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Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

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**October 8, 1981**

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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October 1, 1981

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE



October 25, 1981

## On the cover



ABN Photo/Mike Gill

October 25 is Great Day in the Morning, a high attendance day for all Sunday Schools in the state and nation. Now is the time to visit and remind members and prospects to "fall back" one hour in the change of daylight savings time on this date. Some churches also make this "picture Sunday" and print enough copies to give everyone in the picture a free copy on the following Sunday.

## Annuity Board to adopt new insurance program

DALLAS (BP) — New applications for group life, medical and long-term disability insurance coverage for church personnel through the Southern Baptist Annuity Board will not be accepted for the remainder of this year.

The announcement was made by Darold H. Morgan, president of the agency which administers the group insurance and retirement plans for the 13.6 million member Southern Baptist Convention.

Morgan said enrollments have been suspended until a new life and comprehensive medical program is started Jan. 1, 1982. The plan, which is being prepared, will be announced in October.

"Those who currently have medical coverage in the Designated Insurance Program will be transferred to the new program on Jan. 1, 1982," Morgan said, "but we have suspended enrollments so that we can make the necessary administrative adjustments."

The action is necessary, Morgan said, because "inflation and cost increases pose a very real threat to the current program."

Problems surfaced in May of 1981, when Aetna Life Insurance Co., which underwrites the Annuity Board insurance pro-

gram, told the board it is experiencing losses on the coverage. From July 1, 1980, to May 1, 1981, the company reported the church medical insurance program generated \$8,937,000 in premiums while paying \$9,151,000 for participating members' medical expenses.

"For every dollar we receive as premium, \$1.02 was paid for medical expenses," said Morgan.

The new program is expected to make some changes in the comprehensive medical plan, offer life insurance coverage up to \$100,000 and leave the long-term disability program unaffected.

Morgan said some change in benefits was necessary because "the only way we could have maintained the present program would be to escalate premiums by 49.6 percent. I don't think our members are prepared for that kind of economic shock."

The 49.6 percent figure is determined by combining a 36 percent national health inflation factor with the increased administrative costs of both the insurance company and the Annuity Board.

"We believe this new package will provide our members with adequate coverage at costs they can afford," Morgan said.

## Baptist refugee sponsors continue numbers decline

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists are sponsoring refugees at less than half the rate of last year, according to Donoso Escobar, manager of the SBC refugee resettlement office in Atlanta.

In the first eight months of 1981, Southern Baptists sponsored 1,256 refugees, compared to 2,543 for the same period in 1980, said Escobar, a former resident of Arkansas.

Nationally, resettlement has fallen from 14,000 per month in 1980 to 10,000 per month in 1981, said Linda Gordon, chief data analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' refugee resettlement office.

Of the 10,000 refugees sponsored by Americans in August, only 167, less than two percent, had Southern Baptist sponsors.

The SBC refugee resettlement office received 64 new cases in August, but found only one sponsor willing to resettle a refugee with no restrictions. Milton Leach, Home Mission Board national consultant for refugee resettlement, explained, "Most of the inquiries we're getting now are from churches who have already sponsored refugees and are interested in reuniting them with relatives."

In August, 32 such sponsors agreed to resettle additional family members.

Escobar estimated about 400 churches have been sponsors more than once, and that "99 percent of the churches who sponsor a refugee would be willing to sponsor another."

Leach attributed the decline of sponsors to unfounded fears about the legal and financial responsibilities of sponsorship, and acknowledged the sluggish economy has made some potential sponsors hesitant.

"The financial costs are really less than people think, depending on how involved the church people get in helping out," Leach said. He suggested an "old-fashioned ponding" to provide food, donated housing and clothing, and a volunteer network of volunteers to transport the refugees as ways to cut expense.

As for legal responsibilities, he added, "Sponsors have no legal obligations to or for refugees. The only obligation is a moral one to provide the opportunity for them to make a new start."

Oscar Romo, director of the board's language missions division, said fresh sponsors are needed. "We can't continue to go back to churches already sponsoring refugees. We're just not getting enough new sponsors."

Escobar links poor Baptist response to a lack of understanding of the missionary opportunity inherent in sponsoring refugees. "What this is really all about is giving people an opportunity to learn about our Lord," he said.

Sponsors are needed for Southeast Asian as well as European refugees, Escobar said. Interested persons should contact the SBC refugee resettlement office, 2715 Peachtree Rd. N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30305. Telephone (404) 873-4041, ext. 395.

## In this issue

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The Southern Baptist Annuity Board has announced a new insurance program that will affect all church personnel.

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Dealing with death and grief is difficult in spite of Christian hope. Clyde Glazener, pastor of Little Rock Calvary Church, discusses some biblical perspectives on sorrow.

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Southern Baptists have been responding to the crisis of world hunger in increasing numbers. Andy Loving of SEEDS magazine points out what churches can do in the battle against famine.



Recently, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention jointly sponsored an orientation for furloughing missionaries in Arkansas (see story on page 9). The meeting proved helpful to everyone who attended. Our missionaries are eager to serve in the best way possible while they are in the United States. But there are ways that we can enable them to be more effective.

All of our missionaries would like to be involved in various ministries throughout the entire year. All of them have more requests than they can fill during November and December, but may not be adequately employed during the other months of the year. Obviously, missionaries are pleased to do everything possible to promote the Lotie Moon Christmas offering. Any church desiring a missionary speaker to promote the foreign mission offering should schedule immediately. But the ability of these missionaries should be utilized all year.

Some small churches may feel that it is impossible to bring a missionary to speak to them. But all missionaries are anxious to go to churches of all sizes. While it is true that they do not receive travel expenses while on furlough, missionaries do not want to restrict their activities. It is wise for churches to utilize missionaries in the area where they are living. This will save on travel expenses for everyone.

Many large churches may want to consider the possibility of furnishing a car for furloughing missionaries. In this time of inflation and changing values, a missionary could easily lose from \$1,500 to \$2,000 on the purchase and sale of a car during his furlough just for the privilege of sharing mission work with his fellow Baptists.

Missionaries are deeply appreciative of the fact that many churches furnish homes in which they can live while on furlough. It would, however, be most helpful if these churches would furnish a list of the things that have been done in the home prior to the missionary's coming and a list of the things the missionary needs to do. Such an arrangement would prove advantageous to everyone.

Churches need to recognize that missionaries have families also. This means that on some occasions a husband and wife who are missionaries may not both be able to attend a particular church meeting. In many instances it would be extremely helpful if churches could provide baby sitters to assist the missionaries.

It often would be exceedingly helpful to missionaries to receive used equipment to take with them to the mission field. Used equipment does not normally require the payment of import tax. In many mission fields, import taxes may run 100 percent or more on new equipment. Missionaries need the same kind of equipment that churches use here at home. Such things as slide projectors, motion picture projectors, and overhead projectors are exceedingly valuable to our missionaries.

Churches can also enhance the furlough time of a missionary by making it possible for them to attend state conventions, evangelism conferences, and annual associational meetings. The Foreign Mission Board provides for the missionary to attend the Southern Baptist Convention, but limited funds make it impossible for the Board to care for the expenses of other meetings. Missionaries want to be involved in the total life of the denomination while they are at home.

