		4
Osceola, Eastside	95	69	2
Paragould			
Calvary	292	234	10
East Side	281	122	
First	457	96	1
Paris, First	391	75	1
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	147	53	
Central	133	50	
East Side	163	49	
First	686	87	3
Lee Memorial	293	201	42
South Side	637	130	
Tucker	24		
Watson Chapel	512	201	6
Rogers, Immanuel	456	76	
Russellville			
First	590	101	6
Second	139	52	
Sheridan, First	170	71	
Sherwood, First	265	81	2
Springdale			
Caudle Avenue	160	64	1
Elmdale	292	103	2
First	1563		11
Texarkana			
Arabella Heights	99		3
Hickory Street	108	21	
Highland Hills	171	55	
Shiloh Memorial	177	69	1
Toltec	125	56	
Van Buren, First	566	210	
Mission	27		
Vandervoort, First	55	33	
Wabash, Immanuel	62	42	
West Helena			
Second	184	97	
West Helena Church	302	74	
Wooster, First	111	68	
Wynne, Harris Chapel	90	63	

WMU annual sessions highlight world missions

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Emphasizing the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) bold mission objective to evangelize the world by the close of the century, the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), meeting here June 12-13, will feature representatives from all levels of the denomination's missions enterprise.

The WMU annual meeting includes foreign missionaries, international speakers, representatives from Baptist agencies and churches, and personnel

Home and Foreign Mission Boards and WMU, will be followed by an "Hour of Prayer for Bold Missions", including 38 separate prayer groups led by state WMU presidents and home and foreign missionaries.

National WMU President Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., has issued a special invitation to pastors and WMU leaders within easy driving distance in a six-state area surrounding Kansas City to bring special groups to the rally.

Three Monday sessions, set for 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., cover all aspects of SBC missions.

John Claypool, pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson, Miss., and William G. Tanner, executive director of the SBC Home Mission Board, will deliver major addresses at the Monday evening closing session.

Other program highlights on Monday include a special feature Monday afternoon, entitled "Big City, Listen!"; addresses throughout the day by Mike Mojica, home missionary, Laredo, Tex.; Robert Tremaine, home missionary, Miami, Fla.; Carlos Owens, foreign missionary, Moshi, Tanzania; and three meditations by Josephine Pile of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, from her new book for WMU, "Listening Woman I Am: Messages From God".

Dale Cross, director, Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, will

lead the "Big City, Listen!" presentation, which also features James Queen, church planner for the association, and Don Sharp, associate director of missions.

Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, Birmingham, will deliver her annual report and WMU will conduct its regular business, including election of officers.

International and missionary speakers in the dramatic presentation in the Bold Mission Rally are Allen Elston, missionary to Indians, Warms Springs, Ore.; Jimmy Anderson, missionary to Indians, Shawnee, Okla.; Jose Borrás, president, Baptist Convention of Spain, Madrid; Lambert Mills, pastor, St. Johns, Antigua, West Indies; and Samuel Fadiji, pastor, Ogbomoshó, Nigeria.

The rally will be promoted jointly by other meetings preceding the SBC annual convention. They are the Pastors' Conference, Ministers' Wives Conference, Church Music Conference, Evangelists Conference and Directors of Associational Missions Conference.

The drama at the rally will be written and directed by Ed Seabough of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta. Phillip C. Posey of William Jewell College will coordinate the music, Mrs. Janice Glover of William Jewell College will coordinate dramatics and Campbell Thomas of Peter Wolfe Associates, Dallas, will direct technical aspects.

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Church Music Conference celebrates twentieth year

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will celebrate its first 20 years of existence as an organization at its 21st annual meeting, June 12-13, preceding the 131st annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), June 14-16, Kansas City, Mo.

The two-day program begins with a 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening service of worship and praise in the auditorium of the headquarters of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints (RLDS), Independence, Mo. It moves to Gano Hall, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., for three sessions, Monday, June 13, at 8 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Besides a wide range of music, the conference will feature addresses, special interest conferences and business sessions.

The Sunday night service features

Robert Harrison, associate concert master, Atlanta Symphony, on violin; Donald Hustad, organ professor, Southern Seminary, Louisville, on the organ; worship leading and narration by Ragan Courtney, playwright-lyricist-poet-performer of Nashville; solos by Cynthia Clawson (Mrs. Courtney), soloist-recording artist-song writer of Nashville, and David Ford, minister of music, First Church, Nashville; the Southern Baptist Singing Men, conducted by James D. Woodward, dean of the school of fine arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee; and a massed choir of voices from Missouri and Kansas choirs conducted by Duncan Couch, dean of the music department, Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

The conference closes on Monday with an evening of music from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., after morning and afternoon sessions, featuring a variety of program personnel.

involved in associational, state and national missions efforts in the United States. The theme is "World Listen! Let All Who Have Ears Listen."

A Bold Mission Rally at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 12, will launch the two-day meeting. It will feature a special drama involving dramatic narrations by triplet ministers of music and youth, Gerald, Darrell and Harold Ware of the First Churches of Pauls Valley, Atoka and Weoka, Okla., respectively; actors from William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; missionary and international speakers; and music by "Jubilation", a group of students from Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz.

The rally, planned jointly by the SBC