In foreign countries English books are limited in number and very expensive. Many of our missionaries would appreciate the gift of good books. Direct correspondence with them would be the best way to determine the kind of books they would like to receive. In many instances the books should be read and then given to the missionary.

It is truly exciting to be a part of the great mission effort in today's world. Beyond question, Southern Baptists are doing more to carry the gospel around the world than any other denomination. But our efforts must be greatly intensified if every person is to hear the gospel by the year 2000. Furloughing missionaries can do much to challenge, excite and involve our people in this vital New Testament effort. Let's make maximum use of our missionaries while they are on furlough.

# Arkansas Baptist

NEWSMAGAZINE

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

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J. EVERETT SNEED, Ph.D. . . . . Editor  
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## One layman's opinion

Daniel R. Grant

### Appreciating manna and muscadines

The expression, "Manna from Heaven," has always had a beautiful ring to it. As a child I never was quite sure what manna tasted like, but I assumed that in God's wonderful providence, it must be a combination of fried chicken and ice cream with fresh sliced strawberries. And the nicest thing of all, it seemed to me, was having it delivered to the Israelites in such an effortless way day after day.

My sympathies were always with Moses when the Israelites grew tired of eating manna every day, even when it was presented to them on God's silver platter. I never could understand why God and Moses didn't simply write them off and send them back to Pharaoh in Egypt. Such ingratitude was beyond understanding.

Recently I went through an experience that reminded me of the manna from heaven for the Israelites. On moving to Ouachita's new president's home a few years ago, Mrs. Grant and I discovered an amazing muscadine vine that had grown up high in the oak trees beside our house. It had produced a few muscadines in previous summers and Betty Jo had converted them into delicious muscadine jelly. This year, however, a bumper crop of musca-

dines appeared and began falling in the yard in bountiful supply day after day after day. It was truly wonderful for several days of ingathering and making jelly.

Then an amazing thing happened. I began to complain about the bountiful crop of mosquito bites and chiggers I was getting after each day's ingathering of muscadines. I noticed severe pains in back muscles that I did not even know I had. They were even falling in the driveway and leaving quite a mess when the car tires drove over them. Betty Jo had to neglect her other activities while being tied down to a kitchen overheated with the mass production of muscadine jelly.

As we commiserated together with the hardships we were enduring all because of the muscadines from heaven, we did wonder sheepishly what Moses might have said to us in the midst of our grumbling. The muscadine season is now over, the mosquito and chigger bites have now healed, the backaches are forgotten, and the kitchen is back to normal. We are even looking forward to next year's muscadine season if God will forgive us.

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

## Government migrant center still open

The federally-operated Migrant Farm Labor Center at Hope will remain open through the end of 1981, according to Bob Gross, who directs the Baptist center for migrants there.

Gross told the SBC Home Mission Board in a report this month that the government center would not close Sept. 15 as had been announced by state and federal officials.

Baptists' ministry to the traveling farm workers is dependent on the government center providing overnight lodging at its location across the highway from Baptists' site.

## Choirs to perform at Ouachita

ARKADELPHIA — A special halftime show presented by approximately 2,000 members of church youth choirs from across Arkansas will highlight the 12th annual "Youth Choir Day" at Ouachita Baptist University, Saturday, Oct. 3.

Senior high youth choirs from more than 100 churches will combine to sing during the halftime of the OBU-UA-Monticello football game at 2 p.m. at A.U. Williams Field.

## HMB consultant to lead volunteer conference

Jack Merritt, Home Mission Board Consultant on Volunteers, will lead a conference Oct. 20-21 at Camp Paron on supervising volunteers.

The conference will begin with lunch on Oct. 20 and conclude with lunch on Oct. 21. The conference will benefit both those doing volunteer work and supervising volunteers. Expenses will be provided by the Missions Department; however, registration will be limited to 50 people.

Make reservations before Oct. 16 by writing or calling Pete Petty, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, Phone 376-4791.

## Polish Baptists request aid

WASHINGTON — Responding to the growing food shortage in Poland, Piotr Dajludzionek, president of the Baptist Union of Poland, has issued a call for help, according to the Baptist World Alliance.

Dajludzionek suggested that all aid be sent through a West German Baptist program which regularly sends to Polish congregations ready-packed 5-10 kilogram food parcels and packages with baby food, soap and clothing.

The Baptist Union of Poland is one of the 123 members of the BWA.



## Woman's viewpoint

Joanne Jackson Lisk

### Thoughts on a new day

Green variegated fields shooft soft mist-blankets  
And yawning, stretched to greet the rising sun.  
One morning star tried vainly yet to sparkle,  
Then sighed with sleep. The new day was begun.  
Will dew-drenched morn embrace her full potential  
Of cherished moments filling every hour?  
Though new-born day might long to keep her promise  
The final choice is not within her power.  
For each new day, a fragile chain of moments  
As yet unspent, untarnished, purest gold,  
God portions equally to every mortal,  
And by man's choice each new day will unfold.  
When evening shadows gently brush those green fields,  
And silvery moonbeams filter through yon wood,  
This day's new dream may slumber fully realized  
If man can say: "Each choice I made today was good!"

Aug. 14, 1981 (written between Arkadelphia and Texarkana, Ark., on the way to Dallas, Texas)

Mrs. Lisk is a registered nurse and writer for denominational publications.

## World Hunger Day 1981

For more than 10 years Southern Baptists have listened to the tragic news of hunger around the world. Gradually, the awesomeness of this tragedy has burned into our minds. Numbers of countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Upper Volta, and India suffer tragically each day. The most basic question is, "How can I be expected to sacrifice for people who have no hope and whose problems I do not really understand?"

Is there any hope for the hungry people of the world? Many experts give a careful "yes" while understanding the fact that no simple answer exists. John Cheyne of the Foreign Mission Board says, "There is no easy answer about world hunger, neither in analyzing the problem nor in designing the solution." Certainly the current situation is enough to bring depression to the most optimistic individual.

The Bible, however, is clear. We do have a responsibility for others. Jesus, in describing the Kingdom person, said that he was the individual who responded to hunger, thirst, nakedness and need (Matt. 25:31-46).

Practically, we must recognize that hunger is not necessary. Nearly every report from government or religious groups concludes that we have the technology and the knowledge to end hunger. The basic question is do we care enough to get on with the task.

World Hunger Day is Oct. 11. As Kingdom people we must respond to this need.

J. Everett Sneed, editor  
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine



## The Southern accent

### This I believe: about gifts of the Spirit

by Earl R. Humble

The gifts of the Spirit must always be distinguished from the gift of the Spirit. In the gift of the Spirit we receive the Spirit himself at conversion. The gifts of the Spirit are named in Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and 28-30; and Ephesians 4:7-11. Not counting repetitions, about 20 gifts are named. The Holy Spirit is a sovereign being and may bestow or withhold gifts as he will.

Every believer has received at least one gift (1 Cor. 12:11). It behooves each believer to learn what his gift is. Since the Spirit has already given our gift at conversion, it is not seemly to ask him for a certain gift. How can we know what our gift is? Perhaps the following will help: (1) Your gift is something you like to do; (2) It is something you



Humble

do well; and (3) It is something that blesses God's people.

No believer has all the gifts (1 Cor. 12:7-10). From these verses we see the folly of claiming that every Christian should seek tongues or some other gift. The Holy Spirit equips each believer to do his part to edify the body of Christ. When we discover, develop, and use our gift for the good of the body of Christ, the results are spectacular. When we fail to do our part, the results may be devastating.

No gift is for purely private use, though it may bring a blessing to its bearer. Every believer's gift is needed to bring harmony and well-being to the church. Those who drop out of church deprive the Lord of the use of that gift to build his church.

The gifts and calling of God, once given, are never taken back (Rom. 11:29). If we refuse to use our gift for his glory, we will still be accountable for it "on that day."

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

## Southern College marks 40 years of education

Southern Baptist College marked its 40th anniversary during Founders' Week celebrations Sept. 7-11.

President D. Jack Nicholas, and President Emeritus H. E. Williams participated

in the highlight of the week, Founders' Day Chapel Service on Sept. 9, which was attended by more than 400 people.

Rex Holt, pastor of Pocahontas First Church, delivered the Founder's Address.

## Informed Baptists . . .

Since the beginning of the Christian era, it has been evident that every means available would be used to share and spread the Good News to the people of the earth. The spoken word, the written word and the printed word have been vital in conveying God's love to mankind and in bringing his will and way into their lives. New converts were made, and in time became stronger in the faith as they were better informed and established in the work of our Lord.

Over many years, our Baptist state papers have played a major role in keeping our constituency informed, inspired and united. From as early as I can remember, the *Baptist Advance*, as it was known in earlier years, came into our home. As a young Christian, during the Great Depression, I first became aware of the value of the state paper.

Today the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine* helps to bind our hearts in Christian love and purpose and makes significant contributions to the Christian cause and our denominational life!

Alvin (Bo) Huffman Jr.  
Blytheville, Arkansas

. . . are concerned Baptists



Huffman

## Future chaplains train at Medical Center

Three chaplain interns are participating in the Baptist Medical Center Pastoral Care Internship Program this year.

They are Bob Harper of Sheridan and Vern Wickliffe of Hope, both graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Stan Wilson of Searcy, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

All three hold master of divinity degrees. They will serve at Baptist Medical Center for one year and will rotate through several areas in the hospital, experiencing the actual work of a hospital chaplain.

Ed McDonald is director of Pastoral Care at the Center.

## Chinese seminary president named

TAIPEI, Republic of China — John Chang has been named the first Chinese president of the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary in Taipei. Chang had been head of the seminary's music department and was acting president before spending a year's sabbatical studying for his doctorate in musical arts in the United States.

by Millie Gill/ABN staff writer



Blevins



Sutley



Owens

**Francis S. Chesson**

is serving the Camden First Church as pastor, coming there from a 13-year pastorate with the Calvary Church in Florence, S.C. A native of North Carolina, he is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also holds a Ph.D. in New Testament Theology from the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland. He is married to Nina Martin Chesson, who holds degrees from Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Gary Butler**

has been selected for inclusion in the 1981 edition of *Outstanding Young Men of America*. Dr. Butler is a member of the Hot Springs Barcelona Road Church.

**Dave Griffin**

is serving as pastor of the Cabot Second Church. He has also served churches at Brownsville and South Bend.

**Bill Jenkins**

is serving the Biggers Church as pastor, coming there from the Brookland Church. He is a native of Panama City, Fla., and has attended Blue Mountain College at Blue Mountain, Miss., and Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, ages three and six.

**Val Davis**

has resigned as music director of the Little Rock Martindale Church.

**Ronnie Brazil**

has joined the staff of Little Rock Sunset Lane Church as associate pastor for outreach. He was ordained to the ministry in 1978 and is a student at Little Rock Boyce Bible School. He is married to the former

Patsy Martin of Little Rock. They have three children, Lisa, Ronnie, and Christian.

**Dexter Blevins**

became interim pastor Sept. 1 of Hot Springs Park Place Church. A native of Prescott, he served the Hot Springs church as pastor from 1959-1964. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Army Chaplain's Officers Career Course in New York. He has served churches in both Arkansas and Texas and retired from the full-time ministry at his last pastorate in Norman, Okla. He retired with the rank of major from the Army chaplaincy after serving 20 years in the Army and the National Guard. Blevins and his wife, Claudine, will reside in the pastor's home at 105 Terryland Drive in Hot Springs.

**Cecil Sutley**

recently resigned the pastorate of Canfield Church where he served as a bi-vocational pastor for 13 years. He is professor of religion at Ouachita Baptist University.

**Nan Owens**

has been named minister of education and outreach by El Dorado Second Church. She served for 15 years in Nigeria under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Owens has also served as Baptist Women director for both Arkansas and Tennessee state conventions, as well as teaching in Arkansas public schools.

**Bill Gilmore**

has been called as pastor of the Heber Springs Pleasant Ridge Church. He and his wife, Joan, are living in Plumerville.

## Levy church celebrates 75 years of ministry

North Little Rock Levy Church, one of two Arkansas churches to attain the 1981 Sunday School Standard of Excellence, celebrated its 75th anniversary Sept. 20.

The church, organized Sept. 16, 1906 by North Little Rock Baring Cross Church, has since that time organized and built the North Little Rock Forty-Seventh Street Church.

Levy Church, in its 75 years, has also completed three building programs and this July approved a master building program that includes two educational units, a sanctuary and a family life center.

Organized with 23 members, the church now has a total membership of 1,005. There were 653 present for the anniversary celebration.

Participating in the program were L. Alfred Sparkman, a former pastor and now pastor of Crossett First Church; Tom Lester, "Eb" of television's "Green Acres"; "Hosanna," a musical group; and Mrs. Nellie McCain, a charter member who gave the church history.

Pastor Otto J. Brown reported one profession of faith as another part of the day-long celebration.



An anniversary cake, made of wood, was designed by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brown for Levy Church's 75th anniversary celebration and displayed on the church's parking lot after the service. Admiring the cake are (left to right) former Pastor L. Alfred Sparkman, Mrs. Nellie McCain, Tom Lester and Brown.

missionary to India, died Sept. 7. He may be addressed at 383 Upper Palace Orchards, Bangalore 560 080, India. He is a native of Mountain View, Ark. His wife, the former Carolyn Stewart, was born in Fort Smith, Ark., and grew up in Madison Heights, Ferndale and Berkley, Mich.; and Excelsior, Norfolk and Little Rock, Ark. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

## News about missionaries

Mrs. E. V. Dillard, mother of Jim C. Dillard, missionary to Kenya, died Sept. 16 in Tyrone, Ark. A native of Tyrone, Dillard is currently in the States on furlough (address: 1521 Maple Ave., Owensboro, Ky. 42301). His wife is the former Janet Davis of Owensboro. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969.

Mrs. Hazel Lee, mother of Jason Lee,

**Pine Bluff Immanuel Church** recently celebrated Victory Sunday after exceeding its fund-raising goal for the first phase of the "Frontiers of Faith" building program. The church has received over \$330,000 in pledges and donations to be used in renovating the auditorium and installing new sound and lighting systems.

**Little Rock Martindale Church** held a Bible conference Sept. 16-20 that featured Huber Drumwright, W. O. Vaught, C. A. Johnson, Bill Lewis and John Finn as speakers. Bob Crabb is pastor.

**Little Rock Tyler Street Church** held a service Sept. 20 to ordain Russell Clark, Harold Oliver and Randall Leister as deacons.

**Little Rock Crystal Hill Church** observed its 48th anniversary with homecoming Sept. 13. C. A. Johnson, director of missions for Pulaski County Association, and Don Hook, a retired Southern Baptist minister, were speakers.

**Marion Immanuel Church** recently honored Clyde C. Cook on his first anniversary as pastor. The church also licensed John R. Steele, a sophomore at Southern Baptist College, to the ministry.

**Hope First Church** held deacon ordination services Sept. 27 for Jerry Irby, John King, Hillman Koen, Bill Rowland, Grady Royston, Roy Taylor and Bob Willis. Pastor Richard H. Stiltner was in charge.

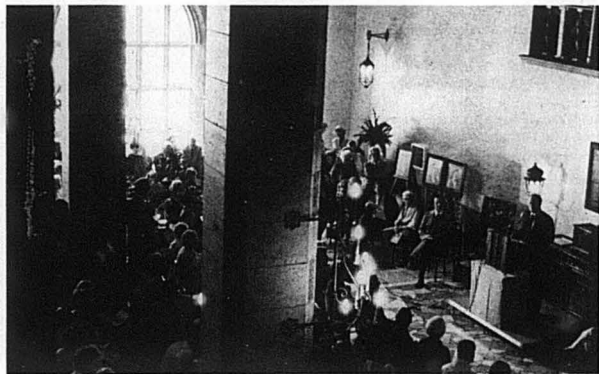
DENVER, (BP) — Louisiana Manor, a 100-apartment retirement complex, has been sold by Colorado Baptist Manor Inc., for \$2.1 million to the Champa Investment Co., a Colorado based firm.

Intended as a potential Southern Baptist retirement community, the complex was purchased by the Manor corporation, a subsidiary of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado, three years ago for \$1.2 million.

Bill Landers, Manor president and executive director of the Baptist Foundation of Colorado, said the highrise was sold because equity had risen to \$1 million and, "we could not justify having that much money tied up with just one Southern Baptist living in the building."

It was finally determined, he noted, that with the lack of response from Baptists the equity could be put to better use in other areas of service.

**Little Rock church's ministry provides 'caring community' for retirees**



BBH photo/Betty J. Kennedy

The dreams of Dale Cowling and several others who put actions and dollars behind their goals came true Sunday, Sept. 13, when Second Church of Little Rock dedicated the Albert Pike Residence hotel to ministry to retired people. Dr. Cowling was pastor in 1971 when the church tried to purchase the 10-story hotel located in the same block with Second Church's buildings. Lack of funds frustrated the plan to provide a retirement place where senior adults could live in a caring community of persons also facing the problems of aging. A few days after a special prayer meeting, Miss Marcia Tillman came to Cowling, offering the needed \$150,000, provided the owners would offer again to sell. The purchase was made in October of 1971.

Since the hotel ministry was opened in December of that year, renovation and restoration work (right photo) has been done through funds from the estate of Horace L. Buffington



and a loan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. More money came as a grant when the hotel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Restoration is now nearing completion.

A crowd of approximately 500 gathered in the "Marcia Tillman Lobby" to honor the benefactors and dedicate the structure to ministry. Former Congressman Ray Thornton (left photo) drew a parallel between American pioneers and those who worked to provide the hotel ministry. He said that though early settlers were known for their independent spirits, they also "banded themselves together" to build homes to survive. Thornton commended the church for providing for the retirees in the absence of the extended family.

Second Church Pastor Larry Maddox led the litany of dedication and Bob Rollins, administrator of the hotel, recounted the contributions of the benefactors for the ministry. — Betty J. Kennedy



## The CCF needs your help

by J. Everett Sneed

The Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas Inc. is one of the most important organizations sponsored by Arkansas Baptists. Baptists have long been active in this organization, designed to combat the evils of alcohol, narcotics, gambling and obscenity, since its inception 22 years ago. The Foundation has been extremely effective in its efforts. The truth is that our state is a better place to live because of the work of the CCF. However, the Foundation may now be forced to cancel much of its work unless additional money is received. Your help is desperately needed.

The churches of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention are being encouraged to choose a Sunday in October to receive a special offering to support Arkansas' Christian Civic Foundation. The financial crunch has been produced primarily by inflation and the loss of certain funds which the Foundation has historically received. Apparently, the only solution is for those supporting the CCF to increase their giving and for new support to be found.

To compensate for this financial crunch, CCF Executive Secretary Edward W. Harris has been forced to make substantial adjustments in the Foundation's already tight budget. Included were no cost-of-living salary increases. If money should become available, the staff will receive the cost-of-living increase as a bonus at the end of the year. This means that the purchasing power of these dedicated and effective people has been reduced. This amounts to a salary cut. The CCF actually cut its 1981 budget by \$1,150.

Baptist individuals and churches interested in the program of the Christian Civic Foundation should do several things: (1) Pray for the CCF, asking God to give its staff wisdom, patience and encouragement so that they may be effective in dealing with their difficult task; (2) Support the Christian Civic Foundation financially because individuals and churches must support this organization if they are to have the needed funds to carry out their important program, and (3) Promote this proven and worthy organization by sharing information about it with other individuals, church groups and concerned organizations.

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

**Editor's note: The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention approved this fund-raising effort in regular session on Dec. 9, 1980.**

## Ouachita nears record enrollment

ARKADELPHIA — Ouachita Baptist University recorded the second highest enrollment in the school's 95-year history with 1,686 students registered for fall classes, according to Daniel R. Grant, president of OBU.

The number was only surpassed once in the mid-sixties when the count included nursing school students. The present enrollment figure is a one percent increase over the same period last year, said Dr. Grant.

## A name Southern Baptists can be proud of...

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First in a series

## Grief: Dealing with death

by Clyde Glazener



Glazener

The word grief normally triggers in our thoughts ideas of persons bereaved by the loss of fellowship with some significant loved one through death. This surely is one occasion for grief on the part of many. Since death is an enemy common to the entire human family, suggestions about handling this event can be helpful to all.

This writer wants to begin with a disclaimer that says he does not see himself an expert dispensing knowledge. A struggling pilgrim along life's experiences best describes his stance. From that position three basic suggestions concerning handling the trauma of death of a loved one will be suggested.

First, a strong and biblical faith in the providence of God for the continued being beyond death for those who die in Christ gives great strength. A highly developed system of eschatology is not essential, but a calm assurance based on the promises of God (cf. 1 Cor. 15:22-58, 1 Thes. 4:13-17) will bring peace. Knowing that fellowship with the deceased loved one is not finished for eternity allows us to smile through tears.

Second, a keen awareness that the experiences shared within life with the one now deceased are all grace gifts from God is essential. Whatever the relationship with that one added to life was not yours as a right, but rather was a gracious gift from God. Paul admonishes us "in everything give thanks . . ." (1 Thes. 5:18) The admonition here is to take the perspective of gratitude in the midst of life situations — even grief! Surely there was much about the life of one who is now mourning in death that should evoke thanksgiving.

Third, in the midst of the emotions surrounding bereavement which tend to traumatize, one must trust in God: If the deceased was in Christ, he still is. And he "died to himself" when he came to Christ. Somehow in the economy of God's will he may use the death of that one to rebound to his glory. That decision belongs to God. Without a better perspective from which to evaluate, we are sure at our best trusting that God will fit all things together for good for those who love him.

Clyde Glazener is pastor of Little Rock Calvary Church.

## Missionaries furloughing in Arkansas attend orientation

An annual orientation for furloughing missionaries in Arkansas began Sept. 10 with a banquet. The meeting was sponsored by the Arkansas Baptist Stewardship Department and the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC.

The orientation continued on Sept. 11, with James Walker, director of Stewardship, in charge of the meeting. Walker said that the purpose of the meeting was to make missionaries more effective while on furlough by providing them with information on trends and activities within our state.

Those participating on the program included Freddie Pike, director of missions for Harmony Association; Huber L. Drumwright, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention; Sam Pitman, FMB associate executive secretary for denominational co-ordination; Everett Sneed, editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*; Ron Ford, pastor of Central Church, Little Rock; and James Walker.

Ford encouraged the missionaries to share the theological base for missions, the biblical base for missions, and some of the practical involvements of missions when

they have opportunity to speak. He said, "Our people need to hear the personal challenge of mission involvement."

Pike urged the missionaries to help our people to understand that missions begin right where they live. He said, "Lay people have a different yardstick for associational missions than they do for foreign and home missions." He listed a group of ways that the foreign missionaries could help break down this misconception.

Drumwright shared his family's personal involvement in missions. He told the missionaries about his aunt and uncle who were foreign missionaries. He also shared with them some of his own experiences as he traveled on the foreign mission field. In conclusion, he shared with the missionaries some of the problems that are currently confronting Baptists.

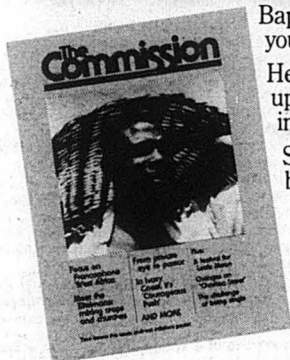
Sam Pitman said that the Foreign Mission Board wanted to see missionaries become a part of the state in which they are furloughing. He said, "Missionaries can help in developing many areas of Baptist concerns while they are promoting foreign missions. We want missionaries to be in partnership with everything that Baptists are doing." — **J. Everett Sneed**



*Southern Baptist missionaries who are furloughing in Arkansas attended an orientation session at the Baptist Building Sept. 11, and some visited the "ABN" office while they were here. From left to right are Annette and Bob Crockett from Argentina, and Mrs. James Hampton from Kenya.*

ABN photo/Mike Gill

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# Aging

Since Arkansas has a growing number of retired people, the following information is helpful:

## Biblical guidelines

The biblical attitude toward the aging stands in sharp contrast to contemporary attitudes. In the Bible, old age is promised as a reward for respect toward parents.

"Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:2-3, RSV).

Throughout the scriptures all people are urged to show reverence and respect for the aging.

"Hearken to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old" (Prov. 23:22, RSV).

Paul, in his letter to Timothy, challenges children to care for the aging and needy in their families, to return benefit for benefit to parents who have nurtured them when they were young (1 Tim. 5:4).

The sacredness of human personality is a truth which permeates the scriptures.

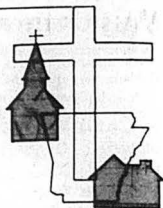
Respect for persons should be a vital part of our religious experience.

## Fears and frustrations for the aging

1. The need to make a radical change in life style after retirement.
2. The haunting fear that reduced income will not be adequate in the face of a changing economy.
3. The ironical situation of being physically healthy but psychologically defeated.
4. The loss of productive work and the self-respect which goes with being needed.
5. Feeling trapped by a house in need of repairs located in a decaying neighborhood where nearby services are disappearing.
6. A gnawing realization that family members either tolerate them or ignore them.
7. The constant wondering about how it will all end and what agony must be endured before it ends.

## Needs of the aging

1. The aging need to love and be loved. Friends and companionship are needed.
2. The aging need to be useful and they need to be involved, in keeping with their abilities.
3. They need adequate income for food, clothing, lodging, health care, and some miscellaneous purposes.
4. They need recreation along with an opportunity to entertain as well as to be entertained.
5. Older persons need to continue to grow through mental stimulation, keeping up with the times, and learning new facts.
6. They need physical care. When handicapped, care means rehabilitation and special provisions for them in the home. When they have serious chronic illness or are physically or mentally incapacitated, care may mean institutional service as a last resort.
7. They may need financial and legal counsel and, when they do, the role of the family member will be to encourage them.
8. They need to be an integral part of the normal life of the family, the church and the community.
9. They need to feel that others do things with them, not just for them.
10. Most older people do not want to be around their chil-



dren or grandchildren all of the time. They value their privacy and generally prefer their own homes.

11. They often need transportation for a variety of purposes — to the grocery store, the doctor, the drug store, and the church services.

12. Christian families should be aware of the deep spiritual needs of their aging members. The aging especially need the assurance of God's continuing love and protection. The greatest need for those who have come to old age without Christ is to come to a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is never too late to make this decision.

## Gifts from the aging

1. They can give encouragement and understanding to those who face frustrating circumstances.
2. They can communicate a feeling of richness of family heritage by serving as a link between the younger generation and those who have gone before.
3. They can offer the gift of respect for other family members and respect for their privacy. This gift is especially helpful when the aging member lives with relatives.
4. They can offer a listening ear to concerns of younger loved ones, and they can even listen to helpful suggestions about themselves.
5. They can give freedom from undue anxiety and guilt by being as open as possible about their needs.
6. They can offer the gift of their time and helpfulness, not feeling rejected if it is not always accepted.
7. Finally, they have a unique opportunity to share the gift of their Christian faith since they have had a longer period of time to test it, prove it, and nurture it.

## Preparation for aging

1. Be a good steward of financial benefits so as to be as independent as possible during senior years.
2. Try to be objective in facing circumstances when age diminishes the ability to cope with certain situations.
3. Check out carefully the benefits offered by public and private institutions for extra financial assistance.
4. Be sure that Medicare papers and other hospitalization contracts are kept in order at all times.
5. Update your will periodically.
6. Arrange for the "power of attorney" to be given to a responsible member of the family.
7. Look upon retirement as a gift from God which calls for faithful stewardship. Develop hobbies; do volunteer service; join a golden age club.
8. Seek God's guidance and grace as well as the help of friends, family, and church in the practice of the fine art of aging.

Taken from one of a series entitled "Strengthening Families" by the Christian Life Commission, SBC.

# Your state convention at work

WMU

## GAs to meet at Camp Paron

GA members and leaders get ready! An exciting fun-filled day of missions learning is coming soon. And I hope to see 200 4th-6th grade GAs and at least 20 GA leaders at Camp Paron on Saturday, Nov. 7, for the big event.

You'll meet these missionaries: Bob



Massey

Gross, migrants, Hope, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Crockett, Argentina; Margaret Robertson, Senegal; and Camille Simmons, Japan.

You'll meet the editor of *Aware and Discovery*, Barbara Massey.

Games, a GA autograph party, and GA Camp slides will add to the fun we all will have at GA Missions Spectacular. Camp Paron's the place . . . learning more about missions is the purpose . . . You (GA leaders and older GA members) are the people GA Missions Spectacular is planned for. I'll see you there! Contact the state WMU office for more information. — Debbie Moore, GAs director

Evangelism

## Organizing the association

In a former article, we discussed the importance of organizing the association for a simultaneous revival. Many have felt that 75 percent of the success of a revival or crusade is determined by the preparation. None of us know how to measure this, but all of us know that God blesses preparation. This is a continuation of preparing the association for a great simultaneous effort.



Shell

The vice moderator or a pastor can serve as fellowship chairman. His specific responsibility is to work with the associational chairman of evangelism in selecting the most appropriate place for the fellowship meetings. A centrally located church with adequate facilities is ideal. Other responsibilities for the fellowship chairman are listed on page 26 of the manual.

The associational director of brotherhood is the ideal person to serve as lay evangelism chairman. If the director does not have training in lay evangelism, it would be wise to appoint a layman or a pastor trained in lay evangelism to be co-chairman. The lay evangelism chairman should secure and train a lay evangelism leader in each local church. This could be a central school in the association to train these leaders. The trained leaders should be encouraged to provide witness training in each of the local churches. This should include weekly witnessing visits. Other responsibilities of the lay evangelism chairman are found on page 27 of the *Simultaneous Revival Preparation Manual*.

The associational director of music serves as the music chairman. He or she helps churches secure music directors for the revival. They help the churches provide high quality music for the services. Other responsibilities of the music chairman are found on page 28 of the manual.

The associational WMU director may serve as prayer chairman. She works directly with the directors of Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood in each church as they make spiritual preparation for the revival. They should be very aware that every great spiritual awakening is begun in prayer. Other responsibilities are listed on page 30 of the manual.

Part III on "Organizing the Association" will conclude the list of leaders in the association and their responsibilities. — Clarence Shell Jr., director

# MK Prayer Calendar

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

## October

- 11 Larry Lee Redmon (Brazil), OBU, Box 1066, Arkadelphia, AR 71923  
23 Laura Leigh Hampton (Kenya), OBU, Box 109, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

## Cooperative Program

### Churches vote high percentages

October is Cooperative Program month. Arkansas has 26 churches that voted to give 21 percent or more for Cooperative Program ministries. The percentages printed were reported on 1980 church letters. Actual percentages given may vary up or down from the percentages voted by the church. Congratulations to these churches that set a good example in Cooperative Program giving.

Church	Association	Percent
Fulton	Southwest Arkansas	75
Almyra, First	Centennial	39
Hazen, First	Caroline	38
Sparkman, First	Carey	30
West Memphis, First	Tri-County	30
Crosssett, First	Ashley	28
Des Arc, First	Caroline	26
Blytheville, First	Mississippi	26
Dermott, First	Delta	25
Elaine, First	Arkansas Valley	25
Gentry, First	Benton	25
Lonoke, First	Caroline	25
Stephens, First	Liberty	25
Grand Avenue, Fort Smith	Concord	23.5
Maple Avenue, Smackover	Liberty	23
Paragould, First	Greene	23
Portland, First	Delta	23
Wilson, First	Mississippi	23
Amboy, North Little Rock	North Pulaski	22
Calvary, Batesville	Independence	22
Earle, First	Tri-County	22
Leachville, First	Mississippi	22
Piggott, First	Current Gains	22
Stamps, First	Southwest Arkansas	22
Mena, First	Ouachita	21
Osceola, First	Mississippi	21

— James A. Walker, director

## Church Training

### Convention features Stanley Howell

Stanley Howell, supervisor of the Growth Section of the Church Training Department in Nashville, will lead a conference for pastors, staff members, Church Training directors and associational leaders at the Church Training Convention on Oct. 27 at Little Rock Immanuel Church. Howell will also speak



Howell

at the general session at 7 on Tuesday night.

Other conference leaders include Bill Latham and Wayne Jenkins from the Sunday School Board's Church Training Department and Lucile Holley and Janet Williams, Church Training leaders in Little Rock. Lucy Hoskins of the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead a conference for church secretaries, and Glynn Hill from the Church Library Department will lead the Church Library-Media Conference.

Sessions, beginning at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., will feature the Bold Growth in Discipleship emphasis for 1982-85. This is the Church Training strategy for enrolling 3.5 million persons in discipleship and doctrine training by 1985. — Robert Holley, director

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Albion	135	71	4
Albion, First	417	39	1
Alma, Clear Creek Southern	176	45	1
Alma, First	67	26	1
Alma, Second	128	64	1
Atkins, First	279	140	1
Atkins, West	219	65	1
Nursing Home	190		
Bella Vista	402		2
Bentonville, First	404		2
Berryville	214	82	1
Freeman Heights	238	75	1
Blue Eye, Mo., First	107	49	1
Boonville, South Side	143		1
Bryant	331	73	24
First Southern	166	74	4
Indian Springs			
Cabor	363	127	1
First	437	164	1
Mt. Carmel	129	125	1
Camden, Cullendale First	175		1
Cherokee Village, First	134	35	1
Conway			
Marion Park	134		1
Oak Bowers	110	71	1
Picking Gap	183	83	1
Second	533	207	4
Crosslet			
First	426	101	4
Mendon	96	68	2
Mount Olive	400	134	16
Temple	353	73	1
Danville, First	141	29	1
Nursing Home	22		1
Del Arc, First	184	67	1
Deola, First	92	67	1
El Dorado			
First	146	65	1
First	11		1
First	276	563	119
Forest City, First	2,009		7
Fort Smith	1,273	419	7
Grand Avenue	33		1
Gaston	86	48	1
Westside	110	26	1
Westside	146	33	1
Genoa, First	29	7	1
Grady, First	55	37	1
Grandy	176	84	1
Hampson, First	121	66	1
Harris, First	254	92	1
Harrison	143	48	1
Tagle Heights	86	42	1
Northside			
Woodland Heights			
Hut Springs			
Immanuel	84	41	1
Jardale	64	33	1
First	361	76	2
Grand Avenue	145	88	2
Harvey's Chapel	177	64	4
Leola Street	64	34	1
Memorial	81	41	1
Millcreek	29	28	1
Frank Place	265	79	1
Rector Heights	78	20	1
Vista Heights	25	50	1
Hughes, First	150	50	1
Jacksonville, First	355	63	2
Jennsville	105		1
Jonesboro	160	109	1
Friendly Hope	242	92	2
Neritoun	136	64	1
Philadelphia	152	36	1
Little Rock, Crystal Hill	687	147	1
Magnolia, Central	125	72	14
Maynard, Witts Chapel	204	112	1
Memorial, Second			
Mountain Pine			
Cedar Glades	12		1
First	79	31	1
Mountain Valley	40	23	1
North Little Rock, Standil	87	46	1
Paragould			
Calvary	210	163	1
East Side	414	218	1
First	394	74	1
First	302		1
Mission	49		4
Pre Ridge, First	291	76	4
Pine Bluff			
Centennial	115	57	2
Central	97	40	1
First	589	73	1
Lee Memorial	195	103	1
South Side	568	94	1
Sulphur Spring	178	64	4
Watson Chapel	480	113	4
Prairie Grove, First	161	82	1
Rogers			
First	561	140	7
Immanuel	831	36	1
Royal, Antioch	63	36	1
Russellville, First	544	224	4
Sandyuk, Okla., Faith	27	30	1
Springdale			
Berry Street	66	50	1
Caulle Avenue	31	105	1
Elmdale	302	126	1
First	2,001		6
Texarkana			
Highland Hills	117	74	3
Shick Memorial	106	37	1
Trenton	300	203	2
Valley Springs	110	56	1
Van Buren, First	435	105	4
Vanderwood, First	57	30	1
Ward, First	122	82	1
West Helena, Second	239	96	1
Wooten, First	710	74	1
Yellville, First	163	55	1



Oct. 16-17

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# Arkansas youth discover

## DiscipleLife



Photo by Bill Kennedy



Winding up the first in a possible series of annual youth days at Magic Springs was the rally beside the lake (middle photo). A barge out in the lake was the stage from which youth heard music and messages. Here, "Gabriel" provides a pre-rally mini-concert. Others who came to explain the new concept of DiscipleLife were (bottom, right photo) Dan McBride (with guitar) and Clyde and Archie (in DiscipleLife shirts). Young people jammed the park (top right) on a humid summer day for the rides, the food and sometimes the music provided by church choirs (bottom left). Even state convention Executive Secretary Huber Drumwright (right in middle left photo) attended and the Church Training Department recorded his comments on videotape.

"DiscipleLife", a new five-year emphasis for youth in Church Training, is being unveiled this month by Southern Baptists and Arkansas youth were introduced to the excitement with a day of fun . . . and facts.

At least 6,700 youngsters from the state (and border towns) sampled the attractions of the Magic Springs theme park at Hot Springs Saturday, Sept. 12, at the first Arkansas Baptist Youth Day. They jostled their way through a total crowd of 8,086 paying customers for rides, food, shops and a bench to rest their weary feet.

Entertainers "Gabriel" and Dan McBride helped Clyde and Archie dispense information about the new concept in Sunday night programming for youth, while church choirs, ensembles and puppet teams provided some entertainment themselves at locations around the park.

An evening rally featured more music by the "Gabriel" duo, humorous sense by Clyde Spurgeon and his puppet friend Archie, and some serious suggestions by Dan McBride. McBride explained that God expects youth to live out discipleship here and now, rather than waiting until they become adults. He told the crowd at the climaxing event that "DiscipleLife" could be their means to that kind of walk with Christ. — Betty J. Kennedy

Learn more about DiscipleLife at the Church Training Convention Oct. 27 at Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

# Sunday School lessons



Ferguson

## International

Oct. 4, 1981

Isaiah 55:1-9

by Robert Ferguson  
Director of Cooperative Ministries  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

## Accepting God's mercy

Similar to Hosea, Isaiah spoke in chapter 50 of the Lord as a husband and Israel as a faithless wife. Israel was not divorced, but rather sold herself for iniquities and transgressions. Her captivity was the result of faithlessness. She was powerless to extricate herself. Who would, who could save her? Isaiah answers in 52:7-10 that the Good News of Jehovah's salvation is at hand — sing — for joy — your Savior — your redeemer — the strong arm of Jehovah is the Suffering Servant (Isa. 52:13-53), who bore the sin and the suffering for you — saving by his substitutionary death.

### Mercy freely available (vv. 1-2)

Assuming the role of the familiar water merchant, Isaiah speaks his message of God's compassion for Israel, proclaiming an offer of free mercy. In the dry season, many persons bought water and food sparingly. Contrast that reality with the images of abundant cool water, flavored with mint, or wine, and milk, that is free for the asking. No money, no cost!

Isaiah has their attention in verse three ("Incline your ear to me — listen"). His message moves to blessings for their depressed attitudes, fallen dispositions, shortened tempers, and lost expectations. "As the promise of steadfast love and faithful mercies to David, so this eternal covenant with you" (v. 5). "You will lead other nations because Jehovah will use you in your new and beautiful condition."

### The way back to favor and usefulness

"Seek the Lord — call upon him — now — while he is near and can be found — forsake wicked ways — thoughts — return to the Lord" (vv. 6-7).

The actions will bring forth a response of mercy and pardon from the Lord. Israel had turned away from thinking God's thoughts and following his ways.

In the words of one alcoholic:

"It is not this drinking that has me stinking.

It is this stinking thinking that has me drinking!"

Misguided, erroneous thoughts always lead to regrettable decisions. "Think on these things," Paul wrote the Philippians.

"God's thoughts are different from man's thoughts" (v. 8). Ways and thoughts that reduce man's dignity to the simple animal level — or even worse — carefully plan and slander character and inappropriate material concerns need to be forsaken, repented of.

Trust the Lord for mercy and pardon. Such faith in God's free pardon will constitute man's good will and desire to be remade in God's will, for God's use, in God's world.

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## Change of name and date for Southern Baptist College Bible Conference

(from Church Efficiency Conference)  
to be held Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 1981 at Southern  
Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.

## God cares for oppressed people

Many times we ask "Why?" Why did this happen? Where was God? Does he know what's happening? Does he care? Can he do anything to help?

Our study in the book of Exodus reminds us that he does care and he is able to help us. We may not always be able to understand everything that happens, but we do have a great promise in 1 Peter 5:6-7, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."



Tracy

### The oppression described (Ex. 1:7-14)

The Israelites had come to Egypt as welcome guests after Joseph had been responsible for saving Egypt from mass starvation. But there came a day when Joseph's name didn't mean much to the new rulers. The king was concerned about the growing population of the Hebrews for fear they would rebel and join Egypt's enemies.

The result was a decree that all Hebrews were considered slaves. Taskmasters were appointed over them and the terrible op-

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## Life and Work

Oct. 4, 1981

Exodus 1:7; 2:1-3, 11-12, 23-25

by Jerry L. Tracy  
Star City First Church

pression of 400 years began. Where was God?

### The deliverer protected (Ex. 2:1-3)

Though it appeared that Pharaoh was in charge of the fate of the Hebrews, God was at work to bring about deliverance. A baby was born to godly parents whose faith in God produced action (Heb. 11:23). Moses would also develop into a person of faith believing God was able to do what he promised.

### The deliverer trained (Ex. 2:11-12)

Moses grew to love his Hebrew brothers and to hate their oppression. He knew right from wrong and hated the injustice. Seeking to deliver his people by himself, he killed a taskmaster and buried him in the sand. Off into the wilderness Moses fled where he stayed for 40 years getting to know God and being prepared for God's mission. God was working out his plan.

### The providence revealed (Ex. 2:23-25)

Pharaoh's throne was issuing orders to oppress the Hebrews while God's throne was listening to their cries and prayers and bringing about their deliverance. God's covenant with Abraham was still in effect (Gen. 15:13, 14). God will keep every promise he has made to us. With David we can say, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me (Ps. 23:4).



Williams

## Bible Book

Oct. 4, 1981

Matt. 2:1-6; 11:13-15, 19-20

by Don R. Williams  
Carey Association

## The King's birth and infancy

We see the glory of the Lord even in his state of humiliation. He is born of lowly parents; but lo! the principalities and powers in heavenly places are seen in motion: the angels, the star, the wise men.

### The ministry of angels (Matt. 2:13-15, 19-20)

God uses angels to perform his tasks. He uses angels two ways here: (1) to warn Joseph of the impending danger of staying in Bethlehem; (2) to inform Joseph that it was safe to return to Israel.

### The ministry of the star (Matt. 2:2)

The star responded to God's commission. This star pointed men who were afar off and led them to the Christ child.

(1) Star preaching is all about Jesus: The wise men saw Jesus in that star, for they said, "That is his star." So every beam in that star shone for Christ. We are his stars.

(2) Star preaching stops with Jesus: When our message doesn't start with Jesus and end with Jesus, we better watch with suspicious eyes.

(3) Star preaching leads men to Christ: If we are the shining star we should be, we will lead people to Jesus.

### The reaction caused by Herod (Matt. 2:3-8)

Two things you should notice: (1) the reaction caused by Herod was hatred and hostility; (2) reaction of the chief priests and scribes was complete indifference. They were so engrossed in their little rituals that they did not have time to get excited over Christ.

### The ministry of the wise men (Matt. 2:2, 11-12)

Lessons we can derive from them: (1) They used in a practical way the teaching of the stars: Many are hearers and admirers of God's stars, but they are not wise enough to accept their message; (2) They were persistent in their efforts, nothing discouraged them; (3) When they found him they entered, they worshipped, and they gave; (4) They went back in another direction. No one can come face to face with Christ and go back the same.

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# Southern Baptist response to world hunger: past and future

While serving as Southern Baptist Convention president in 1979, Jimmy Allen, who presently heads the Radio and Television Commission, stated that the crucial issue for the Bold Mission Thrust vision in the 1980s "... is whether or not Southern Baptist Christians care about starving people in this world. I believe that God is going to decide whether or not we are going to be useful to him on the basis of this issue."

The response in recent years of many Southern Baptists, both individuals and churches, indicates that they agree with Allen.

Designated offerings to the Foreign Mis-

emergence of grass-roots Southern Baptist hunger groups like SEEDS magazine, Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., and World Hunger Relief, Inc. During these years, there also was a tremendous increase in coverage of world hunger by a broad range of denominational publications. However, the most significant action took place at the local church level where hundreds of churches of all sizes, shapes, and descriptions, began to respond to the hungry of our world in Christ's name.

But many churches and individuals have not responded. With World Hunger Day coming up on Oct. 11, now is an opportune time for churches to begin, or perhaps deepen, their involvement. The Christian Life Commission (460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN. 37219) can provide you with help. But where else does a church begin?

The first action a church can take is the formation of a hunger committee made up of interested individuals whose purpose is to highlight the problem of world hunger in the congregation on an ongoing basis. Some beginning steps the committee could take are studying "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger" by Ron Sider, planning educational programs for the church and encouraging gifts for world hunger.

As a church begins to receive offerings, it should be understood that 100 percent of the money given for hunger through the FMB and the HMB goes to help feed hungry people. The administrative cost for distribution of these funds is borne by the regular FMB and HMB budgets.

There are several ways that the church can receive money and sensitize people at the same time. Many churches have adopted a "Miss-A-Meal" program in which people are asked to miss one meal each week and donate the approximate value of the meal (e.g. \$1 or \$2) for hunger. Participants are encouraged to spend the meal time in prayer and reflection on scripture which relates to God's special concern for the poor and hungry. If only five percent of Southern Baptists would adopt this simple plan, offerings for world hunger would be about \$50 million annually.

Another idea is the "Rice Bowl" program originated by Alastair Walker, pastor of First Church of Spartanburg, S.C. The bowls are small plastic change banks in the shape of bowls of rice. They are usually placed on the family dinner table so that loose change can be deposited in them daily. Using the rice bowls, South Carolina Baptists almost quadrupled their 1980 hunger giving to over \$900,000.

You may be thinking, "How can I know

my money is making a difference?" The answer may be in MANNA, an innovative program of the FMB. MANNA includes specific hunger-related projects which can be adopted by individual groups such as churches, campus groups, etc. The size of the project can range from a few hundred dollars up to thousands of dollars. In this way one knows exactly where their money is used. These meaningful projects are part of the wholistic ministry of Southern Baptist missionaries. For a list of available projects and related information write John Cheyne, FMB, Box 6597, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Hunger doesn't just happen overseas. Almost 25 million U.S. citizens, mostly children and senior adults, still live below the poverty line. Since there are hungry people in every community, the Home Mission Board has made available information on conducting a local hunger survey. With the recent cutbacks in federal food programs, increased emergency food aid from churches will be critical.

Response to world hunger must be multifaceted and complex. The steps mentioned above are the beginning steps. Many other areas of action such as political involvement and lifestyle change will need to be addressed. But Southern Baptists must begin by taking first steps. If we are to spread the whole gospel in a hungry world, we have no choice. As Jimmy Allen has said, "... a hardened heart and a lethargic response to starving people in our world is the death knell of Bold Mission Thrust in the 1980s."

Further information on anything mentioned in this article may be obtained by writing SEEDS, Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur, Ga. 30030.

**Andy Loving is Director of Organization for the SEEDS ministry of Oakhurst Church of Decatur, Ga. SEEDS is a magazine and a ministry committed to helping Southern Baptists respond to the hungry of our world.**

## Hunger Hike scheduled

The annual Hunger Hike sponsored by the Central Arkansas Inter-faith Hunger Task Force is scheduled for Oct. 25.

The 10-mile route will begin on the east steps of the State Capitol at 1:30 p.m.

To raise money for world hunger, hikers should gather sponsors willing to give an amount of money for each of the 10 miles walked.

For more information, contact Dan M. McCauley at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Baptist Student Union, 562-4383.

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sion Board (FMB) for world hunger and relief in 1980 were over \$5.5 billion. This represents a 60-fold increase from the totals in the early 1970s when the yearly average was only about \$100,000.

In the years 1975-80, there were a number of events and decisions which further indicate the tremendous awakening of Southern Baptists to the problem of world hunger. These events include the establishment of an Office for Hunger Relief and Disaster Response at the FMB, the placement of World Hunger Day on the denominational calendar, the doubling of the number of agricultural missionaries overseas to almost 40, and the special Southern Baptist Convocation on World Hunger. Also important were the hiring of a domestic hunger consultant at the Home Mission Board (HMB), the distribution of hunger packets by the Christian Life Commission, and the

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